

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fifth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

11.04 Hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Thursday, December 14, 2000/Agrahayana 23, 1922 (Saka)

[English]

The Lok Sabha met at two minutes past Eleven of the Clock

Production of Coarse Cloth

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Speaker Sir, thousands of employees of the Maruti Udyog Ltd. are sitting on Dharna since yesterday. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This matter does not pertain to the Question Hour. Please speak after the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : 18 months have elapsed and they are making continuous efforts for the last 18 months to have talks with the Government.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have given a notice for raising this issue in the Zero Hour. How can you raise it in the Question Hour?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : I agree with you, but 4000 labourers are sitting on dharna in this bone-biting cold. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You give notice to raise an issue in the Zero Hour and start raising it in the Question Hour, this is not right. Q. No. 361.

*361. CH. TEJVEER SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of coarse cloth produced for use by poor people during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) the demand and supply of this cloth during the said period, State-wise;

(c) the steps taken to increase its production;

(d) whether a large number of such textile mills are sick; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to make them viable?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) Government is not maintaining any data relating to State-wise production of coarse cloth due to the highly decentralised nature of handloom and powerloom sectors.

(d) and (e) 82 Composite textile mills in the private sector were engaged in the production of coarse variety of fabrics. No NTC mill is engaged in the production of coarse clothes. Four mills in the private sector producing coarser variety of cotton cloth are registered with BIFR. The BIFR proposes to take action on the basis of its findings.

[Translation]

CH. TEJVEER SINGH : Mr. Speaker Sir, the hon. Minister, in his reply to the question, has said that he is unable to give information regarding production of coarse cloth by handloom and powerloom sector due to highly decentralised nature, but it is not a fact that handloom, powerloom and hosiery, which are providing employment to many people of the poor class, are in a bad condition today and their production is declining day by day. I would like to know from hon. Minister as to what steps are the Government taking to improve this situation?

* Not recorded.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member of Parliament Shri Tejveer Singh has told about the decline in production of coarse cloth by handloom and powerloom sectors. I want to say that I have the figures of last three years, which show that production of coarse cloth has increased.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the production of handloom cloth in 1998-99 was 6792 million square meter and in 1999-2000, it was 7352 million square meter. Similarly the production of powerloom cloth in 1998-99 was 20689 million square meter and in 1999-2000, it was 23,187 million square meter. Then in hosiery the production of cloth in 1998-99 was 6277 million square meter, which went up to 6,374 million square meter in 1999-2000.

So far as the matter of cloth production in handloom sector is concerned, we have launched a new scheme—“Deendayal Hathkargha Protsahan” for increasing the production of cloth as also for the welfare of weavers in the handloom sector. Therefore I request the State Governments to make development and reforms in handloom by taking more and more advantage of this scheme and utilizing it for the benefit of weavers in their State.

CH. TEJVEER SINGH : Mr. Speaker Sir, through you, I want to say that today the condition of labourers and poor people of the country is deteriorating day by day due to the policy of liberalisation and their economic condition is becoming miserable because these poor people are unable to get cloth at cheaper rates due to which the people living below the poverty line are very much disturbed. Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of hon. Minister towards the fact that earlier, the poor people were provided with coarse cloth through co-operative societies in States like Uttar Pradesh, but today they are not getting this cloth at cheaper rates and have to buy cloth on higher rates from the market. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is going to take any concrete step for improving the condition of labourer and for revival of the Government Textile Mills that are closed or are going to be closed due to the policy of liberalisation?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the Government do make efforts for providing the coarse cloth to poor people of the country and that too on affordable prices and I would also like to tell the House that there is not much difference in the prices of coarse cloth produced by handloom and powerloom sectors. If we see the price rise, we would find that the price of coarse cloth has not increased that much as it should have been.

So far as the condition of labourers is concerned, I wish to tell you that a number of Welfare Schemes have been introduced for improving the condition of handloom weavers and powerloom weavers. Works and Housing Scheme has also been introduced for our handloom weavers. Health Insurance Schemes have also been initiated for these weavers.

MR. SPEAKER : Sir, I wish to say that the liberalisation has a very little effect on handloom and powerloom sector and on the coarse cloth produced in this sector because 70 percent people of our country live in villages and use this coarse cloth.

SHRI RAJO SINGH : Mr. Speaker, the Government in their reply, have said Government is not maintaining any data relating to State-wise production of coarse cloth due to the highly decentralised nature of handloom and powerloom sectors.

I would like to bring in the notice of the hon. Minister that presently two kinds of clothes are produced in the country, one is fine cloth and the other is coarse cloth. My hon. Colleague had asked that bedsheets, dhoti etc., are produced for consumption of lower class people, labourers etc. but as per the Government's reply, if the Government do not maintain any date, then on what basis the Government is asking the State Governments to give co-operation under the “Deendayal Hathkargha Protsahan Scheme”?

The poor people be provided cloth under this scheme. Through you, I would like to know what steps they are going to take with regard to manufacturing of coarse cloth, which is very much essential for the poor people?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it would be better if we understand what is meant by the term coarse cloth. The cloth manufactured from cotton of 20 count or even less than that is known as coarse cloth. Though I want to place Statewise details, but over all dates of production of coarse cloth are as follows—production of cloth from cotton of 1 to 10 counts—53.62 Million kgs, production of cloth from cotton of 10 to 20 counts—58.95 Million kgs. As hon'ble member has just now asked about coarse cloth, I would like to tell you that the Government have been taking necessary steps from time to time.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question is relating to NTC mills. If you allow, hon'ble Minister may reply to this question. I would like to ask question about composite mills. There are 285 composite mills in India out of which 157 mills are closed. New policy declared by you does not provide solution to the problem relating to providing job to workers or any revival strategy.

Satyam Committee have submitted a report regarding revival of these mills. Though I do not know the content of the report. But I know that the report has given some suggestions in this regard. I would like to know what policy you are going to adopt with regard to revival strategy of NTC mills? I have heard that the Government is planning to close 119 mills. How many more mills you would close? Mills which carry out spinning, weaving and processing are situated in Mumbai. I would like to know whether you would recommission them? Similarly, would you invest the money raised through sale of surplus land in Mumbai itself. I would like to know about VRS also.

MR. SPEAKER : First you take up the question.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : They will approach BIFR. ... (Interruptions) It has been referred in Mumbai pattern, would you consider that? We do not prefer Gujarat pattern.

MR. SPEAKER : How BIFR has come in between?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Member has made a mention of Satyam Committee. NTC's case was not in the terms of reference of Satyam Committee nor the Committee have submitted any such report. But the Government have decided that maximum number of mills out of 119 lying closed should be recommissioned. Hence the Government has decided to find out unitwise, millwise viability of all the mills and one such proposal has been sent to BIFR. After BIFR's approval we will take further action in this regard. As far as the mills situated in Mumbai are concerned, as I have already told that 25 mills out of these 119 operate fully and 51 mills operate partially. It will be an endeavour of this Government to revive all mills situated in Mumbai.

If at all we are forced to close down some mills in Mumbai or sell excess land of these mills, then the revenue so earned would be invested for modernisation of other mills. We would request the State Government of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh or any other State Government, to give us a chance. Very soon we would take up modernisation process and we would revive mills over there.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister has told that they would carry out unitwise viability study of all sick mills and a proposal has been referred to BIFR. But there is a news item in the newspaper that hon'ble Textiles Minister has put a proposal during the meeting of Group of Ministers to close

down five subsidiaries. I would like to know the Government's stand with regard to five sick subsidiary of NTC. If the Government have decided to conduct unitwise viability study then whether the study has been commenced and which organisation has been assigned the responsibility to conduct the study, what proposal was put by the Ministry during the meeting of Group of Ministers?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what hon'ble Member has stated is not correct. Neither GOM nor the Union Government ever decided to close down five subsidiaries.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : It appeared in newspaper.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : I am telling to the House that on the contrary in 1995 BIFR had issued winding up notice for five subsidiaries in Gujarat, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Assam and U.P. But the Government have decided to carry out millwise viability study again. Therefore, the mills found to be viable, amongst the mills which were served notice earlier, can be recommissioned.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, some days ago a question was put up to Agriculture Minister asking the total number of cotton bales produced in the country, especially in Sholapur region of Maharashtra. On one hand cotton prices have increased whereas cotton production is declining since Sholapur is a rainfed area. There are large Handicraft and Powerloom factories in Sholapur where poor people work. I would like to remind hon'ble Minister that Shrimati Indira Gandhi had decided to provide cheap cloth for manufacturing of sarees from cotton of below 20 counts meant for poor class. Now that Scheme has been stopped. You did not launch Deendayal Handicraft Scheme. Anyway, it may be by any name, but cotton prices have increased a lot. I would like to know whether you would provide cotton at cheap rates under Deendayal Scheme for the poor people or provide some benefit to the handloom workers under the said scheme.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : This year, cotton production is estimated to be around 160 lakh bales similar to that of the last year. Though, there was less production in Gujarat because of drought but this shortfall has been met from other States where cotton has been produced more than what it was last year. There was one Janata Cloth Scheme under 20 point programme. As all of us know, that scheme was closed in 1998 because of some scandle which is being enquired by CBI. But, even now the Government is trying to provide cotton coarse cloth to poor people. As far as question relating to increasing price of yarn is concerned, we have made

arrangement to provide yarn at mill gate price. Not only this, we have even opened a Yarn Bank. Whichever State Government provide us land, we open Yarn Banks over there. If any cooperative approaches us, we grant permission. The Government have opened Yarn Banks at mill gate price to provide required quantity of yarn to weavers at reasonable rates.

[English]

Promotion of Sea Beach Tourism

*362. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to promote sea beach tourism;

(b) if so, the names of projects received from the State Governments and the financial assistance provided thereunder during 1999-2000 and 2000-01, project-wise;

(c) whether the potential available on the sea beaches and the towns nearby the coastal States, particularly in Orissa has not been properly tapped; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) to (d) Development and promotion of tourism including beach tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations concerned. However, Department of Tourism, Govt. of India extends financial assistance for specific projects prioritised in consultation with respective State Governments subject to interse priority and availability of funds.

During 1999-2000, 14 projects amounting to Rs. 4 11 crores for development and promotion of beach tourism in the country were sanctioned. 17 projects have also been prioritised at an estimated cost of Rs. 4.50 crores for Central assistance during 2000-2001. The list of projects sanctioned during 1999-2000 as well as the projects prioritised during 2000-2001 in respect of coastal States/Union Territories, is given in the annexure attached.

Regular promotion of various destinations including Sea Beaches and coastal towns is taken up by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The Department of Tourism, Government of India also promotes various destinations through its Tourist Offices overseas and has brought out various collaterals which have information on sea beaches.

Annexure

Number of Projects sanctioned during 1999-2000 and prioritised during 2000-2001 for development and promotion of beach tourism

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of the Project	Amount Sanctioned During 1999-2000	Amount prioritised for 2000- 2001
1	2	3	4
1.	ANDHRA PRADESH (2000-2001)		
	(1) Singnages at Visakhapatnam		20.00
2.	GOA (1999-2000)		
	(1) Public Conveniences at Caranzalem Beach	10.00	
	(2) Public Conveniences at Bambolim	10.00	
	(3) Public Conveniences at Arambol Beach	10.00	
	(4) Public Conveniences at Majorda Beach	10.00	
	(5) Public Conveniences at Palolem Beach	10.00	
	(6) Construction of Jetty Cavelossim	50.00	

1	2	3	4
GOA (2000-2001)			
(1)	Development of infrastructure facilities at Anjuna Vagator and Calangute beaches		60.15
(2)	Public conveniences at Baina beach, Mormugao Taluka		10.00
(3)	Commissioning of sulabh themophylic aeoblic compositor at Colva and Calangute beaches		15.00
3. KARNATAKA (2000-2001)			
(1)	Establishment of Ayurvedic treatment and rejuvenation therapy centre at Dev Bagh Deach resort Karwar, Karnataka		56.00
(2)	Public Conveniences and drinking water facility at Karwar beaces		7.20
4. KERALA (1999-2000)			
(1)	Integrated development of Kovalam Beach	71.19	
5. MAHARASHTRA (1999-2000)			
(1)	Watersports equipments at Ganapatiphule	24.90	
6. PONDICHERY (2000-2001)			
(1)	Additional block at Karkaikal Tourist Home		10.00
(2)	Expansion of existing wayside amenities at Chunamber Resort		10.00
7. TAMIL NADU (1999-2000)			
(1)	Landscaping walkway and lighting at Nagapattinam beach	9.00	
(2)	Landscaping walkway and lighting at Elliots Beach, Chennai	15.00	
TAMIL NADU (2000-2001)			
(1)	Provision of parking lot at Mahallapuram		16.00
(2)	Infrastructure improvement at Mamallapuram		40.00
(3)	Dance festival at Mamallapuram		5.00
(4)	Improvement of Boat Jetty and purchase of boats for Muttukadu backwater (Special Tourism area)		20.00
8. ORISSA (1999-2000)			
(1)	Additional accommodation at existing Yatri Niwas at Satapada	32.19	
(2)	Tourist Complex at Balaharchandi	50.00	
(3)	Water Sports equipment Satapada	20.00	
ORISSA (2000-2001)			
(1)	Integrated Development of Chandipur Sea Beach		60.00
(2)	Illumination of Chandipur Sea Beach		12.00
(3)	Integrated Development of Tourist Centre, Puri		60.00
(4)	Watch Tower at Bhitarkanika/Gahirmatha		24.00
(5)	Special campaign on Orissa		25.00
9. WEST BENGAL (1999-2000)			
(1)	Beautification and development of River front at Diamond Harbour	89.00	
Total		411.28	450.35

SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY Sir, after going through the written replies that have been given by the hon. Minister, I find that these do not relate to the question which I have asked.

For the benefit of the hon. Minister, I would like to read my Question, "Q.1(a) Whether the Government have a proposal to promote sea beach tourism;..." Sir, for the last three years, same mechanical replies have been given to the hon. Members either in this House or in Rajya Sabha, whenever hon. Members put this question to the hon. Minister.

Sir, we know that tourism is a sector which can earn foreign exchange to the country. The amount that has been set for this is so meagre that it gives an ample view that the Central Government has no interest in developing tourism, particularly beach tourism. In this context, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what exactly compared to the tourism that has gone up in Hong Kong and Singapore, has been planned by the Government of India to promote tourism, particularly beach tourism in the country, and more particularly in the State of Orissa.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR Sir, firstly, we cannot compare ourselves with Singapore and Hong Kong.

SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Why?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Let me complete first, then the hon. Member can ask supplementaries. It is because they are single day destinations. Our foreign tourist arrivals are 2.48 millions and the foreign traveller who comes to India has an average stay period of 31 days compared to one or two nights' stay in Singapore, Hong Kong, France and other European destinations.

Secondly, we have got a tremendous domestic tourist potential of 175 millions. From the last year's 168 millions it has catapulted into 175 millions. With regard to the beach tourism development, the Government of India has taken many steps. We have come out with a master plan for the development of Andaman Islands by UNDP and WTO. We have even carried out a 'Carrying Capacity Study' and there is a tourism development plan for Orissa. By consulting an agency, A.K. Dave & Co. last year, we have made a West-Coast Tourism Development Study identifying the beach resorts where they can be developed.

Sir, I entirely agree with the hon. Member and I hope that even this august House appreciates that the money allocated by the Union Government as well as various State Governments, put together, is hardly Rs. 350 crore to Rs. 400 crore for the infrastructure development of tourism, though we are earning a record foreign exchange amount of Rs. 13.50 thousand crore. We are the third biggest foreign exchange earner for the country.

We conducted a study and according to that study, we require Rs. 44.50 thousand crore for the development of tourism potential of this country which is possible only through private and public sector participation.

Coming to the other part of the question regarding Orisa, the Government of India, this time, has allocated merely a sum of Rs. 4 crore for the tourism development in Orissa. Compared to 5 per cent to 28 per cent in the earlier years, which were slated for beach development, this time it has been 45 per cent of the total allocation for the tourism of Andamans slated for beach tourism.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, if the House agrees, Q. Nos. 362 and 365, having similarities, can be clubbed together. Mr. Minister, is it all right?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, Q. No. 365 is entirely a different Question because it relates to the expansion of tourism between India and Myanmar.

MR. SPEAKER : All right.

Now, you can put your second supplementary please

SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Now, I will be concentrating on parts (c) and (d) of my Question which has not been replied in your reply that has been laid. It is as follows :

"(c) Whether the potential available on the sea beaches and the towns nearby the coastal States, particularly in Orissa has not been properly tapped; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?"

Orissa having Puri seacoast, Paradip, Baleshwar and Bhitharkanika has such beautiful spots. Four of the five spots have not yet been tapped. More particularly, the tourists to Puri have been coming down for the reason that Indian Airlines had withdrawn its airbus flight to Bhubaneshwar. I shall be asking the hon. Minister whether any concerted step is being proposed or is being under consideration of his Ministry to promote and to tap the potentialities available in the beaches of Orissa.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Actually we instituted a study from Consulting Engineering Services India Ltd., to submit a report on the prospects of development of tourism including beach tourism in Orissa. The report covered subjects like State's profile, tourism overview, tourism perspective plan, financial and funding mechanism, economic impact and evaluation, marketing strategy and promotional programmes for the State of Orissa. The report has been submitted and it has been sent to the State of Orissa. Actually, because of the

impact of the super-cyclone, we have increased our promotional budget considerably by hundred per cent for the development of tourism in Orissa. When the State Government of Orissa comes out with its Action Plan considering this report, we will be co-operating with the State Government.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : It is because of the CRZ coastal regulations, sea beach tourism is practically halted in this country. Is the Government giving second thought to CRZ regulations which will ultimately be helpful for the tourism industry?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, I entirely agree with the veteran parliamentarian, Shri Sharad Pawar.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : He is not veteran. He is a young parliamentarian!

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I see he is a young parliamentarian!

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) He is 60 years old only yesterday!

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I can even tell, Sir, that he is just 18 years old with 42 years of experience!

The CRZ zone regulations put an amount of restrictions on tourism development in coastal areas. The Government of India's Tourism Ministry is examining this aspect. We are in consultation with the Ministry of Environment so that they will liberalise the restrictions.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : This is a very important issue. In fact, up to this time, we have been using the resources from land, water and air. We are seeking some new areas where we can produce wealth and we can provide employment to the people. Tourism is one of the areas in which foreign exchange can be earned; employment can be provided; and we can unleash the energies which can integrate the country and the entire world. But, unfortunately, we have received this information from the hon. Minister. I am not blaming the hon. Minister for this. If we have to blame anybody, we have to blame the policy itself. The figures which are given to us are in crores. Now, for India's coastal tourism, Rs. 4 crore is allotted. We are told that for the entire tourism activity in the country, only Rs. 350 crore is allotted. This is a very, very miserable situation.

Other countries have done very well. We have beautiful beaches, we have beautiful places on the coastline, on the mainland, in the mountains and in other areas. But if the attitude taken by the Government is

mechanical, and if the attitude taken by the Government is technical that the Government is not mainly looking after it, but the State Government is looking after it, nothing is going to happen.

The question I would like to ask the hon. Minister is, this : If the Government develops tourism, they will be developing a new area of activity, they will be giving employment to people and they will also be earning foreign exchange. Is the Government going to take some steps to see that a policy which is viable and which is feasible is there, to use the private resources, if necessary? Nobody is saying that private resources should not be used. And I may bring to the notice of the hon. Minister and the House that the entire tourism is in the private sector. The Government has to make a policy to encourage it and see that it develops. Would we like to have something, an invigorating reply, invigorating policy or approach to this problem, rather than a technical, or a mechanical and or a miserly approach?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : This Government has taken three bold initiatives.

Firstly, the New Tourism Policy which provides for public private partnership is on the anvil.

Secondly, on the lines of the National Culture Fund we are coming out with a Tourism Development Fund in which, as the hon. Shri Shivraj V. Patil has mentioned, that private participation will be there.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : They are already there.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Tourism Development Fund is not there.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : The private parties are allowed to participate mainly in tourism. It is in the private sector, not in the public sector.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : But because of the policy on Tourism Development Fund there will be more incentives for the private parties when they co-operate with or come out with participation for the development of various tourism areas.

Thirdly, to spruce up and develop various pilgrimage centres of the Hindus, the Muslims, the Christians and all other religions, we are coming out with a Pilgrimage Development Board also.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : My question relates to the CRZ itself, because I am aware that the hon. Minister is fully aware that the Ministry of Environment

and Forests is expected to implement the ruling of the Supreme Court about the CRZ which restricts the activity within a fixed distance of the coast and the beaches.

Beach tourism and coastal tourism as they are called, cannot grow unless a balance is struck between the need to protect beaches and selective beach tourism.

I would like the hon. Minister to answer and indicate what measures have been taken to establish some co-ordination between the CRZ, his Ministry and the Ministry of Environment and Forests, and how many projects were sponsored and proposed by him were cleared and how many are pending with the Ministry of Environment and Forests for clearance.

MR. SPEAKER : That was already answered.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : It has not already been answered.

MR. SPEAKER : About CRZ, he has answered, before.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : That was not answered. That is one issue. Coastal tourism can never be addressed unless and until the CRZ is addressed because these two things are integrated things. No activity can take place on a beach within a limited distance. So, unless and until the Ministry is clear what the CRZ is, and how it is to be executed and what the role of the Ministry is, it can never be executed. And one more supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER : No, no you can ask only one supplementary. I am not allowing you. The hon. Minister may answer now. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It will not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You please take your seat. This is not a discussion.

[English]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Two things are very important.

MR. SPEAKER : He can answer only one thing.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Firstly, the Ministry is fully aware of the CRZ regulations and restrictions. Secondly, it is a very sensitive problem because the hon. Supreme

court is also involved with its ruling. And thirdly, there are interdepartmental consultations on this issue. And fourthly, regarding the number of projects cleared and pending, I will give the details to the House.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : The Government of India is always taking about tourism. It is a service industry. It will create more employment in this country and it will earn foreign exchange. But the Government of India is not providing more money in its Budget for it.

The Ministry of Tourism has not taken any initiative with the Ministry of Environment to solve these CRZ problems. So, no tourism industry will come in the seacoast. Nearly 9,000 kilometres of seacoast is available in this country. I would like to know whether you are allowing any perspective planning. If you are interested, then what is your Budget? Are you thinking about increasing the Budget in the next financial year? Otherwise, there is no meaning to discuss tourism. So, I want the hon. Minister to clarify this position. You are clearing the CRZ regulations to get more industries in the beach resorts, etc.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, I entirely agree with the feelings of the hon. Member who is my dear friends also.

MR. SPEAKER : That means you are going to increase the Budget.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : The thing is that it is in the hands of the hon. Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance. I have been continuously pleading that we have got tremendous potentiality and the total allocation is only Rs. 135 crore for this size of the country. I have repeated it so many times.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : This year we provided Rs. 100 crore in Andhra Pradesh's Budget for tourism and your Budget is only Rs. 135 crore.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri K. Yerranna, what is this?

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN : India is a great country with vast sea-shore. Unfortunately, we have failed to exploit our resources. I think, the Central Government has allotted less than Rs. 200 crore in the Budget. It is a very meagre amount. Actually, tourism is a silent, but very successful industry.

Kanyakumari is a part of my constituency. It has its own importance in India. You can see the confluence of three seas there. Unfortunately, there is no significance programme there. So, it is the duty of the Central Government to take up and adopt Kanyakumari as their main programme. May I request the hon. Minister to take up a Project at Kanyakumari as an important one?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : If the Government of Tamil Nadu prioritises a project and sends it to the Union Government we will consider it.

SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity.

May I know the hon. Minister whether there is a declaration of Government of India regarding Special Tourism Programme Areas? Under this declaration, the Government of India can declare areas as tax-free. I would like to know whether the Government of Kerala recommended to the Ministry of Tourism to declare Bekal Tourism Project, one of the Five Special Tourism Project Areas, as tax-free zone.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member is asking about the Kerala.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : There are five Special Tourism Areas which have been identified in the country. They are Bekal in Kerala, Mamallapuram in Tamil Nadu, Puri in Orissa, Sindhudurg in Maharashtra, and Diu in Daman and Diu.

The Government of Kerala has constituted a 'Bekal Tourism Authority'. A separate company under the name of Bekal Resorts Development Corporation Limited has also been formed in 1995.

Land acquisition has already been completed and the Government of Kerala has given Rs. 34 crore for the project. The Government of India has allocated Rs. 3.90 crore for the said project. An amount of Rs. 1.90 crore has already been released on this project and we are at it.

[Translation]

Research Study on Textile Industry

*364. † **SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :**
SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Textile Industry is facing technological obsolescence;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether research is being carried out to remove the technological obsolescence in the industry; and

(d) if so, the details of research being done and the scheme proposed to remove the technological obsolescence?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) To deal with technological obsolescence in the textile industry and to ensure timely and adequate modernization, the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) and the Technology Mission on Cotton have been launched by the Government.

(c) Textile Research Associations (TRAs), Textile Machinery R&D Centre, IIT, Mumbai and other textile related institutions conduct research on machinery and process development in the textile industry to address the issue of technological obsolescence.

(d) TRAs and other organisations are conducting research in various areas, including the development of pre cleaners and automatic cotton bailing press suitable to Indian ginneries, design and development for measuring the fabric handle, retrofit of Rapiers on to shuttle-loom, wear resistance of Textile Machinery components, design of weft insertion system for Rapiers-loom in weaving segment and development of solar and yarn drying machines etc. in processing segment. Government of India have launched the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for modernization of textile and jute industry for a period of 5 years, w.e.f. 1.4.99. Government of India has also launched Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) w.e.f., 21st February, 2000, of which Mini Mission-IV provides for modernisation of ginning & pressing factories.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the problem is that a question asked in Hindi is answered in English.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, textile industry is the largest industry of the country which earns 35% of the total foreign exchange of the country. After agriculture, it is the textile industry which provides employment to highest number of persons.

Sir, since we have signed an agreement with the WTO which is effective till 2005, this industry needs to be given protection. In the answer to my question, hon'ble Minister said that for research [English] "The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) and the Technology

Mission on Cotton have been launched by the Government." [Translation] It appears that the Government is not serious in the field of research. Under the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme, 39% Schemes lapsed between 1999 and 2000. Funds allocated for the scheme.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER Shri Ramji Lalji, do not deliver speech during Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question is that out of 14% sanctioned, only 6% could be spent. I would like to know that the amount sanctioned for the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme and the reasons for non-release of the said funds?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Sir, no fund has lapsed under Technological Upgradation Fund Scheme. There is no limit for the scheme formulated for five years. Earlier the limit was fixed at Rs. 25000 crore. I would like to let you know the information that is available with me. As on 31st October, under technological upgradation fund scheme, we received 863 applications amounting to Rs. 10606.15 crore. Out of it, we have sanctioned 649 applications under which Rs. 3863.17 crores was also sanctioned. Out of the sanctioned amount, by that time, Rs. 1748.93 crores were already disbursed. This scheme is meant to provide benefit to decentralised small powerloom sector. For the proper utilisation of funds, we have, from time to time, brought about some relevant changes in its earlier, the ratio of moneymargin was 80-20, which was later changed to 82.5 : 17.5 by IDBI, to facilitate establishment of new units at low investment.

Sir, in the research sector, the Ministry of Textiles run nine research centres—be it in wools, jute or powerloom. On the whole, we have nine research institutes in the whole country and our R&D department makes effort for the modernisation of the machinery on the lines of technology Modernisation occurring in the world.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the figures given are provided by the chairman of Cotton Textile Export Promotion Council Dr. D.S. Alva who quoted the figures which appeared in the newspaper 'The Hindu'. It appears that adequate expenditure has not been made. On readymade garments, 100% concession on foreign capital has been given and it has brought foreign technique along with the foreign capital. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the role of labour in research will be reduced and the opening of new employment opportunities or the existing one will not be

affected. The danger is that when you give 100% concession in foreign capital it would also bring foreign technique. It will certainly affect our labour intensive employment opportunities. I want to ask whether the research sector would not adversely affect the interests of labourers?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we earn foreign exchange to the tune of Rs. 60000 crore from the export of textile industry. It is increasing every year. Under the new textile policy-2000 announced by the Government, garments are no longer reserved for the small scale sector. The hon'ble Member has asked whether it will not adversely affect the role of labour. I would like to say that, even if large industries appear in the scene, it won't affect the present scenario as the stitching operation in both small and large industries is similar. It is not automated. Therefore, circumstances detrimental to the interests of labour or labourers are not likely to occur.

SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, textile industry contributes 4% to the GDP and it also contributes 1/3 of the total earnings from export. This industry also provides employment on a large scale. But this industry is not getting required facilities. That is why the development of this industry is being hampered. Research is a very important component of this industry. That should be undertaken according to the needs of the country. Country needs research in agriculture intensive techniques and not in capital intensive techniques. If we have to choose between agriculture intensive technique and capital intensive technique then agriculture intensive technique is in the interests of the country. Therefore I want to know whether Government has made arrangements for research in technique relating to powerloom and handloom sector. If so, where are these research centres located? What new techniques has been developed by these centres during the previous years and also the total amount annually spent by the Government on those institutions?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Hon'ble Member is right in saying that the machineries should be improved, modernised. This is quite proper. That is why Government has launched Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme. This industry is yet to undergo the Modernisation that it ought to have. That is why the scheme was formulated. Government is also aware of the need of research. As I have already said in answer to the first question that Government is running 9 research centres and we are also upgrading laboratories throughout the country for testing.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : I want to ask the hon'ble Minister whether he is aware that cotton growing farmers grow naturally coloured cotton by using

technology, and whether can we also use technology [English] to grow cotton in staple colours like raw silk colour, pale yellow etc. [Translation] the technology, which you are talking about, does not run only on the machines. [English] Are you giving any kind of encouragement to such farmers? Have you examined what kind of export potential we have for this and what are the subsidies and support systems that you will give? You know the plight of cotton farmers today. A regular cotton farmer is committing suicide. [Translation] It is your responsibility to provide access of technology to the farmers.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, to ensure reasonable price to the cotton growers for their produce, Government has launched cotton technology from February, 2000. It has also been launched with the aim to improve quality as well as per hectare yield of cotton.

MR. SPEAKER : The question relates to cotton farmers.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Yes, Sir, the cotton technology mission has been launched to ensure remunerative prices to cotton growers and also to remove contamination in cotton. We have approved a number of such proposals submitted by the State Governments. Hon'ble Member has mentioned about naturally coloured cotton which falls under jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture. Even then, we have launched technology mission for cotton.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : This does not address my question. [English] When the Minister answers in Parliament, he must know that it reaches the farmers in my constituency. [Translation] Are you aware how many farmers are committing suicide? [English] They are being given spurious pesticides. [Translation] They are dying and you are just talking about technology mission.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : The farmers are getting Rs. 300-400 per quintal more than they received last year and our speakers are complaining about high prices of cotton.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : I do not know what he is answering.

[Translation]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : You go there and see it with your own eyes.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the hon'ble Minister has just admitted that operation research and other campaigns are being launched to improve the technology of textile industry. I want to say to the hon'ble Minister that N.T.C. belongs to the textile industry. On the one hand, efforts are being made to close down mills under the N.T.C. and on the other hand we are talking about modernisation and technology improvement. What efforts are being made for renewal, modernisation and improved technology for those N.T.C. mills?

MR. SPEAKER : It has already been answered.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already said that Government has decided to modernise the NTC mills. Proposals have been sent to B.I.F.R. to check their mill-wise viability.

[English]

Expansion of Tourism between India and Myanmar

*365. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state .

(a) whether recently India and Myanmar have discussed ways to expand tourism industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether any agreement has been signed in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Not applicable.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : Sir, India is always late, and one of the reasons is that it has missed the industrial revolution. Now, information technology revolution is going on in the world. I am happy to say that Shri Pramod Mahajan and Shri Chandrababu Naidu are doing their best to promote information technology. At the same time, I would like to say, you are also a very dynamic Minister, that we should not miss the bus of tourism. After all, only Rs. 300 crore has been allocated which is not even enough for salaries. So, how can you create the tourism infrastructure, be it either at the beaches or other places or importance?

Myanmar and India have great ties from a very long time. Buddhism is major religion in that country. There are so many Buddhist places in and around Visakhapatnam, and they are all being opened. They are very eager to visit these places. Will you develop those places so that Buddhists can really visit those places? Japan and other countries are very rich, and the people from these countries can come and spend a lot of money in our country. I would like to know whether you are undertaking any promotional activities from your side.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, both in information technology and tourism (IT and T), we have not yet missed the bus.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : I did not say that. I only said that it is time to take up promotional activities.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Secondly, regarding development of tourism with Myanmar, an Economic Cooperation Group has been formed, which is known as 'BIMST (Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand) Economic Co-operation Region'. Last year, there has been a marginal increase of tourist arrivals from Myanmar; 3,500 people have come. There is a tremendous opportunity for the development of tourism between Myanmar and India because of the Buddhist circuit.

The coming year, year 2001, has been identified as 'Visit BIMSEC Tourism Year' and various promotional activities have been taken up in this regard. We expect better tourism prospects between Myanmar and India in the coming year.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : I am very happy to hear this. But unfortunately my place Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh has been allotted a mere Rs. 20 lakh for tourism development. I do not envy other States who have been provided money ranging from Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 3 crore but I would like to state that the tourism centres in Andhra Pradesh have been highly neglected. It is especially so in the case of Visakhapatnam where many Buddhist tourist centres exist. Japan wanted to advance money and also wanted to collaborate with India for development of Buddhist tourist spots and the hon. Minister knows about it very well. Is there any plan with the Ministry to develop ties between Japan and India through improving Buddhist tourism activities? I would like to have a specific answer to this.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, the question does not relate to the main question but I would like to attempt answering it. Hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Shri Chandrababu Naidu has come out with a 'Vision 2020' plan regarding tourism also. If Andhra Pradesh

Government comes out with a phased programme for tourism development between Visakhapatnam and Myanmar, we can support it after taking into account all aspects.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : I would like to know about Japanese collaboration.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there was a time when Indian tourists wishing to go to Myanmar faced difficulties regarding visa. Not that a visa was ever denied, but an Indian tourist who wanted to visit that country for seven days had to specify as to which tourist spot he would visit on which day, like Swadagon Pagoda on the first day and some other spot on the second day, and so on. This had created some difficulty for Indian visitors. I would like to know from the Minister whether the visa position is easier now and Indian tourists can get visa easier than they used to get some time before.

MR. SPEAKER : Does this relate to the Ministry of External Affairs or Ministry of Tourism?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Visa position remains the same even today. We are engaged in bilateral talks with Myanmar. I hope that if we come out with a tourism agreement with Myanmar, things can ease out.

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK : In view of the difficult position in which the Government of India is not allotting money for Tourism Department, is the Department prepared to accept foreign investments as far as tourism industry is concerned? If so, would it be applicable to Myanmar also; and how much percentage of foreign investment would be allowed?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : According to the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) stipulation, 51 per cent of it is automatically allowed in tourism infrastructure development. In special cases, 100 per cent is also allowed. In the last two years, nearly two billion dollars have come into India for various tourism projects. The same rules apply to investment from Myanmar also. We can offer our consultancy services, and we can give incentive to our hoteliers to open hotels in Myanmar. That is under the consideration of the Government of India.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, we are signing agreements with the foreign Governments to promote tourism. But the biggest constraint in promoting tourism is the availability of aircraft, air seats. Will the Ministry of Tourism negotiate with the Ministry of Civil Aviation to have chartered lights, especially for Kerala? In Kerala, we have three international airports. But flights are not coming and the seats are not available.

Will the Government kindly consider to have a negotiation with the Ministry of Civil Aviation to have

chartered flights to different destinations of India especially from Latin America? There are many flights that come from Latin America, but there is no seat available. So, will the Ministry of Tourism kindly think of having a package deal with the Ministry of Civil Aviation to have more seats from Myanmar and other places also?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, we require 11.6 million air seats to and fro from India but we are having only 5.4 million air seats. There is a gap of 6.2 million seats. But I hope my dear colleague Shri Sharad Yadav will look into this problem of 6.2 million seats so that tourism in India can also gallop.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*363. **SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY:**
SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU:

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

(a) whether there is a huge gap between the demand and the indigenous production of crude oil;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the efforts made to increase the production and reduce the gap between production and demand;

(d) the impact of these efforts; and

(e) the details of further steps being taken to increase further production?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) & (b) Yes Sir. There is a gap between the indigenous production of crude oil and the demand thereof, in terms of refinery throughput. The position in this regard during the last five years is as given below:—

Production and Demand of Crude oil

Million Metric Tonnes (MMT)

Year	Production	Demand (in terms of refinery crude throughput)
1996-97	32.901	62.870
1997-98	33.858	65.166
1998-99	32.722	68.538
1999-2000	31.949	85.964
2000-2001(BE)*	32.462	112.823

*(BE : Budget Estimates).

(c) to (e) 1. The Government has taken several measures to increase crude oil production in the country which include :

- (i) To improve the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes. These would also help in accelerating oil production from the fields.
- (ii) To add reserves by exploring in the deeper layers in the producing areas.
- (iii) To explore in the new areas specially in deep water and difficult frontier areas.
- (iv) To develop faster the newly discovered oil fields.
- (v) To increase workover and stimulation operations.
- (vi) To increase exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).
- (vii) To increase use of 3-D seismic surveys in new and producing areas.

ONGC has also taken steps by way of advancing their plans and inputs to produce additional 0.5 MMT of crude oil over and above the annual Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) target of 24.6 MMT in the current year i.e. 2000-2001.

2. The indigenous production during the year 2001-02 is estimated to be about 32.30 MMT. The production for the subsequent 2-3 years would have been of a similar magnitude; however, measures enumerated above are expected to increase the production.

Sky Bus Metro System

*366. **SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Konkan Railway Corporation Limited has proposed to set-up Sky Bus Metro System in some of the metro cities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the State Governments thereto;

(d) the progress made in this regard;

(e) whether such project would be further enlarged and developed in other urban cities in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) & (b) The Konkan Railway Corporation has only suggested that the Sky Bus Metro System could be one of the possible solutions to the urban transport problems faced by some major cities. The State Governments of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka & Tamil Nadu have evinced interest in this proposal and are in dialogue with Konkan Railway Corporation. However, the proposal is only at a conceptual stage.

(c) to (f) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Amendment in Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985

*367. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA.
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to amend the existing Handloom Reservation Order on the basis of recommendations made by Sathyam Committee;

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

(c) whether the Government have invited/are inviting suggestions from the representatives of the Handloom Industry and Weavers to bring amendments in the Act;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RAO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Execution of Safety Measures

*368. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Railways, are facing serious financial crunch with regard to execution of the safety measures;

(b) whether the Railways, have sought any Central assistance for this purpose; and

(c) if so, the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) to (c) The Railway Finances are presently passing through a difficult phase. This notwithstanding, safety works are being carried out based on their priority within the available resources. The plan expenditure on safety in the last three years has been as under:—

	(Rs. in crore)
1998-1999	2313.04
1999-2000	2656.12
2000-2001	3571.04

The safety preparedness of Railways has suffered long years of neglect due to successive decline in investment and long delay in bringing about much needed reforms at the structural level. Keeping this in view, the current year's allocation includes 37% and 26% higher allocation on track renewal and signalling & telecommunication respectively, over the last year's outlay. However, much more is needed. Separately, the pilot project of anti-collision device on NF Railway has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 50 crore. Various other significant steps have also been taken to strengthen safety, which *inter alia* includes provision of walkie-talkie sets to Drivers & Guards.

The Railway Safety Review Committee has, in its interim Report, recommended that the Central Government should provide a one time grant of Rs. 15000 crore to the Railways for rehabilitation of their overaged assets. Government's attention has been drawn to this recommendation. A response is awaited. However, the Government has transferred Rs. 200 crore during 1999-2000 and Rs. 300 crore during the current year to the Railways from the Central Road Fund to facilitate the execution of specified safety works such as manning of unmanned level crossings and construction of Rail over/under bridges.

[Translation]

Liquidated Companies

*369. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO:

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

(a) whether the Department of Company Affairs has taken action against those companies which have duped the small investors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of companies against whom the action for liquidation is being taken; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Union Government to locate such companies and ensure the return of money especially to small investors from the companies?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 142 erring companies were identified as vanishing companies by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), out of these, Department of Company Affairs (DCA) initiated prosecutions against 93 companies, under the provisions of Companies Act, 1956. No prosecutions have been initiated against 37 Companies which are regular in filing their statutory documents like Balance Sheet and Annual Returns. 08 companies are under liquidation. The assets of 03 companies have been taken over by the State Governments of Punjab and Karnataka (2 companies and 1 company respectively) and 01 company is under Board of Industrial Finance and Rehabilitation (BIFR) proceedings.

(c) and (d) Out of the 93 companies as mentioned in (b) above, 24 companies are identified as non-traceable even after due enquiries. Instructions have been issued to the field organisations to initiate winding up proceedings u/s 433/439 of the Companies Act, 1956 against these 24 companies so that amount can be realised from the assets of these companies by the Liquidator for payment as per Court's orders under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956. Field organisations have also been instructed to refer these companies to Regional Economic Intelligence Agencies. Police complaints have also been filed against 24 companies. The DCA has also written to the Chief Secretaries and Finance Secretaries of concerned States for taking penal action against the aforesaid 24 companies under Investors Protection Act (wherever applicable) and or/Indian Penal Code.

Implementation of Recommendations of Khanna Committee

*370. SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Khanna Committee on rail accidents has submitted its report, Part-II to the Government;

(b) if so, the main recommendations made therein;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to implement those recommendations;

(d) if so, the time by which these are likely to be implemented;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government during the next three years in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

[English]

Agreement between GAIL and GAZPROM

*371. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:

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

(a) whether an agreement between Gas Authority of India and GAZPROM of Russia has been signed for oil and gas exploration;

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

(c) the locations identified for exploration under the agreement; and

(d) the time by which the work on projects is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (c) The Government has signed a Production Sharing Contract (PSC) with the consortium of Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) and GAZPROM of Russia for exploration of oil and gas in the North-East coast offshore block NEC-OSN-97/1 under the first round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

(b) The salient features of the contract are given in the statement attached.

(d) The exploration in this block can start after issue of Petroleum Exploration Licence (PEL).

Statement

The salient features of the contract for NEC-OSN-97/1 block are as under:—

- No signature, discovery or production bonus.

- Income Tax Holiday for seven years from the start of commercial production.
 - No custom duty on imports required for petroleum operations.
 - Biddable cost recovery limit upto 100%.
 - Option to amortise exploration and drilling expenditures over a period of ten years from the first commercial production.
- Biddable sharing of profit petroleum based on pre-tax investment multiple achieved by the contractor.
- Royalty will be payable at the rate of 10% for oil and natural gas.
- Fiscal stability provision in the contract.
 - Freedom to the contractor for marketing of oil and gas in the domestic market.
 - Provision for assignment.
 - Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, which is based on UNCITRAL model shall be applicable.
 - The exploration work to be carried out in three phases spanning seven years.

Status of MBT "Arjun"

*372. SHRI RASHID ALVI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the "Arjun", the Main Battle Tank has become an expensive White Elephant;

(b) if so, the amount spent thereon so far;

(c) whether the Government propose to fix responsibility for colossal waste and also for compromising defence preparedness of the Nation; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The total expenditure on the design and development of MBT Arjun is Rs. 305.60 crore, which is quite justified considering the state-of-the-art technologies developed and incorporated in it. MBT Arjun compares most favourably with much costlier world class contemporary tanks, and the Army has placed orders for it. The question of fixing responsibility does not arise.

[Translation]

Investment Scheme in J.V. Projects

*373. SHRI A. NARENDRA :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

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

(a) whether any investment scheme has been formulated by Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some joint venture projects in collaboration with foreign companies are likely to be started under this scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which these projects are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (e) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) have formulated various projects for implementation. The details of investment planned in the IX Five Year Plan by IOC and BPCL are given in the Statement attached.

IOC and BPCL have the following ongoing Joint Ventures with foreign companies:

A. Indian Oil Corporation Limited

Name of Joint Venture	Promoters
1. Indo Mobile Ltd.	IOC and Mobil Petroleum Co. Inc. USA
2. Avi-Oil India Ltd.	IOC, Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd., and NYCO SA, France
3. Indian Oil Tanking Ltd.	IOC, IBP Co. Ltd. and Oil Tanking GmbH, Germany
4. Lubrizol India Ltd.	IOC and Lubrizol Corporation, USA
5. Indian Oil Pertonas Ltd.	IOC and Petronas, Malaysia

B. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited

Name of Joint Venture	Promoters
1. Bharat Oman Refineries Ltd.	BPCL and Oman Oil Co. Ltd., Oman
2. Bharat Shell Ltd.	BPCL and Shell Overseas Investment BV (Shell), Holland

Statement

Details of investment planned in the IX Five Year Plan by Indian Oil Corporation Limited and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited

Projects	Approved Outlay for the IX Five Year Plan (Rs. Crore)
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Indian Oil Corporation Limited

1. Refinery	11047.46
2. Pipelines	5050.77
3. Marketing	6478.48
4. Assam Oil Division	948.02
5. Power	436.50
6. Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Scheme	142.00
7. Petrochemicals	986.90
8. Exploration	249.00
9. R & D Center	199.00
10. Indian Oil Blending Limited	40.00
Total (IOC)	25488.13

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited

1. Refinery	2616.18
2. Pipeline including JVCs for pipelines	461.29
3. Marketing	2060.70
4. Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)	85.00
5. Petrochemicals	499.70
6. Investment in JVCs (other than Pipelines and LNG)	816.93
Total (BPCL)	6539.90

Facilities to Handicraft Exporters

*374. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of registered units in the country which export handicraft articles;

(b) the details of concession and facilities being provided to the exporters;

(c) whether the Government propose to formulate any new scheme for promoting articles of handicraft; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) There are 6181 units registered with Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts and 2501 units registered with Carpet Export Promotion Council.

(b) Concessions and facilities being provided by the Government to exporters with a view to promoting the export of handicrafts items include: duty draw back; pre-shipment and post shipment credit at concessional rate of interest; Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) to exporters for participation in international fairs/exhibitions; study tour etc.; assistance for organizing Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fair and Indian Carpet Expo for International buyers at New Delhi; assistance in organisation of workshops on export procedure, documentation and packaging etc., design and technology upgradation; setting up National Centre for product and design development at Moradabad and Indian Institute of Carpet Technology at Bhadohi.

(c) and (d) No new scheme has been formulated. However, the Government has approved the proposal of Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts to set up India Exposition Mart at Greater NOIDA, with a view to providing for a permanent contact point for international buyers. The Mart will have all facilities of international standards and is expected to boost export of Indian Handicrafts significantly.

[English]

Withdrawal of International Flights

*375. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has withdrawn some flights from certain International routes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for discontinuing the flights?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Yes Sir. Air India has withdrawn its services to and from Tel Aviv, Seoul, Geneva in March, 1998 and to/from Frankfurt, Manchester, Rome in May 1999. Besides, Code share flights between Delhi and Washington were also withdrawn in April, 1999. These flights were withdrawn/discontinued by Air India as a part of its policy on restructuring its routes in a cost effective manner, to improve the revenue by redeployment of capacity on core routes only and to improve its market share and profitability.

Development of Indian Ports as per International Standard

*376. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Ports do not conform to the International standard;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a proposal under consideration of the Government to develop Indian Ports to conform to the International standards;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the modernisation plan for the development of Indian Ports is likely to be formulated and finalised?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) The ports differ in their characteristics owing to geographical and historical reasons. The Indian Major Ports in general have the facilities similar to ports in other parts of the world but the performance in respect of each of them does not compare favourably with that of the most efficient ports of the world on parameters such as throughput and productivity

(c) to (e) The development and modernisation of Major Ports is an ongoing continuous process. The development programmes being undertaken at present lay emphasis on the following aspects aimed at enhancing standards of the Indian Major Ports and their productivity:

- Construction and Equipping New Berths
- Acquisition of state-of-the-art Equipment to match the emerging Cargo Mix
- Establishment of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI)

- Setting up of Vessel Traffic Management System (VTMS)
- Labour Training and Welfare
- Increased Role of Private Sector
- Corporatisation of Major Ports

Installation of Collision Warning System in Aircrafts

*377. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether installation of Airborne Collision Avoidance System (ACAS) has become mandatory in all aircrafts with effect from January 1, 2000;

(b) if so, the details of ACAS so far installed in aircrafts owned by private and Government agencies in the country;

(c) whether any time-frame has been fixed for the installation of ACAS; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) It has been made mandatory w.e.f. 1st January, 1999 to install Airborne Collision Avoidance System (ACAS) in all aircraft having certified seating capacity of more than 30 or a payload capacity of more than 3 tonnes operating in Indian airspace. Aeroplanes having certified seating capacity of 10 to 30 or payload capacity of 1 to 3 tonnes, have been required to install ACAS-I upto 31.12.2003.

(b) At present, all the aeroplanes having all-up weight of more than 5700 kgs. and seating capacity of more than 30 passengers are installed with ACAS-II.

(c) Yes, Sir,

(d) Does not arise.

Infrastructure Development to keep pace with Traffic Growth

*378. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether recent World Bank Report has indicated that Airport infrastructure development has failed to keep pace with traffic growth in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to develop infrastructure at airport keeping in view the estimated traffic growth?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) The draft Country Framework Report for private participation in Infrastructure as prepared by the World Bank had indicated that there would be an investment gap of Rs. 1100 crores towards Airport Development and Upgradation during 9th Plan. Investment gap is expected to be covered through increased private sector participation through leasing of airports and increasing airport revenues.

[Translation]

Closure of Handloom/Powerloom Units

*379 SHRI MANSINH PATEL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether many handloom and powerloom units are facing closure due to the non-availability of cotton yarn at reasonable rates;

(b) if so, the number of units closed down in the country, till date;

(c) whether the Government have announced any relaxation in importing the yarn in view of inadequate availability of cotton yarn in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for not imposing ban on the export of cotton yarn?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) No Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no restriction on imports of cotton yarn into India. Import of Cotton Yarn into India is permitted under OGL at an import tariff of 25%.

(d) The export of cotton yarn is allowed keeping in view the domestic requirement and production of yarn in the country. There is an increasing trend in production of cotton yarn in the country. There being no shortage of cotton yarn availability for domestic consumption, at present, there is no need for imposing a ban on the export of cotton yarn.

[English]

Feasibility Study for Rail System

*380. SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTY
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rail India Technical and Economic Services has made a feasibility study on line capacity and safety link for the rail system in the country;

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

(c) whether the said report has been accepted by the Government; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to implement the suggestions made in the said report?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Development of Navigation Canal from Mahe to Valapatanam River

3916. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the present position regarding the project for navigation canal from Mahe river to Valapatanam river of west coast canal in Kerala pending with the Union Government; and

(b) the target date fixed for completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) The proposal for construction of navigation canal between Mahe river to Valapatanam river, received from Govt. of Kerala, was examined in consultation with Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) and it was found to be deficient in regard to cargo projection, phasing of expenditure, implementation schedule, IRR calculation, basis for estimates, availability of matching funds from State Govt. etc. These are necessarily required for sanctioning a project. As such, the proposal was not approved and the State Govt. was advised to submit a revised proposal. Revised proposal has not so far been received from the State Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Procurement of 4 Aframax Tankers

3917. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) is procuring 4 Aframax Tankers from Hyundai Heavy Industries Limited, South Korea;

(b) if so, whether SCI have agreed to extend delivery within the time schedule of 28 months given in the Tender Documents by one year;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Hyundai Heavy Industries Limited, South Korea, is facing acute financial crisis as published in *Financial Time London*, dated April 24, 2000;

(e) if so, whether the Government have restrained the Shipping Corporation of India not to advance a huge sum of money to this Company for purchase of 4 Aframax Tankers as was done earlier in case of another deal with Halla Engineering and Heavy Industries Limited, South Korea; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The tender documents do not stipulate the delivery schedule. However, for evaluation of commercial offers, the delivery schedule and payment terms are considered. Accordingly, delivery schedule has been arrived at the time of placing the order.

(d) to (f) The SCI while shortlisting the Shipyards analyse the financial strength based on Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Accounts of the Shipyards. On the basis of this analysis, M/s. Hyundai Heavy Industries was found to be financially strong for taking up the project. Government have not issued any instruction restraining SCI from making payments to the Shipyard for the purchase of four Aframax Tankers. In the case of M/s. Halla Engineering and Heavy Industries Limited, South Korea, the contract was made null and void as the shipyard was declared bankrupt.

Maximum Limit for Posts in Airports Authority of India

3918. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names and appointment dates of various Regional Directors of Airports Authority of India; and

(b) whether there is any maximum limit for the various posts in Airports Authority of India; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) There are five Regional Offices of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Calcutta and Guwahati. The names and dates of posting of Regional Executive Directors (RED) at these Stations are as under :—

- (i) Shri V.K. Kalra, RED has been posted at Western Region, Mumbai on 28-04-1998;
- (ii) Shri S.C. Goswami, RED has been posted at Northern Region, Delhi on 19-04-1999;
- (iii) Shri A.K. Misra, RED has been posted at Eastern Region, Calcutta on 10-07-1995;
- (iv) Shri S.R.R. Rao, RED has been posted at Southern Region, Chennai on 16-04-1998; and
- (v) Shri T.K. Das, RED has been posted at North East Region, Guwahati on 14-09-2000.

Normally the period of posting at a station is 4-5 years.

Institute of Chartered Accountants of India

3919. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY :
DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA :
SH. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO :
DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI :

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

(a) the number of Government representatives on the Council of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and their duties;

(b) whether some members of the Council have criticised the Government policy about SEBI by issuing press statements;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) In terms of section 9(2)(b) of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949, the Central

Government can nominate upto six persons to the Council of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI). The Government have nominated suitable persons for all these six slots.

The duties of the Council of the ICAI are to manage the affairs of the Institute and to discharge the functions assigned to it under the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 and the Regulations framed thereunder.

(b) ICAI has stated that none of the Council members of the Institute have made any criticism or adverse comments on the functioning of SEBI by issuing press statements.

The ICAI has, however, stated that the Institute has made a few observations and suggestions relating to the Report of the Dhanuka Committee on Review of Securities Laws, which were reported in sections of the press.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Construction of Road Overbridges in U.P.

3920. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work of various road over bridges and road under bridges in Uttar Pradesh is delayed for want of funds;

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

(c) whether the Government have received any request from the Northern Railway/North-Eastern Railway for providing more funds;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the gauge conversion, doubling of rail lines and new rail line projects have also been put on hold in Uttar Pradesh for want of funds;

(f) if so, the steps being taken by the Government for timely completion of these projects and for releasing necessary financial assistance?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Revival of Woollen Mills

3921. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any report has been prepared by the Woollen Research Association for the revival of Woollen Mills in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Wool Research Association (WRA) has submitted a techno economic viability study report for New Egerton Woollen Mills, Dhariwal and Cawnpore Woollen Mills, Kanpur, both units of British India Corporation Ltd. Based on the report of the WRA and the revival proposal submitted by British India Corporation (BIC), the Government has approved a revival proposal for the BIC woollen mills at an estimated cost of Rs. 211 crores to be met by sale of surplus land and assets (Rs. 125 crores) and budgetary support of Rs. 49 crores as grant and Rs. 37 crores as interest free loan, in addition to writing off of interest on Government loans and conversion of principal loan into equity. As the cases of the BIC woollen mills are before the High Court of Allahabad for winding up, action has been taken to request the High Court to remand the matter back to the BIFR to enable it to consider the revival proposal.

[English]

Encroachment in Meerut Cantonment

3922. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total land encroached upon in Meerut Cantonment area, category-wise;

(b) the total land encroached upon there during the last three years and its percentage to the total land in Meerut Cantonment area; and

(c) the steps taken to remove the encroachment and the extent of success achieved therein during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The total Defence land under encroachment in Meerut Cantonment category-wise, is as under:—

Sl. No.	Category	Area under encroachment (in acres)
(i)	B-4 (under the management of Defence Estates Officer (DEO))	5.6378
(ii)	Class B-4/C (under the management of Cantonment Board)	12.7500
(iii)	Class-A-1 (under the management of Army)	0.2688

(b) The total defence land, encroached upon, during the last three years and its percentage to the total defence land in Meerut Cantonment is as under:—

Sl. No.	Area encroached during the last three years	% to the total land
(i)	0.55 acres, under the management of DEO	1.3370%
(ii)	1.29 acres under the management of Cantonment Board	0.0146%

(c) Directions have been issued to Director General Defence Estates and Service Headquarters to take action for removal of encroachments under the provisions of Cantonment Act, 1924 and Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) (PPE) Act, 1971.

The Defence Estates Officer has initiated action in 179 cases and the Cantonment Board in 104 cases, under the PPE Act, 1971. The DEO has passed final orders in 43 cases. Further, 6.328 acres of land has been freed from encroachments by the Cantonment Board.

[Translation]

Export of Textiles

3923. SHRI PUSP JAIN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of different types of textiles exported during each of the last three years and the current year, type-wise and country-wise;

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to boost textiles export;

(c) whether the export has been affected due to anti-dumping duty levied on different kinds of Indian textiles by European Union; and

(d) if so, the details there of and steps taken to overcome this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) A statement showing quantities of value of different types of textiles exported during each of the last three years and the current year is annexed. Indian textiles are exported to more than 100 countries all over the world. However, major countries of exports are USA, the Member States of EU, Canada, Japan and Australia.

(b) The Government have been taking several steps from time to time to boost the textile exports to the foreign countries. Some of the important initiatives are as under:—

- (1) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUF) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and Upgradation of this sector so that it can become more competitive in international trade.
- (2) The exporters have been provided facility to import capital goods under Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme at 5% concessional rate of duty.
- (3) Garment exporters have been allowed zero duty import of certain categories of trimmings & embellishments.
- (4) Government has recently launched Technology Mission for Cotton. One of the important ingredients of the Mission is to improve cotton processing facilities by upgrading/modernising the existing ginning and pressing factories.
- (5) Allowing foreign equity participation upto 100%, through automatic route, in the textile sector with certain exceptions.
- (6) Government has resolved the issue of tariff bindings with major trading partners i.e. EU and US. Pursuant to that, EU has agreed to release 8000 tonnes of exceptional flexibilities each year during the remaining years till 2004, i.e. till the end of textile quota regime.
- (7) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower

requirements of textile industry in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

- (8) The New Textile Policy has recently been announced to provide the policy direction for orderly and sustained development and growth of the textile industry in a harmonious way and to give a thrust to textile exports.

(c) and (d) Over the past few years, India's four textile product categories, namely (i) Unbleached Cotton Fabrics (UCF); (ii) Cotton Type Bed linen; (iii) Polyester Textured Filament Yarn (PTFY); and (iv) Polyester Staple Fibre (PSF), have been subjected to anti-dumping action by the European Commission (EC). While the EC did not impose definitive anti-dumping duties on UCF and PTFY,

they imposed provisional/definitive anti-dumping duties on other two products.

India challenged the EC's action to impose definitive anti-dumping duties on cotton type bed linen under Dispute Settlement mechanism of the WTO. The Panel has decided a few claims in favour of India and has asked the EU to bring its action in conformity with the Anti-Dumping Agreement. The EC has, however, appealed against the findings of the Panel before the Appellate Body.

As regards PSF, the EC has only imposed provisional anti-dumping duties. India has taken up the issue with Missions in EU countries to impress upon the EC to rescind provisional duties.

Statement

A. Value of export of textile items during last three years and current year.

(Value in US\$ in Million)

Sl. No.	Item	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	April-October, 2000
1.	Readymade Garment	4910.7	5268.4	5524.5	3073.8
2.	Cotton Textiles (a+b+c)	4004.5	3899.5	4084.1	2721.9
	a) Cotton Fabrics & Madeups (ML)	1951.2	2003.9	2104.3	1409.4
	b) Cotton Fabrics & Madeups (HL)	475.0	477.3	436.6	467.5
	c) Cotton Yarn	1578.3	1418.3	1543.2	845.0
3.	Man-made Textiles	1013.2	968.4	1093.3	628.2
4.	Wool & Woollens	305.1	272.0	264.3	175.1
5.	Silk	243.3	246.2	294.0	173.9
	Total (1-5)	10476.8	10654.5	11260.2	6772.9

B. Quantity of export of textile items during last three years and current year.

Sl. No.	Item	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	April-October 2000-2001	Unit
1.	Readymade Garment	1314.20	1390.80	1441.30	778.10	Million pieces
2.	Cotton Textiles (a+b+c)					
	a) Cotton Fabrics	4364.14	4854.35	4949.39	1223.14	Million Sq. Mtrs.
	b) Cotton Yarn	485.44	486.66	554.95	303.72	Million Kgs.
	c) Cotton Madeups	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	
3.	Man-made Textiles	235790.32	254244.40	346970.13	175986.69	M.T.
4.	Wool & Woollens	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	
5.	Silk	N.A.	363.34	408.03	235.84	Lakh Sq. Mtrs.

[English]

Restoration of Earlier Flight of Vayudoot

3924. SHRI VINOD KHANNA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be please to state:

(a) whether Vayudoot used to daily operate two flights regularly between Delhi and Ludhiana and after its merger with the Indian Airlines both the flights have been stopped;

(b) if so, whether the Indian Airlines have carried out survey at Ludhiana Sahnewal Airport for the restoration of earlier flights operated by the Vayudoot;

(c) if so, whether the civil flights are likely to be resumed from the Sahnewal Airport at Ludhiana; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Vayudoot had earlier operated services on Delhi-Ludhiana-Delhi sectors with HS-748 aircraft and earned marginal profits.

(b) Yes, Sir. The survey revealed that operation of air services by Indian Airlines to/from Ludhiana will not be economically viable with the smaller type of aircraft available in the fleet.

(c) and (d) Commercial considerations and operational constraints at present do not permit operation of Indian Airlines services to/from Ludhiana.

Sale of Jute

3925. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the distress sale of Jute in several parts of Orissa after the severe cyclone in October, 1999;

(b) if so, the steps taken to open additional number of Jute purchasing centre in that State, particularly in the affected areas; and

(c) the steps taken to extend necessary assistance to Jute growers in that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) During the jute season 1999-2000, prices of raw jute in all the jute growing States including Orissa in general ruled above MSP level. However, after the devastating flood and cyclone in Orissa, prices of raw jute came down

below support level in Baliapal (Balasore Distt.) and JCI undertook MSP operation in Baliapal and procured around 693 Quintals during the months of December, 1999 and after which the prices moved above the support level. There was no report of distress sale in any other place in Orissa. JCI has having 7 (seven) Jute purchase centres in Orissa.

Apart from Baliapal, none of the other centre was called to undertake MSP operation. The list of the purchase centres of JCI in Orissa is given below:—

State	Regional Office	District	DPCS	Sub-Centres
Orissa	Cuttack	Cuttack	Kendupatna	
		Kendrapara	Danpur	
			Marshaghai	
		Jajpur	Dhanmandal	
		Jagatsinghpur	—	Tarpur
		Keonjhar	Sailong	
	Bhadrak	—	Chandbali	

(c) Jute purchase centres of JCI are in readiness to undertake MSP operation as and when required. During the current season (2000-2001), JCI has procured 1627 Quintals of raw jute under MSP operation so far. At present the prices of raw jute are reported above minimum support price in Orissa.

Jhuggi Jhopri Clusters in Meerut Cantonment Areas

3926. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of jhuggi jhopri clusters that have come up in the civilian area of Meerut Cantonment as on date;

(b) whether the Government have any scheme to provide financial assistance for providing alternate accommodation to these jhuggi jhopri inhabitants; and

(c) the steps taken to remove jhuggi jhopri clusters and the number of such clusters removed during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) 401 Jhuggi Jhopri clusters have come up in the civil area of Meerut Cantonment.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Proceedings under the provisions of the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971, have been initiated in 225 cases. 45 such clusters have been removed during the last three years.

Foreign Visit by ICAI Officers

3927. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a spurt in foreign travels by the officers of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the purpose of such visit alongwith the amount spent in Indian rupees and foreign exchange on each trip separately?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), which is a statutory autonomous body established under the Chartered

Accountants Act, 1949, has informed the Government that there has not been any spurt in foreign travels by the officers of the Institute during the last three years. The Institute has reported that the expenditure on foreign travel had in fact come down during the year 1999-2000.

According to ICAI, the Institute is the founder member of SAFA (South Asian Federation of Accountants) and the Secretary of the Institute is the Permanent Secretary of SAFA. The Secretary and officers of the Institute looking after the affairs and the secretariat of SAFA are therefore required to attend meetings, seminars, conferences etc. organised under the aegis of SAFA.

ICAI has further reported that the officers of the Institute has also undertaken foreign visits in connection with GATS-WTO negotiations for assisting the Government of India; for interaction with overseas chapters of ICAI, and for providing technical and professional assistance in the setting up and operationalisation of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nepal (ICAN), with whom ICAI had signed a Memorandum of Understanding etc. etc.

(b) A statement is attached.

Statement

Expenditure on Foreign Trips by the Officers of ICAI

Name of officer	Place visited	Duration of tour	Purpose	Expenditure in Indian currency*	Forex. expenditure@ (US \$)/Amt. (Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Financial Year 1997-98				(Rs.)	
Sh. T. Karthikeyan	Kathmandu	15-18 Apr., 97	For dialogue on entering into Mou with Chartered Acts body in Nepal for providing them technical assistance	13,535	Nil
Sh. Jagdamba Prasad	Dubai	24 May-29 May, 97	For opening up of new examination centre at Dubai	15,330	US \$ 2000 Rs. (72942)
Dr. A.K. Bhattacharyya	Colombo	30 June-1 July, 97	To attend South Asian Federation of Accountants (SAFA) Comm./Conference	19,165	US \$ 600 (Rs. 22085)
Dr. A.K. Bhattacharyya	Paris	15-17 Dec., 97	To assist Govt. of India delegation at WPPS meet (GATS-WTO matters)	46,140	US \$ 1500 (Rs. 60676)
Dr. A.K. Bhattacharyya	Geneva	1-4 Feb., 98	To assist Indian delegation at WPPS meet	58,004	US \$ 1500 (Rs. 59141)
Total				152,174	US \$ 5600 (Rs. 214844)

1	2	3	4	5	6
Financial Year 1998-99					
Dr. B. Chakravarty	Kathmandu	24-29 Apr., 98	To attend CPE Seminar	7,821	Nil
Dr. Ashok Haldia	Kathmandu	24-29 Apr., 98	To attend CPE Seminar	5,867	Nil
Sh. V.K. Sharma	Kathmandu	24-29 Apr., 98	To attend CPE Seminar	7,539	Nil
Dr. A.K. Bhattacharyya	Colombo	2-4 May, 98	To attend 33rd SAFA Assembly	25,133	US \$ 600 (Rs. 24270)
Dr. B. Chakravarty	Colombo	2-4 May, 98	To attend 33rd SAFA Assembly	29,385	US \$ 600 (Rs. 24270)
Sh. Vijay Kapoor	Kathmandu	26 June-17 July, 98	For implementation of task under MoU with ICA Nepal	12,854	Nil
Dr. B. Chakravarty	Paris	19-24 July, 98	To attend CIS Conf. organised by OECD	50,207	US \$ 1800 (Rs. 77696)
Dr. Ashok Haldia	Dhaka	20-24 August, 98	To attend 34th SAFA Assembly	16,636	US \$ 870 (Rs. 39123)
Sh. Vijay Kapoor	Kathmandu	16-21 Nov., 98	For implementation of task under MoU with ICA Nepal	11,652	Nil
Sh. Vijay Kapoor	Kathmandu	15-20 Dec., 98	For implementation of task under MoU with ICA Nepal	12,980	Nil
Sh. Vijay Kapoor	Kathmandu	30 Jan.-10 Feb., 99	For implementation of task under MoU with ICA Nepal	18,414	Nil
Dr. Ashok Haldia	Colombo	19-22 Feb., 99	To attend 36th SAFA Assembly	16,496	US \$ 500 (Rs. 22635)
Dr. B. Charkravarty	Colombo	17-22 Feb., 99	To attend 36th SAFA Assembly	16,496	US \$ 930 (Rs. 41416)
Total				231,480	US \$ 5300 (Rs. 229,410)
Financial Year 1999-2000					
Dr. B. Chakravarty	Kathmandu	29 Aug.-1 Sep., 99	Meeting with Secretary Gen. of SAARC	25,714	Nil
Dr. Ashok Haldia	Islamabad	17-21 Sept., 99	To attend 38th SAFA Assembly	10,785	US \$ 500 (Rs. 23890)
Dr. B. Chakravarty	Islamabad	17-21 Sept., 99	To attend 38th SAFA Assembly	14,865	US \$ 1500 (Rs. 66565)
Sh. Vijay Kapoor	Kathmandu	25-30 Oct., 99	For implementation of task under MoU with ICA Nepal	12,114	
Sh. Vijay Kapoor	Kathmandu	2-6 Dec., 99	For implementation of task under MoU with ICA Nepal	12,114	Nil
Dr. Ashok Haldia	Kathmandu	2 Dec., 4 Dec., 99	SAFA Assembly/seminar	15,620	Nil
Dr. B. Chakravarty	Kathmandu	2 Dec., 4 Dec., 99	SAFA Assembly/seminar	16,794	Nil
Dr. Ashok Haldia	Colombo	22-25 Jan., 00	To attend 40th SAFA Assembly	22,375	US \$ 400 (Rs. 18923)
Dr. B. Chakravarty	Colombo	22-25 Jan., 00	To attend 40th SAFA Assembly	27,260	US \$ 1200 (Rs. 53233)
Dr. Ashok Haldia	Gulf Region	27 March-1 April, 00	To visit ICAI's Chapters in the Gulf Region	25,571	US \$ 1200 (Rs. 53831)
Total				183,212	US \$ 4800 (Rs. 216,422)

Note : * Expenditure in Indian Currency includes air travel charges and other incidental expenses.

@ Net of Foreign exchange and local foreign currency returned by the officers.

Outstanding dues to Shipping Corporation of India

3928. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector companies have paid outstanding dues to Shipping Corporation of India (SCI);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the balance amount remained to be paid to SCI as on date including the borrowing expenses, company-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Ad hoc payment of 70% of the drydock has been made by Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) to Shipping Corporation of India (SCI).

(c) and (d) Company-wise balance amount to be paid by Oil Industry to SCI is as under :—

	Rs./Crores
Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)	45.51
Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)	25.59
Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)	Nil
Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL)	27.46
Kochi Refineries Limited (KRL)	27.40
Mangalore Refineries & Petrochemical Limited (MRPL)	10.60

The balance amount is expected to be cleared by 31-3-2001.

Aircraft Designed by NAL

3929. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) has designed and developed Civilian Aircraft;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the cost of each such Aircraft?

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

(b) 'Hansa-3' a two-seater light trainer aircraft has been developed by the National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL). A 14 Seater multi-role light transport aircraft 'saras' is under development.

(c) While the estimated cost of Hansa-3 on production would be around Rs. 45 lakhs, 'Saras' being in the development stage, it is too early to estimate its production cost.

[Translation]

Outstanding against Ticket Agents of Indian Airlines

3930. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether crores of rupees of Indian Airlines are outstanding against its ticket agents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Indian Airlines to realise this outstanding amount from these agents;

(d) whether there is any proposal to give these agencies to the educated unemployed youth; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) (a) to (c) An amount of about Rs. 2.87 crores is to be recovered by Indian Airlines from the defaulting agents as on 30th September, 2000. A statement showing details of the outstandings against each Agent and steps/action taken to recover the same is given in the statement attached.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

S. No.	Name of the Agency	Amount (Rs. Lacs)	Period	Remarks
1.	Abroo Travels, Chennai	0.37	1998-99	Decree obtained in favour of IAL
2.	Menaka Travels, Hyderabad	12.36	1992-93	Decree obtained in favour of IAL
3.	Silver Streak, Chennai	2.15	1995-96	Decree obtained in favour of IAL
4.	Sagar Travels, Chennai	1.64	1996-97	Court Case under process
5.	Panorama Travels, Vizag	0.29	1996-97	Court Case under process
6.	United Tours, Calicut	0.40	1997-98	Court Case under process
7.	Travel Point, Hyderabad	9.01	1997-98	Court Case under process
8.	Eastman Tours & Travels, Chennai	1.29	1998-99	Matter pending with TAAI
9.	Sagar Travels, Vizag	20.82	1998-99	Court Case under process
10.	Shibi Travels, Chennai	1.32	1998-99	Matter pending with TAAI
11.	Calicut Tours & Travels, Calicut	9.70	1999-2000	Legal action being initiated
12.	Shah Travels, Calcutta	7.11	1998-99	Legal action initiated to vacate the injunction obtained by the agent against invoking BG
13.	Piercy Exim Finance, Calcutta	11.48	1999-2000	Legal action being initiated
14.	Travel Bureau, Dimapur	4.85	1999-2000	Legal action being initiated
15.	ACSCO Travels, Gauhati	5.03	1996-97	Court Case under process
16.	Ganesh Travels, Agartala	5.67	1996-97	Court Case under process
17.	Luxmi Travels, Agartala	7.71	1998-99	Legal action being initiated
18.	Mintri Transport, Bagdogra	7.76	1999-2000	Legal action being initiated
19.	Safari India, Ranchi	1.55	1999-2000	Legal action being initiated
20.	Senior Travels, Mumbai	0.66	1994-95	Court Case under process
21.	Real Value, Mumbai	15.36	1998-99	Legal action initiated
22.	Olympic Express, Mumbai	1.03	1998-99	Legal action initiated
23.	Ravi Travels, Pune	36.49	1997-98	Court Case under process
24.	M/s Asiatic Travels, Mumbai	6.12	2000-01	Claim pending with Court Receiver
25.	R.K. Travels, New Delhi	4.31	1991-92	Court Case under process
26.	Travel Mart, New Delhi	5.55	1991-92	Court Case under process
27.	Mac Travel, Aligarh	7.75	1991-92	Court Case under process
28.	Razdan Travels, Delhi	21.94	1992-93	Court Case under process
29.	Shah Travel, Srinagar	21.54	1992-93	Legal action initiated to vacate the injunction obtained by the agent against invoking BG
30.	A.S. Travels, Delhi	3.91	1995-96	Court Case under process
31.	Combined Travels, Delhi	2.06	1997-98	Court Case under process
32.	Winfield Travels, Delhi	43.07	1997-98	Court Case under process
33.	Blue Bird Travel, Srinagar	0.40	1998-99	Court Case under process
34.	Asha Travels, Jammu	1.06	1998-99	Court Case under process
35.	Tina World Travels, Delhi	5.15	1998-99	Court Case under process
Total		286.88		

IAL - Indian Airlines Ltd.

AIP-9 - IATA agency for administration of IATA approved agents

TAAI - Travel Agents Association of India

BG - Bank Guarantee

[English]

Freight Charges on Domestic and Imported Coal

3931. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the freight charges on imported coal is cheaper than that of domestic coal; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) No Sir. The freight rates for domestic and imported coal are same and the rates vary according to distances carried.

Resettlement of Jhuggli Dwellers

3932. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Railway has completed its operation for creating security zone on Kurla-Mankhurd-Harbour line in Mumbai;

(b) whether it is true that unauthorised slums have been touching the Railway line causing many accidents and slow-down of the Railway speed;

(c) if so, whether the resettlement of these slums is likely to be taken up;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it would improve the efficiency and regularity of Harbour line;

(f) the manner in which the programme is likely to be financed;

(g) whether Central Railway has planned similar line of operation in other part of Mumbai; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (d) and (f) to (h) Encroachments falling in the safety zone in Harbour line in Mumbai, some of which were very close to the track, have been planned for removal by February 2001 as per the action plan made by the Govt. of Maharashtra. Resettlement of the hutment dwellers so removed is being

co-ordinated by a Project Monitoring Unit (PMU) established by the Govt. of Maharashtra.

In Kurla-Mankhurd section on Harbour line, about 3170 pre 1.1.95 hutments dwellers falling in safety zone have been resettled in tenements and transit accommodation provided by the Government of Maharashtra. Similar operations have been planned on the balance section of Harbour line and main line on Central Railways.

Railways have, as a special case, agreed to share equally the cost of the works falling Rail component of Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP) with the State Govt. of Maharashtra. This would also include the cost of rehabilitation of Project affected persons, including the unauthorised occupants living within the safety zones.

(e) Yes, Sir.

Video Conferencing with Undertrials

3933. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the judiciary started interaction with undertrials through Video Conferencing at Hyderabad on October 14, 2000;

(b) if so, whether this type of Video conferencing will be held throughout the country in future;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent to which it is likely to be helpful in the speedy trial of undertrials?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Yes, Sir. There was a live demonstration of interaction of the court with the undertrials on 16th October, 2000 at Hyderabad.

(b) and (c) The proposal regarding all aspects of Video Conferencing is under the consideration of the Government.

(d) The electronic Video linkage facility will be helpful in speedy disposal of remand cases by the courts. It will *inter alia* reduce the cost of transportation of undertrials besides addressing the security issues connected with the production of undertrials in courts.

*[Translation]***Military Dairy Farms**

3934. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of military dairy farms in the country, location-wise;

(b) whether these dairy farms are now unable to meet the military requirements;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal for the development and expansion of these farms;

(d) if so, whether it is proposed to give the fertile land of the military for cultivation on lease hold basis under the 'grow more food' policy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the efforts being made by the Indian army to protect the environment and to increase the forest wealth?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) A statement is given below :

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The military farms are meeting the assigned military requirements. Moreover, there are proposals on hand for the development and expansion of these farms, particularly in forward and far flung areas.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. There is no proposal to give the fertile land of the military for cultivation on lease hold basis under the 'grow more food' policy. However, growing trees is a regular activity at all military farms and other army locations.

Statement*Location of Military Farms*

Northern Command	Western Command	Central Command	Eastern Command	Southern Command
Baramulla	Ambala	Agra	Bengdubi	Ahmednagar
Dalhousie	Bir Dhantauri	Allahabad	Binnaguri	Bangalore
Jammu	Bir Sarangwal	Bareilly	Calcutta	Belgaum
Leh	Dagshai	Dehradun	Dimapur	Deolali
Naushera	Ferozpur	Gwalior	Gangtok	Kirkee
Pathankot	Jalandhar	Jabalpur	Guwahati	Manjri
Rajouri	MF 36 Sector	Jhansi	Jorhat	Pimpri
Srinagar		Kanpur	Katihar	Port Blair
Udhampur		Lucknow	Massimpur	Secunderabad
Yol		Meerut	Missamari	
		Mhow	Panitola	
		Namkum	Panagarh	
		Pithoragarh	Tenga	
		Ranikhet		
10	7	14	13	9
Total Military Farms : 53				

*[English]***Employees on Election Duty**

3935. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued instructions ensuring that the Government employees deputed for Assembly and Parliamentary Election duty in future are provided public means of transport in up and down directions with specific schedule of availability in advance;

(b) if so, whether the Government have issued instructions ensuring collection of ballot boxes from the place of duty of election staff within one hour after completion of election process;

(c) if so, whether the Government have also issued instructions ensuring that payment of election duty emoluments are paid to election staff at the place of duty; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) The Election Commission has informed that it has issued standing instructions to the Returning Officers that they should arrange for the transport of the polling parties i.e. employees deployed on election duty by suitable deployment of the vehicles available with them and if need be, by requisitioning additional vehicles.

(b) The Election Commission has also informed that it has issued standing instructions to the Returning Officers, Presiding Officers, etc. that after the completion of the poll, the ballot boxes shall be collected at the storage centre from the place of duty of the election staff without any avoidable delay.

(c) and (d) The Election Commission has further informed that it has issued instructions that all staff deployed on election duty should be paid, as far as possible, 100% of the TA/DA admissible to them immediately within 24 hours of the completion of their duty with the following relaxations:

- (i) If any State has adopted the practice of paying 100% of the TA/DA as advance, they may continue the practice.
- (ii) States which do not follow the above practice may follow the practice of paying 80% of the

TA/DA admissible to the staff as advance and the balance 20% being paid within thirty days of the completion of the election.

Replacement of Old Ships

3936. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that many Indian Navy Ships are quite old;

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

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure timely replacement of old ships?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) It is a fact that some Naval ships have become old. It would, however, not be desirable in the interest of national security to disclose the details of such ships.

(c) The Government have approved acquisitions/indigenous construction of new ships. In-principle approval to undertake Mid-Life Update and Service Life Extension of ships and other platforms has also been given with a view to maintain the desired force level.

Availability of Daily Flight from Bagdogra Airport

3937. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that daily flights were available from Bagdora Airport upto 1998 or 1999;

(b) if so, whether the Government are also aware that for the last one year the flights are being operated only thrice in a week from this Airport;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the daily flights facility are likely to be available from Bagdogra Airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Upto 29.10.2000, IA and Jet Airways were operating following flights to/from Bagdogra:—

Indian Airlines :

- Delhi/Bagdogra/Guwahati/Delhi : Mon., Wed. & Fri.
- Calcutta/Bagdogra/Calcutta : -do-

Jet Airways :

- Delhi/Guwahati/Bagdogra/Delhi Mon., Wed. & Fri.
- Delhi/Bagdogra/Guwahati/Delhi Thu., Sat. & Sun.
- Calcutta/Bagdogra/Calcutta Mon., Tue. & Sat.

Bagdogra airfield belongs to the Indian Air Force (IAF). As IAF decided to make available civil operations only on Monday, Friday and Saturday w.e.f. 1.11.2000 due to runways recarpetting work at the airport, the flights to/from Bagdogra have accordingly been rescheduled as follows :—

Indian Airlines :

- Delhi/Bagdogra/Guwahati/Delhi : Mon. & Fri.
- Calcutta/Bagdogra/Calcutta : Mon., Fri. & Sat.

Jet Airways :

- Delhi/Bagdogra/Guwahati/Delhi : Mon., Fri. & Sat.
- Calcutta/Guwahati/Bagdogra & return : -do-

(d) The flights will be restored as and when runway carpetting work is completed at Bagdogra and IAF informs suitably about the availability of civil operation on daily basis.

[Translation]**Modernisation of Railway Stations**

*3938. SHRIMATI JASKAUR MEENA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS, be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway stations for which approval for modernisation has been given during the last three years;

(b) the number of railway stations modernised during this period;

(c) the amount spent on the modernisation of these railway stations; and

(d) the funds sanctioned for the modernisation of the Sawai Madhopur Railway Station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Modernisation of railway stations is a continuous process and need based works to modernise railway stations are sanctioned through Annual Works, Machinery & Rolling Stock Programme which is presented to the Parliament every year. Lump sum funds are also allocated to the Railways through Annual Works, Machinery & Rolling Stock Programme to take up works at different stations.

(c) During 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000, amount of Rs. 89.35 crore, Rs. 90.61 crore and Rs. 115.25 crore were spent for provision of passenger amenities at stations, under the Plan Head "Passenger Amenities".

(d) Following works have been taken up at Sawai Madhopur :—

- (i) Providing Computerised Passenger Reservation System — Rs. 10.97 lakh and
- (ii) Providing automatic telephonic system and computerised announcement — Rs. 8 lakh.

Incentives to the Sales Agents

3939. SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH KAUSHAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the productivity linked incentive scheme introduced for general sales agents in Air India during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(b) the process to approve such scheme;

(c) whether during the said period any London based general sales agent was offered any incentive other than the productivity linked scheme;

(d) if so, the extent of amount offered and the reasons therefore;

(e) whether this is profitable to Air India;

(f) if so, whether the proper course was taken to provide this additional incentive; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Details are as under:

Station	1996-97(%)	1997-88(%)	1998-99(%)
Canada	1-4	-	-
London	0.5-5	1-7	1-7
U.A.E.	2-7	-	-
Muscat	4-10	-	-
Gulf	-	2-6	2.5-5
*Northern India	3-12	3-5	2-3.66
		4-7	2-3.82
		(Volume based)	(Gulf)
*Eastern India	-	-	-
	1-6	-	-
Hong Kong	3-9	0-10	-

* On sales Generated from own Ticket Stock.

(b) Air India Station Managers and Regional Directors forward their proposals on Productivity Linked Schemes to Commercial Headquarters. These schemes are then discussed thoroughly during Annual Marketing meetings. Based on the need to enhance revenue generation, Commercial Headquarters analyses and subsequently approves the scheme.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Productivity linked schemes are offered by Air India for the primary purpose of generating additional revenues in various regions on its system.

(f) and (g) Does not arise.

[English]

NHRC Notice to Defence Ministry

3940. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received a notice from National Human Rights Commission on the issue of Tadepalligudem Aerodrome in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the issue has since been settled;

(d) if so, whether the Aerodrome has since been handed over to the State Government and the petitioner has been informed of it; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government had received a notice from the National Human Rights Commission in December, 1998 on the issue of Tadepalligudem Aerodrome in Andhra Pradesh and a report had been submitted on the facts of the case to the Commission. In the petition of Dr. P. Pulla Rao, received through National Human Rights Commission, the case of about 20,000 settlers/displaced people, living on the defence land of Tadepalligudem Aerodrome had been pleaded. It has been stated in the petition that these people have been living on this land for the last 50 years without legal rights and that they are ready to pay for their rights.

(c) to (e) The land was handed over to the Government of Andhra Pradesh on 3.8.1987 and the custodial responsibility of the said land vested with the

State Government. It has been further decided to transfer the said land to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for consideration of Rs. One crore, subject to certain condition. Dr. P. Pulla Rao was also informed of the decision of the Government.

Import of Missiles during 1996

3941. SHRI C.N. SINGH Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether missiles valued at US \$ 12 million imported in January 1996 could not be tested for their effectiveness for over a period of two years in the absence of proper test facilities which led to expiry of warranty period and the missiles worth Rs. 3.41 crore became unserviceable;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reasons for importing the missiles when test facilities were not available;

(d) whether any responsibility has been fixed in the matter; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (e) As per contract dated 24th March, 1995 concluded with M/s Roosvourzhenie, Russia quantity 288 nos. of missiles were received in two lots in 1996. The test facilities for the missiles were also imported alongwith the weapon system. These missiles were inspected on receipt. Quantity 10 nos. of missiles worth 3.2 crores were found defective which have been replaced by the supplier free of cost. Since the Russians had accepted the quality claim for replacement of the ten missiles found defective, there was no need to fix any responsibility.

Flights from Calcutta-Port Blair-Phuket-Bangkok

3942. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Port Blair Airport has been extended and construction of its runway is in progress;

(b) whether the Government are considering to augment the flight for Calcutta-Port Blair-Phuket-Bangkok; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Airports Authority of India has constructed a new terminal building with all modern passenger facilities along with new apron and link taxi track at an estimated cost of Rs. 19.83 crores and the work for extension of runway to 11000 ft. is in progress.

(b) and (c) Port Blair has not been offered as a point of call to any foreign airline. National Carriers are free to operate from any airport subject to traffic potential and availability of aircraft.

E.C. Directions to Oil Section Boards

3943. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV:
SHRI BHERULAL MEENA:
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
SHRI J.S. BRAR:

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

(a) whether the Election Commission of India issued any orders or instructions direct to the Oil Selection Boards or through the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to stop the continuing process of selections of dealers or distributors of petroleum products agencies during the period of 20th March, 1996 till the date the election were over for the reasons of the application of the Model Code of Conduct;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (c) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Construction of Airstrip at Gangtok

3944. SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct an Airstrip at Gangtok ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is expected to be constructed?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Science City at Hyderabad

3945. SHRI RAJAIHA MALYALA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh to use their resources through the National Council of Science Museum (NCSM) in Calcutta to prepare a project report for a Science City at Hyderabad; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The Government has received proposals from various States including Andhra Pradesh for setting up of Science Cities. However, due to resource crunch, presently the Government is not taking up any new Science City projects.

Freezing of Railway Projects

3946. SHRI B.V.N. REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have decided to freeze new railway projects for the next financial year;

(b) if so, the reasons behind this decision; and

(c) the impact on the people?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Documentation of Excavated Temples

3947. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the objects of the historical importance including idols and remains of temples recovered from the village Mehrauli, New Delhi, particularly from Qutab Complex;

(b) whether these objects have been archaeologically documented;

(c) if so, the text of the documentation made;

(d) the names of Museum in which these objects are kept and display/accessible to public; and

(e) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (e) A number of archaeological remains from the medieval period have been recovered from the Qutb Archaeological area and have been methodically documented. Of these one is in the National Museum, New Delhi, seven in Archaeological Survey of India's site museum at Purana Qila, New Delhi and the remaining are housed in the Qutb Sub-Circle Office of the Archaeological Survey of India, New Delhi. All these objects are accessible to the public.

Guidelines for Oil Exploration

3948. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether guidelines have been issued for the 25 blocks in the second round of New Exploration Licensing Policy, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The Notice Inviting Offers for exploration of oil and natural gas under the second round of New Exploration Licensing Policy will be issued before the end of December, 2000. It is proposed to offer for bidding twenty five exploration blocks in onland, shallow water offshore and deep water offshore areas, on terms which provide a level playing field to the investors.

[Translation]

Expansion and Modernisation of Kolhapur Airport

3949. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for expansion and modernisation of air strip of Kolhapur;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which this proposal is likely to be cleared by the Government; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Kolhapur Airport has been leased out to the Maharashtra State Government for developmental purposes.

[English]

Direct Flight between India and Canada

3950. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is no direct flight between India and Canada;

(b) if so, whether Canadian airline has shown its interest in starting the direct flight from Canada to Delhi;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any negotiation is being held in this regard; and

(e) if so, the time by which the flights are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) At present there are no direct flights between India and Canada.

(b) to (e) The designated airlines of Canada already enjoy traffic rights for operations to Delhi. However, no schedules have been filed by any Canadian carrier for operation to Delhi.

Private Sector Oil Refining Cos. for Marketing Rights

3951. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of qualified private sector Oil Refining Companies entitled for marketing rights of the controlled products along with the dates of their applications,

(b) whether the undue delay in granting the rights has ensured secured profits and lifting of controlled products of such refineries by the Government Oil Corporations and causing steep rise in crude oil prices in international market;

(c) if so, whether the Government are considering to pass orders to investigate the matter in this regard; and

(d) the time by which these Oil Companies are likely to be granted marketing rights to avoid malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) The Government of India announced a road map for dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in November, 1997. The aforesaid announcement *inter alia* provided for grant of marketing rights for transportation fuels viz. Motor Spirit (MS), High Speed Diesel (HSD) and Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) conditional on owning and operating refineries with an investment of at least Rs. 2,000 crore or oil exploration and production companies producing atleast three million tonnes of crude oil annually. Full de-regulation of Petroleum Sector is targeted from 1st April, 2002 onwards.

The Government have received requests from M/s Reliance Petroleum Limited, M/s Essar Oil Limited and M/s Mangalore Refinery & Petro Chemicals Limited for grant of marketing rights for transportation fuels.

(b) In May, 1998 Government decided that the marketing of controlled products should continue to be regulated in accordance with the present regime, until the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) is fully dismantled. As such there is no delay.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The eligible companies will be authorised to market transportation fuels as per Government decisions mentioned in (a) and (b) above.

Purchase of A.J.T.

3952. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
DR. ASHOK PATEL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether IAF to buy Hawk Advanced Jet Trainers from BAe Systems of Britain, has reportedly run into rough weather as published in 'Asian Age' dated September 12, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the alternative arrangements made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir. Negotiations with British Aerospace are progressing satisfactorily.

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

Promotion of Charge-Sheeted Employees

3953. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of employees/officers charge-sheeted by Vigilance/C.B.I. during the last three years;

(b) whether any of such employees has been promoted/transferred during the said period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected.

Duplex Mobile Train Radio Communication

3954. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Duplex Mobile Train Radio Communication has been sanctioned;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) The duplex Mobile Train Radio Communication System is in operation on approximately 1600 route-km on Bhusawal-Itarsi, Itarsi-Nagpur, Nagpur-Durg sections and on selected trains in New Delhi-Mughalsarai section. The work for provision of duplex Mobile Train Radio Communication System for suburban trains on 113 kms on Churchgate-Virar and Chattrapatti Shivaji Terminus-Kalyan sections is in progress.

The duplex Mobile Train Radio Communication System has also been sanctioned on another 2224 route-km to cover 5 sections namely Howrah-Mughalsarai, New Jalpaiguri-Guwahati, Ludhiana-Pathankot-Jammu Tawi including Amritsar, New Jalpaiguri-Barsai-Malda Town/Katihar and New Delhi-Ambala-Ludhiana at an estimated cost of about Rs. 134 crore. The Mobile Train Radio Communication system in the above 5 sections requires frequency which is allotted by Wireless Planning and Co-ordination (WPC) Wing of Ministry of Communications. The allotment of frequency for Mobile Train Radio Communication system is under process. The work will be taken up on the sanctioned sections on allotment of the frequency and completed progressively, based on the availability of funds.

[Translation]

Defective Ammunitions procured from Russia

3955. SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 130 m.m. ammunition purchased from Russia during the Kargil War were not found up to the mark;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Six contracts valued at over Rs. 600 crores were signed with Russian firms for procurement of ammunition and armaments for the Army in the context of Kargil operations out of which 130 mm ammunition was purchased for about Rs. 40 crores. A consignment of 930 rounds of 130 mm ammunition and 15000 fuzes supplied were not found acceptable during inspection for which necessary claim has been raised. The estimated value of the unserviceable ammunition is Rs. 0.85 crores.

[English]

Setting up of Tourism Development Authority

3956. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to set up a Tourism Development Authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have proposed to build India Tourism Centre in New Delhi and other places of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon, centre-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Department of Tourism, Govt. of India has proposed set up a Bharat Paryatan Bhawan at New Delhi which will house the offices of the Ministry of Tourism/State Governments/Tourism Corporations, Offices of Tourist Trade Associations, Tour Operators,

Travel Agents, Railways, Airlines, Hotels, Banks, Post Offices etc. in one place and has also requested the State Governments/UT Administrations to set up similar Paryatan Bhawans in their respective State Capitals to act as a one stop facilitation centre for meeting the requirements of the tourists.

Upgradation of Surveillance Equipments

3957. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a need for technological upgradation of surveillance equipments available to soldiers, along the line of control at the Kargil mountains is being felt;

(b) whether most of the Night Vision Devices available with our outposts are infra red and have a shorter range; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE GERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) There is a continuous effort to upgrade the surveillance equipment to provide better quality and longer ranges depending upon the technology and ability to develop such equipment. Night Vision Devices based on Image Intensifiers and Thermal Imaging; Battle Field Surveillance Radars System and Long Range Recce & Observation System are some of the items which have been finalised post Kargil.

[Translation]

Rail Link to Bhiwadi

3958. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bhiwadi is an industrial town under the National Capital Region;

(b) whether this town is situated at a distance of 5 kilometres from Dharuheda, 25 kilometres from Rewari and also 75 kms from Delhi;

(c) whether there are five industrial towns/cities situated on Delhi-Jaipur Road and goods in heavy quantities are transported daily by road and due to absence of a railway line, difficulties are being faced in the transportation of goods in such a large quantity; and

(d) if so, whether Bhiwadi is proposed to be linked through railways keeping in view its importance as industrial town?

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

(b) to (d) The Bhiwadi town is situated approximately at a distance of 5 kms. from Dharuhera, 25 kms. from Rewari and 75 kms. from Delhi. The main industrial locations on Delhi-Jaipur Road in the National Capital Region (NCR) are Gurgaon, Manesar, Dharuhera, Bhawal, Shahjahanpur, Neemrana, Behror and Sota Nala. Goods to and from these locations are transported by road

For a Rail link to Bhiwadi, Northern Railway had prepared a Project Report for Khurja-Palwal-Rewari-Rohtak new line in the year 1995. The estimated cost of the project was Rs. 365 crore and the Rate of Return was less than 2%. Another survey was conducted in August, 97 for construction of a new Railway line between Rewari and Rohtak via Jhajjar. Rewari-Bhiwadi Rail link also formed a part of this route. This survey report revealed that the cost of 81 km long Railway line would be about Rs. 110 crore and that the project is not financially viable as the rate of return is negative.

The Railway is undergoing severe constraints of resources at present, specially as a result of recommendations of 5th Pay Commission and hikes in diesel prices. There is a heavy shelf of new projects already sanctioned, which would require as much as Rs. 22,000 crore for their completion. At the present rate of availability of funds, they will take more than 25 years for their completion. In view of the financial position of the Railways, and un-remunerative nature of the project, it has not been possible to consider the above new line project at present.

Handloom Technology Institutes

3959. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the handloom technology institutions being run in the country at present, State-wise along with the programmes being conducted there;

(b) the financial grant provided to such institutions during each of the last three years and the current year, institution-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up more such type of institutions in the country, particularly in district Kheri; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) There

are at present 4 Institutes of Handloom Technology functioning at Salem in Tamil Nadu; at Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh; at Guwahati in Assam and at Jodhpur in Rajasthan under Government of India and one Institute of Handloom Technology at Gadag in Karnataka and one at Venkatagiri in Andhra Pradesh under their respective State Governments. These Institutes are conducting 3 years' Diploma Course in Handloom Technology. The Institutes at Salem and Varanasi are also conducting 1½ year (3 semesters) Post Diploma Course in Textile Chemistry.

(b) A provision of Rs. 330.74 lakhs, Rs. 326.99 lakhs and Rs. 331.30 lakhs was made during the years 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000 in the Demands for Grants of Ministry of Textiles in respect of the 4 Institutes of Handloom Technology functioning at Salem, Varanasi, Guwahati and Jodhpur under Government of India. A provision of Rs. 351.30 lakhs has been made for these 4 Institutes for the year 2000-2001. Besides this, a sum of Rs. 191.74 lakhs, Rs. 155.42 lakhs and Rs. 262.19 lakhs was sanctioned for construction/maintenance of buildings of these 4 Institutes of Handloom Technology during the years 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000 respectively. A sum of Rs. 168.50 lakhs has been sanctioned for this purpose so far during the year 2000-2001.

The Institute of Handloom Technology at Gadag in Karnataka and at Venkatagiri in Andhra Pradesh are being run by their respective State Governments. The Government of India did not provide financial grant to these two Institutes during the last 3 years and during the current year.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Land Maintained by Calcutta Dock System

3960. SHRI PRABUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total areas of land being maintained by the Calcutta Dock System;

(b) the details of area out of total land utilisation, rented out and lying vacant;

(c) whether the Calcutta Dock System has not recovered rent since long from its tenants;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of total amount Calcutta Dock System has to recover yet?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Details of land areas under Calcutta Dock System are as under :—

(i) Calcutta Section	-	126.70 acres
(ii) Howrah Section	-	345.89 acres
(iii) Dock Section	-	2646.70 acres
(iv) Budge Budge	-	206.70 acres

(b) Details of area out of total land utilisation are given below :—

(i) Rented out	-	1684 acres
(ii) Vacant	-	102 acres

(c) and (d) Recovery of rent from some tenants is outstanding for a long time. Main reasons for rent remaining outstanding are as under :—

- (i) Litigation continuing in subordinate courts.
- (ii) Writ petition pending in the Hon'ble High Court against various revision of rent by CPT since 1979.
- (iii) Breach of certain covenants of the lease like unauthorised construction, subletting, etc. which tenants especially Public Sector/Govt. are unable to remedy and therefore leases cannot be renewed.

(e) A sum of Rs. 71.11 crore is lying outstanding on account of various tenants upto 30.6.2000. Out of the total outstanding dues, 115 Govt. tenants account for Rs. 30.36 crores while 2210 private tenants account for Rs. 40.75 crore.

Inland Waterways

3961. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open more inland waterways in the country ;

(b) if so, the names of waterways proposed to be opened in near future;

(c) the target date by which these waterways are likely to be opened;

(d) whether private sector participation is also to be involved in this venture; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) (a) to (c) Declaration of a waterway as a National Waterway, *inter-alia*, depends upon techno-economic feasibility of waterway and availability of resources. No target date has yet been fixed to open more inland waterways as National Waterways. However, the National Transport Policy Committee has identified following 10 waterways as having potential for development and declaration as National Waterway :—

1. Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system
2. The Brahmaputra
3. The West Coast Canal
4. The Sunderbans
5. The Godavari
6. The Krishna
7. The Mahanadi
8. The Narmada
9. The Mandovi, Zuari rivers and Cumberjua Canal in Goa
10. The Tapi

In addition, techno-economic feasibility studies have also been conducted on Barak River, East Coast Canal, DVC Canal and Kakinada-Mercanum Canal which indicated that these waterways have the potential for development of inland water transport.

Three waterways namely the Ganga from Haldia to Allahabad (1620 km), the Brahmaputra from Sadiya to Dhubri (891 km) and West Coast Canal including Champakara and Udyogamandal canals (205 km) have already been declared as National Waterways and are being developed by Inland Waterways Authority of India by providing infrastructure facilities: such as navigational channel, terminals and navigational aids subject to availability of resources.

(d) and (e) Action has also been initiated to evolve policy framework and strategy for development of inland water transport. *Inter-alia* the policy framework is aimed at facilitating private participation in areas such as ownership and operation of inland water transport fleet, construction and operation of river terminals, mechanised cargo handling system, joint venture participation etc.

Pak ISI Funds for Militants

3962. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an army intelligence report has lately revealed that Hizbul-Mujahideen gets the largest share of Pakistani ISI funds for militant activities; and

(b) if so, the details of other militant outfits who received such funds during the current year, and the amount of funds so received by each of the outfits along with the comparative figures during each of the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Inputs indicate that Hizbul-Mujahideen has been receiving a major share of funds from ISI for militant activities. The following militant outfits are also reportedly receiving funds from ISI for sustaining terrorist activities in Jammu & Kashmir :—

- (i) Lashkar-e-Toiba (LET)
- (ii) Al Badr
- (iii) Harkat-UI-Mujahideen (HUM)
- (iv) Harkat-UI-Jehad-e-Islami (HUJI)
- (v) Jaise-e-Mohd (JEM)
- (vi) Al Barq

It would not be in the national interest to divulge specific details in this regard.

Acquisition of Battle Tanks

3963. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the battle tanks manufactured by Heavy Vehicles Factory, Avadi from 1994, inspected by DGQA, passed by Resident Inspector and procured by our Army are, all in good working condition;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the details of shortcomings noticed therein and the action taken thereon;

(d) whether the Army has collected all the battle tanks manufactured by H.V.F. Avadi till date; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (e) Since 1993-94 a total of 500 Tanks manufactured by Heavy Vehicles Factory have been supplied to Army after inspection by Director General of Quality Assurance and these are under use by Army. Some problems of quality have arisen which Army Headquarters have indicated to Heavy Vehicles Factory, Avadi who are rectifying these problems in consultation with Army Headquarters. Pending this rectification, 76 tanks produced during 1999-2000 are awaiting collection by the Army.

Integrated Air Defence System

3964. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Air Force propose to set up an integrated air defence system, essentially a nationwide network, that will provide real time air situation picture to military decision makers;

(b) if so, the salient features of the project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has proposed to acquire five Integrated Air Command and Control Systems (IACCS), for establishing Integrated Air Defence along the Western and South-Western borders.

(b) An Integrated Air Command and Control System (IACCS) would have the capability to integrate air situation picture, received in real time from ground-based, as well as, airborne sensors. The integrated air-picture would be available to the IAF commanders to initiate monitor and control tactical air defence actions against any hostile intruders in our air space.

(c) This will be known only when the contract is concluded.

Construction of Runways at Calicut Airport

3965. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is considerable delay in completion of runway and other works at Calicut airport, Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the progress made in the work; and

(d) the steps being contemplated to expedite the completion of the work?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) There is some delay in the second phase of runway extension from 7500 ft. to 9000 ft. due to long rainy season in Kerala reducing the working period to practically six months limitation in capacity of approach road reducing the output of earth work to mere 5000 cubic meter per day and resistance from local people against transportation of earth through their locality. 92% of the work has, however, been completed.

(d) Close monitoring of the work of the executing agency of the project is being ensured. The approach road has also been repaired, speed breakers constructed and action taken to ensure that earth does not fall off enroute causing dust problem.

[Translation]

Loss suffered by Oil PSUs

3966. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

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

(a) the loss suffered/profit earned by the various companies of public sector during the last three years and the current financial year;

(b) whether the loss suffered is due to subsidy given on oil; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to prevent the loss in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) The details of profit/loss made by the various oil sector's public sector undertakings (PSUs) during the last three years and the current financial year are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) Some of the marketing and refinery companies have reported shortfall in profits during current year due to increase in input costs on account of steep rise in prices of crude oil in international markets, depressed refining margins, high inventory costs, high interest rates and depreciation costs etc. The Government is regularly reviewing and monitoring their performance. The oil sector's PSUs are taking a number of measures to further improve their performance. The measures taken in this direction, *inter alia*, include various cost control measures, improved inventory management, improving production & productivity, controlling input costs, rationalising of manpower, modernisation programme to abridge critical gaps of technical and technological nature, product adaptation and product development, etc.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of PSUs	Profit (+)/Loss(-) Rs. In Crores			
		Profit after tax during			#April Sept. '00
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	
1.	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	1706.60	2214.00	2443.00	1487.00
2.	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	532.70	701.25	703.86	546.52
3.	Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	701.16	901.26	1057.41	423.17
4.	Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.	2677.78	2754.50	3629.47	2533.53
5.	Oil India Ltd.	288.84	291.60	409.79	205.81
6.	Gas Authority of India Ltd.	1020.00	1060.00	861.00	526.00
7.	Kochi Refineries Ltd.	220.41	338.23	235.20	45.62
8.	Bongaigaon Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd.	67.99	34.26	32.24	-21.88
9.	Engineers India Ltd.	73.24	118.06	126.20	71.10
10.	Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	129.28	204.93	143.14	24.63
11.	IBP Co. Ltd.	31.56	35.23	41.71	21.59
12.	Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.	16.41	16.83	14.32	4.96
13.	Biecco Lawrie Ltd.	-4.88	0.45	0.17	-4.56

#Provisional

Woollen Textile Mills

3967 SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of woollen garment mills in the country, location-wise and the number of employees working therein at present, State-wise and mill-wise;

(b) the profit/loss of these mills during each of the last three years and the current year;

(c) the names of sick/closed mills out of them;

(d) the number of workers affected due to this and the steps taken by the Government for their rehabilitation, mill-wise; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for revival of sick mills and re-opening of closed mills and the amount incurred thereon, mill-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) to (d)

The information sought is not maintained centrally. However, the information available with the Ministry of Textiles in this regard is specified in the statement attached.

(e) The Government of India has enacted the Sick Industrial Companies (special provisions) Act, SICA, 1985 and established the Board of Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) with a view to arranging the timely detection of sick & potentially sick companies and for the speedy determination of preventive, ameliorative and remedial measures which need to be taken in respect of such companies. The rehabilitation schemes sanctioned by BIFR include various measures like restructuring the capital, induction of fresh funds by the promoters, merger with the other companies, change of management, provision for working capital and term loans by banks and financial institutions.

The Government has approved a revival proposal for the BIC woollen mills—New Egerton Woollen Mills, Dhariwal and Cawnpore Woollen Mills, Kanpur, at an estimated cost of Rs. 211 crore.

Statement

(1) The details of State-wise no. of woollen mills, their installed capacity and workers on roll as on 31/3/2000 are given below :

Sl. No	State/Union Territory	No. of Mills	Installed Capacity					Workers on Roll
			Combers	Spindles	Looms	Knitting M/c	Hosiery M/c	
<i>State</i>								
1	Andhra Pradesh	6	-	15044	20	-	-	395
2	Assam	1	-	2000	-	-	-	468
3	Delhi	13	-	13424	-	-	-	660
4	Gujarat	16	5	47582	274	-	-	3188
5	Haryana	251	2828	156071	150	-	-	7895
6	Himachal Pradesh	8	24	15970	30	-	-	391
7	Jammu & Kashmir	2	12	732	-	-	-	197
8	Karnataka	3	2	12704	364	-	-	1593
9	Madhya Pradesh	8	28	68054	423	-	-	5757
10	Maharashtra	10	4035	61581	263	37	-	6224
11	Punjab	210	175	378598	2012	768	3152	25749
12	Rajasthan	68	1804	42084	135	-	-	4799
13	Tamilnadu	1	-	1250	-	-	-	76
14	Uttar Pradesh	76	39	92225	454	21	-	5851
15	West Bengal	1	-	12960	-	-	-	1142
<i>Union Territory</i>								
1	Dadra Nagar Haveli	1	8	14300	-	-	-	181
G. Total		675	8960	934579	4125	826	3152	64566

- (2) The State-wise details of closed woollen mills as on 30/09/2000 with date of closure, reason for closure, their installed capacity and workers on roll are given below :

S.No	NAME OF THE MILL	DATE OF CLOSURE	INSTALLED CAPACITY		WORKERS ON ROLL	REASON FOR CLOSURE
			SPINDLES	LOOMS		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
ANDHRA PRADESH						
1.	* Midland Industries Ltd.	31-05-1998	3600	-	-	Details awaited
2.	M/s S.S. Wool & Allied Ind. P. Ltd.	Nov. 91	640	-	14	Financial trouble
3.	Andhra Pradesh Co-op. Woollen Spg.	01-01-1987	196	-	29	Financial trouble
4.	* Lakshmi Woollen Ind. (P) Ltd.	Feb. 93	640	-	-	Closed due to loss incurred by the fire accident
5.	Hiflon Indu. Ltd. Gummadiadala	16-06-1996	3600	-	-	Due to financial problem
6.	Lamino Spg. & Wvg. Mills Ltd.	Sept. 98	2400	-	-	Financial difficulties
BIHAR						
7.	* Bihar Woollen Fabrics Ltd.	08-08-1988	954	-	221	Financial crisis
GUJARAT						
8.	Walker Anjarial, Jamnagar	12-11-1982	-	-	-	Labour dispute
9.	Chandralok Woollen Mills	-	-	-	-	Financial difficulties
10.	Sohana Spinning (P) Ltd.	-	2400	-	128	Details awaited
11.	Gujarat Woollen Mills	-	1380	-	6	Closed permanently
12.	G.M. Vyas & Co.	-	-	-	-	Closed since a long time
13.	Zaveri Cotton Woollen Mills	-	400	-	-	Closed from last two years
14.	Shree Saraswati Waste Yarns	Oct. 93	360	-	-	Not in existence
15.	Mahajan Woollen Ankleshwar	01-04-1999	924	-	20	Financial difficulties
16.	M.J. Woollen Mills	-	-	-	-	Not known
17.	Rustoji Spinners (P) Ltd.	27-07-1995	1200	-	73	Surrendered Licence
18.	N.L. Woollen Mills	-	-	-	-	Details called for
HARYANA						
19.	* Radhika Woollen & Silk Mills	13-07-1987	2400	-	85	Financial problem
20.	Desmesh Woollen & Spg. Mills, Panipat	-	-	-	-	Due to Labour & Financial Difficulties
21.	H.P. Industries, Rewari	08-10-1983	600	-	104	Financial Difficulties
22.	Bahubali Woollen Mills, Panipat	-	-	-	-	Financial Difficulties
23.	F.C. Woollen & Spg. Mills, Panipat	-	-	-	-	Financial Difficulties
24.	Ganesh Spinners, Panipat	-	-	-	-	Financial Difficulties
25.	Best Patent Press Co., Panipat	-	-	-	-	Financial Difficulties
26.	R.C.D. Marketing (P) Ltd., Panipat	-	-	-	-	Financial Difficulties
27.	Har Srinath Textiles, Panipat	-	-	-	-	Details are not available
28.	C.R. Spinners (P) Ltd., Panipat	-	-	-	-	Details are not available
29.	Jai Shree Textiles Eng. & Spgs.	-	-	-	-	Details are not available
30.	Ahuja Textile & Chemical P. Ltd.	-	-	-	-	Details are not available
31.	Hari Woollen Mills, Faridabad	-	-	-	-	Details are not available

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
32.	Allied Woollen Mills, Panipat	01-01-1998	420	-	16	Due to recession in the market
33.	Badri Woollen Mills, Panipat	-	500	-	19	Not known
34.	Arun Textiles, Panipat	-	500	-	12	Not known
35.	Moden Fabrics P. Ltd., Sonapat	31-10-1997	-	-	-	Not known
36.	Kedar Woollen Mills, Panipat	April 98	-	-	-	Not known
37.	CTEX, Panipat	Oct. 96	-	-	-	Not known
38.	Rewari Textile Pvt. Ltd.	08-10-1983	600	-	104	Financial Difficulties
KARNATAKA						
39.	* Kolar Woollen & Textile Mill, Bangalore	Jan. 1995	-	-	-	Shortage of Working Capital
MADHYA PRADESH						
40.	Ashoka Woollen Mills, Indore	Oct. 91	-	-	-	Details are called for
MAHARASHTRA						
41.	Ahmed Woollen Mills, Ambarnath	08-08-1990	4480	-	-	Financial Difficulties
42.	Nagpal Woollen Mills No. 1 & 3	03-01-1994	2596	4	141	Financial Difficulties
43.	Shree Krishna Wln. Mills	July' 87	-	-	-	Financial Difficulties
44.	Doruva Woollen Mills Ltd., Bombay	Sept., 93	3600	26	250	Financial Difficulties
45.	Shree Woollen Mills, Bombay	19-03-1995	-	-	-	Labour strike lockout from 19/3/85
46.	Karamchand Tulsidas Proprietor of	06-10-1994	1333	2	84	Financial Difficulties
47.	Modella Textile Industries	16-08-1996	2000	-	184	Under Liquidation
48.	Rupani Wln. Mills P. Ltd., Thane	July'97	-	-	-	Strike by workers
49.	Bombay Wln. Mills, Bombay-23	Aug.78	3532	-	-	Financial Difficulties
50.	Bombay Fine Worsted Mfg. Ltd., Thane	15-05-1998	-	-	-	Financial Difficulties
51.	A.B. Enterprises, Thane	-	-	-	-	Mills caught fire on 17/07/95
52.	Bhavani Wootex Corupe	04-03-1995	-	-	-	Details not known
53.	* Enerland Woollen Mills P. Ltd.	-	-	-	-	Lockout since 4/3/95
54.	Crystal Mill 2 Thane	-	-	-	-	This is not in existence
PUNJAB						
54.	Shah Knitwear, Ludhiana	1995	1200	-	-	Not known
55.	Jyoti Weaving Mills, Hari Nagar	1995	2400	-	-	Financial Problem
56.	Tarasons Woollens Ludhiana	1995	1600 Non Worsted	-	-	Financial Problem
57.	Luxmi Woollen Mills	1995	600 N/W	-	-	Not known
58.	Jain Traders, Ind. Area "A" Ludhiana	-	-	-	-	Not known
59.	A.K. Woollen Mills P. Ltd.	1994	2400	13	-	Not known
60.	Navraj Fabrics P. Ltd., Ludhiana	-	1200W	-	-	Not known
61.	Sandeep Woollen Mills Link Road	1995	1200	-	-	Not known
62.	Rajan & Santosh P. Ltd.	1995	-	-	-	Not known
63.	K.K. Spinners: 892, Ganesh Ngr., Ludhiana	1995	800W	-	-	Not known
64.	Gopal Dass Jagat Ram P. Ltd., Ludhiana	Apr. 1994	2016	-	-	Not known
65.	Shaktiman Woollen Hosiery, Ludhiana	-	1200	-	-	Not known

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
66.	Esmail Yarn; Link Rd., Ludhiana	-	-	-	-	Not known
67.	Gopalji Spinners, Ludhiana	01-04-1994	1200	-	-	Not known
68.	Elora Spinning Mills, Amritsar	06-11-1998	400 N/W	-	34	Financial Problem
69.	Angora Spg. & Wvg. Mills	01-11-1990	126	-	8	Financial Problem
70.	Arun Yarns P Ltd., Amritsar	-	400 Non	-	17	Not known
71.	Raja Spinning Mills, Ludhiana	Oct' 98	1600	-	20	Not known
72.	Vasta Woollen Mills	01-07-1998	680	-	13	Not known
73.	Guide Exports, C-112, Focal Point, Ludhiana	Oct' 98	-	-	-	Details are awaited
74.	Arvind Textile	Nov' 98	-	-	-	Details are awaited
75.	R.S. Woollen Mills	05-09-1999	800W	-	25	Not known
76.	Upasana Spinning Mills	-	-	-	-	Not known
RAJASTHAN						
77.	Kishore Woollen Mills, Alwar	31-03-1998	200	-	-	Not known
78.	Standard Woollen Mills, Jodhpur	08-07-1984	1890 \	-	203	The Co. was wound up under court order dt. 28/12/85
79.	* Vikesh Woollen Mills, Alwar	-	-	-	-	Not known
80.	Foreign Import & Export Assoc.	01-10-1985	-	7	77	Dispute between the director
81.	Rajasthan Wooltex, Jaipur	Arpil' 86	-	-	-	The unit was wound up under court order dt. 18.09.87
82.	Rajasthan Woollen Mills	31-12-1982	530	-	-	Creditors of the mills have filed a suit in High Court
83.	Orient Woollen Textiles Mills	-	-	-	-	Details not available
84.	Jagadamba Woollen Ltd.	Sept. 89	-	-	-	Details not available
85.	G.S. Woollen Mills, Bilwara Rajasthan	-	-	-	-	Details not available
86.	Saraf Woollen Mills, Sikar	-	-	-	-	Details not available
87.	Wool Spin Ltd., Alwar	-	-	-	-	Details not available
88.	Mittal Woollen Mills, Sikar	-	-	-	-	Details not available
89.	Trilok Woollen Mills, Sikar	-	-	-	-	Details not available
90.	* Jodhpur Woollen Mills, Jodhpur	-	-	-	-	BIFR found case not maintainable
91.	Rajasthan Small Inds Corpn., Churu	-	-	-	-	BIFR found case not maintainable
92.	Rajasthan Small Inds Corpn., Ladh-Unit	-	-	-	-	BIFR found case not maintainable
93.	C.H. Woollen P. Ltd., Bikaner	Jan' 95	-	-	-	Not known
UTTAR PRADESH						
94.	Addi Industries Ltd., Bulandshahr	15-11-1994	5600	-	7	Permanently closed
95.	* Bhadoni Woollen Mills Ltd.	Nov' 93	998	-	40	Financial difficulties
96.	E. Safton & Co. Pvt. Ltd.	Feb' 96	2213	-	-	Unit Closed since Feb' 96
97.	Prashad Spinners Pvt. Ltd.	09-09-1995	1200	-	28	Financial Problem
98.	R.S.P. Woollen Mills	Oct. 95	600	-	120	Not Known
99.	Shine Woollen Mills P. Ltd.	02-06-1990	320	-	25	Financial Problem
100.	B.D. Plastrenics (I) P. Ltd.	15-10-1997	800	-	17	Factory has been taken over by UPFC con 4/11/97

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
101.	* A.P.R. Woollen P. Ltd.	June' 89	1200	-	-	Shortage of working Capital
102.	Kalindi Woollen Mills	1993	1292	-	-	Not known
103.	Wool Fibres (I) Ltd.	1993	600	-	-	Details not available
104.	Coronation Spg. India	1990	600	-	-	Financial Problem
105.	Prashant Woollen Mills	1991-92	800	-	33	Details not available
106.	Benanza Wools Pvt. Ltd.	1993	-	-	-	Not known
107.	Ahmar Spg. Mills	Apr-96	170	-	10	Details not available
108.	Shashank Woollen Mills P. Ltd.	Mar-96	680	-	81	Machinery has been sold
109.	Jai Mata Woollen Mills P. Ltd.	-	-	-	-	Machinery has been sold by UPFC
110.	Navrang Woollen Mills P. Ltd.	-	-	-	-	Machinery has been sold by UPFC
111.	Jayvee Spinners, Dehradun	1192	800	-	49	Machinery has been sold by UPFC
112.	Doon Woollen Mills	-	-	-	21	Not known
113.	Rohini Woollen Mills	-	200	-	-	Machinery has been sold by UPFC
114.	Uttarakhand Woollen Mills	-	400	-	29	Machinery has been sold by UPFC
115.	Apsara Woollen P. Ltd.	-	-	-	-	Disconnection of power supply
116.	Emkay Woollen Mills	-	-	16	-	Machinery has been sold
117.	India Woollen Mills	-	-	-	-	Not in existence
118.	Northern Woollen	-	400	-	15	Machinery has been sold
119.	Kiran Spg. Mills	1992	1600	-	57	Under possession with UPFC
120.	Falcon Woollen Mills	01-04-1997	340	-	16	Under possession with UPFC
121.	Quality Wool	01-03-1997	400	-	15	Disconnection of power supply
122.	Garg Woollen Mills Ltd.	-	400	-	-	Details awaited
123.	Jakhwal Woollen Mills Ltd.	-	400	-	41	Labour trouble
124.	State Textile Mills	31-12-1992	400	-	45	Labour trouble
125.	* Saraswati Woollen Mills	-	600	-	16	Not known
126.	Bulandshahr Woollen	-	-	18	-	Machinery has been sold
127.	Kumar Woollen Mills, Unnao	01-08-1991	600	-	-	Machinery has been sold
128.	Dhoop Spg. Mills	Jan' 91	-	-	-	Surrendered licence
129.	Khera Woollen Mills	-	320	-	14	Not known
130.	Ashok Woollen Mills	29-09-1996	250	-	233	Due to financial problem
131.	Raigarh Jute & Textile Mills Ltd.	04-07-1987	130	-	230	Due to labour unrest
132.	Sumanika Yarns P. Ltd.	11-04-1998	798	-	21	Labour Problem
133.	R.S. Spinners, Bhadoni	-	-	-	10	Not known
134.	Birta Transesia Carpet Ltd.	15-10-1998	416	-	34	Lockout
WEST BENGAL						
135.	Kusum Wool & Woollens, Culcutta	17-04-1982	240	89	61	Scrapped
136.	Raigarh Jute & Tex. Ltd. No. 2, Culcutta	21-02-1981	-	-	-	Scrapped
137.	Bengal National Tex. Mills Ltd., Calcutta	01-11-1985 ^f	2440	-	130	Details not known

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
138. *	Wool Combers of India DELHI	05-10-1995	-	-	-	Details called for
139.	Veena Woollen Mills, Delhi	31-10-1986	300	-	88	Financial difficulties
140.	Wings Woollen Mills	-	-	-	-	Details called for

* Indicates closed unit registered with BIFR

(3) The State-wise details of woollen mills registered with BIFR as on 30/04/2000 along with their status are given below:

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Scheme sanctioned under Section 18(4)	Non Main-tanable	Winding up recommended under section 20(1)	Others	Decl. no. longer sick	Total
1.	A.P.	-	2	-	-	-	2
2.	Bihar	-	-	1	-	-	1
3.	Haryana	-	1	2	-	-	3
4.	Karnataka	-	-	-	1	1	2
5.	M.P.	1	-	1	-	-	2
6.	Maharashtra	-	1	2	-	-	3
7.	Rajasthan	-	2	1	-	-	3
8.	U.P.	-	1	2	-	-	3
9.	West Bengal	-	1	-	-	-	1
10.	Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	1	1
Total		1	8	9	1	2	21

Out of these 21 woollen mills registered with BIFR, 12 woollen mills are closed as on 30th Sept., 2000. These mills have been indicated with * mark in the list of closed woollen units.

Appointment of Secretary/Additional Secretary

3968. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria adopted for appointment of Secretary and Additional Secretary in the Legislative Department under his Ministry;

(b) whether the officer who prepare the Hindi version of law in the Legislative Department are not considered eligible for the post of Secretary and Additional Secretary;

(c) if so, the reasons for such discrimination;

(d) whether any discrepancy has come to the notice of the Government in the appointment of Secretary and

Additional Secretary in the Legislative Department of the Ministry; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) On 2nd September, 1999 the Department of Personnel & Training issued instructions regarding the constitution of a Search-cum-Selection Committee for selecting and recommending suitable persons after considering eligible officers of the Indian Legal Service and also other Legal Experts from outside the service; for the post of Secretary and Additional Secretary in the Department of Legal Affairs and the Legislative Department. The said instructions indicated that for recommending suitable persons for appointments to the post of Secretary and Additional

Secretary, falling vacant in the future, in the Department of Legal Affairs and the Legislative Department, the Committee consisting of the following had been approved :—

- (1) For Secretary
 Cabinet Secretary Chairman
 Principal Secretary to Prime Minister
 Secretary (Personnel)
 Solicitor General or Attorney General of India
- (2) For Additional Secretary
 Cabinet Secretary Chairman
 Secretary (Personnel)
 Secretary, Legal Affairs/Legislative Department
 One Expert to be co-opted, if necessary

Both, the posts of Secretary and Additional Secretary in the Department of Legal Affairs and the Legislative Department, are outside the cadre of the Indian Legal Service and the procedure for selection of these posts is now as stated in the instructions of the Deptt. of Personnel dated 2nd September, 1999.

(b) and (c) The officers in the Official Languages Wing of the Legislative Department who are responsible for preparing the Hindi version of the laws enacted by Parliament are either recruited as Translators or are inducted through promotion or direct recruitment through Union Public Service Commission to the higher posts but their basic responsibility is to translate the laws into Hindi after the English version as originally drafted by the Draftsman in the Legislative Department is sent to them.

The question of induction of the officers of the Official Languages Wing into the Indian Legal Service has been raised in the Subject-Relating Standing Committee of Parliament for Home Affairs from time to time and the Department has always indicated that the nature of duties of the officers of the Official Languages Wing of the Legislative Department is different from those of the Draftsmen in the main Department. As such, the Government has not been able to agree to the recommendation for inducting them into the Indian Legal Service. The nature of duties and the responsibility being different, the question of discrimination does not arise.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. No discrepancy has come to notice since the appointments to the posts of Secretary and Additional Secretary in the Legislative Department have been made as per the procedure indicated in (a) above. Hence, question (e) does not arise.

Winter Warfare Exercise by Pak Army

3969. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
 SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Pakistani Army equipped with heavy artillery and sophisticated weapons is engaged in winter warfare exercise at 15-20 kilometres away from the International Line of Control along the border districts of Barmer and Jaisalmer in Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Government are aware that Pakistan Army is carrying out unit level training as part of its usual Winter Collective Training, 15-20 kilometres away from the International Border, opposite Barmer and Jaisalmer. There is no report regarding move of heavy artillery

(b) Constant Vigil is maintained on the border.

Tour Reservation Facilities to Foreign Tourists

3970. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA:
 DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
 SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide special tour package reservation facilities to foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Details regarding special tour packages reservation facilities being provided by the 3 scheduled airlines viz. Indian Airlines, Jet Airways and Sahara Airlines to foreign tourists are given in the statement.

Statement

Details of special tour package reservation facilities for foreign tourists

1. *Indian Airlines* :

- i) Automatic confirmation upto 400 seats on designated tourist circuits;

- ii) Priority in confirmation on entire network to foreign tourists paying in US Dollars;
- iii) Operation of additional flights for pre-committed Foreign Tourist Groups.

2 *Jet Airways*

- i) Visit India fares (in US Dollars) for 3 fare plan periods ranging between 7, 18 and 21 days. This has been designed to enable international travellers visit as many places in India in a single direction or in circuit without back-tracking over and destination;
- ii) Special room rates in select hotels close to the airports for international passengers transiting through Mumbai, Delhi and Chennai to any destination in India. This offer is open for stay upto 12 hours.

3 *Sahara Airlines :*

- i) Visit India fares (in US Dollar) of duration ranging between 15 and 21 days in circle trip and one continuous direction;
- ii) Also planning to launch special packages in association with various hotels.

[English]

Proposal for the Calicut Airport

3971. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:
SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether an overwhelming number (nearly 80%) of those who go on Haj pilgrimage from Kerala are from the areas of the Calicut airport, namely, Calicut, Malappuram, Kannur etc.;

(b) if so, whether Calicut airport has facilities for the Haj pilgrims in its vicinity as Haj House/ Musafirkhana;

(c) whether the Government would consider operating of Haj flights from Calicut airport; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Kerala State Haj Committee had built a Haj House near Calicut Airport.

(c) and (d) Though Air India has received a request for operating Haj flights from Calicut from the Central Haj Committee in September, 2000 but by that time, the tender procedure had already been commenced and embarkation points for upliftment of Haj pilgrims for Haj-2001 were decided. However, haj pilgrims from Calicut area can avail haj flights from Cochin airport which is also emabarkation point for haj-2001.

[Translation]

Rationalisation of Taxes

3972. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have recommended rationalisation of taxes in textile industry;

(b) if so, the details of taxes levied at various levels alongwith the rate of taxes levied; and

(c) the extent to which these taxes are proposed to be benefited to the textile industry as compared to the taxes being levied at international level?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The Government has initiated the process of rationalization of the tax structure of textile items in terms of gradually moving towards a (uniform) mean rate of duty.

The New Textile Policy has also enunciated *vide para* No. 34 that "A growth oriented fiscal road map will be drawn up, which has the advantage of predictability. The parameters within which the multi-level duty structure and rates of levies will be reviewed and rationalized, will include the thrust on exports, the fiscal regime of major competing countries, WTO consistency and the need to keep prices at level affordable to the largely poor consumers, who will continue to form the bulk of the Market."

The details of taxes levied at various levels alongwith the rate of taxes levied is in the statement attached.

The objective of tax rationalization as enunciated in NTP is to rationalize the tax structure within the parameter, which *inter alia* include fiscal regime of the major competing countries.

Statement

Item	Excise Duty • 2000-2001			Customs Duty 2000-2001					
	Cenvat	AT&T	Total	BCD	SC	CVD	SAD	Total	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	
A. Cotton Sector :									
1	Raw Cotton	Nil		5.00	0.50	-	-	5.50	
2	Cotton Yarn (Cone), Cotton Sewing Thread	8.00	1.20	9.20	20.00	-	11.04	5.24	36.28
B. Man-Made Sector :									
1.	Acrylic Staple Fibre/tow	16.00	2.40	18.40	20.00		22.08	5.68	47.76
2.	Polyester Staple Fibre/tow	16.00	2.40	18.40	20.00		22.08	5.68	47.76
3.	Viscose Staple Fibre/tow	16.00	2.40	18.40	20.00		22.08	5.68	47.76
4.	PFY/POY	32.00	4.80	36.80	20.00		44.16	6.57	70.73
5.	Texturised Yarn	2.50	0.375	2.875	20.00		44.16	6.57	70.73
6.	Viscose Filament Yarn	16.00	2.40	18.40	20.00		22.08	5.68	47.76
C. Blended Spun Yarn:									
1	Blended Yarn of all types	16.00	2.40	18.40	20.00		22.08	5.68	47.76
2	100% Non-Cotton Spun Yarn	16.00	2.40	18.40	20.00		22.08	5.68	47.76
D. Fabrics (Processed):									
1.	(Composite, Semi-composite multilocational)	8	8	16					
2.	Stenter/chamber based duty structure								
	(a) Fabrics of value upto Rs. 30/sq. mtr.								
	(b) Fabrics of value above Rs. 30/sq. mtr.								
		Rs. 2 lakh/chamber/month							
		Rs. 2.5 lakh/chamber/month							
3.	Woollen fabrics	16	5	21					
4.	Readymade Garments		Nil		35.00			5.40	40.40*
5.	Made-ups	16		16	35.00		21.60	6.26	62.86
E. Woollen Sector									
1.	Apparel Grade Raw Wool		Nil		15.00	1.50	0.00	4.66	21.60
2.	Carpet grade wool		Nil		5.00	0.50	0.00	4.22	9.72
3.	Woollen & Synthetic rags		Nil		25.00	2.50	0.00	5.10	32.60
4.	Flex Fibre		Nil		25.00	2.50	0.00	5.10	32.60

AT&T : Additional duty on Textile & Textile Articles

BCD : Basic Customs Duty

SC : Surcharge

CVD : Counter Valuing Duty

*RMG will attract customs duty on advalorem basis or Specific duty in the range of Rs. 25/- piece to Rs. 1110/- piece on whichever is higher basis.

[English]

Shipping Policy/Harbours**Installation of Cute**

3973. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Common User Terminal Equipment (CUTE) facility is being installed at the Indira Gandhi International Airport to ease congestion at airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the efficacy of CUTE.

(c) whether CUTES are likely to be installed at Chennai and other International airports across the country to save airports space and passenger's time; and

(d) the time by which the installation of CUTE at Chennai International Airport is likely to be taken up?

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

(b) Airline Operator's Committee has agreed to install Common User Terminal Equipment (CUTE) facility for airline check in counters at Terminal-II, Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi for the use of International Airlines. Regarding the efficacy, all counters installed with CUTE terminals, can be used by airlines and the number of counters for check-in increases when compared to limited dedicated counters of the airline. Accordingly, the passengers dwell time in check-in area reduced due to fast processing.

(c) and (d) Installation of CUTE system is the responsibility of Airlines/Airline Operators Committee. The feasibility of installing CUTE system at Chennai International Airport is at the preliminary stage and hence no definite time frame can be given. At Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai CUTE system is already installed in Terminal 2A and is used by international carriers. There is no proposal by the airlines to install CUTE system at Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport, Calcutta and Trivandrum Airport.

3974. SHRI SAHIB SINGH : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the component of shipping policy with outlines of each important point;

(b) the details of total harbours in the country, with physical and financial dimension of each; and

(c) the share of funds among the public and private sectors in each harbour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :

(a) The National Shipping Policy Committee constituted by the Government submitted its report in July, 1997. The Committee made 31 recommendations in all. An Empowered committee constituted by the Government examined these recommendations and recommended acceptance of 26 recommendations. Of these, action has already been taken on 15 recommendations. The remaining recommendations mainly pertain to fiscal and financial incentives to shipping industry. These have been examined and presently the following proposals are being pursued :

- (i) Enhancement of depreciation rates of ships from 20% to 40%.
- (ii) Tax relief to Indian Seafarers.
- (iii) Infrastructure status to Coastal Shipping.
- (iv) Introduction of Tonnage Tax in lieu of Corporate Tax.

(b) and (c) The Central Government is responsible for the harbours under the control of the Major Port in the country. The physical dimensions of these harbours and the operating surpluses generated by the Trusts during 1996-97, 1998-99 (3 years) are given in the statement attached. All the Port Trusts are autonomous bodies created under the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 and harbours have been developed entirely from the public funds.

Statement

Port	Physical Latitude	Dimensions Longitude	Operating Surplus (Rs. in crores)		
			1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5	6
Kandla	23 01'N*	70 13'E	80.77	100.95	146.02
Mumbai	18 54'N	72 49'N	218.15	211.15	172.91

1	2	3	4	5	6
J.L. Nehru	18 56.43'N*	72 56.24'E*	106.25	150.33	196.22
Mormugao	15 25'N	73 48'E	21.83	27.16	20.47
New Mangalore	12 55'N	74 48'E	60.40	83.02	72.41
Cochin	9 58'N	76 14'E	43.17	44.19	33.41
Tuticorin	8 45'N	78 13'E	27.60	38.08	40.79
Chennai	13 06'N	80 18'E	109.15	101.87	94.78
Visakhapatnam	17 41'N	83 18'E	104.55	95.81	92.50
Paradip	20 16'N	86 40'E	63.60	73.41	59.36
Calcutta	22 32'53"N	88 18' 05"E	213.99	275.55	242.61
Haldia	22 2'N	80 6'E			

* At South Corner of Bulk Berth

Construction of ROBs in Karnataka

3975. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE:
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals sent by the Government of Karnataka for construction of road overbridges;

(b) the action taken by the Union Government thereon and the present position of road overbridges under construction in Karnataka;

(c) the time by which these bridges are likely to be constructed;

(d) whether due to heavy traffic on the Konkan route, level crossings are blocked for a long hours thereby causing hardship to road-users;

(e) if so, whether the railways have received representations from people who are affected by blockade of traffic at level crossings on the Mangalore-Udupi segment;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) The detailed position is given in statement attached, showing road over/under bridges sanctioned on cost sharing basis excluding the proposals being executed on Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) concept and on deposit terms. No proposal submitted by State Govt. on cost sharing basis is pending with the Railways.

(c) The work of bridge proper is done by Railways and on approaches by the State Govt. Work on bridge proper will be completed before or simultaneously with the work of approaches.

(d) No, Sir. There is no busy level crossing between Mangalore & Udupi.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Representations have been received from the public for replacement by road overbridge of level crossing No. 146, Km. 6/4-5 at Kankanadi station.

(g) The traffic density at this level crossing is less than one lakh train vehicle-units. Hence, it does not qualify for replacement with road over/under Bridge on cost sharing basis. No proposal in this regard has been sponsored by the State Govt. so far, as required under extant rules.

Statement

(In Lakhs of Rs.)

S. No.	Locations	Cost of Works		Remarks
		Railway share	State Govt. share	
1	2	3	4	5
1.	ROB near Chennapatna at Km. 57/2-3 in Bangalore-Mysore section.	222.64	-	Railway portion of the ROB work completed during 1997. Approach road work is to be taken up by the State Govt.
2.	Reconstruction of ROB near Krishnarajapuram at Km. 341/14-15 in Jolarpettai-Bangalore section.	236.44	3959.56	Work is awarded to M/s IRCON, which is in progress. Railway's progress 35% and Highway's Progress is 70%.
3.	ROB at Km. 135/16-136/1 at Nayanahalli and Mysore Junction in Mysore-Bangalore section.	538.60	552.10	RUB already completed in 1992-93. Approach work is yet to be taken up by the Road authorities.
4.	ROB between Yeshwantpur and Hebbal at Km. 414/2-3 in Salem-Bangalore section.	222.64	222.60	A comprehensive General Arrangement Drawing (GAD) has been prepared by RITES indicating the Railway line under outer Ring road crossing the NH-7. Further the scheme is referred to the Member (Tech). NH Authorities of India for approval which is awaited.
5.	ROB between Belandur road and Banaswadi at Km. 406/2-3 in Salem-Bangalore section.	582.91	582.91	The revised GAD with 4 lane approved. Soil investigation completed. Tender opened on 26-9-2000 and under finalization.
6.	RUB near Ramnagaram at Km. 44/10-11 in Bangalore-Mysore section.	698.66	685.80	Initially ROB was sanctioned. But later on State Govt. agreed for construction of RUB with the provision of one FOB at the location of level crossing No. 37. Modified GAD has been approved and estimate is under preparation.
7.	ROB between Bangalore East and Bangalore Cantt. (Wheelers Rd) at Km. 348/5-6 in Jolarpettai-Bangalore section.	596.60	589.60	Modified GAD for Box pushing is sent to Bangalore Mahanagar Pallika for approval as one additional vent way adjacent to the existing bridge has also been approved.
8.	ROB between White Field and Krishnarajapuram at Km. 333/1-2 in Jolarpettai-Bangalore Section.	590.60	584.160	Approach estimate yet to be received from the State Govt.
9.	ROB near Pandavapura at Km. 119/11-12 in Bangalore-Mysore section.	749.30	742.30	Detailed estimate for Rs. 8.13 crore has been sanctioned. Tender finalized.
10.	ROB at Lingarajapuram at Km. 407/10-11 in Banaswadi & Hebbal section (Hennur road).	538.40	536.20	Drawing & designs are under preparation by M/s RITES.
11.	ROB at Biyappanahalli-Bangalore East at Km. 345/14-346/1 in Bangalore-Dharmavaram section.	538.60	552.10	Preparation of plan and estimate are undertaken by M/s RITES and is yet to be finalized.

1	2	3	4	5
12.	ROB at Birur-Sivapur stations at Km. 3/13-14 in Birur-Shimoga town section.	538.40	536.20	Preparation of plan and estimate are undertaken by M/s RITES and is yet to be finalized.
13.	ROB at Badravathi-Bidar stations at Km. 47/7-8 in Birur-Shimoga town section	538.40	536.20	Details such as alignment plan, L.S. C.S. cross section of approaches are yet to be received from State Govt. Tender invited for soil investigation.
14.	ROB at Mandya-Yeliyur stations at Km. 94/14-95/1 in Bangalore-Mysore section.	538.60	552.10	Plan and estimate are yet to be finalized by M/s RITES. Soil investigation completed.
15.	ROB at Hebbal & Lottengollahalli (Gokul Gate) at Km. 418/3-4 in Yelahanka-Byappanahalli section.	541.90	537.40	Plan and estimate is being prepared by RITES.
16.	ROB at Mysore-Chamarajapuram section at Km. 26-7.	538.40	536.20	Plan and estimate is being prepared by RITES.
17.	ROB at Mysore-Chamarajapuram section at Km. 1/19-20.	538.40	536.20	GAD yet to be approved by State Govt. Soil investigation completed.
18.	ROB at Maddur-Hanakare stations at Km. 74/100 in Mysore-Bangalore section.	603.00	597.00	Soil investigation completed. GAD under preparation.
19.	ROB at Krishnarajapuram-Byappanahalli at Km. 343/2-4 in Bangalore-Jolarpettai section.	603.00	597.00	Plan and estimate is being prepared by RITES.
20.	ROB at Mysore-Chamrajapuram section at Km. 1/10-11.	603.00	597.00	Soil investigation completed. GAD sent to State Govt. for approval.
21.	ROB at Shimoga-Shimoga town at Km. 52/11-12 in Birur-Shimoga town section.	603.00	597.00	Plan and estimate is being prepared by RITES.
22.	ROB at Mysore-Mysore Goods yard at Km. 134/9-10.	603.00	597.00	Plan and estimate is being prepared by RITES.
23.	ROB at Masarahalli-Bhadravati stations at Km. 43/10-11 in Birur-Shimoga town section.	603.00	597.00	Plan and estimate is being prepared by RITES.

(In Lakhs of Rs.)

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12.	ROB at Birur-Sivapur stations at Km. 3/13-14 in Birur-Shimoga town section.	538.40	536.20	-do-
13.	ROB at Badravathi-Bidar stations at Km.47/7-8 in Birur-Shimoga town section.	538.40	536.20	Details such as alignment plan, L.S. C.S. cross section of approaches are yet to be received from State Govt. Tender invited for soil investigation.

1	2	3	4	5
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19.	ROB at Krishnarajapuram-Byappanahalli at Km. 343/2-4 in Bangalore-Jolarpettai section.	603.00	597.00	Plan and estimate is being prepared by RITES.
20.	ROB at Mysore-Chamrajapuram section at Km. 1/10-11	603.00	597.00	Soil investigation completed. GAD sent to State Govt. for approval.
21.	ROB at Shimoga-Shimoga town at Km. 52/11-12 in Birur-Shimoga town section.	603.00	597.00	Plan and estimate is being prepared by RITES.
22.	ROB at Mysore-Mysore Goods yard at Km. 134/9-10.	603.00	597.00	Plan and estimate is being prepared by RITES.
23.	ROB at Masarahalli-Bhadravati stations at Km. 43/10-11 in Birur-Shimoga town section.	603.00	597.00	Plan and estimate is being prepared by RITES.
24.	ROB at Bhadravati-Shimoga Bidare stations at Km. 45/13-14 in Birur-Shimoga town section.	603.00	597.00	Plan and estimate sent to State Govt. for approval.
25.	ROB at Mysore-Belagula at Km. 4/7-8 in Mysore-Arsikere section.	503.00	597.00	Soil investigation completed.
26.	ROB at Byadgi-Haveri stations at Km. 389/8-9 in Hubli-Harihar section.	603.00	597.00	Plan and estimate under finalization of NHAI.
27.	ROB at Marayal Gangavadi-Chamrajnagar stations 57/9-10 in Chamarajanagar-Mysore section.	603.00	597.00	Plan and estimate being prepared by M/s RITES. Soil investigation completed
28.	ROB at Devargudda-Byadgi stations at 371/5-6 in Hubli-Harihar section.	603.00	597.00	Plan and estimate under finalization of NHAI.
29.	ROB at Devangiri-Harihar at Km. 334/14-15 in Harihar-Arsikere section.	603.00	597.00	Plan and estimate under preparation.

1	2	3	4	5
30.	ROB at Tolahanse-Davangere stations at Km. 322/9-10 in Harihar-Arsikere section.	603.00	597.00	Plan and estimate being prepared by M/s RITES. Soil investigation completed.
31.	ROB at Devangere-Harihar stations at Km. 337/2-3 in Harihar-Arskere section.	603.00	597.00	-do-
32.	ROB at Nanjagud town-Chinnadegudihundi stations at Km. 27/0-1 in Chamarajanagar-Mysore section.	603.00	597.00	-do-
33.	ROB at Nanjagud town Chinnadegudihundi stations at Km. 25/8-9 in Chamarajanagar-Mysore section.	603.00	597.00	-do-
34.	ROB at Yalvigi-Kalasa stations at Km. 423/2-3 in Hubli-Harihar section.	603.00	597.00	Details received from State Govt. on 7.4.2000 and is under scrutiny.
35.	ROB at Konagavalli-Shimoga town stations at Km. 63/15-64/1 in Birur-Shimoga town section.	603.00	597.00	Drawing and estimate being prepared by M/s RITES.
36.	ROB in lieu of level crossing No. 388-A (LD-Miraj) section at Belgaum.	161.00	-	The combined estimate is sent to Belgaum Municipality for acceptance and the same is awaited.
37.	ROB in lieu of level crossing No. 110 (GTL-HPT section) at Bellary-Kolagallu.	98.00	94.00	GAD approved on 29-12-97. Estimate is under scrutiny. Approach estimate is awaited. State Authorities were reminded.
38.	ROB in lieu of Level crossing No. 85 (GTL-HPT section) at Hospet-Kariganuru.	102.00	110.00	The combined estimate is under process.
39.	RUB in lieu of level crossing No.284 at Ashoknagar (UBL-LD section) on Hubli-Unkal section.	66.00	96.00	There was some contractual problem and contract had to be terminated. The work is retendered and a new agency has been fixed up and work is in progress.
40.	ROB in lieu of level crossing No. 386 at Belgaum-Sambre.	264.13	338.09	The GAD is being finalized. Plan and estimate under preparation.
41.	ROB in lieu of level crossing No. 381 at Desur-Belgaum.	72.11	-	-do-
42.	ROB in lieu of level crossing No. 114 at Bellary-Heddinagunda.	282.29	375.53	-do-

Damages to Railway Platforms

3976. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of railway platforms on Barasat-Basirhat-Talai section under Eastern Railway were severely damaged due to recent floods causing utmost difficulty to rail passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken by the Government to repair these platforms, and

(c) the time by which these platforms are likely to be repaired?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) Minor damages to Platform at Beliaghata Road Station and to

platforms on Barasat-Basirhat-Hasnabad section which occurred due to floods have already been repaired.

Entrance Fee at Bangalore Airport

3977. SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of entrance fee charged from visitors at Bangalore airport; and

(b) the average amount of entrance fee collected per day from the visitors to the International Terminal at Bangalore airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) A sum of Rs. 50/- per visitor is charged at the International Terminal at Bangalore International airport.

(b) The average daily collection of entrance fee during the month of October, 2000 was around Rs. 8200.

Ropeway to Siachen

3978. SHRI MUDRAGADA PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Siachen posts are proposed to be linked by ropeway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the target date for completion of the project and the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) There is a study presently underway to examine the feasibility of connecting some selected high altitude posts by aerial Cableway from the logistic bases for meeting the maintenance requirements. As only a feasibility study has presently been undertaken, it is not possible at this stage to indicate any details of the project or the time limit for the completion of such a project.

[Translation]

LPG Connections in Bihar

3979. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have approved a special scheme in July, 1999 regarding issuing of new LPG connections in lieu of kerosene quota through State

Civil Supply Corporation till extension counters are opened and regular distributors are appointed in rural areas falling within 15 kms radius of normal commercial area of present distributors working in urban areas;

(b) If so, the total number of connections issued/ being issued under this scheme in Bihar, especially in Saharasa, Saupol and Madhepura; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) Government have approved a special scheme in July, 1999 for release of additional LPG connections to the various States against surrender of kerosene quota. However, the benefit under this scheme has not been availed by Bihar Government so far.

Allotment of Petrol Pumps & LPG Agencies to Dependents of BSF

3980. SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL:
SHRI RAMSHAKAL:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

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

(a) whether the dependents of a victim officer of Border Security Force (BSF) can be allotted petrol pump or gas agency under reserved quota for Defence;

(b) if so, the rule under which it is being done; and

(c) if not, the category under which these people are covered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) The dependents of deceased Border Security Force (BSF) personnel cannot be allotted retail outlet dealerships/LPG distributorships under the Defence Category. However, as per the existing policy, they are considered for allotment of dealerships/distributorships under the Paramilitary/Police/Government personnel (PMP) category, for which 8% reservation has been provided.

[English]

Pending Projects in Defence Sector

3981. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of projects involving crores of rupees are pending or delayed in the Defence sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken to expedite those projects?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Execution of some projects in the defence sector has been delayed for a variety of reason. The progress of various projects is monitored at appropriate levels of the Government and measures considered necessary for expeditious completion of such projects are initiated. However, it would not be in the public interest to divulge specific details in this regard.

Corruption in I.T.D.C.

3982. SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state.

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "ITDC CMD, Board Members heading for showdown" appearing in the *Indian Express* dated August 2, 2000;

(b) the factual position of the points reported therein;

(c) whether it is true that a few senior level executives of ITDC who have crossed 58 years of age or about to cross responsible for the poor performance, mis-management and corruption in ITDC have the support of certain like-minded corrupt activists of the so-called Joint Forum of ITDC Officer Association are bent upon to defame the present CMD of ITDC and get torpedoed the decision of rolling back the age of retirement from 60 to 58 years;

(d) it so, the factual position thereon; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken against such corrupt officials ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The main points raised in the news item pertain to opposition by Board Members on the retirement age issue and manipulation in the minutes of Board Meeting. The fact is that there was no irregularity manipulation in recording of the minutes and the Board considered the comments of some of the Board Members in their meeting held on 31st July, 2000 and desired detailed information on the subject. On submission of the requisite information, the Board confirmed the minutes of the Board Meeting held on 19th June, 2000 in regard to roll back of retirement age in their meeting held on 16th October, 2000.

(c) and (d) The retirement age in ITDC has been rolled back from 60 to 58 years and it has been implemented w.e.f. 30 Nov., 2000.

(e) Necessary action against the officials found involved in corrupt activities is taken as per rules of the Corporation.

[Translation]

Promotion of Tourism

3983. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to implement a multi-pronged scheme to promote tourism in the country;

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

(c) the amount of assistance proposed to be given to the State Governments for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Government has a scheme to promote tourism in country by providing Central Financial Assistance to state Governments/Union Territories for the development of tourism infrastructure and incentives to the travel industry.

(b) and (c) The details of Central Financial Assistance provided to various State Governments and Union Territories and the number of schemes are given in statements I and II attached.

Statement I

Project Sanctioned, Amount Sanctioned and Released During 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (All the Projects Including Fairs and Festivals)

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S No.	State	1997-98			1998-99			1999-2000		
		No. of projects sanctioned	Amount sancd.	Amt. Reled.	No. of Projects sancd.	Amount sancd.	Amt. Released	No. of projects sancd	Amount sancd.	Amt. Released
1	Andhra Pradesh	12	206.70	69.10	10	244.08	87.85	14	222.22	60.48
2	Assam	14	288.88	94.20	16	457.95	146.14	17	357.35	92.76
3	Arunachal Pradesh	9	271.00	82.50	6	216.32	65.55	11	239.28	64.28
4	Bihar	11	233.07	76.37	11	237.29	86.68	5	89.71	21.00
5	Goa	8	144.62	56.76	14	319.98	104.57	11	279.82	64.43
6	Gujarat	7	111.84	41.90	15	449.57	125.84	19	327.64	75.59
7	Haryana	6	98.62	44.83	12	333.93	128.10	9	238.33	67.32
8	Himachal Pradesh	5	119.00	57.50	10	318.00	164.50	17	691.79	292.88
9	J & K	10	293.35	173.25	6	192.85	84.50	16	334.58	94.93
10	Karnataka	10	130.78	71.16	13	407.48	141.10	38	856.40	214.14
11	Kerala	11	287.00	115.00	13	653.05	177.95	19	699.28	167.44
12	Madhya Pradesh	9	119.31	49.22	18	471.01	244.29	16	431.08	138.54
13	Maharashtra	12	169.84	50.14	18	496.27	179.67	30	1003.69	169.02
14	Manipur	5	186.10	56.35	8	140.49	41.40	10	229.00	70.10
15	Meghalaya	5	97.70	30.55	5	120.48	37.50	5	30.72	6.46
16	Mizoram	6	142.45	43.50	8	203.34	62.90	13	267.23	85.51
17	Nagaland	3	113.90	93.36	11	230.54	75.60	16	291.80	129.99
18	Orissa	28	552.05	180.00	6	178.60	56.30	19	301.90	88.44
19	Punjab	6	52.87	15.72	7	241.29	220.15	8	175.00	57.50
20	Rajasthan	14	135.33	76.05	22	436.28	149.90	12	131.22	34.34
21	Sikkim	11	73.20	36.95	15	136.03	58.92	13	118.98	43.57
22	Tamil Nadu	7	59.74	22.86	17	316.20	115.85	27	531.95	99.61
23	Tripura	8	126.68	81.24	9	169.21	65.50	7	340.76	117.31
24	Uttar Pradesh	13	221.10	78.17	41	866.14	378.11	36	755.45	218.22
25	West Bengal	7	125.76	35.00	12	211.13	65.37	6	194.01	12.72
26	Andaman & Nicobar	-	-	-	4	162.50	49.50	1	32.37	16.18
27	Chandigarh	-	-	-	3	54.23	20.82	4	69.59	13.91
28	Dadar Nagar Haveli	1	5.20	2.60	2	20.00	6.00	1	30.00	9.00
29	Delhi	8	229.86	150.86	13	223.39	104.43	5	24.50	12.20
30	Daman & Diu	4	60.17	17.25	-	-	-	-	-	-
31	Lakshadweep	1	5.00	2.50	1	29.00	13.80	-	-	-
32	Pondicherry	4	35.64	12.83	2	15.00	12.00	10	163.89	53.45
Total		255	4896.76	1917.72	348	8552.13	3270.79	415	9459.54	2593.86

No. of Projects 1018)
 Amount Sanctioned Rs. 22708.43 Lakhs)
 Amount Released Rs. 7782.37 Lakhs)

for the first three years

Statement II**State-wise Status of Projects sanctioned from 7th Plan onwards**

S No.	State	No. of projects sanctioned	No. of projects completed	No. of projects incomplete
1.	Andhra Pradesh	105	40	65
2.	Assam	95	34	61
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	38	6	32
4.	Bihar	70	15	55
5.	Goa	91	53	38
6.	Gujarat	107	24	83
7.	Haryana	128	66	62
8.	Himachal Pradesh	124	38	86
9.	J & K	94	31	63
10.	Karnataka	156	46	110
11.	Kerala	123	36	87
12.	Madhya Pradesh	79	26	53
13.	Maharashtra	148	58	90
14.	Manipur	58	22	36
15.	Meghalaya	38	9	29
16.	Mizoram	74	33	41
17.	Nagaland	71	34	37
18.	Orissa	139	23	116
19.	Punjab	75	8	67
20.	Rajasthan	163	94	69
21.	Sikkim	84	25	59
22.	Tamil Nadu	170	56	114
23.	Tripura	64	28	36
24.	Uttar Pradesh	194	32	162
25.	West Bengal	93	16	77
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	21	11	10
27.	Chandigarh	23	13	10
28.	Dadar Nagar Haveli	9	3	6
29.	Delhi	66	47	19
30.	Daman & Diu	16	7	9
31.	Lakshadweep	16	9	7
32.	Pondicherry	29	7	22
Total		2761	950	1811

Note : Some of the projects shown as incomplete have actually been dropped.

Corruption in ITDC

3984. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state

(a) the number of cases of corruption, misappropriation of funds, misuse of official machinery, bribes and other irregularities among ITDC officials detected by ITDC Vigilance/CBI during the last three years; and

(b) the number of officials who were favoured by not shifting them from the public dealing places/divisions/units where they were found indulged in corrupt and nefarious activities?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected

Bilateral Agreement by AI and International Airlines

3985. SHRI E. AHAMED : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of bilateral air traffic agreements entered between Air India and other international airlines between November, 1999 and till date;

(b) the total revenue expected to be earned; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to overcome a huge loss by Air India due to shortage of aircrafts to operate for Europe and U.S.?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Air India have entered into Commercial Agreements with four airlines namely Sabena (Belgium), Emirates (UAE), Virgin Atlantic (UK) and Aeroflot (Russia) during the period from November, 1999 to November, 2000.

(b) Air India's total revenue earning from commercial arrangements with foreign airlines was of the order of Rs. 80.65 crores during the financial year 1999-2000. The earning during the period April-September, 2000 is estimated to be Rs. 37.42 crores.

(c) Air India has signed agreements for dry lease of four A-310-300 aircraft to overcome the shortage of aircraft, as an interim measure.

Report on Visit of Tourists

3986. SHRI Y.V. RAO :
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been reported that 50 per cent of the tourists from abroad are visiting their families and relatives in India;

(b) if so, whether this is due to bad planning made by India for the tourists;

(c) whether the Indian Association of Tour Operators has submitted a report about the tourist position in India and working of the tourist department;

(d) if so, the main points mentioned in the report; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The percentage of the tourists from abroad visiting their families and relatives is only 2% as per the figures available for the year 1999. 91.8% tourists are visiting India for the purpose of holidays, sight-seeing etc.

(c) to (e) Department of Tourism works in close cooperation with the Travel Trade which includes travel agents, tour operators, hoteliers etc. and they are being consulted on most of the matters related to planning and promotion of tourism.

[Translation]

Construction of Road Over Bridges

3987. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the difficulties faced by the people in the absence of road over bridges at a level crossing near Bamnia railway station and Meghnagar railway station in Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to construct road over bridges at the said level crossings;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefore; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) There are manned level crossings having traffic density of 14790 & 33436 Train Vehicle Units. A level crossing becomes due for replacement by Road Over/Road Under Bridge on cost sharing basis when traffic density crosses one lakh TVUs.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) Traffic at the level crossings of Bamnia & Meghnagar at Km. 609/10-12 & 574/26-28 is merely 14790 & 33436 TVUs (Train Vehicle Units: A unit obtained by multi plying the number of road vehicles with the number of trains passing over the level crossing during 24 hours) respectively. Hence, these level crossings do not qualify for replacement by road over/road under bridge on cost sharing basis under extant rules. State Govt. has also not sponsored any proposal for their construction on 'Deposit' terms.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Reservation of SCs/STs

3988. SHRIMATI HEMA GAMANG : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons appointed to the post of Chairman, Member, Part-time Member and Member Secretary to the Law Commission of India during the last three years and the number of persons belonging to SCs/STs appointed to the said posts and their percentage of the total number of posts;

(b) whether the adequate representations have not been given to SCs/STs in different organisations under his Ministry;

(c) if so, the reasons therefore; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) The following appointments

were made in Law Commission of India during the last three years:—

15th Law Commission (1.9.1997 to 31-8-2000)

	No.	SC	ST	%age
Chairman	1	-	-	-
Full Time Member	2	-	-	-
Part Time Member	3	-	-	-
Member Secretary	3	-	1	33
Total	9	-	1	11

16th Law Commission (1-9-2000- to date)

	No.	SC	ST	%age
Chairman	1	-	-	-
Full Time Member	1	-	-	-
Part Time Member	-	-	-	-
Member Secretary	1	-	-	-
Total	3	-	-	-

(b) and (d) Adequate representation is given to persons belonging to SCs/STs in different organizations in this Ministry as per instructions of the Government of India in this behalf.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Electrification of Rail Routes

3989. SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of surveys conducted for electrification of rail routes during the last three years and the current year so far along with the expenditure incurred thereon.

(b) the follow-up action taken thereon, project-wise.

(c) the details of on-going surveys for electrification of rail routes along with the time by which these are likely to be completed;

(d) whether survey work of electrification of Daund-Manmad line has been completed;

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

(f) the time by which the survey of this line is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) The details of surveys conducted for electrification of rail routes during the last three years and current year are as under:

S. No.	Section	RKM	Expenditure incurred (Approx.) (Rs. in Lakhs)	Action taken/Remarks
1.	Year 1997-98			
(i)	Barsat-Hasnabad	52	3.12	The work has been included in Railway Budget 1998-99
(ii)	Krishnanagar-Lalgola	127	7.62	The work has been included in Railway Budget 2000-01
(iii)	Bibinagar-Guntur	255	15.28	Due to constraint of resources and relative priority for electrification of other high density routes, there is, at present, no proposal to take up electrification.
(iv)	Sanatnagar-Wadi	175	10.50	-do-
(v)	Pune-Wadi-Guntakal	641	38.46	-do-
(vi)	Katwa-Azimganj	74	4.44	The cost-cum-feasibility survey report is under examination in Railway Board.
2.	Year 1998-99			
(i)	Tambaram-Chengalpattu-Villupuram and Chengalpattu-Arakkonam	197	11.82	The work has been included in the Railway Budget 1999-2000
(ii)	Coimbatore-Mettupalayam-Udagamandalam	79	—	Exploring basic data for electrification before taking up survey
3.	Year 1999-2000			
(i)	Daund-Manmad	237	—	The survey work has been included in Railway Budget 1999-2000 along with doubling. The target for completion of survey is June 2002
4.	Year 2000-2001 (Current Year)			
	NIL	—	—	—

(d) to (f) No, Sir. The survey work of electrification of Daund-Manmad was included in Railway Budget 1999-2000. Central Railway has been advised to carryout the same. The target for completion of the survey is June 2002.

[English]

C.A.G. Report on BPCL

3990. SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have noticed that as per Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report on

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) has extended undue favours to Reliance Industry Ltd., Mumbai;

(b) if so, the action taken against the officials who are responsible for causing losses to the company; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited

(BPCL) has reported that it has not given any undue favour to M/s. Reliance and the Naphtha imported by M/s. Reliance was stored in the BPCL's tanks as per the mutual agreement based on negotiations and commercial terms.

Renewal of Tracks

3991. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several thousand kilometres of Railway tracks are very old and requires replacement to improve the smooth running of trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to replace the old railway tracks?

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

(b) As on 1-4-2000, 11928 km on Broad Gauge and 4699 km on Meter/Narrow Gauge was identified as due replacement.

(c) Allocation of funds for replacement and rehabilitation of railway tracks has been increased during the current year to Rs. 2600 crore from Rs. 2042.17 crore in 1999-2000 and Rs. 1802.57 crore in 1998-99. However, with Rs. 25000 crore required in next five years to wipe out the arrears, this objective may not be achieved on account of constraint of funds.

Panna-Mukta Project

3992. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the CAG in 1997 pointed out that while the ONGC was allowed only the administered price for the crude and gas produced from Mukta-Panna Oilfields the Enrol-Reliance combine has given international prices in foreign exchange;

(b) if so, the loss caused thereby per MMT of oil and gas;

(c) whether the estimated reserves of Mukta-Panna were sized down from the original 31.5 mmt to 14 mmt and handed over to the said private firm at the down sized rate; and

(d) if so, the estimated loss caused on this transaction so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) The CAG report – Union Government No. 5 (Commercial) of 1996 on Participation of Private Parties with ONGC for Production of Crude Oil and Natural Gas, which was laid in both the Houses of Parliament on 27.2.1997, had pointed out that National Oil Companies were not provided level playing field for their operations *vis-a-vis* joint ventures. ONGC pricing was governed by the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM), based on cost plus approach.

The two systems of pricing are fundamentally different and cannot be compared. However, under the Panna-Mukta contracts, ONGC get the same terms including international price for oil and gas as applicable to Enron-Reliance.

(b) CAG report has not pointed out any loss on this account.

(c) and (d) Reserves of 14.05 MMT for Panna-Mukta field was considered for evaluation purposes based on reserves estimates by ONGC at that time and as such there has been no loss due to this.

Complaints against LPG Agencies in Orissa

3993. SHRI BHARTRURHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received against L.P.G. agencies in Orissa for committing irregularities during each of the last three years;

(b) the action taken by the Government against them; and

(c) the details of LPG agencies closed down due to various irregularities during the said period in Orissa, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) The total number of established complaints received during the last three years against the LPG distributors of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies are given as under:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Complaints</u>
1997-98	2
1998-99	4
1999-2000	2

(b) and (c) Indian Oil Corporation has terminated M/s. Niladri Gas Service, Bhubaneswar during the year 1998-99 and suspended M/s. Lingraj Gas Service, Behrampur in 1999-2000. In rest of the cases, appropriate action have been taken in terms of Distributorship Agreement etc. Further, M/s. Kleen Gas Service, Bhubaneswar was terminated in 1999-2000 for irregularities committed prior to 1996-97.

[Translation]

Doubling of Rail Lines

3994. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarted Question No. 1748 dated August 3, 2000 regarding Doubling and Electrification of Garwa Road-Chaupan rail line and state:

(a) the standard norms fixed for doubling and electrification of a rail route;

(b) whether several thermal power plants, Birla Aluminium factory at Renukut and several other cement plants are on this route;

(c) if so, whether the raw material of these factories/plants and their products are being transported through this route; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not doubling/electrifying this route?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Doubling of single line sections is taken up when their carrying capacity is saturated, with freight intensive sections being given priority. As far as electrification of a rail route is concerned, normally only such electrification projects (except a few on operational considerations) that give a financial rate of return of 14%, are considered.

(b) Birla Aluminium Factory is located at Renukut on Garwa Road-Chopan section. No other cement/thermal power plants are located on this route.

(c) A major portion of total raw materials and other products meant for Birla Aluminium Factory are being transported by this route. A part of their outward product is also being transported through this route.

(d) The traffic on Garwa Road-Chopan Section has not yet reached the level to justify its doubling. Doubling of the section will be considered once the traffic warrants the same, subject to availability of resources. There is at present no proposal to electrify the section due to constraint of resources and relative priorities for electrification of other high density routes.

[English]

Jhuggi Clusters on Railway Platforms in Delhi

3995. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the jhuggi-clusters have come up on the platforms of suburban stations on the Delhi ring railway and Daya Basti Railway Station;

(b) if so, whether these clusters have been managed and controlled by musclemen in connivance with the local police;

(c) whether the jhuggi-dwellers have been posing danger to the passers-by especially the ladies at night;

(d) whether illegal activities are also being carried on by the anti-social elements on these Railway Stations; and

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

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

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Gas Pipeline from Jamnagar to Loni

3996. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the gas pipeline from Jamnagar to Loni is likely to be commissioned soon;

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon;

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

(d) the time by which the same is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Through the Jamnagar/Kandla-Loni Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) pipeline system of Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) passing through Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana, Delhi and UP, LPG will be

transported in bulk for onward distribution to the consumers. The initial capacity of the LPG pipeline system is 1.7 Million Tonnes per annum (MTPA).

(c) The estimated capital cost of the project is Rs. 1229.45 crore.

(d) This LPG pipeline project is scheduled to be completed by February, 2001.

Wasting of Fuel

3997. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any complaint regarding wasting of fuel oil in Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any study has been done on the consumption of fuel by Railways in other countries as compared to India; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) and (f) Do not arise.

Pension for Calcutta Port Trust Employees

3998. DR. SANJAY PASWAN : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Calcutta Port Trust has granted Ex-gratia Pension to the Contributory Provident Fund (C.P.F.) beneficiaries who retired between 18.11.1960 to 31.12.1985;

(b) if not, the number of applications received by the C.P.T. authority from the retired employees in this regard so far; and

(c) the time by which the first payment of Ex-gratia Pension is likely to be given to the retired employees during that period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Yes Sir, the payment of Ex-gratia Pension to C.P.F. beneficiaries in Calcutta Port Trust is under process.

(b) So far 267 nos. of applications have been received in the Pension Section of CPT for granting of Ex-gratia Pension to CPF beneficiaries.

(c) Payment orders have already been issued to 7 applicants. In 60 cases payment orders will be issued shortly. However, arrear payment will be released in accordance with the availability of funds as the Port is passing through an acute financial stringency.

[Translation]

Production of Handloom Textiles

3999. SHRI RAMSHAKAL
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:
COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the types and quantum of handloom textiles produced in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for the welfare of the handloom workers;

(c) if so, the details of each scheme; and

(d) the financial assistance provided thereunder to each State during each of the last three years and the current year, scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) The handloom industry being decentralised in nature, no State-wise or Item-wise data regarding production of cloth in this sector is not maintained. The quantum of handloom cloth produced in the country during last three years and current year is as follow :

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Production</u> (in million sq. mtrs.)
1997-1998	7604
1998-1999	6792
1999-2000	7352
2000-2001 (up to Aug., 2000)	3115

(b) Yes Sir. Government of India is implementing the following Schemes for the welfare of Handloom weavers :

1. Work-shed-cum-Housing Scheme.
2. Group Insurance Scheme.
3. Health Package Scheme.
4. Thrift Fund Scheme.
5. New Insurance Scheme.

(c) The details of each Scheme are at Statement-I.

(d) The details of State-wise/Scheme-wise releases

made under the welfare schemes for the years 1997-98 to 1999-2000 and current year is given in Statement-II attached.

Statement-I

Details of welfare schemes for the handloom weavers

1. *Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme:*

The objective of the Scheme is to provide a dwelling unit and suitable work place to weavers to improve their living, productivity and earnings. For the IX Five Year Plan, the unit cost and Central assistance under the scheme has been raised as per details given below :—

(Amount in Rupees)

Component	Unit Cost	Central assistance	Loan from hudco/ financial institutions	Weavers contribution
Rural Work-shed	9,000	7,000	-	2,000
Urban Work-shed	14,000	10,000	-	4,000
Rural Work-shed-cum-House	35,000	18,000	14,000	3,000
Urban Workshed-cum-House	45,000	20,000	20,000	5,000

2. *Thrift fund Scheme:*

Under the Scheme, the handloom weavers belonging to corporate and cooperative sectors are covered. The weavers contribute 8% of their wages and Central and State Government contribute 4% each.

3. *Health Package Scheme :*

Under the Scheme, the main emphasis has been given on health problems related to the profession of handloom weaving. The main component of the Schemes are as under :—

Sl. No.	Component	Amount
1.	Reimbursement of cost of testing of eyes.	Rs. 40/- per weaver.
2.	Reimbursement of cost of spectacles.	Rs. 150/- per weaver.
3.	Medical reimbursement	Rs. 1,500/- per weaver per annum.
4.	Supply of drinking water	Rs. 35,000/- per bore-well sanitary dug-well for every 50 weavers' households.
5.	Maternity benefit for women	Rs. 500/- per woman, per delivery twice in her lifetime.
6.	Compensation for Sterilisation	Rs. 100/- per head, once in the lifetime.
7.	Infrastructure for Primary Health Centre	Rs. 1,00,000/- per Centre.

4. *Group Insurance Scheme:*

The Scheme was introduced in the year 1992-93 in order to meet socio-economic obligation of weavers towards his family and the uncertainty of his working capacity in old age.

Under the scheme, a weaver is provided an insurance coverage of Rs. 10,000/- for an annual premium @ Rs. 120/-. The premium is shared equally among the beneficiary the Central Government and the State Government.

5. *New Insurance Scheme for Handloom weavers:*

In order to provide relief to the weavers on the 50th Year of Independence Government of India have introduced a New Insurance Package Scheme for Handloom weavers from the IXth Plan period i.e. from 1997-98. The New Insurance Policy will cater to the needs of Handloom weavers specially the underprivileged and deprived sector of the community by providing Insurance cover @ 6 paise per day. The funding pattern is as under :—

By Central Contribution	Rs. 60/-
By State Contribution	Rs. 40/-
By Weavers Contribution	Rs. 20/-

The details of the policy in brief provide the following coverage to Handloom weavers.

Section No. I

(A) DWELLING

Rs. 10,000/-
(Fire, lighting, explosion of boiler of gas used for domestic purpose only, riot and strike, Malicious damage, Aircraft damage, flood, inundation, Cyclone, Storm, Tempest, Typhoon, Tornado, Hurricanes).

(B) CONTENTS OF THE DWELLING
looms, yarn, raw material (Same as above)
Rs. 10,000/- pertaining to the trade.

Section No. II*Janata Personal Accident:*

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| (i) Death only (100%) | Rs. 1,00,000/- |
| (ii) Loss of use of two limbs or two eyes or one limb and one eye (100%) | Rs. 1,00,000/- |
| (iii) Loss of use of one limb or one eyes (50%) | Rs. 50,000/- |
| (iv) Permanent total disablement from injuries other than named above (PTD.....100%) | Rs. 1,00,000/- |

Section No. IIIA) *Hospitalisation :*

Hospitalisation including reimbursement of expenses incurred upto specified limits per treatment toward injury, disease, illness or sickness. Rs. 2,000/-

B) *Eye Testing :*

Cost of spectacles and Testing of eyes upto

Rs. 150/-+Rs. 40/- (once in three years) Rs. 190/-

B) *MATERNITY BENEFITS :*

(Upto 2 living children)

Reimbursement subject to limit Rs 750/-

Statement-II
STATE-WISE/SCHEME-WISE DETAILS OF RELEASES MADE UNDER WELFARE SCHEMES DURING 1997-2000 & CURRENT YEAR

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Work-ahed-cum-Housing Scheme			Group Insurance Scheme			Health Package Scheme			Thrift Fund Scheme			New Insurance Scheme				
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000-2001*	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000-2001*	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000-2001*	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000-2001*	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000-2001*		
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	50.31	-	72.08	-	-	-	50.35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
2.	Andhra Pradesh	146.54	280.39	340.20	25.22	16.80	16.00	-	52.75	86.99	-	135.00	34.38	41.04	32.98	12.28	15.19	
3.	Assam	39.59	38.78	59.18	-	1.50	1.50	-	32.00	24.40	-	-	-	-	-	0.25	0.36	
4.	Bihar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.34	3.59	
5.	Gujarat	-	-	-	-	0.97	0.95	2.60	-	-	-	3.78	8.00	-	2.79	2.63	2.73	
6.	Haryana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
7.	Himachal Pradesh	-	22.93	22.93	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
8.	J & K	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
9.	Karnataka	53.70	116.47	-	57.07	20.00	20.00	28.50	-	22.00	-	10.00	29.00	30.00	-	-	-	
10.	Kerala	-	90.00	-	-	-	-	43.65	6.43	37.22	-	2.49	-	-	3.00	-	-	
11.	Madhya Pradesh	200.00	-	-	-	2.92	0.50	16.60	16.60	-	-	7.10	13.57	2.96	2.55	1.83	0.67	
12.	Maharashtra	28.39	12.40	0.95	-	-	-	10.50	6.21	-	-	-	25.83	4.78	-	-	-	
13.	Manipur	-	66.00	127.50	-	-	-	12.88	12.87	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
14.	Mizoram	-	13.60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
15.	Nagaland	352.25	44.00	150.00	-	-	-	-	19.46	19.46	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
16.	Orissa	90.36	88.54	180.00	45.00	-	-	33.00	-	-	-	30.00	54.00	-	18.00	-	18.00	
17.	Pondicherry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
18.	Punjab	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
19.	Rajasthan	120.50	-	92.24	-	-	-	-	-	5.00	-	-	1.00	-	1.68	1.36	2.56	
20.	Tamil Nadu	110.06	248.72	199.92	114.13	33.69	37.44	36.67	110.16	71.96	83.07	180.00	244.34	241.15	0.38	-	-	
21.	Tripura	14.05	-	-	-	-	-	10.58	40.41	29.83	0.23	0.23	0.28	-	-	0.14	0.60	
22.	Uttar Pradesh	96.25	20.00	-	-	3.00	2.63	2.77	50.00	5.00	7.35	1.14	27.00	-	0.29	-	-	
23.	West Bengal	-	-	180.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
24.	Delhi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
25.	Meghalaya	-	5.53	-	-	-	-	3.03	1.96	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
26.	Sikkim	-	100.00	-	-	-	-	18.80	18.80	-	18.80	2.50	-	-	-	-	-	
	TOTAL	1302.00	1259.00	1245.00	421.42	39.61	58.87	77.91	4.05	332.35	273.11	121.76	36.99	348.98	36.27	40.00	24.99	24.92

* As on 12.12.2000.

[English]

Sucking of Aircraft in Air Pocket

4000. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased state:

(a) whether recently an Indian Airline aircraft was sucked in the air pocket at the height of around 28,000 ft.;

(b) whether any steps are being taken to detect air pockets well in advance to avoid such disaster; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Indian Airlines flight 10-555 of 26th September, 2000 flying on the sector Chennai-Bangalore by Airbus A-300 aircraft VT-EVD while passing Flight Level 280 for Flight Level 290 encountered CAT (Clear Air Turbulence) leading to uncommanded descent.

(b) and (c) Indian Airlines A-300 aircraft are fitted with Bendix RDR IF type of Weather Radar which can detect the clouds and the turbulence in air if it is associated with precipitation. The maximum range of this weather Radar is 300 nautical miles.

However, there is no airborne equipment available in the market to reliably detect the air pockets without precipitation activity.

Competition in Open Market

4001. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that survey after survey has shown that in open market Indian products other than some cotton products and hosiery, cannot compete against other exporting nations, due to small scale reservation; and

(b) if so, the steps are being proposed to overcome the said situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) A few studies like the KSA Technopak study commissioned by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and Roland Burger study commissioned by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) have emphasised the need for garment led growth and, in this context, recommended de-reservation of garment industry from the Small Scale Sector (SSI). The Government has

recently decided to de-reserve the woven readymade garment industry from the SSI.

(b) The Government have been taking several steps from time to time to make the Textile Industry competitive. Some of the important initiatives are as under :—

- 1) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUF) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and Upgradation of this sector so that it can become more competitive in international trade.
- 2) The exporters have been provided facility to import capital goods under Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme at 5% concessional rate of duty.
- 3) Garment exporters have been allowed zero duty import of certain categories of trimmings & embellishments.
- 4) Government has recently launched Technology Mission for Cotton. One of the important ingredients of the Mission is to improve cotton processing facilities by upgrading/modernising the existing ginning and pressing factories.
- 5) Allowing foreign equity participation upto 100% through automatic route, in the textile sector with certain exceptions.
- 6) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.
- 7) The New Textile Policy has recently been announced to provide the policy direction for orderly and sustained development and growth of the textile industry in a harmonious way and to give a thrust to textile exports.

Regularisation of Volunteer Ticket Examiners

4002. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of young unemployed persons are working as volunteer Train Ticket Examiners in Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof, zone/division-wise;

(c) whether the Railways are considering to regularise them; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Movable Property of Indian Airlines and Air India

4003. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment of the movable and immovable property/ capital of Air India and Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof in India and abroad;

(c) whether the Government have come to know the reasons for under valuing the capital of these carriers by the Global Advisors; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Railway Reservation Centres in J&K

4004. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open Railway Reservation Centres in Jammu and Kashmir and also to link it with Railway network;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (d) A proposal for opening a reservation centre at Leh is under active consideration in this Ministry. The proposed reservation centre, as and when sanctioned and commissioned, will be linked with the all India Railway

Reservation Network. However, railway reservation centres linked with the network are already operational in Jammu, Udhampur and Srinagar in the State of Jammu & Kashmir.

[English]

Tata and Singapore Airlines

4005. SHRI R.S. PATIL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Tata and Singapore Airlines had jointly bidden for operation on domestic and international routes in 1997; and

(b) if so, the reasons for discontinuation of their flights?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) In December, 1997 M/s Tata Industries had submitted a proposal for operating domestic scheduled airlines services with 40% foreign equity in M/s Tata Airlines Pvt. Ltd. which involved technical collaboration by M/s Singapore Airlines. While the proposal was under consideration, the company on its own withdrew the proposal on 1st September, 1998.

Use of Geo-Textile Materials for constructing Walls on Border Lines

4006. SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Geo-textile of coir industry cover the total range of woven and non-woven materials used in civil engineering applications and 90 per cent of the geo-textiles are made of synthetic materials which are not bio-degradable and not made from sustainable resources;

(b) whether this geo-textile materials are used for construction of walls or the border lines of our country; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to exploit the possibility of using this geo-textile materials vastly to boost the coir production in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) The Border Roads Organisation is in touch with the Coir Board, Kerala for experimenting with the use of Coir Geo-textile in slope stabilization on hill roads. The Netlon, a Geo-Synthetic product, has been used recently in a very limited way and its efficacy is yet to be established.

(c) It has been proposed that Coir Geo-textile will be tried on experimental basis for slope stabilization of an embankment under construction near Silchar on NH-53 and on Manali-Sarchu road. The utility, economy and efficacy would be known after the evaluation of the results of the experiments.

[Translation]

Excavation by ASI in Uttar Pradesh

4007. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the remains of Gupta period have been found by the Archaeological Survey of India during excavation in Anwak under Nizamabad Tehsil, District Azamgarh in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any indication of the second largest temple of the Gupta period has been found in the excavation;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to find out other remains of Gupta period by continuing excavation;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The Archeological Survey of India has conducted trial trenching at Anwak, Tehsil Nizamabad, District Azamgarh, U.P., during the field season 1999-2000, which has brought to light ancient walls, niches with stucco images, pilasters and stairs, moulded and decorative bricks and pottery indicating temples remains probably of the Gupta period (*circa* 4th-6th century A.D.)

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

[English]

Impacts of US Sanctions on Defence Projects

4008. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, with the continued U.S. sanctions on India, the defence deals have been badly affected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) its overall impact on the defence preparedness of the country; and

(d) the manner in which the Government propose to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) The impact of U.S. sanctions on Defence Procurements has only been marginal and to the extent necessary, indigenous development of the items falling within the purview of sanctions has been undertaken. The defence preparedness of the country has not been affected by the sanctions. Further, the Government continues to take all measures considered necessary for ensuring the national security. It would not be in the national interest to divulge further details in this regard.

Feasibility Report of HPCL for Refinery

4009. SHRI BALBIR SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the HPCL has submitted the detailed feasibility report regarding Punjab Refinery Project on December 26, 1997;

(b) if so, the time schedule fixed for the implementation of the project;

(c) whether funds have been allocated for Punjab Refinery Project during the financial year 1999-2000; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The project is likely to be completed by the year 2005.

(c) The project is being implemented without any budgetary support from the Government.

(d) Does not arise.

Establishment of Greenfield Oil Refinery Project at Paradeep

4010. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI:

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

(a) whether the land has been acquired for the establishment of Greenfield Oil Refinery Project at Paradeep in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for the delay in the establishment of this Oil Refinery Project;

(c) the date by which the project is likely to be completed; and

(d) the steps taken to expedite the work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Possession of 3219 acre of land has been taken over by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL). Handing over of balance 117 acres of land by Government of Orissa is expected to be completed shortly. The project was approved as a joint venture (JV) between IOCL and Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) in July, 1998. However, subsequently KPC withdrew from the project in January, 2000.

(c) and (d) The project is progressing as per the schedule approved by the Board of Directors of IOCL and is expected to be completed by August, 2003.

Flight from Bareilly and Moradabad

4011. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the airport at Bareilly is functional for civilian aircraft;

(b) if so, the annual maintenance cost of that airport;

(c) whether there is any proposal to connect Bareilly or Moradabad with flights to and fro from Delhi and Lucknow;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The airport at Bareilly which belongs to Indian Air Force does not have facilities for operation of civilian aircraft.

(c) to (e) Private operators/State Government have plans to operate limited number of civil flights from Bareilly and preparation of modalities for operation of civil flights is at a preliminary stage. There is no airport at Moradabad.

Entrance Fee for Monuments

4012. SHRI VAIKO : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there had been protests/demonstrations at Golconda Fort;

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

(c) the comparative figure of revenue earned on this account and the arrival of tourists at Inis Fort for the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken to increase the arrival of tourists?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No protests or demonstrations at Golconda have come to the notice of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Details are given in the Statement attached.

(d) The gardens at Golconda Fort have been improved and tourist amenities such as drinking water, toilet, information brochure and cultural notice boards have been provided.

Statement

Comparative Figure of revenue earned on entrance fee from the tourist at Golconda Fort, Hyderabad.

Period/ Financial Year	Total Visitors	Revenue Collection (Rs.)
1997-1998	4,83,767	9,67,534
1998-1999	5,03,164	10,06,328
1999-2000	5,23,379	10,46,758

Freight and Insurance Claim of H.A.L.

4013. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the HAL has reportedly claimed Rs. 5.17 crore excess payment on account of freight and insurance claim as has been disclosed on scrutiny of its accounts for the period 1995-99;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the excess amount has since been recovered;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken against the persons found responsible therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. HAL undertakes repair and overhaul on behalf of IAF. Prior to 1995-96 items required for repairs and overhauls were credited to a joint IAF-HAL Store. This practice was changed in 1995-96 when Stores were owned only by HAL. However, in the bill of costs for the period 1995-99 for repairs/overhauls deductions were made for IAF owned spares of earlier years but similar deductions for freight and insurance were not made.

(c) to (e) This was an inadvertent error and the excess amount paid to HAL has been recovered. There was no malafide intention and the company has taken action to issue necessary instructions to all concerned so that recurrence of such errors is avoided.

Gauge Conversion of Rangia-Rangapara-Tezpur-Markon-Selek Rail Line

4014. SHRI MADHAB RAJBANGSHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to drop gauge conversion of Rangia-Rangapara-Tezpur-Selek Section under North Frontier Railway;

(b) if so, whether as per earlier schedule the work had to be started immediately after completion of gauge conversion upto Dibrugarh;

(c) if so, whether the Government are not serious to take up the work of improvement of rail track facilities in Mangaldoi-Tezpur and Lakhimpur;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the foundation stone at Bagibeel was laid down three years ago for construction of Road-cum-Rail Bridge to link Tinsukia Junction on the Southern Bank; and

(f) if so, the reasons for abnormal delay to commence the work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) A survey for gauge conversion of this line is still in progress. Further consideration of the project would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The work has been included in the Railway budget. "In principle" clearance of CCEA is available. Final location survey including model studies have just been completed by RITES and the detailed project report is under finalisation. Once the report is finalised and cost firming up, final clearance of CCEA would be obtained and work would be taken up thereafter.

Connection of Patna Airport with Kathmandu by Air

4015. MOHAMMAD ANWARUL HAQUE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Patna Airport used to be connected with Kathmandu (Nepal);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Patna is available as a point of call to the designated airline of Nepal under the India-Nepal Air Services Agreement. At present Necon Air of Nepal is operating 3 services/week between Kathmandu and Patna.

Opening of Duty Free Shops

4016. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the places where Duty Free Shops are functioning in the country at present;

(b) whether I.T.D.C. propose to open more Duty Free Shops at various airports in the country;

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

(d) the time by which these shops are likely to start functioning;

(e) the criteria and formalities for purchase of articles from these shops; and

(f) the benefit likely to accrue to the public as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Presently, ITDC is operating Duty Free Shops at six International airports of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Calcutta, Thiruvananthapuram and Goa.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. ITDC has secured the contract for opening nine new Duty Free Shops at the airports of Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Calicut and Varanasi. These shops are likely to commence operation by the end of March, 2001.

(e) The criteria/formalities for making purchases from Duty Free Shops at international airports include that the passenger should be an international traveller, he should produce valid passport and payment should be made in foreign exchange.

(f) While the Indian merchandise will be promoted and the country will earn valuable foreign exchange, the international passengers will get vast range of merchandise to buy including Indian products.

Launching of Tourism Campaign by Nepal Tourist Board

4017. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nepal Tourist Board has launched a tourism campaign in South India especially Bangalore;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Karnataka has provided all help and assistance in this regard;

(c) if so, whether the flights of Nepal Royal has also been increased; and

(d) if so, the details of the help and assistance being provided to Nepal Tourist Board in launching the campaign?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) The Department of Tourism is not aware about the launching of Tourism campaign in Bangalore by Nepal Tourist Board.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Royal Nepal Airlines is operating two services per week from Kathmandu to Bangalore.

(d) The Department of Tourism does not have a mandate to promote outbound Tourism.

Cargo for Ferry

4018. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be please to state:

(a) whether Inland Water Transport Authority of India has not enough cargo for ferrying;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its ferrying capacity etc.; and

(c) the steps being taken to arrange bulk cargo for ferry and make more use of waterways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) The Inland Waterways Authority of India was set up for the development and regulation of inland waterways for the purposes of shipping and navigation and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. Inland Waterways Authority of India is not directly connected with the ferrying of cargo. Cargo is ferried by other inland water transport operators-such as Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Ltd., Directorate of Inland Water Transport Assam, Kerala Shipping and Inland Navigation company and private operators. The details of cargo moved in three National Waterways, Goa and Mumbai during 1999-2000 are as follows:

NW-1	The Ganga	7,13,670 Tonnes
NW-2	The Brahmaputra	21,837 Tonnes
NW-3	The West Coast Canal	11,12,183 Tonnes
Goa		1,48,67,691 Tonnes
Mumbai (Dharmtar)		21,85,119 Tonnes

(c) Action has also been initiated to evolve policy framework and strategy for development of inland water transport. *Inter-alia* the policy framework envisages facilitating private participation in areas such as ownership and operation of inland water transport fleet, construction and operation of river terminals, mechanised cargo handling system, joint venture participation etc.

Proposal for National Waterways in Kerala

4019. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal to start and expand National Waterways in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the stops taken by the Government in this regard including the funds sanctioned therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (c) A Scheme for development of Kotti-Kottiapuram (35.40 Kms.) stretch as received from Government of Kerala has already been sanctioned under Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The total cost of the Scheme is Rs. 321.21 lakhs, which is to be shared on 50:50 basis by the Central and State Governments. Moreover, the West Coast Canal from Kottapuram to Kollam including Champakara and Udyogamandal canals has been declared as National Waterway in February, 1993. Techno-economic Feasibility studies for the waterway between Kottapuram to Kasergode in North and Kollam to Kovalam in south have also been completed and their declaration as National Waterway would be subject to availability of funds.

Land Allotment for Hangar

4020. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of companies to whom the land is allotted on lease for construction of hangar and names of companies to whom hangars are given on lease basis by Airports Authority of India;

(b) the criteria laid down with regard to the lease rate charged by various companies; and

(c) the amount due against these companies and the steps taken for the recovery of dues?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Demurrage Cost on Imported Diesel

4021. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of demurrage cost for the import of diesel paid during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether over 20 ships are being held up and some of them for as many as 40 days because of lack of space to discharge diesel at the Kandla port;

(c) if so, whether these vessels have been charging demurrage cost of \$14,000 to \$ 17,000 per day; and

(d) if so, the concrete steps worked out in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) The details of demurrage on diesel imports during the past three years were as under:

Year	Demurrage (Rs./Crore)
1997-98	434.29
1998-99	377.78
1999-2000	57.18

(b) No, Sir. There have been no diesel imports during this year so far and there is no plan to import diesel during rest of the year.

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

Construction of ROB at Ramawadi

4022. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for construction of road-over-bridge across the Ramawadi Railway Station under Central Railway on sharing basis;

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

(c) the progress made in regard to construction of road-over-bridge so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) There is no station named Ramawadi. However, Solapur Municipal Corporation (S.M.C.) has proposed construction of road over bridge in lieu of an existing level crossing at Km. 456/1-2 in Ramawadi area on cost sharing basis. Total estimated cost of work is Rs. 4.89 crores with Railway's share of Rs. 2.57 crores and S.M.C.'s share of Rs. 2.32 crores. The proposal is under consideration for inclusion in the Railway Budget of 2001-2002.

Encroachment in Cantonment Areas

4023. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total land under encroachment in cantonment areas of the country and its percentage of the total land in cantonment, category-wise; and

(b) the action taken to get these encroachment removed and the extent of success achieved in this regard during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Unauthorised Construction in Meerut Cantonment

4024. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases of unauthorised constructions reported in Meerut Cantonment area as on September 30, 2000;

(b) the number of cases of unauthorised constructions reported during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken to get these unauthorised constructions removed and the extent of success achieved therein during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) A total of 5284 cases of unauthorised constructions are reported in Meerut Cantonment as on September 30, 2000.

(b) 850 such cases have been reported during the last three years.

(c) While unauthorised constructions, 8 in number, have been removed, notices under the provisions of the Cantonments Act have been served in 575 cases and Appeals under section 274 of the Cantonments Act are pending in 485 cases.

Setting up of Tri-Service Command

4025. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have announced the setting up of a Tri-Service Command to clamp down on increasing arms and narcotics being run by insurgent groups through Sea Lanes in the Bay of Bengal particularly in Andaman & Nicobar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the infiltration and smuggling is likely to be stopped thereby?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) The Fortress Commander Andaman & Nicobar Islands (FORTAN), established in 1977 co-ordinates the operation of all three forces in the Islands. Indian Navy and Coast Guard jointly carry out the patrolling and surveillance of Indian Coastlines and

Coastal Waters to prevent the smuggling of arms and narcotics by these undesirable groups.

Master Plan of Andhra Pradesh

4026. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government to share the cost of preparation of Master Plan for Hyderabad, Tirupati, Visakhapatnam and Nagarjuna Sagar;

(b) if so, the present position of the requests; and

(c) the time by which the plan is likely to be cleared by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Andhra Pradesh Government has engaged the services of M/s. EDAW, U.K. and its agency M/s. Tourism Features, New Delhi for preparing macro and micro plans of Tirupati and Hyderabad. Similarly, the service of M/s. KPMG Ltd. was utilised for preparing project report on micro and macro plans on coastal tourism. They have also obtained the services of World Tourism Organisation for preparing perspective tourism plan for Andhra Pradesh. The Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh *vide* his letter dated 17.11.1998 had requested the Ministry of Tourism to release 50 per cent of the consultancy expenses, i.e. Rs. 1,86,89,677.00. Since the budget available for the preparation of master plan is limited, the Department of Tourism, Government of India has not provided the assistance requested for. However, the Department of Tourism has decided to provide Central financial assistance subject to the maximum of Rs. 10.00 lakhs to each State to draw up 20 years perspective plan as per guidelines issued in this regard.

[Translation]

Air Services to Kota

4027. SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH KAUSHAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for connecting Kota with regular flight services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any talks are being held with private aviation companies for the said purpose; and

(e) if so, the details of progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (e) At present no scheduled airline is operating air services to Kota. Airlines are free to operate to any place in their commercial judgement subject to compliance with the Route Dispersal Guidelines which provide for certain minimum operations in specified category of routes.

Introduction of Circular Train in Ahmedabad

4028. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to introduce Circular Train for Ahmedabad;

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

(c) if not, the manner in which the Government propose to solve the problem?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present, there is no proposal for introduction of Circular Train at Ahmedabad. With the changes in Allocation of Business Rules in 1986, the subject of Planning & co-ordination of Urban Transport, including the rail based ones, has been transferred to the Ministry of Urban Development & P.A. Accordingly, the nodal Ministry of all Urban Transport, Planning and Co-ordination, is the Ministry of Urban development & P.A.

[English]

Closing of RDSO at Lucknow

4029. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have any proposal to close down the Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO) in Lucknow;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that no innovations or better designed coaches been furnished by the RDSO;

(d) the amount spent by RDSO during 1999-2000;

(e) whether there is any proposal to review the RDSO and its functioning; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. Technological development work in Research Designs & Standards Organisation (RDSO) is an on-going process. Research Designs & Standards Organisation (RDSO) is doing pioneer work in regard to development of better designed coaches.

(d) The amount spent by Research Designs & Standards Organisation (RDSO) during 1999-2000 is Rs. 65.27 Crores.

(e) & (f) The performance of Research Designs & Standards Organisation (RDSO) is reviewed periodically by the Governing Council for Research Designs & Standards Organisation (RDSO). The latest review has been done in Governing Council's last meeting held on 7.11.2000.

Policy for Private and Public Sector Oil Companies

4030. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a policy of the Government to enable the Oil Public Sector Undertaking to face the emerging competition during the changing scenario of the privatisation;

(b) if so, whether the action against the dual operations of Oil PSU retail outlets would not adversely affect the efficiency of the corporations and ultimately give undue benefits to the private oil companies;

(c) if so, whether the Government again want to decentralise the power;

(d) if so, whether the installation of unlimited COCO and luxurious Jubilee pumps would not cause the wastage of valuable public money; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (e) The Government have decontrolled marketing of all petroleum products except Motor Spirit, High Speed Diesel, LPG (Domestic), Kerosene (PDS) and Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) which are presently controlled. The

Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) is scheduled to be dismantled by 31st March, 2002.

As per the existing policy, dual operation of retail outlets is not permitted.

Both COCO and Jubilee Retail Outlets are planned only after review of the investment and the expected return. The Government have discontinued the Scheme of Jubilee Retail Outlets.

National Commission on Museums

4031. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up National Commission on Museums to review their current status;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have revised financial assistance scheme for regional and local museums;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the funds provided through this scheme to the museums during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(e) the measures adopted to strengthen the local and regional museums?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The scheme for financial assistance of "Promotion & Strengthening of Regional & Local Museums" was revised during the year 1999. In the revised scheme, museums under the State Governments have been made eligible for financial assistance. Under this scheme, the funds released during the last 3 years and in the current year (till date), for (i) renovation/repairs/extension/modernization of galleries; (ii) publication; (iii) conservation laboratory; (iv) museum library; (v) purchase of equipment; and (vi) documentation is as under:

Year	Amount released
1997-1998	Rs. 56.38 lakhs
1998-1999	Rs. 97.87 lakhs
1999-2000	Rs. 164.30 lakhs
2000-2001	Rs. 33.30 lakhs (Till date)

[Translation]

Casual Labourers Working as Domestic Servants

4032. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether casual labourers in Indian Railways are made to work as domestic servants;

(b) if so, the total number of casual labourers actually working in Railways and the number out of them working in Bungalows of Railway officials;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in the matter?

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

(b) At present only 62 casual labourers are awaiting regularization on Western Railway and South Eastern Railway and none of them are working in Bungalows of Railway officials.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

LPG Cylinders

4033. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-items captioned "LPG bottling : Three companies booked" appearing in the 'Indian Express', dated October 9, 2000;

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

(c) the steps taken to check underweight of cylinders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) The Officials of Weights & Measures Department of Government of Gujarat inspected LPG bottling plants/ LPG distributorships of Public Sector Oil Companies at some locations in Gujarat during August/September, 2000

and detected some under-weight cylinders at some of the locations. The Oil Companies have deposited the requisite penalties for the said offence to the State Exchequer.

Oil Marketing Companies carry out 100% rechecking of weight on a check scale after the cylinders are filled on carousel. Before delivery and loading in the truck, filled cylinders are again subjected to statistical quality control to ensure that only cylinders of correct quality and quantity reach the distributors. LPG distributors are also under instructions to check every cylinder for soundness/correct weight before delivering to consumers.

Strike by Port and Dock Workers

4034. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether major ports and dock workers unions have threatened again to launch an indefinite nationwide strike;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the main reasons of delay in implementing the agreement reached last time; and

(d) the details of recommendations so far implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) & (d) The last Wage Settlement in respect of Class III and Class IV employees of Major Ports and Dock Labour Boards was signed on 2.8.2000. Most of the ports have already implemented the recommendations relating to revised pay and arrears as dues have been paid by them. Calcutta Port Trust has reported that they have not been able to release arrears so far due to acute shortage of funds. The other recommendations relating to various allowances are at different stages of implementation by the ports.

Declaration of West Coast Canal as National Waterway

4035. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Tamil Nadu regarding restoration of the old A.V.M. canal linking it up to Kovalam in Trivandrum;

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

(c) the progress made in the feasibility studies for declaring the West Coast Canal as a National Waterway; and

(d) the time by which the said projects are likely to be taken up along with the estimated cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Kollam-Kottapuram stretch of the West Coast alongwith Udyogmandal and Champakkarra Canal (total 205 kms) has already been declared as National Waterway No. 3. The techno-economic feasibility studies for the Kottapuram- Kasargod stretch in the North and Kollam-Kovalam stretch in the South have been completed. Estimated project cost fairway and terminals in Rs. 471.25 Crore and Rs. 151.45 Crore, respectively. Besides, a techno-economic feasibility study and hydrographic survey for the Kovalam-Kolachal (Tamil Nadu) stretch has also been awarded to M/s. NATPAC. This study is in progress. Declaration of these stretches as National Waterway will depend upon availability of funds.

[Translation]

Under-utilisation of Capacity in Indian Airlines

4036. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is under-utilisation of the total seating capacity in the planes of Indian Airlines; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Transportation of Goods

4037. CH. TEJVEER SINGH:
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA:
SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the target set for the transportation of goods during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, zone-wise;

(b) the target achieved by each zone, so far; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) The target set and loading achieved by the Zonal Railway for the transportation of revenue goods traffic during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 is as under :—

Railway	[in million tonnes (prov.)]			
	Target 1999- 2000	Actual (prov.) 1999- 2000	Target 2000- 01	Actual upto Oct. (prov.) 2000-01
Central	47.00	49.75	52.50	27.86
Eastern	80.00	80.02	82.00	45.27
Northern	30.50	34.56	35.50	18.96
Northeastern	4.00	2.58	3.00	1.37
Northeast Frontier	7.50	6.24	7.00	2.87
Southern	31.00	29.49	30.00	16.85
South Central	45.00	51.25	53.50	30.88
South Eastern	170.50	166.58	173.50	102.66
Western	34.50	35.84	38.00	20.79
Total	450.00	456.31	475.00	267.51

(c) Though Railway is able to meet loading commensurate with target, following steps have been taken to improve loading further :—

(i) Strengthening high density corridors;

(ii) Modernizing various traffic facilities and terminals;

(iii) Introduction of high power diesel and electric locomotives to increase section capacity;

(iv) Providing multi-modal infrastructure to capture non-bulk piecemeal goods traffic through Container Corporation of India Limited.

(v) Introduction of high speed 100 kmph Container Services between selected terminals.

(vi) Simplifications of rules relating to sidings.

(vii) Setting up warehousing facilities near railway terminals.

(viii) Better customer interaction.

Production of Hank Yarn

4038. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sathyam Committee has recommended to stop essentially of hank yarn production;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have considered this recommendation;

(d) if so, the steps taken to implement this recommendation;

(e) whether the Committee has made any other suggestions to meet the requirement of yarn handloom sector in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) to (d) The Sathyam Committee has *inter-alia*, stated that given the right environment on input management, the handloom sector can survive without the Hank Yarn Obligation scheme and has, therefore, recommended that the scheme may continue in a declining format to be completely abolished on achievement of the desired level of yarn dyeing facility. Presently no change would be made in the Hank Yarn Obligation Order.

(e) and (f) The Sathyam Committee has also suggested a scheme for supply of dyed cone yarn to handloom sector which will reduce the need for Hank Yarn significantly.

[English]

Filling Up of the Post of Judicial Member

4039. SHRI RAJAJAH MALYALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the post of Judicial Member of the Railway Claims Tribunal has been lying vacant for many years resulting in delay in the disposal of claim cases;

(b) if so, whether representation have been received by the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in filling up of these posts; and

(d) the time by which the appointments are likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) A few posts of Judicial Member of the Railway Claims Tribunal are lying vacant for some time.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Appointment of Member in Railway Claims Tribunal calls for advertisement of vacancies in newspapers, screening of applications, constitution of Selection Committee headed by an Hon'ble Supreme Court Judge, holding of interview, obtaining of vigilance clearance/police verification reports of candidates, approval by ACC, acceptance of offer by the candidates and completion of procedural formalities like voluntary retirement from previous service etc.

The above process coupled with the fact that the regular Chairman who is one of the Members of the Selection Committee was not available for some time and the Judge initially nominated to head the Selection Committee retired before finalisation of the selection etc. entailed some time.

(d) Orders of appointment have been issued in 9 cases, out of which 6 persons have joined and 3 persons are expected to join shortly. Offers are being given to 9 others to fill up the remaining vacancies.

Anti-Collision Device

4040. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI:
SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have developed a new anti-collision device to prevent accidents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the name of routes where this technique is likely to be introduced;

(d) the amount likely to be incurred thereon; and

(e) the extent to which this system would provide safety and security to the passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Indian

Railways are trying to develop an "Anti-Collision Device" (ACD). A pilot project for provision of ACD on Northeast Frontier Railway after development and trial has been sanctioned and is in progress.

(c) The Anti Collision Device is proposed to be tried on Katihar Division of Northeast Frontier Railway. When successful, it is proposed to be provided in Katihar-Malda, Kumedpur-New Jalpaiguri-Guwahati-Tinsukia-Dibrugarh etc. sections of Northeast Frontier Railway to start with.

(d) The pilot project for provision of Anti Collision Devices on Northeast Frontier Railway has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 50 crores.

(e) The Anti Collision Device, after successful development when installed on locomotives, brake vans, stations, level crossings and other vulnerable locations is expected to avert collisions or reduce their impact.

Halting of Passenger & Goods Trains at Naya Azadpur Railway Station

4041. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether two platform Nos. 1 and 2 have been constructed at Naya Azadpur Railway Station;

(b) if so, whether most of the times the goods trains are being halted for longer times at platform Nos. 1 and 2 making the passengers to get into trains either by jumping over the stationed goods trains from joining links or by walking about 300 metres; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to construct foot over bridge and to remove the faulty functioning of Railways?

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

(b) None of the passenger trains having a scheduled stoppage at Naya Azadpur Railway Station are received on non-platform lines, keeping in view the safety of the travelling public.

(c) A Foot-over-bridge connecting platform Nos. 1 & 2 already exists.

Outstandings to Public Sector Oil Companies

4042. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are lapses on the part of officials in following the rules while giving Air Traffic Fuel (ATF) on credit to the private Airlines;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the dues that are outstanding from private Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has initiated a preliminary enquiry on the issues of non-recovery of dues from private domestic airlines and international airlines.

As per the available information the outstanding dues on account of sale of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) to private airlines by public sector oil marketing companies is Rs. 40.89 crores (approximately).

Spares for AK-47s from Bulgaria

4043. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bulgarian team visited India in October, 2000 and offered to sell spares of AK-47s to India;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been reached between the two countries in Defence sector; and

(c) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) H.E. Mr. Boyko Noev, Minister of Defence of the Republic of Bulgaria alongwith a delegation visited India on October 29-31, 2000. During the meetings of the Bulgarian delegation in the Ministry of Defence matters relating to bilateral defence cooperation were discussed. It will not be in the interest of national security to disclose details in this regard.

(b) No formal Agreement has been signed during the visit.

(c) Does not arise.

Implementation of Schemes

4044. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the plans/schemes of the Railways which are under implementation to provide facilities to senior citizens, promotion of tourism, improvement in catering and to provide safety and security to the passengers;

(b) the extent to which the Government have achieved success in the implementation of the schemes/plans; and

(c) the manner in which the Government are monitoring the implementation of these schemes/plans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) Facilities like Senior Citizen's concession, provision of automatic allotment of lower berth in the train at the time of booking by the computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS) subject to availability of the same at that time and provision of separate counters at computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS) centre wherever feasible and justified have already been provided to the senior citizens.

Regarding promotion of tourism, Ministry of Railways are taking a number of initiatives to develop comprehensive value added tour packages for those domestic and in-bound tourists, such as—a new "Palace on Wheels" type train in association with Government of Maharashtra and comprehensive tour packages with State Governments/Tour Operators.

In regard to improvement in catering services, the plans/schemes under finalisation include constructions of modular stalls, provision of automatic vending machines, service of pre-cooked meals in aluminium casseroles, introduction of eco-friendly packaging material, procurement of drinking water as per standard specifications under guidelines of Ministry of Health.

Railways have set up a new Corporation namely—Indian Railway Tourism and Catering Corporation (IRCTC), with the objective of upgrading catering services, including setting up of Food Plazas and improving rail tourism by introducing comprehensive value added tour packages.

Regular inspections are carried out at various levels to ensure quality of service. Besides, special drives are organised from time to time. Meetings are held at the level of senior officers to review the implementation of schemes from time to time.

Railways give highest priority to safety in train operations and all possible steps are taken to ensure safe journey of passengers. Safety-related issues are regularly discussed at various forums and corrective steps taken as and when required for further improvement.

Maintenance of Law and Order in the Railways including running trains is the constitutional responsibility of the State Governments. The Railway Administration

coordinates with the State Governments at all levels, to ensure that adequate security is provided to the passengers.

Anti-Adulteration Drive

4045. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether oil companies have embarked upon anti-adulteration drive to check adulteration in petrol and diesel;

(b) if so, whether technical experts have been appointed to suggest ways to check oil adulteration;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the other proposals which are under consideration to check adulteration;

(e) whether adulteration takes place while the oil is being transported from the refinery to the outlet; and

(f) if so, the remedial steps suggested to check it?

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

The checking of oil adulteration is a continuous activity of oil companies. To prevent adulteration enroute from supply point to the retail outlets, the marketing companies have taken various steps like improvement in seals, sealing under the direct supervision of an officer at the supply locations, introduction of pilfer proof locking device etc.

Appointment of Group 'D' Employees

4046. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the appointment of Group 'D' posts are in the hands of Railway Ministry not under the Railway Board;

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

(c) the number of Group 'D' employees recruited by Railway Board during 1999-2000 and upto November 2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Appointments to Group-D posts in Railway Board are controlled by Railway Board (Railway Ministry).

(b) As per Recruitment Rules for Group 'D' category of staff, 75% vacant posts of messengers are filled up through Direct Recruitment, 10% through transfer from Zonal Railways/Production units and 15% from change of category. For other Group 'D' categories 100% posts are filled up through Direct Recruitment only.

(c) 23 persons were recruited in the year 1999-2000 against Direct Recruitment Quota. 5 persons have been recruited in the year 2000 against Sports Quota (Direct Recruitment) upto November 2000.

Staff Pattern of I.T.D.C. Hotels

4047. SHRI RAM SHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any study regarding the staff pattern of I.T.D.C. Hotels;

(b) if so, whether the Government have also taken steps to avoid wasteful expenditure in those Hotels; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Performance of ITDC including its hotels is reviewed regularly and some of the areas which have been identified and measures taken for controlling reducing cost are as follows :—

- (i) Ban on fresh recruitment.
- (ii) Reduction in payment of overtime.
- (iii) Discontinuation of the provision of uniform to back-office staff.
- (iv) Strict control on the use of telephones.
- (v) Reducing stock inventory in hotels.
- (vi) Exercising strict control on food cost.

- (vii) Reducing cost by energy conservation.
- (viii) Controlling expenditure on upkeep & service cost.

[Translation]

High Speed Goods Trains

4048. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether her Ministry is contemplating to introduce fast speed goods trains to increase the income of the Railways;
- (b) if so, the time by which the said goods trains are likely to be introduced along with the outlines of the policy in this regard;
- (c) the income likely to be earned by the Railways therefrom;
- (d) whether the Government propose to remove unnecessary halts of goods trains at various stations; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Railway has already introduced high speed goods trains running with a maximum permissible speed of 100 Km per hour for movement of container traffic between Mumbai & Delhi. In addition it is proposed to undertake a pilot project to run trains, consisting of high speed wagons in Iron and Coal circuit.

These wagons have been introduced in order to increase the section capacity over the congested routed for introduction of more number of goods trains. The additional earning in the current year till October, 2000 on this account is Rs. 187 crores.

(d) and (e) There is no scheduled stoppage for freight trains. The trains are stopped for operational reasons.

ITDC Hotels

4049. SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of India Tourism Development Corporation hotels in the country, category-wise;

(b) the occupancy rate of I.T.D.C. hotels during each of the last three years and the current year and its income during that period;

(c) the reasons for decrease in the income and decrease in the occupancy rate;

(d) the names of hotels giving negative report; and

(e) the schemes proposed to be formulated to increase the earning of I.T.D.C.?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Hotel-wise details of ITDC hotels are given in Statement.

(b) The details of occupancy and earnings of ITDC hotels are given as under :

	Occupancy Rate	Turnover (Rs. in crores)
1997-98	42%	189.94
1998-99	37%	168.89
1999-2000	35%	160.24
2000-2001 (upto Oct. 2000)	32%	83.11

(c) The decline in performance of ITDC hotels is attributed *inter-alia* to high wage cost, currency crises in South East Asian countries making them cheaper destination, low turnout of business travellers and superior product profile of newly constructed private sector hotels.

(d) and (e) During the current year (upto Oct. 2000) all ITDC hotels have incurred net losses. Apart from economy measures to control expenditure other measures taken for improving performance of these hotels include aggressive marketing and promotion of hotels/services, Computerisation of hotels, inspection of hotels by senior officers to ensure compliance of standard operating procedures, drive to recover outstanding dues etc.

Statement

Statement showing details of Hotels presently operated by ITDC, category-wise

S. No.	Name of the Hotel	Star Category
1.	Ashok Hotel, New Delhi	* 5 Star Deluxe
2.	Hotel Samrat, New Delhi	* 5 Star

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

[English]

Selling of Low Benzene Content Petrol

4050. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

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

(a) whether in pursuance of the directions of the Supreme Court of India the Government propose to start selling petrol with low benzene in all the major cities of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The Supreme Court has directed that petrol with 1% benzene should be made available in

(i) the National Capital Territory (NCT), Delhi by 1.10.2000.

(ii) the National Capital Region (NCR) by 31.3.2001.

In the NCT, Delhi, the petrol with 1% benzene has been supplied w.e.f. 1.11.2000 and in the NCR, the scheduled date would be adhered to.

[Translation]

Railway Projects in Rajasthan

4051. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time since when the conversion work of Agra-Bandikui rail line has been started;

(b) the progress made so far;

(c) the reasons for slow progress; and

(d) the efforts made by the Government to accelerate the conversion work along with the funds allocated therefor during the current year and the expenditure incurred thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) The work was included in 1995-96 budget.

(b) 53 minor bridges out of 193 Nos., sub-structure of 4 major out of 11 Nos. & 5 minor bridges and 1.75 lakh cum earthwork out of 3.07 lakh cum have been completed so far.

(c) and (d) This work was earlier planned under BOLT scheme but due to unacceptable offers by private parties, this work is now being progressed with Railway funds as per availability of resources. An amount of Rs. 9.09 crores has been provided for the current financial year and an amount of Rs. 8.50 crores has been spent so far.

Conversion of Historical Buildings into Heritage Hotels

4052. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to convert some historical buildings into heritage hotels;

(b) if so, the names of such buildings classified as heritage hotels so far and the expenditure incurred in conversion, location-wise; and

(c) the estimated increase in the number of tourists due to this decision and additional revenue likely to be earned as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In a bid to increase the accommodation in the country, Ministry of Tourism has formulated guidelines for approval of Heritage hotels. Old palaces, havelies, castles, forts and residences built prior to 1950 can thus be converted into Heritage hotels. Presently there are 70 Heritage hotels in the country which have been classified by this Ministry as per the Statement enclosed showing details location-wise. The scheme for classification of Heritage hotels is a voluntary scheme and it is mostly the entrepreneurs in the private sector who have shown interest to convert their properties into hotels and therefore, the details on the expenditure incurred in the conversion of such properties is not available with this Ministry.

Heritage properties are becoming popular both among the domestic and foreign tourists as a large number of tourists are staying in the Heritage hotels so that they can have the unique experience of staying in such historical buildings.

Statement

Statewise list of classified Heritage hotels in the country

RAJASTHAN

1. The Ramgarh Lodge, Ramgarh, Jaipur
2. The Swai Madhopur Lodge, Sawai Madhopur
3. Raj Mahal Palace Hotel, Jaipur
4. Hotel Sariska Palace, Sariska, Alwar
5. Hotel Lalgarh Palace, Bikaner
6. Hotel Bhadrawati Palace, Bhandarej, Dausa
7. Samode Haveli Palace, Jaipur
8. Cama Rajputana Club Resort, Mt. Abu

9. Rawla, Narlai, Pali
10. Sardar Samand Palace (Lake Resort) Sardar Samand
11. Narain Niwas Palace, Jaipur
12. Neemrana Fort Palace, Neemrana
13. Vijay Palace, Makarana
14. Castle Mandawa, Mandawa
15. Ajit Bhawan Palace, Jodhpur
16. Hotel Royal Castle, Khimsar
17. Hotel Rohet Garh, Rohet
18. Hotel Sunrise Palace, Mt. Abu
19. Palace Hotel, Mt. Abu
20. Raj Palace, Jaipur
21. Karni Bhawan Palace, Bikaner
22. Bhanwer Niwas Palace, Bikaner
23. Shiva Niwas Palace, Udaipur
24. Shikarbadi, Udaipur
25. Gajner Palace, Bikaner
26. Laxmi Niwas Palace, Bikaner
27. Laxmi Vilas Palace, Udaipur
28. Fateh Prakash Palace, Udaipur
29. Narayan Niwas Palace, Jaisalmer
30. The Aodhi, Kumbhalgarh
31. Hotel Connaught House, Mr. Abu
32. Anand Bhawan, Udaipur
33. Khasa Kothi, Jaipur
34. Karni Bhawan, Jodhpur
35. Dundlod Castle, Dundlod
36. Dera Dundlod Kila, Dundlod
37. Hotel Bissau Palace, Jaipur
38. Fort Chanwa, Luni
39. Pushkar Palace, Pushkar
40. Laxmi Vilas Palace, Bharatpur
41. Hotel Basant Vihar Palace, Bikaner
42. Deogarh Mahal Resort, Deogarh
43. Dewigharh, Delwara, Udaipur

GUJARAT

44. Neelam Bagh Palace, Bhavnagar

45. Balram Palace Resort, Chitrasoni Village

[English]

MADHYA PRADESH

Engagement of Private Counsel in Government Cases

46. Jehan Numa Palace Hotel, Bhopal

4053. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

47. Usha Kiran Palace, Gwalior

(a) whether the Government have banned engagement of all Private Counsel for Government litigation and in all such cases the services of Law Officers or Panel Counsel or Standing Counsel are to be utilized;

HIMACHAL PRADESH

48. The Oberoi Clarks, Shimla

(b) if so, the details thereof,

49. Taragarh Palace, Taragarh

(c) whether the Government have ordered cancellation of engagement of all Private Counsels engaged without Approval of Law Ministry during August, 1990;

50. Nalagarh Palace, Nalagarh

(d) if so, whether some of the Government Departments particularly C-DoT have violated Law Minister's orders and engaged civil Private Counsels at heavy monthly remuneration, besides other expenses and facilities;

51. The Judges Court, Paragpur

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

KERALA

52. Surya Samudra Beach Resort, Trivandrum

53. Lake Palace Thekkady

54. Fort Heritage Hotel, Cochin

55. Naduluveetil Resorts

56. Kayaloram Lake Resort, Alleppy

57. Coconut Lagoon, Kottayam

58. Somatheeram Ayurvedic Beach Resort

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

JAMMU & KASHMIR

59. Hari Niwas Palace, Jammu

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE & COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (c) By Office Memorandum dated 6th August, 1990 the Government directed all the Ministries/ Departments to cancel forthwith the engagement of all private Counsels and to engage in all such cases the services of Law Officers or Panel Counsels or Standing Counsels as the case may be, as per the terms & conditions applicable to them. However in certain important cases especially in which high stakes are involved, engagement of private Counsels has been approved on the recommendation of concerned Ministries/Departments. The procedure for engagement of private counsels for conducting the Government cases is that the proposal has to be first approved by the Ministry in charge of the concerned Ministry and then by the Minister of Law, Justice & Company Affairs

TAMIL NADU

60. Taj Retreat, Madurai

61. Savoy Hotel, Octamand

WEST BENGAL

62. Ivan Hoe Hotel, Darjeeling

63. Central Hotel, Darjeeling

64. Himalayan Hotel, Darjeeling

65. Windamere Hotel, Darjeeling

GOA

66. Panjim Inn, Goa

(d) Government Departments are following the orders contained in Office Memorandum dated 6th August, 1990. C-DoT is an Autonomous Society Registered under Registration Act 1860 and is working in accordance with its Rules, Regulations and Bye-laws and the Office Memorandum dated 6th August, 1990 is not applicable to C-DoT.

UTTAR PRADESH

67. Fair Havens Holiday Home, Nainital

68. Hotel Chevron Rosemount, Ranikhet

69. Hotel Padmini Niwas, Mussoorie

70. Pallavi International, Varanasi

(e) and (f) In view of reply to part (d) of the question, parts (e) & (f) of the question do not arise.

Strike by IOC Workers

4054. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation workers were recently on strike;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) its effect on the consumers at large?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) The workers of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited have not gone on strike recently. However, they resorted to 'work-to-rule' from 6.11.2000 to 15.11.2000, in support of their demands relating to revision of pay and other issues. This affected the supply of petroleum products to some extent in different regions.

[Translation]

Registration of Contractors at Danapur Division

4055. SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for registration of A B C & D category of contractors;

(b) the number of contractors registered at Danapur railway division under Eastern Railway;

(c) whether some black-listed contractors have been awarded contracts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

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

(b) 177 Nos.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

The capacity of the approved contractors has been distributed in the following slabs :

1. Class A for works over Rs. 50 lakhs.
2. Class B for works upto Rs. 50 lakhs.
3. Class C for works upto Rs. 20 lakhs.
4. Class D for works upto Rs. 5 lakhs.
5. Class E for works upto Rs. 1 lakh.

Criteria regarding Enrolment of contractors in class (A) to (D)

CLASS A

- (i) They should have an engineering Organization with at least a graduate engineer having 10 years experience plus an engineering diploma holder having 5 years experience of relevant discipline, and maintain a minimum complement of transport equipments and construction tools & plants commensurate with the nature of works being done by them.
- (ii) At the time of enlistment they should have satisfactorily executed at least two works, each individually costing not less than Rs. 25 lakhs.

CLASS B

- (i) They should have an engineering organization with at least a graduate engineer having 5 years experience of relevant discipline and maintain a minimum complement of transport equipment and construction tools and plant commensurate with the nature of works being done by them.
- (ii) At the time of enlistment, they should have satisfactorily executed at least two works, each individually costing not less than Rs. 10 lakhs.

CLASS C

- (i) They should have an engineering organization and Engineering diploma holder having at least 3 years experience of relevant discipline.
- (ii) At the time of enlistment they should have satisfactorily executed at least two works, each individually costing not less than Rs. 3 lakhs.

CLASS D

At the time of enlistment, they should have satisfactorily executed at least two works, each individually costing not less than Rs. 50,000/-.

Reduction in Cess

4056. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN:

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

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to reduce rates of tax, cess, surcharge and royalty being charged on petroleum products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the rates of tax, cess, surcharge and royalty levied in the country by the end of September 2000, product-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) There is no proposal under consideration to reduce the customs duty or excise duty on petroleum products.

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

(c) The current product-wise rates of duties of customs and excise, cess, Royalty and sales taxes are as follows:

1. Customs duty on imported crude oil and royalty/cess, on indigenous crude oil produced by ONGC/OIL given in enclosed Statement-I.
2. Duties of customs and Counter-Veiling Duty (CVD) on imported products as per enclosed Statement-II.
3. Duties of excise on petroleum products as per enclosed Statement-III.
4. Sales Taxes on indigenous crude oil and products as per enclosed Statement-IV.

Statement-I

Customs Duty on imported crude oil, Royalty and cess on indigenous crude oil produced by ONGC/Oil

Customs duty on imported crude oil	10%
Cess	Rs. 900/MT
Royalty	Rs. 800/MT (Provisional)

Statement-II

Duties of customs and CVD on imported petroleum products

(In Percentage)

Name of Product	Duties of Customs	CVD
High Speed Diesel	20	12
Petrol	20	16
Light Diesel Oil	20	16
Aviation Turbine Fuel	20	16
Furnace Oil	20	16
LSHS	20	16
Liquefied Petroleum Gas	10	8
Liquefied Natural Gas	5	16
PDS Kerosene	Nil	8
Naphtha	5	16
Bitumen and all other Petroleum products	20	16

Statement-III

Duties of excise on Petroleum products

(Percentage)

Name of Product	Duties w.e.f. 30.9.2000
Diesel (High Speed Diesel)/Light Diesel Oil	12
Petrol (Motor Spirit)	16
Aviation Turbine Fuel	16
Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)/Kerosene (PDS)	8
Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LNG)	16
Furnace Oil/Low Sulphur Heavy Stock/Naphtha/Bitumen/All other petroleum products	16

*An additional duty of Re. 1 per litre further levied on diesel and petrol.

Statement-IV*Sales Tax on Indigenous Crude Oil and Petroleum Products*

PARTICULARS	% Age				
	MS	HSD	SKO	LPG	ATF
MAHARASHTRA					
Sales Tax	29.00	31.00	4.00	8.00	25.00
Surcharge on sales tax			10.00		
TOT			1.00		
Irrecoverable/Non Recoverable:					
Purchase Tax				4.00	
CST-4%					
GUJARAT					
Sales Tax	20.00	18.00	0.00	14.00	23.00
Additional surcharge	20.00	20.00	10.00	10.00	20.00
Irrecoverable/Non Recoverable:					
Turnover Tax	2.00	2.00			2.00
CST-4%					
MADHYA PRADESH					
Sales Tax	25.00	25.00	2.00	12.00	20.00
Surcharge on S. Tax	0.00	0.00	15.00	15.00	15.00
Entry Tax				1.00	
Irrecoverable/Non Recoverable:					
Terminal Tax				Rs. 15/MT	
GOA					
Sales Tax	20.00	18.00	0.00	0.00	20.00
Irrecoverable/Non Recoverable:					
Additional Tax	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00
CST-4%					
UTTAR PRADESH					
Sales Tax	20.00	20.00	10.00	10.00	20.00
Irrecoverable/Non Recoverable:					
CST-4%					
DELHI					
Sales Tax	20.00	12.00	4.00	8.00	20.00
Irrecoverable/Non Recoverable:					
CST-4%					
HIMACHAL PRADESH					
Sales Tax	20.00	10.00	8.00	8.00	20.00
JAMMU & KASHMIR					
Sales Tax	20.00	12.00	4.00	12.00	20.00
Surcharge on S. Tax		†	5.00	5.00	5.00

PARTICULARS	MS	HSD	SKO	LPG	ATF
PUNJAB					
Sales Tax	20.00	8.00	20.00	10.00	20.00
Surcharge on S. Tax	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Cess	1.00				
Irrecoverable/Non Recoverable:					
CST-4%					
RAJASTHAN					
Sales Tax	22.00	16.00	8.00	12.00	20.00
Surcharge on S. Tax	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00
Irrecoverable/Non Recoverable:					
TOT	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
HARYANA					
Sales Tax	20.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	20.00
Irrecoverable/Non Recoverable:					
CST-4%					
ANDHRA PRADESH					
Sales Tax	30.55	19.33	8.00	16.00	30.55
Irrecoverable/Non Recoverable:					
Purchase Tax	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
CST-4%					
TAMIL NADU					
Sales Tax	24.00	18.00	4.00	8.00	24.00
Irrecoverable/Non Recoverable:					
Additional Tax	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
Purchase Tax (Inclgd. TOT)	8.00	8.00	7.00	8.00	8.00
CST-4%					
KERALA					
Sales Tax	23.00	20.00	8.00	12.00	30.00
Irrecoverable/Non Recoverable:					
Turnover Tax	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
CST-4%					
KARNATAKA					
Sales Tax	22.00	15.50	4.00	10.00	22.00
Entry Tax	2.00	4.00			
Cess	Rs. 250/KL	Rs. 100/KL	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Irrecoverable/Non Recoverable:					
Turnover Tax	3.00	1.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
Purchase Tax	22.00	4.00	10.00	10.00	22.00
Cess on Purchase Tax	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
CST-4%					
ORISSA					
Sales Tax	20.00	18.00	0.00	12.00	20.00

PARTICULARS	MS	HSD	SKO	LPG	ATF
Irrecoverable/Non Recoverable :					
Surcharge on Sales Tax	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00
CST-4%					
ASSAM					
Sales Tax	20.00	12.00	4.00	12.00	20.00
Additional Tax	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Irrecoverable/Non Recoverable:					
CST-4%					
BIHAR					
Sales Tax	20.00	15.00	6.00	9.00	25.00
Additional Tax	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Irrecoverable/Non Recoverable:					
Surcharge on S. Tax Plus Addl. Tax	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
CST-4%					
W. BENGAL					
Sales Tax	20.00	12.55	4.55	17.00	25.00
Irrecoverable/Non Recoverable:					
Additional Tax	20.00	20.00			20.00
CST-4%					
MANIPUR					
Sales Tax	20.00	12.00	4.00	8.00	20.00
NAGALAND					
Sales Tax	20.00	12.00	5.00	8.00	15.00
TRIPURA					
Sales Tax	20.00	5.00	5.00	12.00	20.00
Irrecoverable/Non Recoverable:					
Additional Tax	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50

Indigenous crude oil produced by ONGC/OIL—4% of sale price

Note :

Navi Mumbai: Municipal Corporation levies cess on MS and HSD imported in to Municipal limits of Navi Mumbai. The Rate is 1% for Sales within Municipal limits and 0.1% for sales outside.

There is a tax rebate of Rs. 17/KL on MS sales in West Bengal.

Sales Tax rate on MS and HSD in Mumbai, Thane and Navi Mumbai is 30% and 34% respectively.

Above data is as furnished by HPCL.

Oil Reserves in Rajasthan

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

4057. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(a) whether natural gas and oil have been struck in the Rann of Kutch near Koteswar and Jaisalmer (Rajasthan);

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) During the period 1967 to 1997, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) had discovered six gas

bearing structures viz. Manhera Tibba, Ghotaru, Khartar, Bakhri Tibba, Bankia and Sadewala, falling in Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan, with 2.44 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) of 'in-place' volume of gas. Currently, Manhera Tibba field is on production and is producing gas at the rate of 0.043 Million Metric Cubic Metre per day (MMSCMD). The feasibility of production from the remaining fields will depend on consumers' demand and techno-economics. ONGC is continuing exploration activities in area of its operation. In 1988, Oil India Ltd. (OIL) had struck gas in Tanot field in Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan. Subsequent to that OIL discovered gas at Dandewala and Bagitibba fields in Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan. The total gas reserve of these fields is 9.29 BCM. Gas is being supplied from these fields to the Rajasthan State Electricity Board through Gas Authority of India Ltd. at an average rate of 0.42 MMSCMD. Future exploration activities will be decided by OIL only after Basin Modelling Study.

However, no discovery of hydrocarbon have been made in the Rann of Kutch. Two blocks viz. GK-ON-4 and GK-ON-90/2 have been contracted to private companies for exploration in Gujarat-Kutch onland area. The exploration work has not yet started in these two blocks.

[English]

Forcibly Landing of French Boeing 747 at IGIA

4058. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI R.S. PATIL:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a French Boeing 747 aircraft was forced to land at Indira Gandhi International Airport in early hours of November 14, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted to the ways by which the said aircraft reached upto Delhi without any valid permission and without interception; and

(d) if not, the reason therefor?

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

(b) The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) had granted permission to M/s Corsair, France to operate a ferry flight with B-747 aircraft, overflying Indian airspace on sector Paris-Kuala Lumpur-Paris. The flight was to

enter Indian airspace on 10th November, 2000 and the permission to enter was valid upto 12 November. However, the said flight was delayed and entered Indian airspace on only 14th November, 2000. Since the validity of the permission had expired, and the flight was in a narrow corridor of ATS route surrounded by defence restricted areas, the aircraft was instructed to land at IGI Airport, Delhi. After landing, the operator approached DGCA's office for a revised permission to operate on 14 November, 2000. The permission was granted and the flight operated as per the revised schedule.

(c) and (d) Since this was a delayed flight which proceeded further after grant of due permission, and necessary actions as applicable to international non-scheduled aircraft forced to land were taken, no further enquiry has been conducted in this regard.

Maintenance of Dwarkaji Temple In Gujarat

4059. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the condition of Dwarkaji Temple in Gujarat is very bad due to poor maintenance by the trustees;

(b) the funds sanctioned by the Union Government for the maintenance of this historical temple during each of the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether any scheme has been drawn to maintain the temple and beautify the surroundings of the temples; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) The Dwarkaji Temple, Dwarka in Gujarat is a Centrally protected monument. It is in a good state of preservation.

(b) The expenditure incurred on the maintenance & conservation of the temple is as under :—

1997-1998	Rs. 62,280/-
1998-1999	Rs. 3,88,966/-
1999-2000	Rs. 1,78,418/-

(c) The Government of India have no such proposal under consideration.

(d) Does not arise.

Corruption in Hotel Janpath

4060. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether action has been taken against the official involved in a number of cases of serious misconduct of financial irregularities in Hotel Janpath during February 1990 to December, 1993; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) A case of serious financial irregularities involving manipulation/misappropriation of funds came to the notice of the Management during July 1992. The case was referred to the Crime Branch of Delhi Police who investigated it and filed charge-sheets against 14 employees in the Court of Metropolitan Magistrate. The case is subjudice and disciplinary action, if any, will be taken by the Management on the outcome of the Court judgement.

[Translation]

Unprofitable Rail Lines

4061. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey to find out unprofitable railway lines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether railways are going to discontinue its services on these routes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) its affect on the development of the areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) No survey is conducted. However, a review of financial results is undertaken every year to identify the Uneconomic Branch Lines run by the Indian Railways. There were 114 Uneconomic Branch Lines and 11 New Lines, which incurred an aggregate loss of Rs. 377.17 crores during 1998-99.

(c) to (e) Based on the recommendations of various Committees, which have studied this problem, the Railways take action to close such lines. Since 1985 till the last financial year, 21 such lines have been closed.

Zone-wise details are given in the enclosed statement. These lines are closed after taking into account all relevant factors including availability of alternative roads and road transport services. Concurrence of the State Government is also obtained before a decision is taken to close down the Uneconomic lines and rail services thereof.

Statement

Names of Uneconomic Branch lines permanently closed

S.No.	Names
1.	Sahebpur-Kamal-Monghyr Ghat
2.	Dudwa-Gauri Phanta
3.	Dudwa-Chandan Chowki
4.	Senchoa-Silghat
5.	Haibargaon-Mairabari
6.	Nidamgalam-Mannargudi
7.	Morvi-Tankara
8.	Hadmatiya-Jodiya
9.	Khambaliya-Salaya
10.	Than-Chotila
11.	Ningala-Godhadha Swaminarayan
12.	Bhavnagar-Mahuva
13.	Shapur-Sardiya
14.	Piplod-Devgadh Bariya
15.	Kunkavav-Bagasara
16.	Botad-Jasdan
17.	Chasma-Harij
18.	Morvi-Ghantila
19.	Jorawarnagar-Sayala
20.	Champaner-Pani Mines
21.	Godhr-Lunawada

Showrooms/Shops of N.T.C.

4062. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of N.T.C. showrooms and shops in the country, State-wise and location-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to open more such showrooms/shops at district-level in backward areas of the country; and

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

wise and location-wise details of showrooms is given in enclosed statement.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) State-

(b) There is no such proposal at present.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

State-wise No. of Showrooms as on 30th Sept., 2000

S.No.	State/U.T.	No. of Showrooms	S.No.	State/U.T.	No. of Showrooms	S.No.	State/U.T.	No. of Showrooms
1	Andhra Pradesh	20	9	Karnataka	22	17	Uttanchal	2
2	Assam	4	10	Kerala	16	18	Uttar Pradesh	33
3	Bihar	16	11	M.P.	7	19	West Bengal	50
4	Delhi	14	12	Maharashtra	26	20	Pondicherry (U.T.)	1
5	Gujarat	8	13	Orissa	7	21	Daman (U.T.)	1
6	Haryana	7	14	Punjab	4	22	Chandigarh (U.T.)	2
7	J & K	2	15	Rajasthan	10			
8	Jharkhand	4	16	Tamil Nadu	48		Total	304

National Textile Corporation Limited

Details of Showrooms State-wise as on 30.9.2000

S.No.	Location	S.No.	Location	S.No.	Location	S.No.	Location
ANDHRA PRADESH							
1	Hyderabad	2	Hyderabad	3	Hyderabad	4	Hyderabad
5	Hyderabad	6	Hyderabad	7	Anantapur	8	Cuddapah
9	Elure	10	Guntur	11	Hanumakonda	12	Vishakhapatnam
13	Kakinada	14	Krimngr.	15	Kumul	16	Machlipatnam
17	Nellore	18	Tirupathi	19	Vijayawada	20	Vishakhapatnam
ASSAM							
1	Guwahati	2	Shillong	3	Dibrugarh	4	Pandu
BIHAR							
1	Patna	2	Patna City	3	Danapur	4	Muzaffarpur
5	Purnia	6	Chappra	7	Darbhanga	8	Begusarai
9	Nawadah	10	Munghyr	11	Bihar Shariff	12	Sasaram
13	Sitamani	14	Madhubani	15	Johanabad	16	Gaya
CHANDIGARH U.T.							
1	Sector 17	2	Madhya Marg				

S.No.	Location	S.No.	Location	S.No.	Location	S.No.	Location
DELHI							
1	Arya Samaj Rd.	2	N.D.S.E.	3	Shanker Rd.	4	Tagore Garden
5	Greater Kailash	6	Tilak Nagar	7	Khan Mkt.	8	Pahar Ganj
9	Delhi Cantt.	10	East of Kailash	11	A.T.M.	12	Laxmi Ngr.
13	Kendriya Bhandar	14	Moti Nagar				
DAMAN							
1	Daman						
GUJARAT							
1	Ahmedabad	2	Ahmedabad	3	Baroda	4	Godhra
5	Junagarh	6	Jamnagar	7	Rajkot	8	Surat
HARYANA							
1	Sonepat	2	Panipat	3	Hissar	4	Faridabad
5	Gurgaon	6	Ambala	7	Karnal		
JAMMU & KASHMIR							
1	Jammu	2	Sri Ngr.				
JHARKHAND							
1	Ranchi	2	Jamshedpur	3	Chass	4	Ramgarh
KARNATAKA							
1	Bangalore	2	Bangalore	3	Bangalore	4	Bangalore
5	Bangalore	6	Bangalore	7	Bangalore	8	Mysore
9	Belgaum	10	Bhadravathi	11	Chckmagalur	12	Davangere
13	Dharwar	14	Hassan	15	Mysore	16	Mandya
17	Mangalore	18	Tumkur	19	Bidar	20	Gulbarga
21	Raichur	22	Bangalore				
KERALA							
1	Alwaye	2	Quilon	3	Cannanore	4	Kalicutt
5	Chittur	6	Changana Cherry	7	Ernakulam	8	Ernakulam
9	Cottayam	10	Kasardog	11	Kunnamkulam	12	Palai
13	Palghat	14	Trichur	15	Tellicherry	16	Trivandrum
MADHYA PRADESH							
1	Indore	2	Dewas	3	Ujjain	4	Bhopal
5	Satna	6	Burhanpur	7	Ratlam		
MAHARASHTRA							
1	Mumbai	2	Mumbai	3	Mumbai	4	Mumbai
5	Mumbai	6	Mumbai	7	Mumbai	8	Mumbai
9	Mumbai	10	Nagpur	11	Nagpur	12	Hinghanghat
13	Yeotmal	14	Achhalp	15	Mumbai	16	Mumbai
17	Mumbai	18	Pune	19	Lowerparel	20	Parel (Jupiter Mills)
21	Parel (MTM)	22	Parel (Finlay Mills)	23	Mumbai	24	Chowpati
25	Nanded	26	Chalisgaon				
ORISSA							
1	Angul	2	Bhubaneshwer	3	Balasore	4	Katak
5	Dhankanal	6	Joypore	7	Behrampur		

S.No.	Location	S.No.	Location	S.No.	Location	S.No.	Location
PONDICHERRY U.T.							
1	Pondicherry						
PUNJAB							
1	Amritsar	2	Ludhiana	3	Patiala	4	Kharar
RAJASTHAN							
1	Ajmer	2	Bhilwara	3	Bharatpur	4	Beawar
5	Jaipur	6	Jodhpur	7	Kota	8	Sikar
9	Ganga Ngr.	10	Udaypur				
TAMILNADU							
1	Attur	2	Bhavani	3	Coimbatore	4	Coimbatore
5	Coimbatore	6	Coimbatore	7	Coimbatore	8	Coimbatore
9	Coimbatore	10	Coonor	11	Palani	12	Dindigul
13	Gobichettipalayam	14	Nammakal	15	Ootacamund	16	Salem
17	Sathyamanagalam	18	Mettupalayam	19	Chennai	20	Chennai
21	Chennai	22	Chennai	23	Chennai	24	Chennai
25	Chengam	26	Cuddalore	27	Kalpakalam	28	Kanchipuram
29	Tirupathur	30	Trichy	31	Trichy	32	Kumbakonam
33	Madurai	34	Madurai	35	Nagerchoil	36	Pattukottai
37	Pudukottai	38	Paramakudi	39	Mannargudi	40	Mayiladuthurai
41	Shivganga	42	Thiruthurapoondi	43	Thirumanglam	44	Tirunelveli
45	Tirunelveli	46	Tenkasi	47	Tirukoilur	48	Neyveli
UTTAR PRADESH							
1	Kanpur	2	Kanpur	3	Kanpur	4	Kanpur
5	Kanpur	6	Kanpur	7	Lucknow	8	Lucknow
9	Allahabad	10	Allahabad	11	Allahabad	12	Allahabad
13	Jhansi	14	Bareilly	15	Rai Bareilly	16	Akbar Pur
17	Balia	18	Chowkaghat	19	Deoria	20	Goleghar
21	Gazipur	22	Gyanvapi, Varanasi	23	Lahurabir	24	Maya Bazar
25	Maunathbhanjan	26	Shakti Nagar	27	Sultanpur	28	Agra
29	Ghaziabad	30	Modi Nagar	31	Muradabad	32	Narora
33	Roorki						
UTTRANCHAL							
1	Dehradun	2	Haldwani				
WEST BENGAL							
1	Asansole	2	Arambagh	3	Belgharia	4	Budge-Budge
5	Bella Ghat	6	Bardwan	7	Bolepur	8	Bongon
9	Barasat	10	Bihala	11	Bankura	12	Chandan Nagar
13	College St.	14	Park St.	15	Contai	16	Durgapur
17	Diamond Harbar	18	Dhaniakhali	19	Gariahat	20	Grey St.
21	Habra	22	Ichhapur	23	Koo Nagar	24	Kalyani
25	Kalna	26	Uttrarapara	27	Khagra	28	Krishna Ngr.
29	Kankurgachi	30	Kadamtola	31	Lake Town	32	Midnapur
33	Mogra	34	Mahesh	35	Nagar Bazar	36	Palta
37	Ranaghat	38	Rasbihari	39	Rishra	40	Raniganj
41	Siliguri	42	Shyambazar	43	Singur	44	Sreeampore
45	Salt lake	46	Shyamnagar	47	Sodepur	48	Sonarpur
49	Tollyganj	50	Tumluk				

*[English]***Doubling of Rail Lines in Punjab**

4063. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under active consideration of the Government for laying double line tracks in Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Railways are doing survey for laying double track between Ambala and Bhatinda under Ferozepur Division; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Doubling of Jalandhar-Pathankot-Jammu Tawi, which is substantially in Punjab, has been included in the budget to be taken up after obtaining the requisite clearances, action for which has been initiated. Work would be started once these clearances have been received.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir, a traffic survey for doubling of Rajpura-Bhatinda section (174 km) is in progress. The survey is targeted for completion by 30.6.2001.

*[Translation]***Silk Yarn to Jammu and Kashmir**

4064. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to provide silk yarn at subsidised rates to carpet weavers of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. At present there is no scheme with the Government of India to provide Silk Yarn at subsidised rates to carpet weavers of Jammu & Kashmir.

Corruption in Courts

4065. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that corruption is increasing in the functioning of courts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) While occasional cases of corruption do surface, it can not be said that corruption is increasing in the functioning of courts.

(c) Care is taken to recruit/promote persons of integrity and take action against delinquents by proper authorities. Use of information technology in courts is being encouraged to promote transparency and fairplay.

*[English]***Funds for Development of Amritsar Airport**

4066. SHRI BALBIR SINGH:
SHRI J.S. BRAR:
SHRI VINOD KHANNA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds amounting to Rs. 75 crores were earmarked by the Planning Commission for development/upgradation of Amritsar Airport to International standards;

(b) if so, the expenditure incurred so far;

(c) whether the Airports Authority of India and the State Government of Punjab have contributed for the development of the said Airport;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the expenditure so far made out of the funds earmarked by the Planning Commission?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (e) A proposal for upgradation of Amritsar Airport to international standards at an approximate cost of Rs. 79.27 crores has been approved recently. The State Government has acquired 138 acres

of land at their cost and handed over the same to the Airports Authority of India (AAI). AAI has taken up the work of construction of boundary wall and perimeter security road and an amount of Rs. 2.58 crores has been spent by AAI.

Enquiry Report on Khanna Train Accident

4067. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Enquiry Committee set up to enquire into the cause of accident between Golden Temple Mail and Jammu Tawi-Sealdah Express at Khanna has submitted its Report;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken thereon;

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

(d) the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its Report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Report of Garg Commission appointed under Chairmanship of Justice G.C. Garg to inquire into the cause of the accident is still awaited.

(c) and (d) The Commission has been requested to complete the work at the earliest.

Insurance Cover to Defence Personnel

4068. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:
Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide insurance cover to army personnel involved in internal security duties similar to one already provided to civilian security and police agencies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action plan chalked out therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) All army personnel are covered by the Army Group Insurance (AGI) Scheme. The AGI Scheme provides insurance cover for death (including suicide) in peace time, on internal security duties, in war-like situations and in actual combat. The AGI Scheme makes payment to the tune of Rs. 8.0 lakhs as insurance amount to the next of kin (NOK) of deceased officers and Rs. 3.75 lakhs to the NOK of JCOs and Other

Ranks. The maturity benefits under the Scheme are also paid, depending on the length of service/contribution made. The Central Para Military Forces (CPMFs)/Central Police Organizations (CPOs) are covered under the Central Government Employees Insurance Scheme and the insured amount varies from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 1,20,000/- depending on whether the employee belongs to Group 'A', 'B', 'C' or 'D'. In case of Assam rifles, there is a separate scheme called Assam Rifles Group Insurance Scheme, under which the insurance cover for officer is Rs. 5 lakhs and for Junior Commissioned Officer/Other Rank Rs. 3 lakhs.

[Translation]

Restructuring of Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India

4069. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:
Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to restructure the Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any assistance is being obtained from any Consultative Institute to get suggestions in this regard;

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

(e) the amount likely to be paid to the said institute as remuneration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal under the consideration of the Government to restructure the Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India either in its status as a Ltd. Company or in its financial restructuring.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Electronic Equipment from Keltron

4070. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received some proposals for supply of electronic equipments for defence establishments from Keltron of Kerala Government Undertaking;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

[English]

Expansion of RGIA

4072. SHRI RAJAJIAH MALYALA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state .

(a) whether the Union Government have received a proposal for expansion of Rajiv Gandhi International Airport from the Government of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) The Airports Authority of India has already spent Rs. 100 crores in constructing Passenger Terminal, Boarding Bridge, Radars, Navigational aids and runway resurfacing at Hyderabad International Airport. Work of Grade correction has been taken up at a cost of Rs. 7.12 crores. At present the full length of runway of 9080 ft. is not available for landing because of obstructions on both sides. Survey for expansion of eastern side of the airport has been completed and report has been provided to the District Collector for removal of obstructions. Airport Director has issued notices to owners of structures falling in the approach path of Runway 27. Some of the affected parties have moved the High Court against these notices.

Major Ports brought under two Categories

4073. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Shipping has brought major port trusts under two categories, placing six ports in the first category and five in the second;

(b) if so, the extent to which these categorisation of ports would be beneficial;

(c) whether any concrete programme of action has been evolved to improve the functioning of these ports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir. This Ministry has brought the Major Port Trusts of Kandla, Mumbai, Calcutta, Chennai, Visakhapatnam and Jawaharlal Nehru under Category-I and Major Port Trusts of Mormugao, Cochin, Paradip, Tuticorin and New Mangalore under Category-II

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Orders for supply of a number of electronic items are being placed on the company by the Ministry of Defence, certain Defence Public Sector Undertakings and the Ordnance Factory Board from time to time. A proposal for introduction of visitors pass with photograph to sensitive areas like Sena Bhavan, South Block, Air Headquarters and other Defence Establishments has been received from Kerala State Electronic Development Corporation (Keltron IT Business Group).

(c) There is no immediate requirement of this product.

[Translation]

Entrance Fee for Taj Mahal

4071. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether entry fee of Rs. 500 is charged from foreign tourists and Rs. 100 from Indian tourists for visiting Taj Mahal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it has resulted in the reduction of foreign tourists; and

(d) if so, the measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Rs. 500/- is charged from foreign tourists and Rs. 10 from Indian tourists as Toll-tax (Path-kar) by Agra Development Authority, Agra for Taj Mahal and other monuments in Agra.

Archaeological Survey of India's entrance fee for Taj Mahal is Rs. 10/- for Indian tourists and \$ 10 US dollars or equivalent in Indian rupees for others.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(b) to (d) The above categorisation of Ports is in terms of equivalence to Board Level posts in Public Sector Enterprises. The purpose of categorisation is to delegate appropriate powers to both the categories of Major Port Trusts in the matter of Port functions and thus giving them more autonomy. Under the enhanced delegation, Port Trust Boards have powers to incur plan expenditure upto Rs. 50 crores in case of addition/modification/new investments and Rs. 100 crores in case of replacement/renewal of assets.

[Translation]

Loading Facility at Indian Ports

4074. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is no off loading facility at Indian Ports as far as big containers are concerned;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Development of Ten Major Waterways

4075. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether ten major waterways were identified in 1980 for development by the National Transport Policy Committee;
- (b) if so, the details of the progress made till today;
- (c) whether the Government have received any report from FICCI in relation to expedite inland waterways projects;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Out of ten Major Waterways identified for declaration as National Waterways following three Waterways have so far been declared as National Waterways No. 1, 2, and 3:—

- (i) National Waterways No. 1 : The Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system from Allahabad to Haldia (1620 kms);
- (ii) National Waterways No. 2 : The Brahmaputra from Dhubri to Sadiya (891 kms); and
- (iii) National Waterway No. 3 : The West Coast Canal from Kottapuram to Kollam alongwith Champakara and Udyogmandal Canals (205 kms).

The said National Waterways are being developed by IWAI by way of providing infrastructural facilities such as navigational aids, channels, terminals etc. subject to availability of funds.

Techno-economic feasibility studies have been conducted on the remaining seven waterways, the declaration of which as National Waterways and subsequent development thereof will depend upon availability of funds.

(c) There were two seminars conducted by IWAI in collaboration with FICCI during 1996 and 1998. The theme of the seminars was to speed up the development of Inland Waterways projects. However, there has been no specific report from FICCI in this regard.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

Visit of US Defence Delegation

4076. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a US Government delegation on defence, visited India in November, 2000;
- (b) if so, the main issues discussed between the two countries and the decisions arrived at;
- (c) the reaction of the US delegation on the issue of lifting sanctions against India;
- (d) whether any agreements were also signed for military co-operation between the two countries; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Mr. James M. Bodner, Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defence for Policy of the United States accompanied by officers from US Department of Defence visited India on November 15-16, 2000.

(b) During the meetings of the US delegation in the Ministries of Defence and External Affairs, the two sides exchanged their perspectives on national, regional and international security issues, including the menace of international terrorism and religious extremism. Matters relating to bilateral defence cooperation were also discussed.

(c) The issue of lifting sanctions was not raised during this visit.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Filling up of Reserved Vacancies

4077. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have given the instruction to fill up the reserved vacancies as per the amendment 81st Act, 2000; and

(b) if so, the target to fill up the pending vacancies at all levels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Consequent upon Constitution (Eighty First Amendment) Act 2000, and on receipt of communication from Department of Personnel and Training *vide* its Office Memorandum No. 36012/5/97-Estt. (Res.) Vol. II dated 20.7.2000 instructions have been issued *vide* Railway Board's letter No. 2000-E(SCT)/1/25/19 dated 4.8.2000 to undertake a review for early assessment of the backlog vacancies in respect of SCs and STs both in direct recruitment and promotion and make concerted efforts to fill up backlog vacancies. Further detailed instructions have been issued *vide* Railway Board's letter No. 2000-E(SCT)/1/88/1 dated 22.11.2000 to undertake Special Recruitment Drive 2000 to fill up backlog vacancies of SCs/STs existing as on 30.6.2000 in all the Groups of services so as to complete the same by 30.6.2001.

[Translation]

Profit earned/loss suffered by Railways

4078. CH. TEJVEER SINGH:
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:
SHRI A. NARENDRA:
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the profit earned/loss suffered by the Railways during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of the revenue collected by the Railways through passengers and freight traffic during 1999-2000 and 2000-01 so far, separately, zone-wise;

(c) the extent to which the revenue collection is shorter than the expected target, separately, during 1999-2000 and 2000-01;

(d) the load carrier percentage of the system between passenger and freight traffic;

(e) the load carrier percentage during 1970-80, 1980-90 and 1990-2000;

(f) the extent to which the ongoing railway projects are affected thereby; and

(g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to make Railways profitable so as to accelerate the construction work of on-going projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Surplus generated by the Railways during the last three years is as under :—

	Rs. in crore
1997-98	1535.22
1998-99	399.08
1999-2000	845.89

(b) The Zone-wise details of Revenues earned by the Railways through Passenger and Freight Traffic during

1999-2000 and 2000-01 (upto October 2000) is as under :—

Rs. in crore

Zone	1999-2000		2000-2001 (To end October 2000)	
	Passenger	Freight	Passenger	Freight
Central	1941.82	3228.48	1150.93	1905.95
Eastern	920.02	2589.92	562.04	1560.12
Northern	1906.05	3951.10	1190.19	2232.33
North Eastern	549.73	417.19	349.57	259.22
Northeast Frontier	185.00	432.27	115.70	259.86
Southern	945.15	1186.35	596.46	749.83
South Central	871.11	2241.91	560.01	1438.35
South Eastern	628.35	5214.03	369.03	3274.72
Western	1608.39	2799.74	983.84	1666.54
Metro	25.45	-	17.57	-

(c) The Budget Target and Actual Revenue earned for the year 1999-2000 and 2000-01 (upto October) is as under :

Rs. in crore

Year	Target	Actual	Variation
1999-2000	33021.00	33124.71	+103.71
2000-2001 (up to October 2000)	20124.08	19987.24	-136.84

(d) and (e) The term 'Load Carrier' is not used as such in Indian Railways statistics. The corresponding term considered appropriate for the purpose is 'Gross Tonne Kilometre, (GTkm.)

The percentage of Passenger & Freight traffic in terms of Gross tonne KMs (including weight of motive unit but excluding departmental) during 1999-2000 as well as for the last 3 decades are as under :

Year	Passenger (including proportion of mixed)	Freight (including proportion of mixed)	Total
*1999-2000	34.1%	65.9%	100%
1970-71 to 1979-80	31.2%	68.8%	100%
1980-81 to 1989-90	31.5%	68.5%	100%
*1990-91 to 1999-2000	31.9%	68.1%	100%

* Figures for 1999-2000 are provisional.

(f) No data is available to enable determination of extent to which the ongoing Railway projects have been affected by the fall in Railways' load carrier percentage of the passenger and freight traffic.

(g) In order to improve internal resources generation for funding ongoing projects, measures have been taken to improve staff productivity, asset utilisation, inventory management, fuel consumption and to ensure austerity in areas such as travel, publicity, hospitality etc., thereby controlling expenditure and to improve earnings through appropriate marketing efforts and by tapping non-traditional sources of revenue such as commercial utilisation of Railway land and air space, leasing of 'right of way' of optical fibre cable, commercial publicity on rolling stock and station buildings, leasing of parcel services etc.

Reducing of Non-Development Expenditure

4079. SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN:
SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to achieve the target of reducing atleast ten percent of non-development expenditure during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the estimate of the amount which is likely to be reduced;

(c) whether the non-developmental areas have been identified in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (d) As per Ministry of Finance's directives, all ministries are required to reduce their non-salary/non-plan expenditure during the current year by 10%. Ministry of Railways have also taken steps to implement these directives on the Railways. It may, however, be mentioned that a large part of the no-salary/non-plan expenditure of the Railways pertains to fuel costs, repairs & maintenance costs and lease charges, which are invariable in nature and very vital to the operation and safety of the railways. As regards fuel, there has been an increase in the price of diesel as well of electricity tariff in some States. Hence, it may not be possible to achieve the targeted reduction of 10% in these areas. The Zonal Railways have, however, been asked to effect savings to the extent of Rs. 865 crore under Ordinary Working Expenses in 2000-01. The broad areas of Ordinary Working Expenses and the amount to

be spent on them as per Budget Estimate 2000-01 are given below:

	(Rs. in crore)
	B.E. 2000-01
(i) Staff	12871
(ii) Materials	2569
(iii) Fuel	6377
(iv) Lease Charges	3014
(v) Other Expenses incl. Contractual Payments, Contingent Expenses, Security, Compensation Claims etc.	3284
Total	28115

The Item-wise savings achieved will be known only by the end of the year after finalisation of accounts for the current year.

[English]

Meeting of State Law and Home Secretaries

4080. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

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

(a) whether a meeting of State Law and Home Secretaries has been convened by the Law Ministry recently in capital;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken in the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A meeting was convened on 17.11.2000 to review the progress of implementation of the Centrally sponsored scheme relating to development of infrastructural facilities for the Judiciary and to consider the release of second instalment of Central share for 2000-2001 to various States/Union

territories under the scheme. A decision has been taken to release the second instalment of Central share for 2000-2001 to various eligible States/Union territories. Emphasis was laid on the need for extensive use of Information Technology in courts which will facilitate speedy disposal of cases, promote transparency and afford easy access to information. Besides, the States/Union territories were requested for timely completion of all on-going projects.

Stoppage of Train at Naya Azadpur Railway Station

4081. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passengers boarded up and down directions in the trains at Naya Azadpur Railway Stations in each month of 1999 and 2000 upto October;

(b) whether the passenger traffic at Naya Azadpur Railway Station has increased considerably as compared to the corresponding period of the past;

(c) if so, whether the surrounding areas like Rohini, Pitampura, Shalimar Bagh, Adarsh Nagar & Model Town etc. become over populated during the last three years;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to provide halt of more express/mail passenger trains at Naya Azadpur Railway Station to decongest passenger traffic at Delhi Main/New Delhi Railway Stations; and

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

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

(b) There is an average increase of 11.2% in the number of passenger booked per day upto October during 2000-2001 as compared with the 1999-2000.

(c) The number of passengers booked per day from the serving Stations Naya Azadpur and Delhi Azadpur indicates an increase.

(d) and (e) There is no proposal, at present, for providing stoppage of additional trains at Naya Azadpur station due to lack of operational feasibility.

Statement

(a)

Month	Passenger booked (1999-2000)			Passenger booked 2000-2001		
	Upside	Downs side	Total	Upside	Downs side	Total
April	27565	14844	42409	33465	18019	51484
May	29672	15978	45650	31975	17217	49192
June	29751	16019	45770	34161	18395	52556
July	28896	15560	44456	34163	18395	52558
August	29067	15651	44718	33791	18195	51986
September	29119	15680	44799	36951	19897	56848
October	35896	19328	55224	38966	20981	59947
November	38076	20502	58578			
December	33565	18073	51638			
January	30332	16332	46664			
February	29202	15724	44926			
March	32398	17445	49843			
Total	373539	201136	574675	243472	131099	374571

Completion of Railway Projects

4082. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time fixed for completion of various pending railway projects for which HUDCO has given a loan of Rs. 1200 crores to Indian Railways; and

(b) the progress made in each project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Railways have not taken any loan from HUDCO for any of its project.

(b) Does not arise.

Appointment of Compassionate Grounds

4083. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons killed/expired while on duty in railways during the last three years, zone-wise;

(b) the number of persons next to the kith and kin of the deceased employee provided employment during the said period, zone-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that the dependents of deceased railway employee do not get timely benefits;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to modify the guidelines/instructions in regard to granting of compassionate employment/financial benefits to the family of the deceased employee; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the other measures being taken by the Government to help the family of deceased railway employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) to (e) Instructions have been issued and reiterated from time to time to make all out efforts to provide compassionate appointments to the eligible candidates as early as possible within the guidelines laid down for the purpose. Delays, however, occur due to the wards being minor, non-availability of suitable vacancies, legal cases pending in courts, etc.

Cases where death occurs while on duty are given top priority. In such cases a timelimit of one month has been laid down for considering appointments on compassionate ground.

Settlement dues are also paid within the shortest possible time.

Recently, with a view to further expedite pending cases of compassionate appointments, powers which were earlier vested with the General Managers for considering cases of compassionate appointments beyond the prescribed time limits have been delegated to the Divisional Railway Managers/Heads of Departments/Chief Works Managers. Also, powers which were earlier vested with the Railway Board, have recently been delegated to the General Managers.

Krishna-Godavari Pipeline Project

4084. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether GAIL proposes to complete the Krishna-Godavari Basin Pipeline Project by 2002;
- (b) if so, the total investment on this project;
- (c) whether the work can be expedited and finished before the scheduled time; and
- (d) if so, the quantity of gas likely to be available on completion of project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) is executing various pipeline projects in the Krishna-Godavari Basin at a total estimated cost of Rs. 776 crores. These projects, scheduled to be completed in stages by March 2003, would augment the capacity of the pipeline network to carry upto 14 Million standard cubic meters per day (MMSCMD) of gas.

[Translation]

Construction of Swarna Jayanti Natyagriha

4085. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to construct 'Swarna Jayanti Natyagriha' in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether uniformity has been maintained throughout the country in the construction of 'Swarna Jayanti Natyagriha';

(d) if so, the estimated construction cost of these 'Natyagrihas';

(e) whether construction of a 'Natyagriha' in Katni district of Madhya Pradesh is likely to be sanctioned; and

(f) if so, whether the additional funds required for construction of these 'Natyagrihas' other than the grant-in-aid provided by the Union Government can be made available from the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

Adulteration of Kerosene in Diesel and Petrol

4086. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether approximately 15 lakh tonnes of kerosene is misused to adulterate the diesel and petrol in the country every year;
- (b) if so, whether approximately 2.5 lakh tonnes kerosene oil is stolen during its transportation between depots of oil companies and Public Distribution System shops each month;
- (c) if so, whether the Government have conducted any study in regard to theft of kerosene in this way;
- (d) if so, the action taken against the persons found involved in the theft of kerosene; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to check the adulteration of diesel and petrol with kerosene?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (e) The oil marketing companies carry out regular/surprise checks of retail outlets, to prevent various malpractices including adulteration. In addition, special drives are launched by the oil companies both on their own and also under direction of Government from time to time to check malpractices. Further, to prevent adulteration various steps like blue dyeing of kerosene (Public Distribution System), furfural doping, filter paper

test, checking of retail outlets by mobile laboratories, etc. are undertaken by the oil companies. Further, to check adulteration the Government have issued two control orders viz. naphtha (Acquisition, Sale, Storage and Prevention of use in Automobile) Order, 2000 and Solvent, Raffinate and Slop (Acquisition, Sale, Storage and Prevention of use in Automobile) Order, 2000.

Kerosene is an allocated product and Central Government allocates SKO to the States/Union Territories on annual basis and same is released on monthly basis. The distribution within the State is responsibility of the concerned State Government.

The checking of oil adulteration is a continuous activity of oil companies. To prevent adulteration enroute from supply points to the retail outlets, the marketing companies have taken various steps like improvement in seals, sealing under the direct supervision of an officer at the supply locations, introduction of pilfer proof locking device etc.

Setting up of Oil Refinery in Rajasthan

4087. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up an oil refinery in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) At present there is no proposal to set up an oil refinery in Rajasthan by public sector oil refining companies.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Import of Oil from Malaysia and Indonesia

4088. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to look for oil imports from new sources like Malaysia and Indonesia;

(b) if so, whether any preliminary work has been done in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), a canalising agency for import of crude oil for public sector oil refineries has been importing crude oil from Malaysia on a term contract basis. Petroleum products were also sourced from Malaysia through tender system. While petroleum products were sourced occasionally from Indonesia through tendering system, Indonesian crude oils have not been imported so far by IOC. IOC made efforts to source trial cargoes of Indonesian crude oil. However, due to non-availability of crude oil with Indonesian companies, it has not been possible to procure the same so far.

Transportation of Fodder and Drinking Water to Rajasthan

4089. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from the Government of Rajasthan to extend free transportation facility for fodder and drinking water to scarcity hit areas on similar line as provided during the last summer; and

(b) if so, the time by which this facility is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Railways have received a request from the Chief Minister of Rajasthan in this regard. Since the Ministry of Agriculture are the nodal Ministry for providing assistance to scarcity affected areas, they are being requested to bear the expenditure on rail transportation of water and fodder to scarcity affected districts of Rajasthan.

Family Pension to Mothers

4090. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a dependent mother is entitled to receive family pension in case of death of her unmarried son, having an ex-serviceman pension holder status;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the justification thereof and the steps being taken to plug the loopholes in the system?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The benefit of ordinary family pension to the dependent parents has been granted with effect from 1.1.1998, subject to fulfilment of prescribed conditions, including (i) that the dependent parents were wholly dependent on the deceased Armed Forces personnel, when he was alive and their monthly income is not more than Rs. 2,550/- and, that the deceased left behind neither a widow nor a child. Family pension to dependent parents is granted at the rate of 30% on the basic pay of the deceased Armed Forces personnel subject to a minimum of Rs. 1,275/- per month.

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

Night Landing Facility at Calicut Airport

4091. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Night Landing Facility at Calicut Airport is operating at present; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Night Landing facilities provided at Calicut Airport are functional. However, night landing is not permitted, at present, at this airport due to presence of obstructions.

Inquiry into the Airbus 300 Aircraft

4092. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rear right wheel of Airbus 300 aircraft caught fire on landing at the Calcutta Airport on November 25, 2000 endangering the lives of 219 passengers on board;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted into the incident;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether another jet airways Boeing 737-A with 109 passengers and crew skidded off the runway last week;

(e) if so, whether the matter has also been enquired into; and

(f) if so, the way in which the Government propose to deal with the situation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) An Indian Airlines A-300 aircraft was involved in a brake jamming incident at Calcutta on 25.11.2000 during which smoke/fire was observed from the right hand landing gear bogie. The aircraft was stopped on the taxi track after clearing the runway. The engines were shut down and all the 218 persons on board, including crew members, were deplaned in a normal manner. At no stage, there was any danger perceived to the lives of the passengers and crew members on board.

(b) and (c) The incident is under investigation by the Permanent Investigation Board of Indian Airlines in association with Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

(d) On 14.11.2000, Jet Airways Boeing-737 aircraft on a flight from Calcutta to Guwahati was turning to line up for take-off on the runway of Calcutta airport. The aircraft swerved off to the right during the turn and went off the right edge of the runway.

(e) The incident is under investigation by the Airline.

(f) Does not arise.

LNG from Qatar

4093. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:

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

(a) whether the Qatar Government is aiming at to become a major supplier of liquefied natural gas to India;

(b) if so, whether the Government have welcomed this decision;

(c) whether any agreement between the two countries has been signed; and

(d) if so, the projects on which Qatar Government is likely to invest and assist India in achieving self-sufficiency in oil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) M/s Ras Laffan Liquefied Natural Gas Company Limited (Ras Gas), a joint venture company promoted by Qatar General Petroleum Corporation (QGPC) has signed a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Sale Purchase Agreement with M/s Petronet LNG Limited to supply a total of 7.5 million tonnes of LNG per annum for the

proposed LNG import terminals at Dahej (Gujarat) and Kochi (Kerala). M/s Ras Gas has also signed a Heads of Agreement for supply of LNG with M/s Dakshin Bharat Energy Consortium Limited for a proposed LNG import terminal at Ennore (Tamil Nadu). Import of LNG does not require permission of the Government and, therefore, the LNG Supply Agreements are signed directly between the supplying companies and the potential importers.

[Translation]

Shortage of Tourist Accommodation

4094. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

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

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

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

(d) the steps taken to provide adequate accommodation to tourists during the peak tourist season?

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

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Tourism had commissioned an Accommodation Assessment Survey which has estimated a requirement of 1,25,000 rooms by the year 2005 to service 5 million tourists. At present there are 66,513 rooms in the classified category of hotels including the main tourist places in the country. A Statement showing availability of rooms in the classified functioning hotels, State-wise is enclosed. To augment the accommodation facilities, the Union Government extends fiscal incentives to prospective investors and also provides Central financial assistance to Union Territory/ State Governments for construction of tourist accommodation based on the *inter-se* priority and availability of funds. Further, this Ministry has requested the Union Territory/State Governments to introduce the Paying Guest Accommodation Scheme for providing affordable and hygienic accommodation facilities to tourists in identified tourist places with an aim to meet the demand of accommodation during the peak tourist season.

Statement

Statewise Details of Rooms available in classified Functioning Hotels in the country 1999-2000

NAME OF STATE	NUMBER OF ROOMS
Andhra Pradesh	6613
Arunachal Pradesh	10
Assam	714
Bihar	1089
Goa	3164
Delhi	7784
Gujarat	2522
Haryana	629
Himachal Pradesh	427
Jammu & Kashmir	1152
Karnataka	3370
Kerala	3853
Madhya Pradesh	1358
Maharashtra	12528
Meghalaya	254
Mizoram	30
Orissa	877
Punjab	698
Rajasthan	3567
Sikkim	107
Tamil Nadu	8401
Uttar Pradesh	4071
West Bengal	2581
Andaman & Nicobar	170
Chandigarh	406
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	88
Lakshadweep	30
Pondicherry	20
Total	66,513

Development Scheme for Promotion of Indian Culture/Civilisation

4095. SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the schemes and programmes being run by the Government to promote Indian culture and civilisation both in India and abroad during the last three years till date, State-wise and country-wise;

(b) the amount allocated and spent in this regard, year-wise/State-wise; and

(c) the names of schemes and programmes to be launched during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 to promote Indian civilisation and culture in the country and abroad and amount proposed to be allocated therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The details of the schemes and programmes, their budgetary allocations and expenditures are contained in the Annual Reports of the Department of Culture. The funds are not earmarked State-wise or country-wise. These Schemes are on-going. No new scheme is proposed to be launched during 2000-2001 or 2001-2002 at present.

[English]

Reinstatement of Defence Employees

4096. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have taken back the employees dismissed from defence service on the direction of Court during the last three years; and

(b) if so the details thereof, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) The directions of the courts of reinstating dismissed defence service personnel are implemented by the Government in all cases, where such directions have not been modified or quashed on appeal/review of the case by the courts or where such appeal/review is pending before the court. The information in respect of all dismissed defence service employees having been reinstated is not maintained centrally by the Government.

International Airport at Hyderabad

4097. SHRI RAJIAH MALYALA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are considering any proposal to prepare the ground for construction of an international Airport at Hyderabad in the Private Sector at Shamshabad;

(b) if so, the present status thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to initiate action thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Central Government has approved the proposal of State Government of Andhra Pradesh for construction for a new international airport at Shamshabad near Hyderabad with private sector participation. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed recently between the State Government and Airports Authority of India.

[Translation]

Pawan Hans Helicopters

4098. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to utilise the services of the Pawan Hans for commercial purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited (PHHL) is at present operating its helicopters on commercial basis for meeting the requirements of the Oil Sector as well as the State Governments and the Ministry of Home Affairs in the North-East. Recently, PHHL has commenced regular passenger service on Jammu-Sanjichat-Jammu and Katra-Sanjichat-Katra sectors for pilgrims visiting the Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine. PHHL has conducted a study for operation of helicopter service to tourists in the Badrinath/Kedarnath sectors.

(c) Does not arise.

Regularisation of Casual Labourers

4099. CH. TEJVEER SINGH:
SHRI A. NARENDRA:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of casual labourers working in each zone at present;

(b) the number of casual labourers being regularised every year by the Railways; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to regularise all the casual labourers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) All of approximately 56000 casual labourers on roll on the Indian Railways, as on 30.4.1996, have been regularised except a few as detailed below :—

Railway	Number
South Eastern	52
Western	10
Total	62

The regularisation of these casual labourers is held up due to Court/Vigilance/Disciplinary cases. They will be considered for regularisation on finalisation of the cases pending against them.

Fixation of Licence Fee

4100. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rate of licence fee for the Government flats are likely to be decided according to the prevailing market rent;

(b) whether in view of the increasing rate of maintenance and other residential problems it is proposed to handover the responsibility of construction, management, maintenance of the Government flats to private sector;

(c) whether non-conventional energy sources would be used in Government Flats Complex; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. The rate of licence fee is determined with reference to pooled Capital Cost of such flats as laid down in the relevant Rules.

(b) At present, construction of quarters is being done through contractors. For day to day petty repairs only, railway staff are engaged. For major repairs also, works are done through contractors. There is no proposal for any change in the existing practice in this regard.

(c) and (d) Feasibility of using non-conventional energy sources in Government flats/complexes for lighting and hot water supply is being explored on experimental basis.

[English]

Shortage of Funds faced by Railways

4101. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Railways is facing acute shortage of funds during 1999-2000;

(b) whether the Railways, has decided to withdraw another Rs. 1000 crore during the current year;

(c) if so, the main reasons therefor alongwith the details of the projects likely to be affected thereby; and

(d) the manner in which Railways propose to improve its financial position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) During 1999-2000 at the Budget stage a plan size of Rs. 9700 crore became possible after drawing Rs. 1000 crore from the internal fund balances of the Railways. The drawdown was later increased to Rs. 1107 crore. In the current year, no such drawdown has been envisaged. However, as a matter of abundant caution, in order to provide a cushion against possible shortfall in internal resources, the normal practice of regulating plan expenditure, without affecting works targeted for completion during the year has been programmed.

(d) Better staff productivity, asset utilisation, inventory management, fuel consumption and austerity in areas such as travel, publicity, hospitality etc., thereby controlling expenditure coupled with appropriate marketing efforts and tapping of non-traditional sources of revenue such as commercial utilisation of railway land and air space, leasing of 'right of way' for laying optical fibre cables, commercial publicity on rolling stock and station buildings, leasing of parcel services, etc. are expected to help in improving the position.

[Translation]

LNG based Projects in Rajasthan

4102. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the places in Rajasthan where there is potential of setting up of liquefied natural gas (LNG) based projects.

(b) whether the State economy will be improved in case positive decision is taken in these projects; and

(c) if so, the efforts being made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Terminals can be set up only on coastal locations and thus cannot be set up in Rajasthan, a land locked State.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Train Accident *

4103. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a train accident was occurred in Monghyr district of Bihar on November 11, 2000;

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

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

(d) whether any overall plan has been devised to arrest growing accidents; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Following steps have been taken to arrest growing accidents as under :—

- i) Fouling Mark to Fouling Mark (FM to FM) track circuiting on entire 'A', 'B', 'C', 'D' and 'D Spl.' routes where speed is more than 75 kmph. have been completed. Remaining portion of the work is under progress.
- ii) Modification of the signalling circuitry is being carried out to minimise chances of human error in causing accidents.
- iii) Auxiliary Warning System for giving advance warning about 'Signal at danger' to the driver of

the running train has been commissioned on Mumbai suburban sections of Mumbai.

- iv) A pilot project of AWS on trial basis for Tughlakabad-Mathura section of Central Railway is being launched on trial basis. The tender for the same has been invited.
- v) Last vehicle check by Axle Counter have been introduced on over 150 block sections and is being progressively added.
- vi) State of the art technology of Digital Mobile Train Radio Communication has been sanctioned on some important sections for providing duplex radio communication between driver/guard and control.
- vii) Walkie-talkie sets have been provided to Drivers and Guards of all trains for faster and better means of communication.
- viii) Drivers and guards are also being progressively provided with LED based electronic flashing lamps which have better visibility than the conventional kerosene lit hand signal lamps
- ix) There has been progressive increase in use of Tie Tamping and ballast cleaning machines for track maintenance. Also, Track Renewal Trains are being used.
- x) For monitoring track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometers are being used progressively.
- xi) For detection of rail fractures/weld failures, adequate double rail Ultrasonic Flaw detectors have been procured. Now Self-propelled Ultrasonic Rail Testing Cars are being procured.
- xii) Maintenance facilities for coaches and wagons have been modernised and upgraded at many depots.
- xiii) Routine Over Hauling Depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for detection of flaws in the axles so as to prevent cases of cold breakage of axles.
- xiv) Funds being received from the diesel cess will be used for safety related works pertaining to level crossings.
- xv) Whistle Boards/speed breakers and road signs have been provided at unmanned level crossings and visibility for drivers has been improved.

- xvi) Audio-visual publicity campaigns to educate road users on how to make a safe crossing are conducted.
- xvii) Level Crossings having heavy traffic density are being progressively interlocked with signals on a planned basis.
- xviii) Steps have been taken to prevent inflammable and explosive materials from being carried in passenger trains.
- xix) Periodical Safety Audit of Different Divisions by inter-disciplinary teams from Zonal Headquarters has been introduced.
- xx) Training facilities for drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation have been modernised including use of Simulators for training of drivers.
- xxi) Performance of the staff connected with train operation is being constantly monitored and those found deficient are sent for crash training courses also.
- xxii) Periodical safety drives are conducted to inculcate safety consciousness among the staff and road users.
- xxiii) A pilot project of Anti Collision Device (ACD) has been sanctioned for Northeast Frontier Railway. Trial of prototype ACD equipment has been started. After successful completion of this pilot project, a decision would be taken for its application on other routes of Indian Railways.
- xxiv) Stringent penalty to the extent of dismissal/removal from service is being imposed on officials causing serious accidents.

Rates of Hotels

4104. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that rates of hotels in India are very high for foreign and domestic tourists; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to bring down the rates of hotels?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Since 1991 Department of Tourism no longer regulates

rates of hotels. However, efforts are being made to advise hotel industry to rationalize their rates and to the Central and State Governments to reduce taxation which adds to hotel tariffs for both foreign and domestic tourists.

Qualification for Commercial Pilots

4105. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the educational qualification is prescribed for getting commercial pilot licence in India;

(b) whether all the commercial pilots flying in our country have this qualification;

(c) if not, whether the flights being operated by such pilots are unsafe; and

(d) if so, the details of educational qualification is prescribed for getting the commercial pilot licence in USA, UK, Australia, Singapore, France and Germany?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) The Aircraft Rules, 1937, as amended in 1993, prescribe that an applicant for Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL) should have passed class 10+2 or an equivalent examination with physics and mathematics from a recognised Board/University. This requirement regarding educational qualifications came into effect from 01-01-1994.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) As per the information available, no formal educational qualification is laid down by these countries. However, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations of United States of America require that the applicant for CPL should be able to read, speak, write and understand the English language.

Performance of Tourist Offices Abroad

4106. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT.

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the achievements of Tourism Offices abroad during the last three years, till date;

(b) whether the performance of these Offices has been satisfactory;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to improve their performance;

(e) whether the Government have decided to open more such offices abroad;

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

(g) whether the Government propose to close down some of Tourism Offices abroad;

(h) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and

(i) the measures adopted by the Government to increase its publicity through Internet and Electronic Media?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) India Tourist Offices abroad promote India as an attractive tourist destination in very competitive environment. Their performance has been satisfactory. Details of foreign tourist arrivals and foreign exchange earning during the last three years are as under :—

Year	Foreign Tourist Arrivals	Foreign Exchange Earning (Million US\$)
1997	2374094	2913.5
1998	2358629	2935.2
1999	2481928	3035.7

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

(i) To increase the publicity through Internet and electronic media, Govt. has hosted Indian Tourism Websites and set up Information Kiosks, apart from producing various CD-ROMS, etc. All Tourist Offices also can be accessed through internet. Television and Radios along with conventional promotional tools are utilized for the purpose of information about the Indian Tourism product.

Compensation to Air Victims

4107. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Airline companies are not making payment of compensation to the air victims or to their relatives;

(b) if so, the number of claims of compensation pending with airline companies, airline-wise;

(c) the time by which these cases are pending; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure prompt payment of compensation to the victims of air crash?

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

(b) to (d) 6 cases (including 3 survived passengers) are pending in respect of Indian Airlines/Alliance Air B-737 aircraft which met with accident at Patna on 17th July, 2000. These cases were received late. Discussions are on with the claimants for settlement as per statutory provisions.

As regard previous air crashes, no cases for compensation is pending for settlement with Indian Airlines and Air India except those cases which are pending in the court of law mainly because the claimants have asked for more money than the statutory limits fixed by the law and therefore, are sub-judice. The details of these cases are as under :—

	No. of cases pending	Date of accident
Air India	03	23.06.1985
Indian Airlines	47	19.10.1988
	04	14.02.1990
	15	26.04.1993

Bids invited by GAIL for laying Optical Fibre Cable

4108. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU . Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gas Authority of India Limited has invited bids for laying optical fibre cable in six States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the distances available for laying fibre optical cable;

(d) the amount expected to be earned by GAIL;

(e) whether GAIL is entering in a non-core sector; and

(f) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to assess the expected return for this venture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) has invited bids for laying Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) for the first phase of its network of about 1650 km. length, covering the States of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Haryana.

(d) GAIL expects to earn a revenue of Rs. 100 crore in the first year of its OFC operation.

(e) GAIL proposes to enter into the Telecom sector as a category II infrastructure provider.

(f) GAIL is in the process of commissioning a detailed feasibility study for this venture.

[Translation]

Privatisation of Railways

4109. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to privatise certain departments of the railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the railway employees associations have protested against the proposal of privatisation;

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

(e) whether the Government propose to give priority to the handicapped persons while allotting the railway booking agencies?

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

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Production of Natural Gas in Andhra Pradesh

4110. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is large production of natural gas in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether Andhra Pradesh has not got any benefit of it within the State;

(c) if so, whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government to instruct the GAIL to start town gas supply to other towns in Andhra Pradesh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) (a) Presently about 5.15 million standard cubic metres per day (MMSCMD) of natural gas is being produced in Andhra Pradesh. In addition about 0.87 MMSCMD of gas is produced from the Ravva offshore field, off the Andhra Coast.

(b) to (d) Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) is currently supplying natural gas to the tune of 6 MMSCMD to various consumers including power and fertilizer sectors in the State of Andhra Pradesh. An allocation of 0.10 MMSCMD of natural gas has also been made to the Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Limited (APIICL) for the town gas supply project in Andhra Pradesh. GAIL and APIICL have signed the Heads of Agreement (HoA) and also a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for execution of the town gas supply project.

Financial Condition of HPCL

4111. SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the net profit of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and other public sector oil companies has been decreased during the second quarter ending on September, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof.

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to review the working of all these oil public sector undertakings;

(d) whether HPCL has a high debt burden on it;

(e) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and

(f) the present investment of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited in other undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) A statement indicating the net profits earned by oil sector's public sector undertakings (PSUs) during the second quarter *vis-a-vis* the first quarter of this year is enclosed. The profit after tax in the case of HPCL was Rs. 200.63 crores and Rs. 222.54 crores during the first and second quarter of the current financial year respectively. Some Oil PSUs namely, Oil India Ltd., Gas Authority of India Ltd., and Balmer Lawrie have reported decline in profits during the second quarter as compared to first quarter of this year.

(c) The working and performance of oil sector's PSUs are reviewed regularly in various fora. These, *inter alia*, include quarterly progress review meetings, annual plan discussions, memorandum of understanding discussions etc. The process of review and monitoring is a continuous one.

(d) and (e) HPCL has very low debt-equity ratio. However, short-term loans are high due to increase in working capital requirement, non-receipt of dues from oil pool account etc.

(f) HPCL has invested approximately Rs. 496 crores in Joint-Venture projects such as Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd., Petronet India Ltd., Hindustan Oman Petroleum Company Ltd., etc.

Statement

S. No.	Name of Public Sector Undertakings	Profit (+)/Loss(-) in Rs. crores	
		Profit after tax during April-June 2000	July-Sept. 2000
1.	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	509.58	978.00
2.	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	188.00	359.00
3.	Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	200.63	222.54
4.	Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.	937.96	1595.56
5.	Oil India Ltd.	138.36	67.44
6.	Gas Authority of India Ltd.	279.41	246.50
7.	Kochi Refineries Ltd.	8.00	37.62
8.	Bongaigaon Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd.	-25.66	3.78
9.	Engineers India Ltd.	26.95	44.15
10.	Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	1.95	22.68
11.	IBP Co. Ltd.	7.49	14.10
12.	Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.	3.11	1.85
13.	Biecco Lawrie Ltd.	-1.79	-2.77

Assistance to Handloom Sectors

4112. CHAUDHARY TEJVEER SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government provide financial assistance to the State Handloom Development Corporations and the Handloom Cooperative Societies through Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana for setting up pre-loom and post-loom processing facilities;

(b) if so, the details of assistance provided to them during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and

(c) the criteria followed for giving such assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The scheme has been launched in September, 2000. Neither any viable proposal received nor financial assistance released under the scheme to any State so far. The viable proposals formulated on need basis as per guidelines of the scheme and duly recommended by the State Government are considered to extend financial assistance.

Kelkar Committee Recommendation

4113. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have Mooted the Acceptance of the Kelkar Committee recommendations for capital infusion of Rs. 920/- crores into the Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, the time by which the Government are likely to implement these proposals;

(c) the details of recommendations of the Kelkar Committee so far considered and accepted; and

(d) the number out of them are under the process of implementation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD VADAV) : (a) to (d) The Kelkar Committee had, *inter alia*, recommended financial restructuring of Indian Airlines which include capital injection of Rs. 922 crores in the form of compensation, subordinated loan, equity and contribution by Indian Airlines and its employees. Of this, Rs. 475 crores was to be provided by the Government.

The above recommendations were examined in detail by the Government and it was decided to release Rs. 325 crores to Indian Airlines as equity in the form of margin money for acquisition of new aircrafts. However, in view of the ongoing disinvestment of Indian Airlines, Ministry of Finance has opined that Indian Airlines should go for other options, such as lease of aircraft etc. This advice is presently under review.

[Translation]

Manufacturing of Russian Arms in Indian Ordnance Factories

4114. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russian arms are proposed to be manufactured in Indian Ordnance Factories in view of the paucity of work therein;

(b) if so, whether any agreements for joint defence production with Russia has been signed in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the terms and conditions laid down therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir. However, arms of Russian Origin are being manufactured in OFs under transfer of technology arrangements for supplies to the Indian Armed Forces.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of above.

Petrol Pumps/LPG Agencies in the Country

4115. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI:
SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD:
SHRI J.S. BRAR:
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:
SHRI PUSP JAIN:
SHRI VINOD KHANNA:

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

(a) the number of petrol pumps and LPG agencies in the country as on date alongwith the total quantum of LPG being supplied to them every month;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase petrol pumps and LPG agencies in the country during the next two years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) (a) to (c) As on 1.10.2000, there were 17925 retail outlet dealerships and 6330 LPG distributorships in operation all over the country. The total average quantity of LPG being supplied to the LPG distributorships all over the country per month is around 526.543 TMT

In order to meet the increased demand, in addition to the locations pending from the previous marketing plans, 927 retail outlets and 2078 LPG distributorships have been included in the marketing plans 1996-98 all over the country. More dealerships/distributorships will be set up on the basis of feasibility surveys.

[English]

Gap between two Rail Lines

4116. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railway tracks have been laid down close to each other;

(b) if so, the reasons for not having a wide gap between double tracks to avoid railway accidents and track damage during accidents; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to build double tracks in future at a wide distance?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise

Permission to Lufthansa Airlines

4117. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have not granted permission to German Carrier Lufthansa to operate extra flights into India; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) The issue relating to increase in air traffic rights between India and Germany was discussed during the Inter-Governmental talks held in New Delhi in September, 2000. The two sides exchanged various proposals but could not reach a final agreement.

Acquisition of Large Passenger Aircrafts

4118. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India has also made up its mind to have a large aircraft keeping in view of the rising passenger traffic; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Air India has no plans, at present, to purchase any new aircraft. However, Air India is acquiring 4 A310-300 aircraft on dry lease to augment its fleet as an interim measure. Indian Airlines is undertaking a techno-economic evaluation study for acquisition of some new aircraft to meet its long term requirements. Further, to meet its immediate requirements Indian Airlines is acquiring 5 B737-200 and 2 A-320 aircraft on dry lease. Indian Airlines is also acquiring 3 A300B4 aircraft offered for sale by Air India.

[Translation]

Utilisation of Wagons and Rakes

4119. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some wagons and rakes are lying unused in each Zone;

(b) if so, whether despite these unused wagons/ rakes, the Government propose to purchase some more wagon /rakes; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) Presently there are no wagons or rakes lying idle. The demand for movement of freight traffic on the Railways is a derived demand. This demand is generated mainly by the key infrastructure sectors of the economy which may fluctuate on day to day, period to period and seasonal basis. The railways have also to cater for peak demand. Therefore wagons may idle temporarily due to demand fluctuation.

The Railways have proposed procurement of wagons to meet the expected growth in freight traffic.

[English]

Excess Funds Remitted by Naval and Air Headquarters

4120. SHRI C.N. SINGH Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Naval and Air Headquarters had remitted funds to Naval and Air Adviser in High Commission of India, London far in excess of requirement resulting in loss of interest of Rs. 3.50 crore during 1991-92;

(b) if so, whether the matter has since been inquired into;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the follow-up action taken against the officials found responsible for that?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) In 1990, the Government had decided to close Supply Wing in the Indian High Commission in London. A Residual Supply Wing (RSW) manned by a skeleton staff, was, however retained to complete the winding up formalities. Remittances to the Residual Supply Wing (RSW) were made by the Naval and Air Headquarters during 1991-92, as follows :—

(i) By Naval Headquarters 531,125 Pound Sterling

(ii) By Air Headquarters Rs. 70 lakhs in fee

2. The aforesaid remittances were made for making payments towards outstanding contractual liabilities, expenditure on petrol, oil, lubricant and for procurement of emergent requirement of spares for the aircrafts etc.

3. The funds placed at the disposal of the RSW during 1991-92 could not be fully utilized and were carried forward to the subsequent years. While the funds placed by the Air Headquarters were fully utilized by 1995-96, the outstanding balance, taking into consideration the subsequent remittances made during 1992-93 and 1994-95 amounting to Pound Sterling 1,18,322.62, was withdrawn and deposited in the Consolidated Fund of India in June, 1999.

4. The question of loss of interest on account of the money remaining unutilized does not arise as the public funds are not invested in interest bearing financial instruments in the normal course.

Non-Payment of Wages

4121. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Members of the Weavers Cooperative Society in Andhra Pradesh were not paid wages for the last six months after the society closing down due to misappropriation of funds by the staff and the former president;

(b) if so, whether the weavers have launched a relay hunger strike demanding the Government to take action against the culprits, recovery of amount and reopening of the society;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government have lifted all kinds of subsidies when the cost of raw material had gone up;

(d) if so, whether due to lack of market facilities, corruption among the officials, the stocks had piled up in all the societies;

(e) if so, whether the weavers were also not getting returns from the procured finished goods; and

(f) if so, the extent to which State Government and Union Government have agreed to help and assist the weavers in the State of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) There is no representation or complaint received by the Government on account of non-payment of wages due to closure of society and misappropriation of funds. However, there was a strike in a Pavakaraopara Weavers Cooperative Society, Vishakhapatnam District wherein the issue was settled amicably.

(c) and (d) No, Sir,

(e) and (f) Recently, the Government of India launched a new scheme i.e. Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana covering gamut of activities including support for basic input, infrastructure, strengthening of organization, design input, etc. to encourage product diversification and enhance marketability of the handloom products. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has also adopted various innovative measures such as new marketing avenues through organisation of Chenetha Bazars and Exhibitions. Efforts are being made by the Government of Andhra Pradesh to release funds to APCO for immediate payment of wages to the members of the Societies.

Bird Threat to Air Force Station, Bangalore

4122. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the threat from scavenging birds within 10 km. radius in Bangalore airport has caused much concern among the Air Force authorities;

(b) if so, whether the slaughter houses, residential complexes etc. have come closer to this Air Force Station;

(c) if so, whether the crash of MIG 21 at Delhi last month was also caused by a bird-hit; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps taken or proposed to be taken in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) The unplanned and rapid urbanisation has resulted in concentration of human habitations in the proximity of Yelahanka Airfield, which is about 20 km away from Bangalore, and is under Air Force control. Though, the average incidence of Bird-hit accident cases, at this Airfield, has remained one per year, stringent anti-bird measures have been adopted by the Indian Air Force, which have succeeded in keeping the bird activities at Yelahanka, under control.

(c) Yes, Sir, as per preliminary findings.

(d) The Government have introduced an amendment to the Aircraft Act, 1934 in 1988, making it a punishable offence to throw garbage or flay dead animals or open slaughter houses or carcass disposal plants within 10 km of airfields. Within the Air Force Bases, all round vegetation clearance has been undertaken by the Indian Air Force on regular basis. Besides this, the High Powered Committee on Fighter Aircraft Accidents (COFAA), constituted under the Chairmanship of Scientific Advisor to Raksha Mantri, to analyse the cause of accidents, has, *inter alia*, made certain recommendations on environmental aspects, in its reports, submitted in September, 1997, which are being implemented

Production of Crude Oil in Assam and Gujarat

4123. SHRI M.K. SUBBA Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the cost of production per barrel of crude in Assam and Gujarat and the Royalty payable to the respect States thereon;

(b) the production of oil from Assam wells during 1999 and the current year, alongwith the total royalty paid.

(c) whether there is any proposal to enhance the royalty on crude; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) The cost of production of Crude Oil for the year 1999-2000 is as given below:—

	(US\$ per barrel)*	
	Assam	Gujarat
(i) ONGC	13.60	5.88
(ii) OIL	3.73	-
(iii) Private/JV	-	3.92

*Exclusive of Cess and Royalty

The present rate of royalty on crude oil payable by the National Oil Companies like ONGC and OIL to oil producing States is Rs. 800/- per tonne. However, as per the Production Sharing Contracts signed between the Government of India and Joint Venture/Private companies, the royalty payable to the concerned State Governments by these companies is Rs. 481/- per tonne.

Note :

ONGC : Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.

OIL : Oil India Ltd.

Pvt./JV : Private/Joint Venture Companies

(b) The details are given below :

	Production (MMT)	Royalty accrued/ paid (Rs. crore)
(i) 1999-2000	5.016	331.51
(ii) 2000-2001 (Apr.-Oct., 2000)	3.356	199.09*

*April-Sept., 2000

(c) and (d) Government have been enhancing the rate of royalty on crude oil on provisional basis from time to time, pending regular revision of the rate of royalty. The rate of royalty was provisionally increased from Rs. 578/MT to Rs. 750/MT on 1.12.1999 with effect from June, 1999. The provisional rate was further enhanced from Rs. 750/MT to Rs. 800/MT on 2.5.2000 with effect

from 1.1.2000. A Committee has been constituted on 26.4.2000 for evolving a new Scheme of royalty effective from 1.4.1998. On receipt of the Report of the Committee, the Government would examine its recommendations and take appropriate views to the matter.

Abolition of Kerosene Quota for States

4124. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's objective is to replace the kerosene with LPG for minimising the subsidy by abolishing the kerosene quota of the States; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to make these dealerships economically viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) (a) and (b) The Central Government authorises release of additional LPG connections in lieu of surrender of quota of SKO for Public Distribution System on the request of the concerned State Governments.

The States/Union Territories have been advised from time to time to rationalise the distribution of Kerosene under the Public Distribution System.

Tenders for Transportation in Haryana

4125. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether oil sector PSUs have really ignored basic condition for qualifying the tenders for qualifying the tenders for tendering transportation rates in Haryana;

(b) if so, the reasons for giving two different rates to contractors and transporters first time in the history; and

(c) the reasons for finalising such contracts after the expiry of 240 days of calling the tenders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) Oil Sector PSUs have reported that the basic conditions for qualifying the tenders for tendering transportation rates in Haryana have not been ignored.

At present, there are two rates prevailing for transportation of POL in Haryana. This is due to the fact that a few tenderers quoted lower rates and the tenders were awarded to them as per the quoted rates. Since, the number of tankers offered by tenderers of lower rates were not sufficient, negotiations were carried out by oil PSUs in Haryana and the negotiated rate was offered to the rest of tenderers and the same was accepted. There was delay in finalising the tenders due to agitation by the transporters for changing certain tender conditions leading to stoppage of POL supplies for few days, resulting in cancellation of earlier tender.

Train Superintendents in Rajdhani Express

4126. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the train superintendents in the Rajdhani Express from Howrah are posted on that train for a long period carrying items from Howrah to Delhi and from Delhi to Howrah for trading/selling and carrying some people on that train without ticket by getting charge for themselves;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of complaints received against such officials; and

(d) the action taken against the erring officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Second Airport at All Metropolitan Cities

4127. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to set up second airport in all the metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, the time by which these second airport is likely to be set up in each metropolitan cities;

(c) the estimated cost of these new airports; and

(d) the details of proposal mooted by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, State Government of Maharashtra has plans to develop a

second airport at Navi Mumbai to meet the long term air traffic requirements. The proposal is at a preliminary stage.

Technical and Infrastructure Development of Airports

4128. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether private sector participation is proposed for the technical and infrastructural development of Airports; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal mooted by the Government in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) It has been decided to restructure the airports of the Airports Authority of India as and when found suitable through long term lease. At present the airports of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Calcutta have been taken up for this exercise. Government has also approved proposals from the respective State Governments for construction of new international airports at Hyderabad, Bangalore and Goa through private sector participation. These proposals are at a preliminary stage

Donation of Land

4129. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a prime-piece of land belonging to Railway at Ultadanga in Calcutta has been donated to a cine-star-turned hotelier; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. Railways have only agreed to lease a piece of land at Ultadanga in Calcutta to AAMRA, a charitable organisation committed to treatment of thalassaemia patients, for setting up of a hospital.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Modernisation of Indian Air Force

4130. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air Force has informed the Government that various kinds of helicopters, arms and radars are required for its modernisation; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken by the Government to update the Indian Air Force?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The IAF has formulated a Modernisation Plan to enhance its combat Aircraft strength in terms of quality, as well as, quantity. Plans are in hand to augment squadron force levels.

[English]

Reduction in Foreign Tourists Arrival

4131 SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in recent months there has been considerable reduction of foreign tourist arrivals in the country, particularly in Agra;

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

(c) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) There has been consistent growth every month in tourist arrivals to India during the year 2000 as compared to the corresponding months of the previous years. However, as per the information furnished by the Government of Uttar Pradesh, there has been a marginal decline of visits of tourists to Agra. The decline in visits of foreign tourists to Agra may be due to preferences of tourists for one place over the other. The tourist arrivals to the country as a whole and visits of foreign tourists to Agra during the months of June, 2000 to September, 2000 are as given below :—

Year	Tourist Arrivals in India		Visits of foreign tourists to Agra	
	1999	2000	1999	2000
June	1,53,225	1,68,716	6,146	5,959
July	1,89,045	2,04,969	10,444	9,554
August	1,84,808	1,89,902	18,561	18,267
September	1,69,200	1,81,292	16,574	15,974

(c) Development of tourist places for attracting tourists in any State is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/U.T. Administrations. However, Department of Tourism, Government of India, promotes tourist places through improvement of tourist facilities,

publicity and marketing efforts which include putting up of computer based tourist information kiosks at places of tourist attractions, creation of CD-ROM on important monuments, development of websites etc.

Shortage of Petrol, Diesel and LPG in Delhi

4132. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

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

(a) whether there has been shortage of petrol, diesel and LPG in Delhi and other places in the country in the month of November, 2000;

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

(c) the measures taken by the Government to ensure regular and full supply of petrol, diesel and LPG to consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) Indian Oil Corporation has reported that during the period from 06.11.2000 to 14.11.2000, the Petroleum Workers' Union of Indian Oil Corporation Limited had resorted to "work-to-rule" agitation. This had affected the supplies of MS, HSD and LPG to the dealer/distributors of Indian Oil Corporation in the country. However, the supplies were made by other oil marketing companies.

Findings of Enquiry Committee

4133. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the findings of enquiry committee set up to enquire into the causes of train accident of Narsapur Express near Ghatkeshwar (Secunderabad-Kazipet Section) during 1999; and

(b) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) The derailment pertains to 7007 Up Godavari Express near Ghatkeshwar on Secunderabd-Kazipet Section of South Central Railway and not of Narsapur Express.

As per findings of the Inquiry Report of Commissioner of Railway Safety, South Central Circle, Secunderabad, the derailment occurred most probably due to failure of

a fatigued Alumino-thermic (AT) weld of the Contiguously Welded Rails (CWR) in the left side rail of Up track at Km. 300/15-13 under the passage of either the previous train or the ill fated train.

The detection of cracks in rails or welds is done by Ultrasonic Flaw Detection System, the efficacy of which is under study of a Technical Development Group consisting of Dr. Baldev Raj of Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam and other officers. Action has also been initiated for development of gadgets for detection and thereafter removal of defective wheels of wagons that enhance the impact on the rail, causing their failure. Actions to detect weld and rail cracks by patrolling of railway tracks during vulnerable temperature conditions has also been taken.

Escalator at IGIA

4134. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the escalator which caused death at the Indira Gandhi International Airport on December 13, 1999 came off again on June 3, 2000 when a plate come off;

(b) whether after repair, the escalator was not checked;

(c) if so, the reasons for such negligence; and

(d) the enquiry proposed to fix responsibility for negligence?

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

(b) After maintenance/servicing and overhauling the escalator was checked by Airports Authority of India as well as M/s OTIS engineers and certificate of fitness was issued by M/s OTIS for use.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Releasing of Funds by EDCC

4135. DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI:
SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Export Development Corporation of Canada would release funds for Railway Projects;

(b) if so, the funds expected from Canada; and

(c) the terms and conditions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Export Development Corporation (EDC), Canada is an Export Credit Agency and provides funds to finance procurement of goods and services of Canadian origin. It has extended a line of credit for US Dollars 52 million to Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) to partly finance the import of 21 High Horse Power Diesel Electric Freight Locomotives from General Motors Corporation, USA and related Transfer of Technology, for which contracts were placed by the Ministry of Railways. An amount of US Dollars 38 million has so far been released by Export Development Corporation to the supplier and the balance amount will be released in instalments linked to various stages of implementation of transfer of technology during the period up to December, 2005. Export Development Corporation has also offered to part-finance the import of 10 Diesel Electric Passenger Locos from General Motors Corporation, for which contract was placed by the Ministry of Railways in 1999.

(c) The credit availed from Export Development Corporation to finance import of Diesel Electric Freight Loco is repayable in semi-annual instalments over a period of 10 years and carries interest at the rate of 6 Monthly LIBOR (London Inter Bank Offer Rate) plus 30 basis points.

Setting up of Airport Cargo Complex at Nasik

4136. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a airport cargo complex at Nasik for exporting agricultural and other foods;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Pending Proposals of Private Air Taxi Operators

4137. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to give clearance to the pending proposals from new air taxi operators;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for delay in granting clearances to those proposals?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Consideration of proposals to commence non-scheduled air transport operations (air taxi services) is an ongoing process. At present 9 applications are pending consideration, details of which are given in the enclosed statement.

Pending Applications for non-scheduled Air Transport Services (ATO)

S. N	Applicant's Name	Date of Application	Reasons
1.	Future Travels Ltd.	04.12.2000	MHA clearance awaited.
2.	R.C. Aviation (India)	15.11.2000	-do-
3.	Bilakhia Holdings Pvt Ltd.	02.11.2000	-do-
4.	Jindal Strips Ltd.	27.09.2000	To be placed in the next meeting.
5.	North Airways	12.09.2000	To be placed before the AAC.
6.	Summit Aviation	11.09.2000	Considered by the AAC on 10.11.2000.
7.	Enbee Aviation Ltd.	17.08.2000	-do-
8.	Ennoble Airways	07.08.2000	MHA security clearance awaited.
9.	Wings Aviation	08.05.2000	To be placed before the AAC.

Development work at Vijayawada Airport

4138. SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the development work of Vijayawada Airport has been completed; and

(b) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Airports Authority of India has strengthened the existing runway (5725 ft. x 150 ft.) along with associated pavements and has also constructed a new apron of 350 ft. x 250 ft. and link taxi way of 450 ft. x 75 ft. for operation of B-737 class of aircraft. In addition, the modification of the existing terminal building along with other allied works at a total cost of Rs. 54.87 lakhs has also been done to cater to 100 passengers.

Licences to Private Airlines

4139. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some private airlines have applied for licence;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Consideration of proposals to commence airline operations is an on-going process. At present, applications received from two new private companies namely, M/s Crown Express Pvt. Ltd. and M/s Ahmedabad Aviation & 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 4 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) Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh.

Besides M/s Stallion Airlines who was given NOC on 8.4.1997 has sought extension in NOC which is also under examination. NOC has also been given to M/s Modiluft Ltd. on 29.2.2000 subject to certain conditions.

Maintenance of Tourist Centres

4140. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the historical and ancient places in Madhya Pradesh which attract tourists;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the tourist centres in the States are not being properly maintained; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Ujjain, Gwalior, Shivpuri, Orchha, Chanderi, Amarkantak, Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur, Khajuraho, Sanchi, Mandu, Omkareshwar and Vidisha are the main historical and ancient places of tourist attraction in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) Department of Tourism, Government of India sanctions projects for development of tourist infrastructure in consultation with State Governments/UT Administrations. However, maintenance of places of tourist interest is the responsibility of the concerned State Government/UT Administration.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

CBI Inquiry in Wet Lease of Caribjet Airlines

4141. SHRI BABBAN RAJBHAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any CBI enquiry is going on to investigate into the wet lease agreements of Caribjet Airlines of 1994 and 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) At the request of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the CBI has registered a Preliminary Enquiry in this regard against the officials of Air India associated with the Wet-lease deal including the then Managing Directors of Air India and the Managing Director of M/s Caribjet. The main allegations being enquired into are:

- Terms offered to M/s Caribjet by Air India were more favourable than those offered in 1994.
- Non-inclusion of termination clause.
- Whether the termination was warranted.
- Circumstances leading to termination.
- Whether adequate efforts were made to protect the commercial interests of Air India, while terminating the agreement.
- Whether adequate efforts were made to protect commercial interests of Air India in the arbitration proceedings.
- Any other related issue that may crop up during investigations.

(c) It may not be possible to lay down a specific time frame for completion of investigations at this stage.

Training to Students at Vanasthali Airport

4142. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of students imparted aviation training on Vanasthali air strip by Ahmedabad Aviation Academy during the last three years alongwith the total hours of the training imparted;

(b) the length and width of Vanasthali airstrip;

(c) whether Ahmedabad Aviation Academy had taken permission to conduct the flights on the said airstrip;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the action taken against the academy?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) A total of 279.05 hours flying training was imparted to 55 students by Ahmedabad Aviation Academy on Banasthali airstrip during the last three years.

(b) The airstrip at Banasthali is 3600 feet long and 100 feet wide.

(c) to (e) No permission is required by an approved flying academy for undertaking flying training operations with its aircraft at any other approved flying club.

[English]

Ownership of Port Rail

4143. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Railways proposes to take over the port rails;

(b) if so, whether any Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by Ministry of Railways with the Ministry of Shipping in that regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) The Ministry of Surface Transport has proposed over of the Port Railways to the Ministry of Railways. The issue is under discussion between the Ministry of Railways and the Ministry of Surface Transport.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Foreign Vessels

4144. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Calcutta Port Trust failed to follow the directives of his Ministry of September, 1986 according to which Daughter Vessels carrying crude oil brought by another tanker from foreign country are to be treated as foreign vessels due to which port suffered revenue loss of Rs 1.30 crore;

(b) if so, whether any responsibility has been fixed for the same;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against those officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUMUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (d) In the year 1986, Ministry had issued instructions to all Major Port Trusts [including Calcutta Port Trust (CPT)] that daughter vessels for conveyance of crude oil brought to ports by mother tankers from foreign countries are to be treated as 'foreign vessels'. Calcutta Port Trust has informed that the instructions issued by the Ministry did not come to their notice till the year 1997 and therefore they continued to charge daughter vessels at the rates applicable to 'coastal vessels'. However having recourse to the said instructions of the Ministry, the CPT preferred bills on M/s Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) and Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) from June, 1995, keeping in view the provisions of the Major Port Trusts Act for raising bills towards short levy of charges within a period of 2 years, from the date of payment of charges. While IOC is paying the bills under protest, M/s. SCI have not paid and raised several disputes. Further, IOC has obtained the opinion of Additional Solicitor General according to which such vessel is to be treated as one engaged in coastal trade. The Port Trust have also pointed out that Tariff Authority for Major Ports (TAMP), who have been presently authorised to fix the Scale of Rates, have reiterated that "for the purpose of vessel related charges in terms of provision of Merchant Shipping Act, 'coastal' has to be taken to mean "from one Indian port to another Indian port" and the nature of cargo or its origin will be of no relevance for the purpose of levy of vessel related charges. On the said issue, a policy decision will have to be taken by the Government which will be effective from a prospective date.

For the loss suffered by the CPT for having treated such vessels as 'coastal vessel' instead of 'foreign vessel', the Port Trust have been asked to fix responsibility on the erring officials.

[Translation]

Safety System in Private Air Services

4145. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have laid down any norms to improve safety system in private air services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of inspection carried out by the safety audit team of the Director General, Civil Aviation during the last one year; and

(d) the action taken in cases of anomalies?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) To improve safety system of airlines, continuous steps are taken by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) such as 100% monitoring of flight recorders, safety audits of airlines, flight checks of crew by DGCA Flight Inspectors, implementation of safety recommendations emanating from accidents, inspection of aerodromes, installation of Minimum Safe Altitude Warning System (MSAW) on Air Traffic Control Radars, installation of Airborne Collision Avoidance Warning System (ACAS) and Ground Proximity Warning System (GPWS) on aeroplanes etc.

(c) and (d) During the last one year i.e. November, 1999 to December, 2000 (till date), eight safety audits have been carried out by DGCA audit teams.

The deficiencies observed during the audit are pursued with the operators for their early remedial action.

12.00 hrs.

[English]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of

- Buddhist Studies, Leh Ladakh, for the year 1997-98.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh Ladakh, for the year 1997-98, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh Ladakh, for the year 1997-98.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2803/2000]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh Ladakh, for the year 1998-99.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh Ladakh, for the year 1998-99, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh Ladakh, for the year 1998-99.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2804/2000]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh Ladakh, for the year 1999-2000.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh Ladakh, for the year 1999-2000, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh Ladakh, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2805/2000]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, Nalanda for the year 1999-2000.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, Nalanda for the year 1999-2000, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, Nalanda for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2806/2000]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy of the Railway Claims Tribunal (Salaries and Allowances and Conditions of Service of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members) Amendment Rules, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No G.S.R. 733 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st September, 2000, under sub-section (3) of section 30 of the Railway Claim Tribunal Act, 1987.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2807/2000]

- (2) A copy of the Railways Red Tariff Rules, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 266 in Gazette of India dated the 15th July, 2000, under section 199 of the Railways Act, 1989 together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 662 (E) dated the 14th August, 2000

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2808/2000]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :—
- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2809/2000]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Konkan Railway Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Konkan Railway Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No LT. 2810/2000]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :—

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Mazagon Dock Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Mazagon Dock Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2811/2000]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1999-2000.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2812/2000]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Aeronautical Development Agency, Bangalore, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Aeronautical Development Agency, Bangalore, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2813/2000]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2814/2000]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2815/2000]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering and Winter Sports, Aru-Pahalgam, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering and Winter Sports, Aru-Pahalgam, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 2816/2000]

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

A copy of the National Legal Services Authority (Amendment) Rules, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 166(E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th February, 2000 under sub-section (1) of section 30 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2817/2000]

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Santosh Gangwar, I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Gas Authority of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual Report of the Gas Authority of India Limited, New Delhi for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. 2818/2000]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Engineers India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual Report of the Engineers India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2819/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy of the Central Silk Board General Provident Fund (Amendment) Rules, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 432 in Gazette of India dated the 4th November, 2000 under sub-section (3) of 13 of the Central Silk Board Act, 1948.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2820/2000]

(2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section 1 of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Handloom Development Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Handloom Development Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the year 1999-2000, along

with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2821/2000]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Wool Research Association, Thane, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Wool Research Association, Thane, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2822/2000]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Wool and Woollens Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Wool and Woollens Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year, 1999-2000

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2823/2000]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the All India Handloom Fabrics Marketing Co-operative Society Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the All India Handloom Fabrics Marketing Co-operative Society Limited, New Delhi, for the year, 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2824/2000]

(6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Synthetic and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Synthetic and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2825/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Kochi Refineries Limited, Ernakulam, for the year 1999-2000.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Kochi Refineries Limited, Ernakulam, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2826/2000]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : Sir, I beg to lay in the Table:

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963:—
- (i) G.S.R. 705 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th September, 2000 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 3(E) dated the 31st December, 1999.
 - (ii) G.S.R. 676 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th August, 2000 approving the New Mangalore Port Trust Employees (Retirement) Second Amendment Regulation, 2000.
 - (iii) G.S.R. 728 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th September, 2000 approving the New Mangalore Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2000.
 - (iv) G.S.R. 729 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th September, 2000 approving the New Mangalore Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2000.
 - (v) G.S.R. 739 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd September, 2000 approving the Tuticorin Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2000.

(vi) G.S.R. 740 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd September, 2000 approving the Tuticorin Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2000.

(vii) G.S.R. 745 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 2000 approving the Calcutta Port Trust Employees (Non-Contributory Provident Fund) First Amendment Regulations, 2000.

(viii) G.S.R. 746 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 2000 approving the Madras Port Employees (Conduct) Amendment Regulations, 2000.

(ix) G.S.R. 748 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th September, 2000 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 2 (E) dated the 31st December, 1999.

(x) G.S.R. 755 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th September, 2000 approving the Paradip Port Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) (4th Amendment) Regulations, 2000.

(xi) G.S.R. 769 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd October, 2000 approving the New Mangalore Port Trust Employees (Conduct) Amendment Regulations, 2000.

(xii) G.S.R. 776 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th October, 2000 approving the New Mangalore Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2000.

(xiii) G.S.R. 777 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th October, 2000 approving the New Mangalore Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2827/2000]

(2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Shipping Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual Report of the Shipping Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year

1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2828/2000]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1999-2000.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2829/2000]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam, for the year 1999-2000.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2830/2000]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Ship Design and Research Centre, Visakhapatnam, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Ship Design and Research Centre, Visakhapatnam, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2831/2000]

[English]

12.01 hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

THIRTEENTH REPORT

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI (Nainital): Sir, I beg to present the Thirteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee (Thirteenth

Lok Sabha) on Action taken on 23rd Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on Infructuous expenditure on purchase of water coolers and filters.

[Translation]

12.02 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

STATEMENT

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I and final replies in respect of recommendations contained in Chapter V of the Second Report of the Committee on Public Undertakings (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on Senior Level posts in Public Undertakings Appointments and related matters.

12.02½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

NINTH REPORT

SHRI KARIYA MUNDA (Khunti): I beg to present a copy of Ninth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes including minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the sitting of the committee relating thereto on "Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in their Fifth Report (Twelfth Lok Sabha) on Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Secondary Education and Higher Education)—Reservation for the Employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Indian Institutes of Technology including Reservation for Schedule Castes and Scheduled Tribes in admission therein.

12.03 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

FIFTH REPORT

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I beg to present the Fifth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the committee on Petitions (Thirteenth Lok Sabha).

12.03^{1/3} hrs.*[English]*

**COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND
FORESTS**

ACTION TAKEN REPORT

PROF. R. R. PRAMANIK (Mathurapur) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests and Action taken by the Department of Biotechnology on the recommendations contained in the Seventy-fourth Report of the Committee on the Demands for Grants (2000-2001) of the Department of Biotechnology.

12.04 hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT
AND TOURISM**

FORTY SIXTH REPORT

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Forty-sixth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Transport and Tourism on "Chartering and Management of Flights for Haj Pilgrims".

12.04^{1/3} hrs.

PRESENTATION OF PETITION

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Sir, I beg to present a petition signed by Sarvashri Vipul Modi and Bharat Kotecha of Mumbai regarding revival of Over-the-Counter-Exchange of India (OTCEI), Mumbai.

12.05 hrs.

**MOTION RE : SIXTEENTH REPORT OF
BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Sixteenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 13th December, 2000."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this house do agree with the Sixteenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 13th December, 2000."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Punnu Lal Mohale.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will call everyone. I have allowed calling attention on postal strike.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: With regard to the postal strike, I have allowed a Calling Attention. It would be taken up tomorrow.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Sir, you had assured that an opportunity would be given to us to speak about the labourers of Maruti Udyog Ltd. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand. The Calling Attention has been posted for tomorrow.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you do not want to speak on the Calling Attention, you can raise this matter during the 'Zero Hour'. I can call your name also. Otherwise, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Sir, we have submitted a notice in this regard. 4000 employees of Maruti Udyog Ltd. are sitting in front of Udyog Bhawan.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you after this.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, I will allow you later. Please sit down. I have called Shri Punnu Lal Mohale.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Sir, my request is regarding declaring gazetted holiday on 18 December on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Sant Guru Ghasidas ji.

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): Sir, this is a very important issue.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except what Shri Punnu Lal Mohale says.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Anil Basu, are you interested in the Calling Attention or not? If you are not interested, you may please tell me.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You do not know the procedure. You are raising every matter that you want. Are you interested in the Calling Attention or not?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU: Sir, you were very kind enough to admit the Calling Attention but what about the response on the part of the Government?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not disturb the House now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except what Shri Punnu Lal Mohale says.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, for declaring holiday on 18 December, the birth anniversary of Sant Guru Ghasidas ji of Chattisgarh I would like to say that Sant Baba Guru Ghasidas ji was born on 18 December, 1756 at village Girodpuri district Bilaspur which now falls in district Raipur. From very young age Ghasidas ji started performing miracles and also started preaching people the path of spiritual knowledge, peace and love, mesmerised by this miracles people started treating him as a saint. He was not a common man. The occurrence of an incident changed his life thoroughly. The incident was the death of his wife Smt. Safura. Moved by the death of his wife babaji went on top of a 200 feet hill in a jungle to commit suicide. The hill was known as Chhatta Pahar.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when he could not bear the grief of his wife's demise he tried to commit suicide by jumping down from the mountain Chhatta, but by the grace of God he was unhurt. And thereafter, he devoted himself to deep meditation in the mountain Chhatta for six months. He received a divine message oh man, you are not an ordinary person, you have to mitigate the pain and sufferings of lakhs of people, so go and do something for them. After coming he took out his wife's body from the graveyard who died six months back and restored the life of his wife by revealing the truth of life and letting her to taste the nectar. The entire society, highly surprised on this act, applauded him and lakhs of people became his followers. The people belonging to Sahu and Yadav community also became his followers and adopted Satnam Religion because he had restored the life of a dead she-calf and many boys. The Madhya Pradesh Government observes a holiday on 18th December since long. So, I urge upon the Union Government to declare 18th December as a Gazetted holiday.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record. Now, Shri Ramji Lal Suman.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir thousands of workers of the Maruti Udyog are sitting on Dharna in open in this biting cold since yesterday in front of Udyog Bhawan.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Ramji Lal Suman says.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the workers have been making demands to the management and hon. Minister for the last 18 years, but no one acceded to their demands. This matter was earlier raised in the House through calling attention motion, but solution of this problem could not be made and the management continued with its stubborn attitude. Sir, through you, I request hon. Minister to invite both the sides and get their problems solved.

....(Interruptions)

[English]

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

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ramji Lal Suman, a discussion on the same proposal has already been held in the House under calling attention motion.

....(Interruptions)

[English]

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

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what for this House is? When problem could not be solved despite discussion on this matter, then where should we take this matter? What is the use of raising the matter here, when despite discussion under calling attention motion, no action could be taken?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish that you direct hon. Minister to invite both the sides and solve their problems by listening them. This matter is continuing since the last 18 months, but the Government have not adopted any positive attitude in this regards.

....(Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want your protection. I request that you direct hon. Minister of Labour to invite both the sides, listen to them and reach some solution immediately.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a serious issue. 4000 employees of Maruti Udyog Ltd. are sitting empty stomach in the open in this biting cold.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is an issue involving four thousand employees, the Government is doing nothing.

....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can all associate with what Shri Ramji Lal Suman said.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the management of Maruti Udyog is suppressing the workers, 4000 employees of Maruti Udyog are sitting on Dharna in biting cold in front of Udyog Bhawan. Please do not take this matter lightly.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this Athawale ji? You are interrupting when a lady member is speaking. Do not you want to maintain any discipline in the House? Please sit down.

[English]

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO (Bolangir): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this House to the plight of the people in my constituency. As you may be aware, the entire Western Orissa is reeling under unprecedented drought of which Bolangir is, what you may call, the epicentre.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Athawale, a lady Member is speaking. Please take your seat. Show some courtesy towards lady Members.

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO : Out of 241 gram panchayats, 229 gram panchayats have been totally affected, while the rest are partially affected. Since there is no rainfall there is acute scarcity of water and hence, crop loss has been estimated to the extent of 80 per cent. Mass exodus from the area has reached alarming proportions. Till today, 36,000 people have migrated to neighbouring States. This is not a mere drought; in fact it is a famine like situation. So, I would

like to request the hon. Prime Minister to kindly visit the area and declare the drought that is there, as a national calamity.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): Sir, I associate myself with what she has just now said.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): As requested by the lady Member from Bolangir, a Central team should visit the districts of Bolangir and Kalahandi both, in the State of Orissa.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Deo, you can also associate with her. Now, Shri Adhir Chowdhury.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDAURY (Berhampore, West Bengal): I would like to draw the attention of this House to the deteriorating financial situation of jute growers in my State. They are suffering severe financial constraint due to non-availability of adequate support price. More than four crores of our population earn their livelihood either by producing jute or by manufacturing it. Every year, as much as Rs. 700 crore of foreign exchange is pouring into our Central coffer by exporting jute related materials. You are well aware that this year, flood has brought a havoc in the agricultural sector in West Bengal.

All purchasing centres under JCI have stopped purchasing the jute since occurrence of flood. Therefore, jute growers in my State are undergoing precarious situation. Due to non-existence of crop insurance scheme, the jute growers could not retrieve their losses. We came to know that this Government is generous to Andhra Pradesh and Punjab farmers. I am not nurturing any jealousy against them. What is sauce for the goose should be the sauce for the gander also. I know that compulsion of coalition politics has impelled the Government to extend cooperation to these States. I would urge upon this Government to take up the matter seriously so that jute growers of my State can get proper value for their produce. They are now facing pauperisation. The middlemen and *faria* are exploiting and fleeing the jute growers. Out of desperation, they are selling their produce for a song. This matter should be considered seriously. May I request you to extract a statement from the Minister concerned because it is a serious problem in my State?

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You can also associate with him.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? I am not able to understand this type of discussion. One Member is raising the issue and immediately all other Members get up and start speaking.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, please understand that this is 'Zero Hour'.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? You are not allowing the Minister to give the reply.

....(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, the hon. Member has said that JCI has stopped purchasing jute. I will talk to the Minister concerned and see what can be done.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur): Orissa is facing very grave financial problem. Continuous withdrawal of Ways and Means Advance and overdraft is a sign of fiscal ill health. At this juncture the Central Government has delayed revising the royalty on coal upward for more than three years. The coal prices, particularly the sale prices of power grade coal have gone up by sixty per cent since 1994 the year in which upward revision of royalty on coal was done last. The royalty rate has not gone up one paisa even after that. The due time for upward revision of royalty on coal was 1997. It has been delayed inordinately.

Orissa did not receive a fair deal from the Eleventh Finance Commission. Upward royalty revision is being deliberately delayed and Orissa suffers acutely under financial crunch.

There has been deliberate and motivated discrimination in the revision of royalty rates between the highest grade coal and the power grade coal. In 1971 royalty rate on select grade coal was only 11.8 per cent higher than that of power grade coal. In 1994, it was raised to 290 per cent over the royalty rate on the power grade coal. This discrimination was deliberate and motivated.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kanungo, in the 'Zero Hour', you should not read. You are not aware of the rules. Yesterday, you tore the Rule Book also

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: I have read the rules and I am following them hundred per cent. I am only quoting certain figures from the paper.

Orissa demands an immediate revision of royalty on coal. Instead of the present basis, it should be revised upward on *ad valorem* basis. This is our demand. It should be 25 per cent of the pit-month value of the coal sold. The Eleventh Finance Commission had recommended to pay compensation to the coal and mineral producing States. In case the upward revision is not done timely, it should be done immediately. The Sarkaria Commission has also told that the royalty on coal and mineral should be positively revised every two years. It has not been adhered to. Sir, through you, I request the hon. Minister to give a reply as to when he is going to make the upward revision of royalty on coal.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, I rise to raise an important matter for drawing the attention of this House as well as through you the attention of the Government of India.

For the last two days a mild earthquake is being experienced in Idukki, Pathanamthitta and Kottayam districts of Kerala. This district is particularly important because Sabari Mala temple is situated there. Crores of people are visiting that temple. A mild earthquake is being experienced and it is being repeated. So, I request the Central Government to send a team of experts to ascertain the cause and take precautionary measures so that further damages could be prevented. I once again request the hon. Minister, who is present here, to take note of the serious situation obtaining in those two hilly districts of Kerala especially in the context of Sabari Mala temple where crores of people are going during this season....(Interruptions) Sir, it is a serious problem. The Minister should respond to it.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, today farmers from all over the country are holding demonstration at Jantar Mantar under the leadership of former Prime Minister of India Shri Devegowda. Problems of farmers are not getting solved. Farmers from every region of the country are totally ruined. And so environment for a movement has been created. Today farmers are holding a very huge demonstration which would be addressed by former Prime Ministers Shri Devegowda and Shri V.P. Singh. Not only the farmers are being ruined but Government is also adopting a policy of discrimination. Farmers of Bihar are not being treated like the farmers of Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. The Government is adopting a discriminatory attitude towards these farmers. It's an act of betrayal on the part of Government. And so, a movement by the farmers would be launched against the Government in Delhi for adopting discriminatory policy against Bihar. The law is being

implemented in Punjab only and no where else. I demand that procurement of paddy may be as it has been done in Punjab, otherwise a movement would definitely take place, I am warning the Government and also challenging it. Ministers of Bihar are not Ministers, but are actually doing service. No welfare of the farmers of Bihar is being done, they are not getting equal treatment as compared to others and this is really injustice. I urge upon the House to teach a lesson to this Government which is anti farmers.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar): Sir, we also support him.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You also support in the same high tone.

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the tea industry, especially in South India, is facing serious crisis for more than a year now. The selling price of South Indian tea, which was Rs. 98 per Kg. has come down to Rs. 43 per Kg.

Sir, the cost of producing one kilogram of tea is Rs. 60 plus. Many tea estates are on the verge of closure. It is likely to jeopardise the interest of 2.5 lakh labourers who are permanently employed in this part of the country. Of the 2.5 lakh tea workers, 90 per cent are dalit and woman workers. The entire tea estate in South India should be protected.

Sir, day before yesterday, there was a strike. All the tea workers participated in the strike. So, the situation is very serious in South India. The coffee and rubber growers are also facing serious crisis due to fall in prices. It is a very important issue. The Government should protect the tea workers and coffee growers.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY (Ramanathapuram): Sir, I want to raise a very important issue.

MR. SPEAKER: I think the same subject was raised by the former Prime Minister, Shri Chandershekar yesterday.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: Sir, I would not have ventured to make a submission at all but for its grave concern and serious nature. This is about the internet website appeared a few days back which every one witnessed. Sir, this internet website belongs to TNLF which is a militant wing of TNLA which is known for its treacherous, dangerous, terrorist, and extremist activities.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHI SANKAR (Cuddalore): Sir, this matter is pending before the court.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, you do not know the subject. Please understand it. This is a different subject.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHI SANKAR: Sir, he cannot raise it.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is a different subject.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the statement of Shri Malaisamy.

....(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: Sir, they want to form a great Tamil Nadu annexing Kerala, parts of Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka and they want to go even beyond that. Sir, the most worrying part of it is that they want to secede from the main country.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Adhi Sankar, this is a different matter.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: Sir, they have been organising a big war for this purpose. They have also issued a war manual in which they are able to say how one should(Interruptions). Waging a war against the entire country and secession are serious matters. They want to cut away. They want to form a separate Tamil Nadu. They want to secede from the main land.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHI SANKAR: Sir, this matter is pending before the court.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you want to say anything, I would allow you also.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Adhi Sankar, if you want to say anything, I will allow you after him.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: Sir, to achieve their object they have appealed to vote for DMK.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed him. If you want to say anything, you can say it after him.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: Sir, they are hand-in-glove with each other. The DMK Government and these organisations—TNLA, TNRP and TNL—are pooling together and they are hand-in-glove with each other with the result, these organisations are let loose, and they are being given free hand by the Government. That is why, all these organisations should not be allowed to survive in this country at all because they want to secede from the main land itself. They say that they want to form a separate Tamil Nadu. Under the circumstances their(Interruptions) a call to vote for the DMK.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: Sir, they are hand-in-glove with the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. This will not go on record.

....(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Anything from the Government's side?

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. The Government is replying to it. Yesterday, hon. former Prime Minister Shri Chander Shekhar also mentioned something about this.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I do not know about the submission of yesterday because he mentioned something to you and only you are privy to it.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia U.P.) : I thought that this matter would be taken up at your level with the

Government to know whether they have any information about this and whether they are taking any action. I do not think that any discussion in this House is going to help the matter. It will create a more difficult situation. That is why I told you a day earlier that I do not want to raise this matter. But the matter is very serious. I showed you the papers concerning it that is appearing on the website. Now it has been raised also.....(Interruptions) I know how you got the printout. I know about it(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You should understand the seriousness of the subject also sometimes before simply raising it.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : In my opinion every matter should not be raised also. If the Government knows about it, if he has to say something about it, he is welcome. I hope that your office has forwarded that paper to the Government. The Government should come out with a statement on that.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I would like to make a very small point. As all of us were busy yesterday, till today I did not receive anything from the hon. Speaker's office. I do not blame anybody on this because yesterday throughout they were also sitting here up to 10 o'clock. So, I did not receive it and I have not gone into the details.

Secondly the issue has been raised here. At the outset I would like to say – now I cannot even say that I will communicate it to the hon. Minister because I am the Minister for Information and Technology myself – in this regard whatever is technologically possible will be definitely done. There has to be a political way out to be found out as a solution for this. I promise that I will take the papers from you, whatever has been given by hon. Shri Chandra Shekhar. We will first see whatever is technological possible to do against this(Interruptions). Can I answer? Then, if you can guide me about what to do technologically, I am ready to take the guidance of any hon. Member. First let me complete. I have nothing much to say.

Subject to correction, because this has come up on the spot and therefore I should not be hanged for saying something on the floor of the House, to the best of my knowledge a case has already been registered by the Government of Tamil Nadu under Section 124 (A) IPC and under Section 13 (A) and (AB) of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI (Salem) : The website has appealed to the voters to vote in favour of the DMK. How can the State Government be expected to take action against them?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : They have appealed to vote for all the Dravidian Parties, not just for DMK. AIADMK is also a Dravidian Party. They have also asked to vote for BSP, Dalit Sena and CPI (ML).

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

.....(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I am not sure where exactly this website is located. It may be outside the country. I am ready to listen to them. A website appealing to vote for 'A' Political Party or 'B' Political Party does not necessarily prove a connection between the website owner and that particular political party. It cannot. Suppose tomorrow I have a website which may say vote for a particular party and that may put up something which is anti-national, then this can be any kind of conspiracy. So, let us not come to conclusions and I would not accept this...

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt when the Minister is giving reply.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, let me reply. Cyber crimes are very difficult crimes. They are anonymous and it is very difficult to find out the footprints of these crimes. As I promised, whatever is possible technologically will be done to see that anti-national web sites do not exist. Whatever is possible technologically will be done. I am not denying it. But no political party should be blamed if some web site is saying something. When the Government of Tamil Nadu has already taken action against this, we should believe in that Government which is taking action.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the fact about which I had some doubts, is proving to be right. When I received the document, which is now well known to the world and I sent it to you because of the reason that unnecessary discussion may not take place between us, infact it was a question relating to unity and existence of the country. I do not know, as to which party is involved in this and which is not, but I feel sorry for Shri Pramod Mahajan's comments as this is not a matter to be ignored. So far as the security of this country is concerned, there are so many intelligence agencies, but no one paid any heed towards this matter, which shows that how much Government is concerned about the safety or security of

the country? The Government has maintained silence over the comments made on security of the country as well as the set up of security and statements criticising its Chiefs. Regarding Shri Pramod Mahajan's comments, I would only say that if the Government know that the Tamil Nadu Government have filed a lawsuit which is a good thing, then what has been done by RAW, the intelligence agency of the Union Government? Whether the Government knows anything in this regard? This has not happened in one day. Mr. Speaker, Sir, by the time I gave this document to you 32,000 people of this world had seen this and 44,000 more people witnessed it after 24 hours. It is not a small issue, which has been simply outlined, but 15-20 articles have been written on this. Those articles were not written in three or four days. Names of persons have been mentioned in those articles. This is not a secret matter, but the Government are not aware of even this. I wonder, why the Department of Information Technology is functioning, what is its purpose? Whether Information Technology has been created for making false propagandas against India and the Government of India may not get any information out of such an Information Technology? I fail to understand how the name of Hyderabad has become Cyberabad and a propaganda is being spread about a part of Hyderabad being its out of Hindustan. What the I.T. Department of Bangalore is doing in this regard. What the other people are propagating about us, is it not the responsibility of the Centre Government to keep an eye on them? Whether a formal reply would be given to every question to the effect that we are keeping an eye on that. It would not have been built in a day. It would have taken many days to build it.

I would request you to call all these people who are concerned with the Information technology and the Intelligence Department. Also call the hon. Home Minister. This propaganda is being made for long. What these people have done all along these days. I would like to request the hon. Members if my request is needed to let us not plunge into any controversy which may strengthen the divisive forces till the Government gives full information in this regard. I did not say this thing yesterday lest we should have difference in our opinions.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli) : Sir, please allow me. It is a very important matter.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am not allowing anybody to speak on this matter.

Sir P.C. Thomas, you are required to give a proper notice because you are making some allegations against the officials. So, it requires a proper notice under Rule 353. You are not allowed to raise the matter in the 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Sir, I will not say anything objectionable. Please allow me to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sukdeo Paswan, the matter mentioned in your notice is under my consideration. Please take note of it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Thomas, you have to give a proper notice. Please take your seat. I have already told you that you have to give a proper notice.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the House is discussing the Motion under Rule 184. Still, many hon. Members are to participate in it. If the House agrees, we may not adjourn for Lunch Hour today. I hope the House agrees to it.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please decide about the tentative time of the hon. Prime Minister's reply so that the hon. Members can be present in the House.

MR. SPEAKER: The reply by the hon. Prime Minister is at Four of the Clock.

Matters under Rule 377 may be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

12.41 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

- (i) **Need to resume rail service between Ankaleshwar to Rajpipala and Bharuch to Dahej in Gujarat**

[Translation]

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA (Bharuch) : I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the rail service in the industrial area from Ankaleshwar to Rajpipala and Bharuch to Dahej of my parliamentary

* Treated as laid on the Table of the House.

constituency. There is no rail service between these two cities following which the local people of this tribal dominated area have to face a lot of difficulties. On the one hand, people have to pay more for using road transport and there is wastage of time on the other. A rail service was available there prior to 1968 but the rail service was discontinued after the flood that struck in 1968, flood which caused several defects in the rail tracks and the rail service has not been resorted till today since then, whereas the demand has been made to restore the same for the last ten years.

I request the Central Government to restore the rail service in the public interests.

(ii) Need to exempt River Bed Power House of Sardar Sarovar-Project from Import Duty

[English]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch) : River Bed Power House (RBPH) of Sardar Sarovar Project in Gujarat State will generate 1200 M.W. power by six 200 MW capacity pump turbine motor generating sets which are to be imported from Japan at the contract price of 24,646.161 million Japanese Yen.

Government of Gujarat seeks custom duty exemption for getting such exemption this project requires to be certified as mega project by officer not below the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Power as required under custom notification No. 63/99. To consider the decision of Government of India and include this project in the list of projects specially exempted from payment of import duty as a special case.

I, therefore, urge the Minister of Power, to include River Bed Power House of Sardar Sarover Project in the list of project specially exempted from import duty at the earliest.

(iii) Need to fencing of border along with Myanmar to check terrorist activities from across the border

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa) : India has 1643 km international border with Myanmar. A large area of this border along hill ranges and dense forests. There is no border fence no any border posts. Lack of vigilance, inaccessibility of the area and establishment of underground, terrorist centres in Myanmar have posed great threat to the law and order situation of Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh. The activities of underground National Socialist Council of Nagaland have also spread to the North Cachar Hills District of Assam. The border

has helped the NSCN (Khaplag) group to extent its activities of Myanmar. Recently the Myanmar Army had fired upon the Assam Rifles on mistaken identity. Three Assam Rifle Jawans were killed.

There is immediate necessity for fencing the long Myanmar border, setting up of border check posts and long range patrolling by Central Para Military Forces.

I request the Government of India to take immediate steps in the matter.

(iv) Need to connect Bhiwadi in Rajasthan by rail

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Bhiwadi is one of the fast developing industrial towns in the National Capital Region. It is situated at 5 km away from Dharuhera, 25 km. away from Rewari and 75 km away from Delhi. More than 1000 Industrial units have been set up at Bhiwadi. A good population resides in and around of this area. The State Government has decided to develop it into a big town in view of the possibilities of prospective development of the said area. Besides, one Inland Depot Container has been sanctioned for Bhiwadi and the Government of India is also likely to sanction me export promotion industrial park for the area. This area needs to be connected with rail service due to its being a vast industrial area.

I demand from the Central Government to immediately connect Bhiwadi with rail service since this industrial area is totally cut off from the rail service at present resulting in the difficulties for the passengers in transporting the goods.

(v) Need to review the list of people living below the poverty line so as to include persons left out of the list

DR. SANJAY PASWAN (Nawada) : The list of the people living below the poverty line all over the country is defective. It has been prepared in haste. I demand from the concerned ministry that the list of the people living below the poverty line should immediately be reviewed and a supplementary list should be prepared for the persons who have been left out so that the people who are actually living below the poverty line could be included in the list. It is a very serious matter in itself in which the Government should pay prompt attention and take an early action.

(vi) Need to improve telephone service in Bihar particularly in rural areas

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai) : The infrastructural telephone facility is awfully lacking in Bihar. Most of the rural areas are still deprived of it. The MARR facility, which was made available in some rural areas, has now failed altogether. The position of STD facility is not good. The reason is that due to erratic power supply in most of the rural/urban areas, the telephone exchange located there become unoperational. The telephone exchange, where the generators have been provided for the power supply, also almost remains non-functional from evening to morning since the employees save for their homes in the evening. In view of the above situation it is necessary to connect rural areas of Bihar through W.L.L./G.S.M. as soon as possible and the alternative arrangement for power supply through generator or other means in all the telephone exchanges should permanently be made. Besides, the areas where the telephone facility is provided though over head wires should be connected with the O.F.C. on priority basis. And arrangement should be made to provide Internet facility in all the villages. An International Greatway of the Videsh Sanchar Nigam should immediately be set up in Patna as well. Mobile telephone facility should also be made available in all the district headquarters of Bihar.

(vii) Need to take steps to make Tannery and Footwear Corporation of India Limited in Kanpur, U.P. viable

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur) : The industrial character of Kanpur city has been spoiled. All the mills of the N.T.C., B.I.C. and TFCI have been closed or are on the brink of closure, which has remitted in widespread unemployment in Kanpur. The families and the dependents of the workers working in these mills are starving and a sense of resentment can take a serious turn at any time.

I, therefore, request the Government to take appropriate action immediately in this matter and issue orders for revival of these mills so that the workers of these mills and their families could lead a good life.

(viii) Need to sanction special package for the State of Orissa for providing relief to the people affected by drought particularly in ST dominated areas

SHRIMATI HEMA GAMANG (Koraput) : Much damage has been caused to the Rabi and Kharif crops this time around due to scanty rain in Orissa State. The production has been very less in Raigara, Koraput,

Balangeerm Malkangiri, Angul, Kalahandi, Dhenkanal and Bargarh districts due to lack of mutual coordination among the departments of Revenue, Irrigation and Agriculture.

Raigara and Koraput are the most affected districts where only 3 percent irrigation facility is available.

I request the Union Government that the farmers should be given subsidy on seeds and fertilizers for the Rabi crops and all the agricultural loans should either be waived off or made interest free. The recovery of loans taken by farmers for tractors should be postponed and these loans should also be made interest free to provide relief to the affected farmers in such a grave situation. All the above districts are tribal dominated. A special package should be announced in this hour of crisis and maximum funds should be provided for these districts to tide over the grave situation.

(ix) Need to extend more credit facilities to SC & ST people through Nationalised Banks

[English]

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (Kasargod) : I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the reluctance of banking institutions in support of economic activities of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes population.

The performance of banking institutions towards Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes clients are not upto the expected level. During the financial year 1999-2000, out of the total advance of Rs. 2346 crores in Trivandrum district of Kerala, the advance to SC & ST is Rs. 58.82 crores only. Except State Bank of India group advances of Rs. 2330 crores. Considering the total population of SC & ST, at least 10% of the total advance should go to SC & ST people. But the advance is just 3.6%. In Trivandrum district it is low at 2.5%.

I request the hon'ble Finance Minister to take necessary action in this matter so that the credit flow to SC & ST people may be increased at least to 10% of the total advances.

(x) Need to amend the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to allow plantation of Coffee in Forest Land in Andhra Pradesh

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam) : As per the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the cultivation of coffee is defined as non-forestry activity and hence not permitted on forest land. Due to high summer temperature in Andhra Pradesh, coffee plantation requires heavy

shade. But to this a good forest cover is maintained in coffee plantation in Andhra Pradesh. The agency areas of Visakhapatnam and East Godavari districts have good coffee plantations over 4000 hectares of forest land.

I request the Union Government to give exemption under Forest Conservation Act to grow coffee in the State of Andhra Pradesh. This will help to prevent shifting cultivation in forest areas, growth of tree cover on degraded forest land and will provide gainful employment to the local population. A request in this regard had already been submitted by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(xi) Need to safeguard the interests of Indigenous Small Scale Industries

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : The cheap import of goods have posed a crisis for the indigenous industries especially for the small scale and cottage industries, since the Government have announced to relax import restrictions in the country. Tyres, toys, dry cells, cycles, electronic goods and glass wares that were manufactured indigenously by the small scale and cottage industries are being imported from China at cheaper rate. The Chinese goods are also being smuggled into India via Nepal. Thus, the cheap goods of China have created crisis for the industries of our country. The small scale industries of the country are continuously turning sick. The Government is also aware of this fact. A monitoring committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Principal Secretary, but no concrete action has been taken as yet in this regard.

I, therefore, request the Government to take immediate action to check the inflow of cheap and smuggled Chinese goods into the country so that Indian industries may be protected.

(xii) Need to provide financial assistance to Government of Bihar for drainage of water logging in Munghyr Parliamentary Constituency

SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL (Munghyr) : Ten thousand acres of land of Kishanpur, Bhiraha, Jhapani, Medani Chok, Amarpur and Deodhara village of Suryagarh block of Lakhi-Sarai district and Vahachoki, Hemjapur, Shiv Kund, Maharana etc. villages of Dharhara block of Munghyr district all falling in the Munghyr Parliamentary Constituency remain submerged in the flood waters of Ganga river as there is no arrangement for drainage of the stagnant water. This is due to the locking of the gates of Ganga canal phase-II, a Centrally sponsored project that there is water logging. There is water logging from Variarpur and Kharagpur blocks to Gangania and from Lakshmipur Jamir to Kharia.

It is, therefore, requested to the Central Government to formulate a water drainage scheme and provide financial assistance for the drainage of water logged areas to protect this fertile land.

(xiii) Need for early clearance of Kombai-Kerala and Devaram-Kerala link road projects of Kerala Government

[English]

SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN (Periyakulam) : Lots of fruits and other agricultural products are transported from my constituency Periyakulam in Tamil Nadu to Kerala. There is a lot of trading activities with Kerala. In view of the heavy traffic to Kerala, two link roads were proposed to connect Kerala. One from Devaram. Schemes were drawn up to construct these roads. One road from Kombai near Cumbum would connect Tamil Nadu with Kerala through Ramakkal Mettu link road. The other road connect Devaram near Bodi, with Kerala via Sakulathumettu link road. These two roads when constructed would remove the inconvenience caused, not only to the people of the area, but to the people of both Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

But these two link road projects are pending with the Ministry of Environment and Forests for clearance.

In view of the importance and urgency of the matter, I request the Government to clear both road projects immediately.

(xiv) Need for a Fuel Policy in the Country

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi) Mr. Chairman, Sir, Coal Electricity and Petroleum sectors come under the purview of public sector. The objective of bringing them under the public sector was to achieve phenomenal progress in these sectors by blending labourer's toil with the Government's resources, but its progress has become unbearable for the nation today. In spite of investments of crores of rupees, these sectors are running in losses and in order to meet its losses, the prices of the products are increased. It is due to uncontrolled rise in the prices that transport in the country is getting costly which is adversely affecting the agriculture as well as industry. The products of both the sectors are not able to compete in the international market today.

I, therefore, request the Government to take steps for wider infrastructural reforms in these sectors. Transparency and efficiency should be ensured in the working of these sectors and a fuel policy should be

formulated in the country under which these three sectors may work and the prices may not rise beyond a limit within the country.

(xv) Need to increase subsidy on Agriculture Sector in the Country

SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN (Ferozpur) : It is on account of the skill and labour put in by the country especially those of Punjab that farmers of the country become self-sufficient in the production of foodgrains after the Green Revolution. However, the farmers who made the country self-sufficient seem to get subjugated and enslaved. Their produce get no marketing facility in the country or outside it. Their hard toil is not properly rewarded either in India or abroad. They have not only increased the production of foodgrains by mixing their blood with their sweat but have also attained the international level of production in respect of many foodgrains and yet their produce is not able to compete in the international market. It is because the subsidy and other facilities, which are provided by the Government of the foreign countries to their farmers, are not available to the farmers of this country. Maximum subsidy is provided directly to the farmers in the countries like America and they are strengthened and made independent. While in our country even the meagre subsidy that is being provided is proposed to be abolished. The cost of agricultural produce in the country is constantly increasing whereas the consumer prices of the products alongwith the subsidy given thereon are decreasing. The poor farmers are becoming the victims to severe economic crisis.

So the Government is requested to take immediate action regarding decreasing the cost of agricultural products, increasing amount of subsidy and giving it directly to the farmers.

12.42 hrs.

MOTION UNDER RULE 184

**CALLING UPON THE PRIME MINISTER TO
DROP THREE CABINET MINISTERS ON
THE BABRI MASJID DEMOLITION
CASE—Contd.**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the House will take up Item No. 19. Kumari Mamata Banerjee to speak now.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very much grateful

to you for allowing me to take part in this debate. After one year, I am taking part in a powerful debate, which is most important, sensitive and reasonable also.

Sir, ours is a vast country. In our country, we have different types of religions, languages, castes and creed. We have to see the fact that according to our Indian Constitution, there is a protection for every religion, for every caste, for every creed and for every community also. My intention is not to divide the House. My intention is to unite the House. Nowadays, we sometimes feel guilty when we discuss the issue to divide the *Hindus* and the *Muslims*, the *Sikhs* and the *Isais*. Of course, it is because of the political purpose that it is done. Sometimes, it is for the vote purpose that it is done. That is why, we feel that it is our duty to express our views saying that this House has to take a view.

12.43 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

Our appeal should be made even to the Election Commission requesting that no Party should be allowed to use the religious card at the time of election only for the purpose of vote politics. If any political party wants to use the religious card at the time of election, whichever party it may be, cutting across the party line, that party should be banned. Otherwise, this issue can not be sorted out—not today, not even in the future also.

Regarding the Motion, I would submit that my good friend and colleague Shri Arun Jaitley expressed his views very categorically that legally and technically, the matter is not feasible to be discussed. It is the Prime Minister's prerogative. What the Prime Minister will do, it depends upon the Prime Minister only because the Prime Minister is the head of the Council of Ministers. So, we cannot decide about this. It is the Prime Minister's prerogative and the matter is also *sub judice*.

Now, I want to say some other things also. We have to remember one thing. When we joined this Government, it is the NDA Government. What does NDA stand for? It is the National Democratic Alliance. If I include two Is here, one before 'N' and one after 'D', then it becomes INDIA. It means that NDA is for India. NDA is not only for the NDA Government but also it is for the whole of the country. We have to unite both the ruling party and the opposition party.

....(Interruption)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Jos, do not interrupt. There is nothing to object.

[Translation]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : We all have respect for Temple, Mosque, Church & Gurudwara. We should remember that though in this country 80 per cent of the population belong to the Hindu community, it is the duty of the majority of the Hindus to protect the interests of the minorities. The Hindus can protect the interests of the minorities; the minorities can protect the interests of the Sikhs; and the Sikhs can protect the interests of the Muslims. We cannot divide ourselves. If we divide ourselves, if this country is divided, then there will be no nation like India. That is why, my heart is vibrating. I express my views from my heart. We firmly believe in the principles of unity in diversity. What is the basic theme of our Constitution? What is the basic theme of our foundation? ... (Interruptions) Please listen to what I am speaking. I am not blaming you; I am not blaming anybody else. I am myself. At least, allow me to speak.

I may be in the NDA, but we also have some views. Of course, we are in the NDA. But why are we in the NDA? We are in the NDA because there is a common agenda. Why are we in the NDA? We are in the NDA because we have an NDA agenda. You please mark that the BJP is a big party, but we are one of the smallest parties. But small is always beautiful. Small beautiful party can always give some beautiful vision. That is why I am also in the NDA, though I am not a BJP party member.

My friends, Shri Yerrannaidu, Dr. S. Venugopal, and other friends of the Telugu Desam Party, are supporting this Government. But they belong to an important party, and they are running the Government. See the D.M.K. Party. They are one of the partners of the NDA, but they are also supporting this Government. So also the Indian National Lok Dal, the Biju Janata Dal, the Samata Party, the United Lok Dal, the Shiv Sena, Vaiko's M.D.M.K., the P.M.K., the National Conference and other parties. Why have we joined this NDA? Our clear-cut understanding is that the NDA will not deviate from the common agenda. We stuck to it; we stand by it. There are controversial issues, which have been totally left out from the common agenda. Firstly, the article 370 is not included in the NDA agenda. Secondly, the Uniform Civil Code is not included in the common agenda.

Regarding demolition of Babri Mosque, not only Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, but we also condemn its demolition. Sir, when this incident took place, as an eyewitness at that time, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi also knows that, I have seen communal riots in Calcutta; we have seen how the people have been killed; how both the communities were divided. We could not sleep for three or four nights. I know how communal tension took place when we were visiting one area to another area.

Communalism is a cancer of our country and that is why there is no answer to it. The only answer is to salvage the country from communalism.

Firstly, one of the commitments of the NDA agenda to the people is that *status quo* has to be maintained in Babri Mosque issue. We stick to it. Secondly, whatever be the verdict of the Supreme Court on the issue, the Government will abide by the verdict. That is the NDA commitment and we want that this commitment has to be maintained very strictly.

Sir, I am happy that we had a meeting of the NDA last Sunday. In that meeting we passed a Resolution to the effect that the NDA will abide by these four points and we are not going to deviate from that. Secondly, it is our moral duty to promote communal harmony in this country. The principle of secularism cannot be compromised with, because secularism is the foundation of our democracy. So, we cannot forget secularism and we cannot compromise with it. The principles can be debated upon here, but we cannot compromise with our ideology, ethics, principles, aims and objectives.

The other allied parties in the NDA have their own Manifesto and they have their commitment, but we are all together as partners in the NDA. We run the Government according to the NDA Agenda. Of course, due to that one statement of the Prime Minister, confusion has arisen in the minds of the people and that is why we hope that the Prime Minister would clarify it. When Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee made a statement immediately after the demolition of the Babri Masjid in 1992, he was the Leader of the Opposition. But he made this statement last week as the Prime Minister heading the NDA Government and as the Prime Minister of the country and that is why, a message should go to the country from him that we are for all. Sometimes, we feel that power is not permanent and running the Government is not permanent, but the ethics of democracy, secularism and *parampara* of this House will continue for ever. So, we cannot deviate from our stand and we cannot deviate from our constitutional obligations.

Sir, I remember Rabindranath Tagore at this juncture. He was the man who wrote two National Anthems, one for India and another for Bangladesh. We are proud of him. When he wrote the National Anthem for our country, he started from Punjab. Instead of Punjab, he could have started from Bengal, but he did not do so, because his vision was to see that India remains united. He said : "*Punjaba Sindhu Gujarata Maratha Dravida Utkala Bonga.*" He started from Punjab and finished it in Bengal, because he knew about the unity and integrity of this country. [Translation] The poet said : "one cast, one nation, unity, the country is our God". [English] We say

the same thing in Bengali also, which means 'one caste, one nation and we should all be united' for the interest of motherland.

I have mentioned just now about our commitment to the people. In Assam, the minorities are being tortured. I may belong to a majority community in my State, but I am a minority in another State. My good friend, Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev may belong to a majority community in Assam, but he is also a minority in Bengal. Some other persons may belong to a majority community in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, but they will be minorities in another State. So, everybody in this country belongs to the majority section somewhere and to the minority section somewhere else and that is why, all the constitutional rights have to be given to the people of the minorities. In our Constitution, articles 25 to 28 provide special rights to the minorities.

Sir, sometimes, some people say that we want to appease the Muslims. No, that is not correct. In my body, if my hands are chopped off, I have to take care of those hands. The minorities are our hearts and I proudly say that we have to give protection to the minorities because it is our moral obligation.

Sir, we condemn the demolition of the *Babri Masjid*. We not only condemn it, but also we would like to say that it was a barbaric act. It was a heinous crime and it should not happen in our country again. I do not want to hurt anybody's feelings. But the point is, whatever happened had happened and it should not occur any more in future. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is not only the Prime Minister of this country, his leadership qualities and image add to the prestige of this country. We are proud of that. We are also proud to say and believe that even today the confusion will be over with a statement from the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister is a man of stature. He will give a statement to the House. Sometimes we have been blamed that we are communal. But it is not so. We are secular. Somebody has to remember that we are also secular. We believe in the principles of secularism. We do not want to divide Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians. All of them are our brothers and sisters. That is why it is our duty to give a call to all of them.

We must remain committed to the people. Eighty crore people belonging to the Hindu community are wholeheartedly responsible citizens. Twenty crore people belonging to the minorities are also living in this great country. What is going on against the minorities in Assam? I would request the Government to take care of that. This is a *Ramzan* month. Through you, I convey my *Ramzan Mubarak* to all my brothers and sisters belonging to the minority community. I also convey my merry Christmas greetings to brothers and sisters belonging to the Christian community.

We have some burning issues in our country. There is unemployment problem. There are also the economic problems. I think, the Government must prepare an economic package for the minorities also so that these people can also stand on their own.

What we believe in is that we do not have any intention to topple this Government nor do we have any intention to embarrass anybody. But we should not feel embarrassed. That is why we would wait for the response of our beloved and honourable Prime Minister because I believe that the Prime Minister's message would remove this confusion. We hope that the Prime Minister would make a statement in this House after the debate.

I appeal again that we should not divide the House like this. We feel very much when sometimes somebody says that you are a Hindu and somebody else says that you are a Muslim. As a result of that, the people at the grassroots level face problems. It creates a communal tension. It also creates a disastrous situation. When the whole world is looking towards the new millennium and new visions, they are going forward, whereas we are going backward. That is why this message should not go to the people that only we are interested in the policy of, divide and rule and colonial rule, that is, what the Englishmen gave us.

We must think over the developmental process and other such works. From our side, we would like to say categorically that

[Translation]

"The Hindu is known for renunciation, Muslims for honesty, Christians for love and Sikhs for sacrifice. It is our loving country Hindustan".

The weather changes. Everything in the world changes but why there is no change in our habits? We should also change our mindset. It is not the religious but the economic priority that is required to be discussed.

[English]

Of course, the Motion itself also creates the confusion. That is why we do not support the Motion. But we express our views very strongly and firmly that we believe in secularism. We want to promote communal harmony. We want to protect the interests of the minority communities and also the majority community. We should not divide the united strength. It should not divide us all. That is why the history of the world is the history of mankind. We have to remember it.

13.00 hrs.

We have to remember this.

With these words, I will again request the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to urge upon the hon. Prime Minister to deliberate in his speech the motto or the agenda of NDA, in which NDA believes. That should be the motto of the country and there should not be hidden agenda.

With these words, I thank you very much, Sir, for giving me this opportunity.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia, U.P.) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I feel obliged that I have been given an opportunity to speak. Yesterday, I had decided not to speak on this subject, but I have been inspired by Mamataji's speech and I feel that if I do not express my views on this subject I may be taken otherwise.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would first of all like to tell Mamataji that had she advised the Prime Minister the very first day this dispute would not have arisen and he would have changed his statement. I am sorry to state that the Prime Minister has objected to the statement given by me in the newspapers saying that I have misunderstood and the statement made by him and this has been published by all the newspapers in the country. Parliament remained in session for about a week and now we have suddenly been apprised of the decision taken by the Prime Minister that if he would give a statement it will only be inside the House. I fail to understand that how could the hon'ble Prime Minister was suddenly reminded of the decorum of the House. I am very seriously stating this and not to appear or displease somebody. I had stated this is the very beginning that why was he seeking resignation of the three Ministers so late?

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I was surprised at Mr. Speaker when he stated that the motion is being brought forward with every body's approval, there may have been an agreement particularly between the two parties i.e. the major opposition party and the treasury. The hon'ble Prime Minister's statement was not discussed therein only the resignation of the Ministers was the subject of discussion. The doubt being expressed from all the corners was strengthened when it was questioned that why only Harinji resigned and not the other Ministers. Today, I need Harinji's statement. He said that he has resigned voluntarily. Perhaps such a statement was made to save the party. But, at times truth must also be told. I have gone through Harinji's entire case and

would not find a reason for his tendering a resignation. He has been made to resign, he has not resigned voluntarily. Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the day he was asked to resign I had told my friends that some others will also be asked to resign.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, Mamataji is an ally of N.D.A. but only her integrity will not unite N.D.A., B.J.P. which is one of the major party should also stand united. When there are differences within, there can not be unity and it seems very contradictory that the entire nation is given the message of unity. What message is given to the country? That the hon'ble Prime Minister has changed his image, but why and under what pressure? I can not use the language used by Shri Jaipal, for I respect hon'ble Prime Minister I disagree with him but I used to feel that hon'ble Prime Minister is concerned about the future of the country, the unity of the country and has regards for the sentiments of the people that the national sentiment is not linked to a particular group.

National sentiment is linked with all the citizens of the country and everybody will accept this that the statement made by the hon'ble Prime Minister has hurt the sentiments of a particular group and has it's repercussions also. An atmosphere of tension has been created in the country. All the newspapers wrote editorials about it and riots broke out in several parts of U.P. Even at that time the Prime Minister did not find it necessary to change his statement which was given by him two-three days back. Mamataji is an expert in this regard she wants the Government's unity too, wants to express her views and that she does successfully and with determination and sincerity. But this is not the way to run the Government. At times coalition have also to be run and the programme or policy framed therein has to be abided. The differences are solved by sitting together. But here it is happening from the very day this Government came into power. Here people are annoyed for personal reasons, leave alone Mamataji. Yesterday, Shri Jaipal Reddy ji was greatly annoyed with Uma Bharti ji but it should be kept in mind that the transformation from a religious head to a Minister is not a serious crime because I feel that serving in a temple is as good as serving the nation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, this is very strange that the resignation was tendered due to some other reason, the problem was raised and the Prime Minister accepted it, the dignity of the Prime Minister's office suffers if he makes such a statement be it any Prime Minister and if the dignity of the Prime Minister's office is lowered, it is no service to the nation.

If a Prime Minister compromise with the dignity of the office he holds just for the save of saving his chair, he is then not fit to remain on his post. Therefore I would like

to say that I do not endorse the language and the contents of what Mulayam Singh ji spoke yesterday. He however, said that the Prime Minister should boldly accept that he had made a mistake and that it would be alright if people are satisfied with his statement in regard to rectification of his mistake.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, nobody wants to pull down this Government. The Congress, in particular does not want to pull down the Government. I also do not want to dethrone the Government. My colleagues of the Congress Party should not take it otherwise. Now nobody wants that elections should be held every sixth month or every year. This Government should be run but then there should be a concerned approach. At times, the Government have to take hard decisions but capacity is lacking in this Government. Shri Pramod Mahajan ji should not take it ill when I say that it was not a sudden statement. I know Atalji for the last 35-36 years. I have toured the country with him on Parliamentary Committees tours not only for a day but for months together. I have weighed his views and his personality. He has made this statement under some pressure. And if a Prime Minister makes his statement under some pressure, then surely he can not maintain the dignity of the office he occupies. I am saying this with a deep sense of sorrow.

I would repeat today that a serious damage has been done although efforts are on to hugh up the matter and to convince the people. I am not aware of their hidden agenda. Nothing is hidden. You take to Vinay Katiyar ji, he is very clear in his mind about what type of India he wants to make. You take to Uma Bharti ji, she is uncertain about her approach. This is because she is at times under the influence of George Fernandes and at other times under the influence of Vinay Katiyar. But I do not know who is having more influence on her. Once upon a time she was agreed admirer of George Fernandes. So, may be she comes under his influence and visits the temple, and similarly she joins the Cabinet when she is under the influence of Vinay Katiyar. But her intention is good in either case.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would therefore like to say that the matter is very serious and the situation of the country is very grave. I am unable to spell out what I want to say. The Government can run the way it is running and so is the case with the Parliament, but this country will not run if the situation remains the same. This Government have failed on all the fronts be it economic front or be it the question of providing security to the country or be it the question of maintaining harmony in the country and be it the issue of winning the confidence of the minorities of the country. Moreover, this Government have developed the attitude of avoiding all the issues.

There is a National Security Council and one Senior officer of this council is under question. One of the members of BJP National Executive is carrying a campaign on daily basis against him. Our Defence Minister, the Prime Minister and the Home Minister are present here. They have not spoken a single word against him. Is this the way to run the country? There is a campaign on T.V. against the man who has the responsibility of providing security to the country. But in spite of that no statement is made. The defence expert have openly critised this. You may have a sympathy, compassion and friendship with a particular man. But there can be no friendship at the cost of the nation. Your friendship should be only to the extent where the country has not to pay heavily for that. Pramod ji, this is why I did not say anything on the day before yesterday because I am also pained as you are. You speak with responsibility because you have a responsibility on you, but I am also speaking with not less than that sense of responsibility. The issue which I raised on the day before yesterday and the issue which has been raised now by one of our colleagues is not the one on which you can say during the Zero Hour that the matter would be looked into. These are the issues which can lead to disintegration of the country and which can flare up divisive tendencies. If the Government are not aware of those tendencies, then I do not know how for the Government can provide security to this country. I consider that incident in this context only. If the Prime Minister made in statement when he was quite unaware and when he keeps mum for seven days after that then this is not a simple thing. This incident indicates towards abysmal darkness. I would not say anything beyond this. I would only say that with his conduct the Prime Minister has disappointed people like me.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on such an important matter.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the discussion is going on since yesterday. I belong to the minority community and I am happy that so many sympathisers of minorities are sitting here. But I am also sorry to see how the minorities have reached to this state after 52 years of country's independence. The Bharatiya Janta Party is in the Government for the last two three years. I agree that the minorities of the country feel that Indian Muslims are poor, backward, unemployed and are lacking in education. These things should also be discussed... (Interruptions). I do not want to go into all those details... (Interruptions). I know that I would be vigorously interrupted since I belong to the BJP I know this very well.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No body will interrupt you. I shall not allow any body to interrupt you.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : I know it very well that I am being heard in the House for the first time. I am proud of saying that the constituency Kishanganj from where I have been elected is the constituency having maximum number of muslim voters in the country and I have been elected on the ticket of Bhartiya Janata Party.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am alone Muslim M.P. to have been elected on the BJP ticket. That is why I am an eyesore to many. Many members feel that my replies to the allegations levelled by them make them speechless. I tell them that I have not been elected and have been elected from the constituency of 7,000,00 voters.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Do not interrupt him from this side.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : Sir, this is his maiden speech. They do not have the basic courtesy to allow him to speak... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I want to convey that the issue of Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid is not an ordinary issue...(Interruptions). However strongly you may interrupt me but I am not going to give up. I will rather be more vocal and more aggressive.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Aram Bagh) : You are delivering a good speech.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Thank you, Basuji, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir our country became free in 1947 and 52 years have passed since we attained freedom. But till today why the people belonging to minority communities are backward, suppressed and terrified? Why the Congress party which ruled successively for 47 years not made them so strong so that they may not remain suppressed and petrified. The Congress have ruled over this country for 47 years and now they say that the Muslims are scared and terrified. It is you people who have not made the people belonging to minority communities strong and that is why they are still scared and petrified.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today the discussion is going on in the House on the Mandir-Masjid issue. I don't want to go into this controversy but through you I would like to

tell this House that when Namaz was being offered in Babri Masjid, then who was the Prime Minister of the country and the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh in whose time the idols were first placed therein. I want to tell the House that on the nights of 22 and 23 December, 1949 when idols appeared on the scene at that place, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru was the Prime Minister of the country and Shri Govind Vallabh Pant was the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh at that time. Babri Masjid has not been demolished to kar sewaks on 6th December, 1992 it was demolished at that very day when the idols were initially placed there and ban was imposed on offering Namaz and Congress party was in power that time in the country. It was the Congress who initially acted towards making that site as Ram Janambhoomi and you can not deny this fact.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on 29th December, 1949, the Collector, Faizabad arised the responsibility of protection of that property to the Chairman of the Municipal Committee. He was also from the Congress party. On 16th January, 1950, a final decision was taken and on 3rd March, 1950 it was said in an interim prohibition order that the idols should not be removed from that place. Who was the party which ruled over the country from 22nd December, 1949 to 3rd March, 1950. I want to tell that it was the Congress Government which ruled over the country and in Uttar Pradesh at that time? Pandit Nehru was the Prime Minister of the country and Govind Vallabh Pant was the Chief Minister of the State. At that time why you did not take any step in respect of that State. That matter was taken to the court at a later stage.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the country had attained freedom at that time. The Muslims were terrified as the country was divided in the name of the religion. At that time the Muslims in India were worried that this country has been divided in the name of religion and as such the Muslims living in and loving India, stayed in the country, and those interested in dividing India, went to Pakistan. Our ancestors decided that it is our country our motherland and we will not leave it and go anywhere else. The Muslims who had accepted the division in the name of religion went to Pakistan but those who had true love for India, they stayed here.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at that time there was one Muslim League and the other was the Congress party. Even Muslims were the members of the Congress but a large number of Muslims had hoined the muslim league and were active therein and the Muslims joining the Congress were known as show-boys because of their joining and working in the Congress. The people in the Muslim League used to cost aspirations that the Muslims joining the Congress cannot be called as Muslims in the real sense of the world. They were such types of people.

That is why Maulana Abul Kalam Azad had to face a lot of problems. From the stairs of Jama Masjid, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad had announced—The Muslim community listen, this country is yours so long as you wish to live in this country. No power on the earth can make you leave it. You accept this country as your motherland and you will enjoy the same rights in this country as would be enjoyed by the Hindus—and it has also been mentioned in his book "Fatwa-E-Azad".

Today, I feel proud to say that the Hindus and the Muslims have got the same rights in this country. In that way we can say that when this country was divided, the Pakistan announced itself as a religion based country and Bangladesh also ultimately pushed itself towards the same. We thank the then leaders of the country, irrespective of their being from the Congress Party but ultimately they were the leaders of the country, that they worked towards making the country a secular, democratic State. It was possible because the majority of the countrymen were ready for the same. If the majority of the countrymen would have pressure that the country should not be made a secular, democratic country, then at that time it would not have so happened.

....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Ram Prasad Singh, I have to take a note of you. Please do not comment like this.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for this I do not want to give credit to my party but I want to give credit to the country. We can say with proud that India has got two times more population as compared to Pakistan and the extent to which the rights of minority communities are safe in India, there is no match of it in the entire world. For this I do not thank my own party only but I thank Congress and other parties also ... (Interruptions) I thank this country. I thank all the political parties in the country for giving such a status to this country for making it a secular, democratic State. Whenever I go abroad, I say with all dignity that I have come from India and I am a Muslim living in Hindustan and a Muslim of Hindustan is in no way inferior to a Muslim living in any other country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, recently I had gone for Haj. At that time you were also with us. There I met with Imam of Khana-Kaba and Shah of Saudi Arabia. There we had organised a Press Conference. There I had said that I have come from Hindustan and I am proud of saying that I am

a Muslim from Hindustan and we are enjoying the same rights as are being enjoyed by the majority community of the country and the rights we have got in Hindustan, those rights have not been provided to my minority community anywhere in the world. It is a matter of pride for us. Today we can say that a Muslim can become the President, Chief Justice and Air Chief Marshal of this country. Today, this country has got Muslims like Abul Kalam on whom every Hindu and Muslim of India can be proud of.

I would like to say that the problem of the Muslims was not that of Babri Masjid and Ram Mandir. They have been entrapped in this problem. It is the hidden agenda of the Congress Party ... (Interruptions). There was also a hidden agenda in 1947. This motion also involves their hidden agenda. While bringing this motion, Shri Jai Pal Reddyji, who is my elder brother and whom I pay due respect, had said that the motion does not mean to make this Government go. He also knows that this Government would remain in power five years and will come again in future. They understand this thing but their hidden agenda was to bring in this motion by hook or crook to malign the image of the BJP and the NDA Government which they had created among the minorities. This is their hidden agenda. This agenda was also there in 1947. You had taken a decision in the cabinet that you would construct the Somnath temple. The Muslims of India was not in a position to level charges-counter charges at that point of time since he was scared and frightened. The Somnath temple was built there but the credit went to the hon. Patelji. Thereafter an idea came to their mind why not to do one more thing and they started to work on that. First the lock was opened and later the same was closed—I will not talk much on this issue. I want to know as to what had happened on 1 February, 1986. They had a thumping majority in 1984. Shri Rajiv Gandhi was a young leader. Youths like me were very proud of that a young person had become the Prime Minister of the country for the first time. Several charges were levelled against them. I was very young at that time... (Interruptions) You must have been a child at that point of time ... (Interruptions) But I am fully prepared to have discussion with you on every issue. I am young in my age but not in intelligence.

... (Interruptions)

I am a member of Parliament and I have read in the constitution about a member of Parliament. It is so said in colloquial language.

....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Don't look at them.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, they are interrupting me... (Interruptions) I am addressing you only.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : If you stick to your point, then nobody will interrupt you.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : All right.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please don't look that side, look at me.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : An appeal was filed in the court of the district judge, Faizabad on 1 February, 1986 and an order was passed later on for opening the lock. A Doordarshan cameraman was already present there. How the system became so fast that a Doordarshan cameraman was already present there. That order was not issued in a casual manner. The court asked the then Congress Government of Bir Bahadur Singh if the lock was opened. Would there not be communal tension and law and order problem. The Congress Government had told that there would be no law and order problem. Everything would be alright. When the then Congress Government gave it in written in the court, the lock was opened and this was given much publicity in the entire country. I will not speak on the incidents which occurred in between

There was a Congress Government in 1989. Rajiv Gandhiji was the Prime Minister, Buta Singh ji was the Home Minister of the country and hon. Tiwariji was the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. Shri Rajiv Gandhi started his election campaign for the Parliamentary Elections from Ayodhya on 6 December, 1989. As our friend Shri Jaitleyji said yesterday that he felt blessed by visiting there. He visualised of the Ram Rajya. I can say it with full conviction that when the Rajiv Gandhi Government was at the Centre in 1984, the communal harmony was deteriorating in the country and the minority community was scared and frightened. The grave atrocities were committed against the Sikh minorities. He had made a statement at the Boat club at that time that when any big tree falls down, the earth troubles. The earth was trembling. Thereafter the Congress Government came in power with thumping majority. And the Government was reeling under many crises at that time. The Bofors case was looming large on the Government and there were many other cases too. A meeting was held to decide the methods for winning elections in 1989. It was decided to start election campaign from Delhi, Calcutta and Mumbai. On 6th November, 1989 by adopting the same old method. They focuses on their election campaign. They started their election campaign from Ayodhya on 6th November, 1989. And the then Government declared the above place as disputed. And foundation was laid on 9 November and the kar sewa was stopped on 11 November. The foundation stone was laid assuming that the Hindus would be happy by their this move. Muslim deserted the Congress on the same day and on 11 November when they stopped Kar Sewa. The Hindus deserted them.

I recite a couplet:

Na khuda hi mila, na visale sanam
Na idhar ke rahe, na udhar ke rahe

There is also a case in between. I told you that I am very fortunate. I am thinking since yesterday that there are so many people who are concerned about the minorities. Everyday talks big about the minorities and I know that I am the first Muslim of the minority community who is taking about these issues in the Parliament. Neither they nor the BJP started.

Perhaps, afterwards on my invitation some people from that side would allow a leader belonging to minority from their party to express their pains in front of you.

The Government of Shri Mulayam Singh took over. Many things happened when Mulayam Singh was in power in Uttar Pradesh, at that time Shri V.P. Singh became Prime Minister at the Centre. I can recall that the Muradabad riot took place during his tenure. After visiting the sites of Meerut riots Shri V.P. Singh visited Malayana and Hindan river where muslims were queued up and were massacred and after this visit his stature was enhanced all over the country, particularly among the minority community. Hereafter the minority community felt that they have found a messiah in the form of a leader. In Uttar Pradesh respectable Mulayam Singh Yadav talked big even he surprised the muslim leaders, started saying that there is no need to worry about as long as he is alive, no one can touch Babri mosque. Muslims believed him. He told on 28th October, 1990 that no body will reach there.

Mr. Ashok Singhal reached there on 28 October, 1990. Mulayam Singhji announced that not even a bird could reach Ayodhya, such tight security arrangements were made but Ashok Singhalji reached there alongwith thousands and lakhs of Kar sewaks. Those who reached there on 30th October, 1990 they have not climbed on Babri mosque on 6th December only Mulayam Singh Yadavji can not escape responsibility. People performed Kar seva on 28th October, 1990 in Babri mosque. People climbed over it and damaged it, they hoisted the flag. Later on Mulayam Singhji allowed them to reach there. I have seen the video cassette very carefully yesterday. I am ready for debate on this issue. According to the video cassette of Newstrack when the Karsevaks were advancing then the force deployed by Mulayam Singhji was withdrawing. On 6th December at the time of Karseva gates were broken .but during the regime of Mulayam Singh gates were not broken but opened and Karsevaks were invited and they were let to climb. Firing was ordered in a planned manner so that the minority community could be appeased as if he was the first

person to order a firing on the Hindus for them so as to earn their sympathies by ordering to fire on his own community, and they can not get a better sympathiser than him. Thereafter shooting started... *(Interruptions)* I am not telling a lie, I will prove this. If some body wants to say something in this regard.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Many Speakers have to speak, you please conclude your speech early.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : I am expressing the agony of minorities and while doing so, when you do so voice would come out a bit louder. They know it, they won't allow persons belonging to minority community to speak, they consider it their own property. Mulayam Singhji had himself opened the lock. Yesterday, Mulayam Singhji has said one thing and I was on my legs braking, all the conventions as I could not hold back. I also belong to a socialist family, I hold Mulayam Singhji in high esteem. As I have said earlier, he said that if they go to build a temple then Muslims will not go there, workers of Samajwadi Party will go there.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : I have never said that, you should stand corrected. I had said that a temple as well as a mosque would be constructed there for Hindus and Muslims. You may not start hating Muslims therefore Hindu activists of Samajwadi Party will go there and if you do anything forcibly then we will counter you—this is what I have said.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There is a lot of noise in the House. Please hear the Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : You had mentioned that yesterday in your speech, Mulayam Singhji.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please conclude immediately.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : I am concluding in a short while, I should be allowed some more time. Mulayam Singhji has said very correctly and this is a fact also that Muslims still rely on him more than the Congress.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There are many Members who want to participate in the discussion.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Therefore, I request Mulayam Singhji with folded hands that he should not say any such things. Once Babri mosque has been demolished and the second time you convince Muslims so as to prevent them from holding a dialogue, or they may not reach any agreement which may lead to all that and later on you may say what can we do, we were helpless. Please don't say this, this is my request to you. A poet has rightly said that :

"Usne phir kiya ahede wafa,
Bewafa phir mukar na jaye."

As I have already said, I have great regards for Late Rajiv Gandhiji since I am still young and Late Rajiv Gandhi was the only young Prime Minister India has ever had. But I do not know what sort of Advisors he had, since I do not have much knowledge about it. Rajiv Gandhiji and Narsimha Raoji cannot be separated from each other. What Narsimha Raoji did, Rajiv Gandhiji also acted on the same lines, therefore, they cannot be separated from each other.

Rajiv Gandhiji, during his Prime Ministership constituted a committee to resolve Ram Janambhoomi, Babri Masjid dispute. He found hon. Narsimha Rao as the most appropriate person in whole Congress. A Cabinet Committee was constituted in 1988 and Rajivji appointed Shri Narsimha Rao as its Chairman. Therefore, he found its solution on 6th December. I would like to make a mention of Narsimha Raoji in this very House.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious matter and these people are not allowing a person from minority community to speak. Several hon. Members spoke for hours on the same issue and I listened to them quite patiently. Similarly, they should listen to me also with patience. I would like to tell you that during 1992, Narsimha Raoji gave an assurance that Babri Masjid would not be allowed to be demolished. Narsimha Raoji was given full rights to ensure its safety in a meeting of National Integration Council. Syed Shahabuddin prepared a draft wherein the Government was authorised to take all possible measures to save Babri Masjid. Hence we cannot take the excuse that Kalyan Singh was at the helm of affairs in Uttar

Pradesh so we could not save it. He was the Prime Minister so he could do anything he desired to do. He even assured during National Integration Council's meeting. He had been given every right, yet mosque was demolished.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your own Members are interrupting you more.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJ BABBAR (Agra) : Whether you want to construct a temple over there or not, please reply in yes or no.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Order, please.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except Shri Syed Shanawaz Hussain.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : We are trying to maintain order in the House and you are looking that side. I am requesting the Members to take their seats.

...(Interruptions)*

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Yes please listen. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he has come from Bollywood, so he is not aware of anything...(Interruptions). It is not a drama.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please ask Raj Babbar to cool down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : What has happened? He has merely asked whether you would construct temple over there or not.

...(Interruptions)*

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Shahnawaz, please conclude now.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We have a number of speakers still to participate in the debate. The hon. Prime Minister has to reply at 4 o'clock. Please cooperate with the Chair, otherwise we cannot conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : I too got offer from films but since I am a Minister, I could not go there. Still I can very well perform the role of a hero.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have no problem. Shri Raj Babbar came to my constituency for canvassing, still I won the election. Therefore, he is somewhat upset.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Prime Minister has to reply at four o'clock. There are a large number of Members yet to speak. How can they be accommodated, if things go this way?

...(Interruptions)

Narsimha Rao ji gave an assurance during the meeting of National Integration Council and again during a telecast to the nation, he assured in the capacity of the Prime Minister of India. ...(Interruptions). People were restless on 6th December; tears rolled down even my eyes. Muslims in India were sad and terrified ...(Interruptions). At that time Narsimha Rao, as a Prime Minister of India and Leader of the Congress Party said on TV that he would reconstruct Babri Masjid there. Now it has no mention even in their manifesto... (Interruptions). Then on 15 August he reached Red Fort... (Interruptions)

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Syed Shahnawaz Hussain, please conclude now. You have already spoken for more than half an hour now.

then same day from the ramparts of Red Fort Narsimha Raoji said that.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Raj Babbar, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Now temple will be constructed through Ramalya Trust. He has forgotten Babri Masjid and now he is talking of temple. ... (Interruptions). I am concluding now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA (Jhabua) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please listen me carefully.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Kanti Lal Bhuria, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : CRPF personnel reached there on 6 December, 1992. Kar sewa began at 11 o'clock. ... (Interruptions) At 6 o'clock the Government headed by Kalyan Singh was dismissed. I agree that under BJP rule Kar Sewa was conducted for 6 hours but discussion were held for 36 hours, which is six times more than 6 hours. They said 6 hours and people from Congress said we will take 36 hours and at the neck of time, they were found missing. ... (Interruptions). I hail from Bihar. In our State Laloo Prasad Yadav is a great secular leader and he had claimed that Babri could be damaged only at the cost of his life, so none could touch that ... (Interruptions). One crore people assembled there, Narsimha Rao closed his eyes. ... (Interruptions). Lalooji and Mulayam Singhji also did not come to the help. ... (Interruptions). I am not speaking on Ram Mandir-Masjid dispute.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now conclude, please.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : I would conclude within a minute. After independence, Muslims in India needed education, employment and security. But so-called secular Congress Party's Government even failed to provide them security. ... (Interruptions). Today, Indian Muslim is poor and the Congress should answer why the percentage of Muslim in Government service is just three percent? BJP is ruling for the last two years only. I would like to ask them, why there are no Muslim gazetted officers? What did the Congress Government do to educate them? ... (Interruptions). You did nothing to provide them employment. ... (Interruptions). BJP has come to power only during last two years.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Syed Shahnawaz Hussain, why are you unnecessarily provoking them?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : For the last two years BJP has been at the helm of affairs. Earlier, Congressmen used to frighten the Muslims that do not vote for BJP. If BJP comes to power, your life in India will be miserable.

BJP came to power and Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji became the Prime Minister of India. Muslims realised their mistake and felt that under Vajpayee Government their life has become smooth. Muslims are safer under Vajpayee's Government. There are no riots, there is peace everywhere. Sir, they are not in a position to bear it. They can mislead Muslims, no more, thus they are perplexed. When hon. Prime Minister declared case-fire in Kashmir, these people were dumb-founded because it was an image-boosting achievement for the Prime Minister at international level. In fact, they have no other issue to defame the Government of BJP. They have an old hidden agenda—mislead the Muslims in the name of Babri Masjid to distract attention from real issues. They have no other issue to play politics.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I oppose this resolution and say that they are not sympathiser of Muslims. If they claim to be secular then this thing will surely be exposed one day and the Muslims will know everything.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to participate in the debate.

India is a great country with unity in diversity. Our country is a secular democratic country. All Members of Parliament have taken oath as laid down under the Constitution of India.

This is an old case. It happened eight years ago. At that time, the TDP reacted. We described it as a heinous crime, a black day in Indian history. At that time, our founder-President Dr. N.T. Rama Rao had taken very seriously the demolition of the Babri Masjid. The Telugu Desam Party spelt out its policy at the time of the No-Confidence Motion in both the Houses of Parliament. We criticised both the parties for their involvement at that time. At that time, our hon. Prime Minister, the leader of the NDA said that it was unfortunate. At that time, people hailed Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee because he condemned the ghastly incident.

I rise to highlight the way the national priorities are being distorted knowingly or unknowingly. At a critical time, when the country is entering the 21st century within three weeks from now, the turn of events during the last seven days or more than one week in Parliament have totally disturbed the Parliamentary proceedings. The farmers of Andhra Pradesh are in a crisis. We wanted to raise this issue in this august House but there is no time to raise that issue. It is because the priorities of some parties seem to be totally different.

This happened eight years ago. Every year, all the political parties are participating in a debate on this issue with political motives, to gain something. They want to bring religion into politics. Every year, we are discussing this in Parliament. It is not proper. All the cases are pending in the Supreme Court, in different High Courts and even in lower courts.

I now come to the sequence of events. The Prime Minister, unfortunately, made some observations outside the House, which had some implications. At the time of the stalemate in the House, though they have moved a Motion regarding the continuation of the three Ministers or not and regarding the demolition of the Babri Masjid, we asked the hon. Speaker to kindly allow the hon. Prime Minister to make a statement. We wanted only a clarification on the Prime Minister's statements outside the House.

This is an old issue. The continuation of the Ministers is the prerogative and the right of the hon. Prime Minister. It is totally the collective responsibility of the Council of Ministers. Yesterday, Shri Arun Jaitley has explained it in detail. So, it is an old issue and it is *sub judice*.

For the Congress Party has not taken the statements of the Prime Minister seriously; it has not moved this Motion under Rule 184 based on the statements of the

Prime Minister. It has moved this Motion regarding removal of the three Ministers. I am asking the Congress Party as to why did it do this.

Since the last three years, they are the Ministers in the Union Cabinet. Shri Harin Pathak also resigned. Why did the Congress Party not move this Motion under Rule 184 on the very first day of this Parliament Session? If the Congress Party is very perfect and if it wants to discuss this issue on merits, why did it not move this Motion under Rule 184 at the beginning of the Parliament Session? I am asking the Congress Party this question. ... (Interruptions) After the loss of a week, now we are discussing this issue in this House, very surprisingly. The Congress Party claims the legacy of history of 115 years in this country and it has moved this Motion for the removal of three Ministers. My Party would like to know whether removal of three Ministers is the real issue, with which the country is concerned now. There are so many other important issues that are worrying the country. We have the issue of poverty, we have the issue of illiteracy, we have health problems, etc. The country is facing problems of farmers also. But the Congress Party has moved the Motion under Rule 184 for removal of three Ministers. It stalled the proceedings of this House for a week; we did not discuss any other important matter of urgent public importance. The Congress Party should take up this responsibility. It has done it with political motives.

Let us now see the sequence of events. The Prime Minister's statements have created a lot of confusion. After the statements of the hon. Prime Minister, the TDP has reacted firmly. It said that it is unwarranted, uncalled for and unnecessary. The TDP is extending support from outside because of the NDA's Common Minimum Agenda. After thorough scrutiny of the Common Minimum Agenda of the National Democratic Alliance, the TDP is extending its support. There are no compromises for the secular fabric of our nation. The TDP believes in communal harmony, democracy, even protection of secularism for our development, etc. these are the basic principles or the guiding force for the TDP. So, there is no compromise for secularism.

After the Prime Minister made those statements, Kumari Mamata Banerjee and myself personally met the hon. Prime Minister. We expressed our feelings to the hon. Prime Minister. This is the Government of the National Democratic Alliance. We have the agenda of the NDA. At the time of elections to the 13th Lok Sabha, we approached the people of this country, based on the Common Minimum Agenda of NDA. They have given votes based on the Common Minimum Agenda. We are firm on the basics of the Common Minimum Agenda. What is the necessity, at this juncture, to make such types of statements that created a lot of confusion in this

country? That is why, the NDA Government should be governed by the Common Minimum Agenda. We categorically told all these things to the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister should also clarify the position in this House. I told this at the time of BAC meeting also.

But the Congress Party is not firm on these things. They only want the removal of the three Ministers. There is no basis in this demand. The matter is *sub judice*. It is the collective responsibility of the Council of Ministers. The continuance of the Ministers is the prerogative of the hon. Minister. But the Congress Party is silent on the statements and it wasted the time of this House. These are the observations of my Party.

I want to know this from the Congress Party. If it is happy and satisfied with the statements of the Prime Minister made recently—if they are silent on this matter—and if it is reluctant to discuss the issue of Ayodhya, I can only conclude that they do need no clarification on the statements of the Prime Minister. Why is the Congress Party not discussing the Ayodhya issue? Who is responsible for the demolition of the Babri Masjid? If we go through the incidents as they happened, we find that in the year 1986, the Congress Party opened the Pandora's Box, which ultimately led to the demolition of the Babri Masjid. In the year 1989, late Shri Rajiv Gandhi allowed the VHP, the Kar Sevaks to perform *pooja*. He started the election campaign from Ayodhya. That is why, I ask the Congress Party, where is the morality of it to discuss this issue? I am questioning the Congress Party.

Who is responsible for that? In the year 1992 both the Congress and the BJP were responsible for that. The then Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao of the Congress Party was in power. If somebody had committed a mistake, he should have dismissed that Government and should have sent the armed forces to protect the monument. The Government could not protect the monument and every year we are discussing this issue. We are wasting a lot of time on this issue. There are so many issues and so many problems which the nation and the people are facing. There is no time to discuss those issues. But every year we are discussing the matter of religion. After elections, all the elected representatives take oath according to the laid down principles of the Constitution. But there is no respect for the Constitution. If the Members of Parliament have any respect for the Constitution, then they should love all the religions. If the majority respects the minorities, then the country progresses. Some countries which attained Independence along with India are progressing well, they are progressing in new direction, and they are adopting new economic policies. We are not discussing all those issues. We are discussing only religion. Where is the time for all those issues in this august House? That is

why I am requesting that in this new millennium, a Special Session should be convened. We should take oath in this new millennium that we should reach consensus on issues which are worrying the people of this country. We have to sit together. We have to convene a Special Session, we should take oath and we have to respect the Constitution and all the religions. This is my request to all the political parties. We are the elected representatives. People of all the religions had voted for us to become Members of Parliament. So, we have to keep in mind the interest of all the religions. Otherwise, there is no meaning of secularism. I am worried about that. That is why I would appeal to the major parties, the Congress and the BJP, that this is an old issue which happened eight years ago and all the cases are pending in the courts. It will take its own course. It is *sub judice*. Every time we are discussing this issue. In this Session, we have lost nine days. For the last two days we have been discussing this issue. I have been an MP for the last five years. Every year this issue is coming for discussion either in the form of Starred Question or Unstarred Question or by way of a debate. Where are we going? My humble appeal to all the political parties is that hereafter we should stop this discussion. The discussion should come only when there is any violation of secular principles. Only then we should discuss the issue in the House. We demand, through you, that Prime Minister should clarify his statement. It created a lot of confusion.

We are elected by the people basing on the Common Minimum Programme. Common Minimum Programme does not talk about all these three issues, namely article 370, common civil law and construction of Ram temple. These issues are not mentioned in the Common Minimum Programme. The NDA was constituted on the Common Minimum Programme. Based on the Common Minimum Programme, we approached the people, taken the mandate and formed the Government. So, as long as this Government continues, why should we deviate from the Common Minimum Programme? We should not deviate from even a single letter, line or sentence. This is my Party's firm view. We are extending support on that basis. Whenever there was danger for secularism, the TDP always stood up. At the time of Gujarat issue, *Saraswati Vandana* and other issues, TDP took the lead in this House.

Once Shri Ram Prakash Gupta, the then Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, made a statement for construction of Ram temple. At that time I stood up and raised the issue. I said that the Prime Minister should clarify his stand to the nation. At that time I said that due to his statement the entire country was in confusion. Then the Prime Minister, the great man, the statesman, stood up and said that you believe the Prime Minister, you

believe the NDA Government and you believe in the Common Minimum Programme. We will follow this Common Minimum Programme. This is our Constitution and this is our Bible. This is what our Prime Minister had said.

Still we are believing our Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He is a statesman. He will not deviate even a single word from the Common Minimum Programme. Still we have faith in him. When we are elected on the basis of the Common Minimum Programme, he should not say anything, whether inside or outside the country which is a deviation from the Common Minimum Programme. He should talk only about Common Minimum Programme and not about personal agenda.

14.00 hrs.

My Party has its own policy. Trinamool has its own policy and so does DMK and Shiv Sena. Each constituent of the NDA has its own constitution and its own agenda. We have put aside the problem areas and from our individual agendas prepared a Common Minimum Programme. This Common Minimum Programme is our Bible, Gita and Quran.

I charge the Congress Party of having political motive bringing this motion. Sir, though you, may I ask Shri Jaipal Reddy if he stands for morals, principles, why is he supporting the Government headed by Shrimati Rabri Devi in Bihar? In Bihar Assembly, from the Congress ticket 24 MLAs have been elected and all the 24 MLAs have been inducted in the cabinet. This has never happened in 50 years of our Independence...*(Interruptions)*. The Congress Party is playing a dubious role and is maintaining double standards in this regard. If it does not adopt double standards, it should not have mentioned about three Ministers. That is why, I say that this is a politically motivated motion. By bringing this motion before the House they wish to derive some political advantage. But Indian voters are very clever. They will not vote for the Congress Party merely because it has moved this motion in the House.

TDP stands for development. We feel that for five years a duly elected Government should only talk of development, economic restructuring and things like this. ...*(Interruptions)* Once elected, they should not talk of politics for five years. They should talk of development. Poverty ratio in our country is below 32 per cent. So, we should think of development. Our country is facing a number of problems. I request all the Parties to change their mindset. We have to change for the economic empowerment of our country. Mr. Clinton has once said that in the coming century both India and China will

become the super-powers. Can we become super-power by debating like this? We will have to address the new issues with a new mindset. TDP is giving a new direction to the people of this country. We wish to involve every citizen of this country in the developmental work. We aim at the overall development of the country, eradication of poverty, providing good health to its citizens, reducing the population and so on. We are for the progress of every citizen of this country. Therefore, we oppose the motion moved by the Congress Party and support the Government.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali)
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, most of the famous parliamentarians have already delivered their speeches on this subject including Shri Jaipal Reddy, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Shri Chandrashekhar and Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav. A discussion under rule 184 has been going on since yesterday.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Malhotra, Shri Geete of the Shiv Sena and Shri Yerrannaidu of the TDP have told during the debate that the proceedings of the House have been disrupted for 7-8 days, a lot of time has been wasted.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Yerrannaidu, what is this going on? Kindly ask your Members to resume their seats.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, of course, time has been wasted but who is responsible for it. Honourable Prime Minister gave an unrestrained speech he is responsible for it. When the Government of Gujarat had issued controversial order regarding RSS, at that time also proceedings of the House were disrupted. When that order was withdrawn, then the House carried its business. Here also there were a number of issues to be discussed, but it is being stated for the last 8-9 days that it costs crores of rupees to run the House but who is responsible for adjournment. Our Prime Minister is responsible for this who has given a communal statement and the proceedings of the House got disrupted. We are not at all responsible for it. Just now Shri Yerrannaidu was saying that this motion is politically motivated. Hon'ble Prime Minister has made a statement. Was that political or communal one? We adopt political measures to counter communal statement.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the first speaker from the BJP side was Shri Jaitley. The Government asked Shri Jaitley, who regards himself most intelligent person to speak on behalf of the Government. What does the law minister of this country think? Prof. Laski, who was a scholar of political science had once said that if a person is appointed as a minister in the department of one's expertise he would find fault with everything. Similarly Shri Ramjethmalani, who is an ex-law minister, is still grappling with the issue of date of birth of the Chief Justice. Every body knows that Shri Jaitley is a new person and he used to defend party cases outside. These people have brought him here. He is an advocate. He has expressed his reservations only after the decision of the chair that there would be a discussion under Rule 184. Does it not go against the ruling? If the law minister of a country has not this much of courtesy that despite a decision by the chair he is overruling his decision and not allowing a debate on the grounds that it is politically motivated and not in order since the matter is rule justice. At the very moment I could not express my anger because when the Prime Minister is like that, then what to talk of others? I challenge the Prime Minister to stick to his statement. The Government have outlived its life and it will fall. This Government is not falling even after committing all these lapses because of our weakness. It is our failure. Shri Sharad Pawar, Shri Mulayam Singh is sitting here, but there is no alternative to the Government. This Government is a deadbody which needs to be buried but no alternative is being found. This Government have failed on many fronts.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Jaitleyji says that the matter is sub judice but he has crossed all the limits when he says that the CBI is a Government agency and Prime Minister or Home Minister keeps on changing. The CBI has said that all the three ministers are responsible for demolition of the mosque. People have read it out. I don't want to repeat that. But the CBI says that they are guilty of the demolition of the mosque it is a conspiracy hatched by them, charges under various sections have been framed. The Prime Minister has told outside in this regard that they are innocent, they were there to save the structure and the Law Minister of the country is making a statement in the House that they are innocent and the matter is sub judice and he is saying that it was unprecedented. Yes, this is unprecedented indeed that the Law Minister of the country is speaking on a sub judice issue violating all the norms and going against the rules. He is giving clean chit to the guilty and accused ministers. What will happen to the judiciary. The Prime Minister says that it is a case against the Home Minister, Home Minister is an accused who has been chargesheeted and the CBI hold them responsible for demolition of the mosque. The Law Minister is also saying that they are not guilty. He should understand that he is a Law Minister, he is speaking

like an advocate who speaks anything after receiving his fee. But this is the House and it has some dignity and there are some rules which are to be followed.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj) : Now speak about Bihar.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH (Bikramganj) : Why do you interrupt?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Yes, I will speak about Bihar I won't leave any subject untouched ... (Interruptions) There is a young Minister Shri Shahnawaj. He was the first victim of the Prime Minister's statement, what happened at Jama Masjid ... (Interruptions) has was made to run away, thank God he was not beaten, but he was made to run away after slogan shouting.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, since he has mentioned my name therefore I would like to clarify. ... (Interruptions) I should be given an opportunity to clarify the matter. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this incident did not took place at Jama Masjid.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Raghuvanshji, since you have mentioned his name, he can clarify.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he has mentioned that this had happened at Jama Masjid but this has happened at the Jama Masjid, New Delhi. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I had gone to observe namaz with you. There muslims had asked that why should I keep mum over this issue, people from other parties will not allow any muslim to speak and that I should speak something. Sir, their sentiments were conveyed to the Prime Minister and today I have spoken here on behalf of my party. This is what has happened, nothing since then has been reported in newspapers as Raghuvansh babu is claiming.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he was delivering a speech, he was made to do so. ... (Interruptions) but from the BJP, Mr. Bangaru, who has been made party president has told that we are doing something for muslims. The population of muslims

in the country is about 15 to 20 crores but what about their representation in the cabinet. ...*(Interruptions)*. They say that the BJP is also a great well wisher of the minority, but they do not have a single cabinet minister from that section. Veteran Minister Sikandar Bakht has been ousted. ...*(Interruptions)*. Shahnawaz is a young minister. He is being shuttled, what we can say about his miserable condition shifted from sports to some other department again to some other and he is being treated like this and they want to project themselves as a well wisher of the minorities. Since when these communal people have become well wisher of the minorities. ...*(Interruptions)* you have asked about Bihar. Now I will start about Bihar. Shri Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav who is a minister and who belongs to Bihar.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : When you will be allotted a time you should then say whatever you want to say. This is not allowed.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, staunch supporter of Lohia, he was our friend, now he is sitting on that side.

Earlier he was holding the charge of the Department of Animal Husbandry in Ministry of Agriculture, which was later taken away from him and Ministry of Shipping was given to him. Now where would he operate ships in Bihar? Such is the condition of backward classes. What is the condition of Backward classes and Scheduled castes there—an assurance was given to Shri Kariya Munda to appoint him Chief Minister within 13 days, then he was assured ministership in the Centre, but that too was not given to him. So, he was not assigned any position in Jharkhand also. This is the condition of tribals and scheduled castes there. Is this the thinking of the BJP and is this the way they would ever make a harmonious society? Congress people also support them. The actual situation there is beyond control, minorities and tribal people are in a pitiable condition. Shri Yerrannaidu was saying that they are running a secular Government. How could they be secular, Prime Minister, in his speech, said, that construction of the temple is an expression of national sentiments?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If one member from Bihar stands here to say something, others also stand on that side. What is this.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pradhan ji, you do not belong to Bihar. Radhamohan ji, you please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : The first person facing trouble is this young Minister of the Government and secondly, their alliance parties also face this danger. Supporting parties are more disturbed. But sister Mamata Banerjee and Shri Yerrannaidu are the most affected persons. They visited the Prime Minister asked him what he did say. ...*(Interruptions)*. These people are doing public service. All Ministers from Bihar are public servants. The MPs do Jhoomar dance there.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : What are you saying? What is this Jhoomar dance?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Whatever you are doing there is Jhoomar dance.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : We shall have to change the Parliamentary glossary. We shall have to change the definitions in the House, if he continues using such words here.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, will you please stop your interruptions, Shri Pradhan? Please resume your seat. Otherwise, I will take serious note of it. Do not indulge in running commentary.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri George Fernandes was a firm believer of Lohia ideology when he was with us, but yesterday we noticed his plight when he was reading out the statement given by Prime Minister in 1992. I asked him as to which party he belonged to that time, and why did not he read out his own statement then. He mentioned the name of Shri Lohia. Dr. Lohia used to say—"Living communities can not wait low for five years. We should remove such an inefficient Government." *And now he says that he is a supporter of Dr. Lohia.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja) : The word he has used, is unparliamentary. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : If uttering of such words for a Minister is parliamentary then I do not have any objection, but I feel that these words do not reflect politeness and hon. Members should not use such words, otherwise we would also say...*

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, this is not an unparliamentary word, but it would be better if you use a more refined language.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Sir, if they feel happy by the word 'request', then I would use that word as per their wish. Shri George Fernandes is a Minister from Bihar. He himself is indulging in flattery. You would agree to it. I would only say which you agree with.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I wish to tell you as to how far the things have proceeded. Shri George had called a meeting of the NDA. A proposal was passed in that meeting regarding twisting the communal speech, which would have otherwise led to a wild communal rage amongst the people...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what is this minipulation ?

...*(Interruptions)*

DR RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH It means distorting the facts so that they could be hushed up. In our language it means that whenever something wrong happens, it could be manipulated. So, in the same manner, Shri George Fernandes, with a motive to refute the wrong statement of the Prime Minister in his speech, and as a face saving device, despite being communal but calling himself secular, passed a proposal that they are firm on their national agenda and there is nothing wrong. Then it was said that they would comply with the decision of the Supreme Court. In order to correct the statement of hon. Prime Minister that temple would be constructed only at the place where mosque had been destructed, it was decided to abide by the Supreme Court's verdict in this regard. So, in this way, they also kept in mind to maintain the dignity of the apex court.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a news has been published in an English newspaper according to which, there is no case, pending in the Supreme Court pertaining to dispute on any place.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Member, perhaps has not studied English language properly.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this country has produced eminent scholars and *many are aware that Shakespeare, Clinton or Milton were not born here, but I feel pride to speak in my mother tongue.

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MUNI LALL (Sasaram) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Dr. Radhakrishnan was the first Vice President of this country and there was no one to match his English speaking power, but the hon. Member is saying that...he used to speak English. Can the dignity of constitution be maintained, if members speak in such a manner in this House, can the dignity and decorum of the House be maintained if such comments are made about the President of the country. Sir, I request that the word...may be expunged from the proceedings...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Expunge that word.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Prabhunath Singh, please sit down. Let me ascertain it.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Did you take the name of Dr. Radhakrishnan?

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajgang, Bihar) : Sir, I urge that hon. Member should be asked to tender apology in the House for uttering such words.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Prabhunath Singh ji, please sit down. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, did you take the name of Dr. Radhakrishnan?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Dr. Radhakrishnan's name may be deleted from the record.

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara) : Sir, what is wrong in saying that Dr. Radhakrishnan used to speak in English?...*(Interruptions)*. What is wrong in that? He was a Professor...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am expunging the reference to Dr. Radhakrishnan. Please remove it.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I want to say that there may be people in this country exceptionally intelligent and capable, but there is no match of the English speaking ability of Shakespeare, Newton and Milton. [English] The Supreme Court has no case before it regarding the temple, save a few contempt cases against some, [Translation] which means that there is no disputed case relating to the location of Babri Masjid lying pending in the Supreme Court. This matter has been referred to the Allahabad High Court. But the NDA decided that this case is pending in the Supreme Court and that they would think later on the decision given by the Supreme Court. I want to say that when there is no case pending in the Supreme Court relating to the place of Babri Masjid, then under these circumstances, such a resolution of the NDA is deceitful and fraud with the country. They will later say that our proposal was with regard to the Supreme Court's verdict, although the case has been referred to Allahabad High Court. So, now the country has come to know that these people are once again making grounds to push the country on communal fire.

So, through this august House, I wish to warn the country that the same black day is going to be repeated as was on 6th December, so the country should be alert now. We can hear all kinds of views emanating from the communal party. NDA, on the other hand, says that they are secular and would comply with the verdict of the Supreme Court, but there is no such case pending in the Supreme Court. So, as per this resolution, the Bajrang Dal people would go to Ayodhya and resort to evil acts which would lead to violence and spread a rage of fire all over the country. I, through this House, would request every person to keep away from such communal people, because we can hear all kinds of provocative comments from there. Shri Shahnawaz Hussain, on the other hand was saying in his speech that it was really a big injustice and the persons responsible for destructing the mosque are saying that they would construct the temple at the same place, where mosque is located, so we are hearing such provocative comments. This country would be in peril one day or the other. These people will once again set the country on communal fire, I feel so.

Just now, we were talking about the English language. I want to say that although the English people have gone from this country, but their English culture still prevails here. Some people have a feeling that speaking English makes a person to be more intelligent and capable. But, in fact during the time of the British, there were many people who liked to speak in their own Hindi language. Non Hindi speaking people also speak Hindi. Yesterday itself, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar was speaking in Hindi. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, you are interrupting. I have been taking note of it. Please do not do that.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : People who do not know even ABC of English language, try to pretend like English people. I utterly object to it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Discussion of English is already over.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : English speaking people are on this side.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, people who do not know even ABC of English language, object to it ... (Interruptions) I would like to cite an example. During the Dussehra festival Ramlila was going on at my place. The person playing the role of Hanuman ji.... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Radha Mohan, I am here. If there is any unparliamentary or indecent word, I will expunge it. Is this the way you should behave towards him? What is this Shri Prabhunath Singh, Shri Pradhan, Shri Radha Mohan? You are all not allowing him to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please take your seats. There is a limit. Hon. Members do not want to hear him.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Ramlila was going on. That very day the person playing the role of Hanuman ji fell ill.... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have started it again. Shri Ashok Pradhan, I am warning you. Please do not do this. Otherwise, I have to take your behaviour seriously.

[*Translation*] if there is anything unparliamentary, I will expunge it. [*English*] I will ask him to withdraw. Shri Lal Muni Chaubey, do not disturb him like this. You are a senior Member. Please do not do this. I am not allowing you. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY (Buxer) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he is speaking beyond the topic.
...(Interruptions)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : How can I deal with you?
[*Translation*] First, you start speaking so. It is very difficult to preside over the sitting from here.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Whatever it may be, I would allow if it is a parliamentary word.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : There was one sweet seller—Nathu Shah, who had a shop of 'poori and kachauris'. He was a healthy man....(Interruptions)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Prabhunath Singh, how should I deal with you?

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : The Ramlila organisers asked Nathu Shah to play the role of Hanuman ji since the person who was supposed to play this role had fallen sick. Nathu Shah then said how could he do that, the Ramlila organisers told that he had to do nothing, just a little bit that when Ravana would ask him as to who he was, he has to say that he is Lord Rama's messenger, Hanuman. So Nathu Shah was persuaded to act. His make-up was done and a big tail was planted. So he was all set to play the role of Hanuman. As per the scene, when Ravana asked him about his identity, he was Lord Rama's messenger, Hanuman. Thereafter, in the next scene Ravana had to raise his sword and say that he was Rama's messenger Hanuman, then he will cut him into pieces. No sooner did Ravana raised his sword, he abruptly said, I am not Hanuman, I am Nathu Shah. Similarly, when hon. Prime Minister attends the meeting of NDA, he pretends to be secular and says that there should not be any masjid dispute, and when he goes to attend the RSS congregation, his real face of Nathu Shah emerges.

We have analysed the situation to ascertain the intricacy.

Yesterday a statement was made at the residence of Shri Syed Shahnawaz Hussain which was followed by a resolution passed in the sitting of the NDA. Though they are communal, yet they pretend to be secular. They make public posture and in the process they forget about their identity. Therefore, I want to draw the attention of the House towards this as to why it is so.

In the name of Lord Rama they raise hue and cry here in the House. There was a man named Karekhan who used to say....(Interruptions)

[*English*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker : He is the main speaker of his party.

...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will decide it, not you

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : About Lord Rama it has been said—

"Hindu ke hon nath to hamar kuchh kahana nahin, Jag ke hon nath to hamari sudh lijiye"

It has been said that if Lord Rama is the lord of the universe, he is there to protect all the living beings and people of all religions. If he is 'God', he should protect every human being. In the manusmriti it has been said that the fundamentalists people are deceitful and they can even destroy the very objective of the religion. I would like to tell these fundamentalists....(Interruptions)

I would like to recite a couplet in regard to the incident of December 6th.

"Yun to us pistol par likha tha 30 January,
Aapne mitakar use 6 December likh diya".

It is betrayal with the country, the people who assassinated Mahatma Gandhi are also responsible for demolition of the Babri Mosque.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj) : Please also clarify about the role of Shri Narasimharao ji, and Congress party in this matter.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Shri Raghunath Jha a cabinet Minister in the Government of Shri Lalu Prasad Yadavji and he has been associated with him for a long period. He was held in high esteem in the party but he is being treated like an employee, he is a dissident here. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Feel the agony of these people. These people recite the name of Lord Rama day in and day out. There is a simile for them in the Ramcharitmanas. When Hanuman went to bring the "Sanjivanibooti" from the Dronagiri he met a demon named Kalnemi on the way. He was reciting the name of Lord Rama repeatedly and the name of Lord Rama was written near him. Hanumanji got confused whether that demon was a true devotee of Lord Rama. After a while, a divine light emerged there which helped Hanuman to recognise that he was not the true devotee of Lord Rama rather he was deceiver and he wanted to kill him by deceit. After knowing this Hanuman killed the demon Kalnemi. Therefore, these people are not the true devotees of Lord Rama, these are demons like Kalnemi. These people recite the name of the Lord Rama but they want to instigate communalism in the country. Therefore, I call upon the people of the country to save the country from these people who are reciting the name of Lord Rama like Kalnemi. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Sir I am concluding. We are hardly concerned about the fate of this motion. I am of the firm conviction that the Prime Minister should withdraw his communal statement. He should express regret for having made such a statement and should tender apology to the nation. There is no other way-out. The motion moved by Shri Jaipal Reddyji should be passed and the country should be saved from communalism and communal riots. The leaders of the secular front should join hands and this communal Government should be brought down because they are leading the country on the path of disaster.

With these words I conclude.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, Shri Trilochan Kanungo. But before that, an unparliamentary word has been used by the hon. Member. Therefore, I remove it.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I express my gratitude to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this Motion. I have two parts on it. The first is regarding the Motion and the next one is regarding the Biju Janata Dal's stand on this Motion.

Firstly, let me tell you about this Motion. The Motion was brought forward previously and it was rejected by the hon. Speaker on 11th December, 2000 on the ground that it did not satisfy the admissibility under Rule 186 (iv) and 186 (viii). One is that it is not a matter of recent occurrence and the second is that it is *sub judice*. But again on 13th, the same Motion had been moved and was admitted.

I wanted to know under what circumstances, under which rules this motion had been adopted. My point of order has almost reminded on this post.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Kanungo, on your point of order the ruling was given by the hon. Speaker. So, please do not refer to that.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Sir, I was just saying that it remained almost on that post.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, you are not permitted to refer to that.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Sir, this motion is not of recent occurrence. Secondly, it is *sub judice* and again it is sensitive and serious. Serious issues are to be discussed here but when it is a sensitive matter which can arouse communal sentiments, then it should not be discussed here. Otherwise, it will arouse communal sentiments. Therefore, I was raising that point.

Sir, my point is that so far as the demolition of the Babri Masjid or any Mosque by anybody or any organisation is concerned, it is uncivilized and irreligious. We opposed it in the past, we are opposing it now and we will oppose it in future also.

Sir, I am a secular man and my party is also secular. Let me tell you that secularism to me and to my party is one thing. I respect Prophet Mohammad, Jesus Christ, I love Lord Buddha as much as I love Lord Jagannatha. That is my kind of secularism and that is how I understand secularism. I do not differentiate between these things and that way I am secular.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, this question, whether these three Ministers would remain in the Cabinet or not, is the prerogative of the hon. Prime Minister. We have nothing to say when the matter is *sub judice*. We have to wait till the judgement of the court comes. Therefore, it should not have been discussed here.

Regarding the statement of the hon. Prime Minister, I say yes, it should be discussed, but it should not be discussed under this Rule. It should have been that all the rules have been suspended and we should have discussed this motion under that pretext and it should not have been discussed under Rule 184. I stand by this.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I am hundred per cent in agreement with Shri Syed Shahnawaz Hussain, who spoke just before me, with regard to handling of the communal forces and with regard to the problems of minorities. During the last 52 years, it was detrimental to their interests and we have not done anything towards their economic prosperity, freedom and that we have overlooked their problems. So, I demand that something should be done for them and the Constitution be so amended that the minorities get a better deal from the Government of India and from various State Governments so far as their economic freedom is concerned.

Sir, I oppose this motion because this motion is not for the upliftment of the minority community. It is not for their interests, but in order to score a political point that this motion has been moved or brought before this House.

Therefore, I am opposing this. My Party, Biju Janata Dal, is a regional Party. So far as India is concerned, what sort of India we are thinking of, what sort of India we have to represent, that is very much enshrined in our Constitution. We stand by it. Let me read out the verse. This will show what sort of India that Biju Janata Dal wants. I am quoting from '*Me Hindustan — I am India*'.

**I am the divine mother of humanity

I am thy Hindustan

Thy symbol of nectar and equality or integration

I tend indomitable earth shivering on the peak—
like the cloud curtain

Flowing in Mahanadi and Ganga from meditating
mountains

Colonising this rainbow of the wave of the ocean of
people

Breaking all the hills of differences

I am raising my protecting

Arms that bestow fearlessness with meditating
Budha and

Non violence of Gandhi and

Aspiration of Lenin and the language of Nanak

Some benign and crying for oneness—the love of
Jesus and thirst of Kabir,

The leaders of revolution of the oppressed
tirelessness guard

Holy Quran of Hazrat Mohammad

Avesta and Geeta

This arm represents the great 'Sangha'

The safeguard — this great arm of children and
depressed millions

Holy earth of Neelanchal and Qutub Minar

Echo of 'Azaan' from Jama Masjid

Get back life of the depressed, oppressed, children
and women—

This holy arm...**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Trilochan Kanungo,
what is it that you are quoting?

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : I am quoting
Kovinara. I am quoting the secular concept of Biju Janata
Dal.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That is true. But it should
go on record first that you are quoting from such and
such book.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Definitely I shall tell
you, Sir. It is an Oriya version.

"I am the sovereign Hindustan

I call you — world humanity and the children of
Manu..."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please translate it
also. The translator is not there to give it in English.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : It is unfortunate that
Oriya translator is not there.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : According to the system,
when you speak in English, it will be translated into Hindi.
If you speak in Hindi, it will be translated into English.
If you speak in vernacular language, then you have to give
advance notice so that the translator remains there.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : I am sorry, Sir, that
I have not given advance notice. I shall give the English
renderings of it. I am only quoting this because this is the
secular concept of Biju Janata Dal. My Party, Biju Janata
Dal, has adopted this poem as the secular concept. This
poem does belong to a revolutionary poet, comrade,
Manmohan Mishra whom all the Left Party leaders know
I shall give the English renderings after this. I have a few
lines only.

"I am the sovereign great Hindustan..."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Are you going to read the entire book or not? What is that? You quote something.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : No.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Trilochan Kanungo, you are telling that these are the lines that form the secular concept of your party. You are reading the whole book.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : I will read two more lines only.

* "I welcome in the freedom and shoulder

Mansingh be the martyr for the world wonder Taj

Abdul Hamid be the holi guard of Gurudwar

Lay the life — Khurdha Panika

Sacrifice for Ghalib's ghazal

We are the faithful soldiers for everybody's upkeep

So intimated is the tradition

So loudly acclaimed is this great Hindustan

No comparison of this wonderful unity

Of aboriginals, Dravid and Aryans

I am the Hindustan."*

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA We do not understand anything....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That is what I said. He has read out something. They cannot take it down here. It is not there on record. For his satisfaction he has read it out.

Yes, continue, Shri Trilochan Kanungo, that much of time is over for you. We do not know what is it you are quoting.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : I am sorry that I had not given a notice in advance.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, no. You could have given. All the other Members are agitated to know what is it you are quoting.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : I request you to allow me. Tamil poems have been quoted, Bengali poems have been quoted and poems of other languages have been quoted here.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now come to the subject.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : So far as secularism is concerned, we are not going to negotiate and we are not going to dilute it. While we have to respect and we love our Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, staying with him and with the Government is conditional. At any moment of time, if secularism is at stake or if it is going to be negotiated, if the minority communities are going to be affected, at that moment we shall sever all our connections with them. That is the condition for remaining with the Government. That is how we have been functioning here. We are very silent, we are docile, but we are also strong and we are determined. That is the way we have been functioning in Orissa and here also.

Let me tell you what happened on the 6th and the 7th December, 1992 when the Babri Masjid was demolished. On the 7th and the 8th there was some fall-out everywhere. I was the Mayor of Cuttack Municipal Corporation, the oldest and the biggest Municipal Corporation in Orissa. Not a single person came forward to help the people even though the writing on the wall was clear. I had to go round in the Muslim *Bastis* and in the Hindu *Bastis*, I had to go there and contain them. That is the essential content in me, that is the central content in the BJD.

Therefore, we request the hon. Prime Minister to give a clear and candid replay in unambiguous terms a promise about what the NDA really stands for. The issue is not there in the agenda of the NDA and we are for secularism. Therefore, I request the hon. Prime Minister once again, that when he replies, he shall say in candid terms that we are not going to, in any way, negotiate or dilute the secularism or the functioning of this Government in the interests of India and in the interests of all the communities of India.

[Translation]

DR. GIRIJA VYAS (Udaipur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, today the House has assembled to put forth its view against the conduct of three ministers and it is the demand of the House that they should resign from the cabinet. According to the additional session Judge, Ayodhya case, chargesheet can be filed on the basis of *prima facie* facts. On the basis of the view expressed by the court, chargesheet has not been taken against these three ministers and hence the opposition had to move this

motion for discussion under Rule 184. There are so many reasons for moving this motion. Several Members raised a point as to why we are raising this issue after so many years.

The opposition has given several reasons for this but besides these reasons there is one more hidden reason. Today the whole country is aware as to what would be the fate of identity, religion, philosophy and cultural heritage of the country which all form the very basis of secularism. In this context I would like to recite a couplet by Dinkarji in the House.

"Samar shes hai kintu nahin hai doshi kewal vyadh,
Jo tatasth hain samy likhega unka bhi apradh".

Therefore, time will not spare those people who become mute spectators of the damage being caused to our secular fabric and who do not read against violence and who pretend to be neutral and thereby allow our identity and cultural heritage to be destroyed.

Sir, it has been said repeatedly as to why this issue is raised on 6th December. We have tried to forget the 6th December episode by the country is unable to forget it and the Bharatiya Janata Party has been trapped in its own net. The episode of 6th and 7th December comes before the public statements and conduct of the people belonging to the BJP. It appears to me that first they inflicted wounds on the secular fabric of the country and then they are bent upon rubbing salt on those wounds. Lot of things have been said here about the statement of the Prime Minister and comments have also been made on the said statement. Shri George Fernandes is not present in the House right now, he spoke like the spokesperson of the Prime Minister. I congratulate the Prime Minister for appointing this new spokesperson. There could not have been a better opportunity for this new spokesperson to prove his commitment and loyalty to the Prime Minister.

Sir, the Prime Minister had a liberal image before the country. We expected that he will be influenced by his N.D.A. colleagues and his liberal image will be further strengthened. Just now an honourable member from this side had said that Shri George Saheb and Kumari Uma Bharati were influenced by each other. Yesterday, whatever come before us from that it is clear that though the Prime Minister was not influenced by them but people like Shri George Fernandes was definitely influenced by what is called 'saffronization.' When the people instead of going through the manifesto of NDA started to go through the manifesto of BJP, they congratulated Shri George Fernandes for his adopting the ideologies of saffronization.

Sir, one of my friend had mentioned about Freud. I would also like to mention about him.

[English]

Strongly inhibited strongly desired.

[Translation]

Hon'ble Prime Minister had tried to project an image before the country. He is a poet by heart and he even revolted sometimes against the hard-line of RSS and its agenda and he has got his own political ideology. However, once he came to power, his mask which he put on for years together slipped down and that is why he came to his real self while he was in USA and sometimes even in the country. He never lagged behind in expressing those feelings. The RSS family and BJP have been inciting the sentiments of the majority people in various forms for the last 50 years. Instead of being neutral, now the hon'ble Prime Minister has also shown his participation by indulging in it, hence it is natural for the people of the country to get stunned. When Shri George Saheb raised the issue of as to why the charges were being levelled against Prime Minister, it happened only because that the pseudo image and mask worn by him that suffered came into sharp attack and naturally, the august House as well as the country got rude shocks. Hence, a request was made on behalf of House that its clarification should be given in this regard

15.00 hrs.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, now I would like to draw your attention towards the incident of 6th December. One cannot forget the incident of 6th December. An attempt has been made to prove this entire incident as false. I would like to quote here the statement of hon'ble Advaniji, which he had given on 6th December. He had said that I am unhappy as I could not check that incident to happen. But history is the witness to it that on that day the security personels were prevented from going inside. The Prime Minister had expressed his deep anguish over that incident and he even wrote a poem in sorrow. However, the incident of 6th December went into oblivion on 8th December and he remarked that it was not the first incident of destruction. Such incidents had been taking place even in the past also. Similarly, Bhandarji had also said from his Delhi office that this incident is unfortunate, unexpected and unjustified. At that time, hon'ble Thackeray Saheb had said that we are proud of it. On that very day, hon'ble Devrasji encouraged that in the name of Hindutva. Hon'ble Kalyan Singhji had on 16th December neither expressed sorrow nor repentance, instead he felt proud. The hon'ble Vajpayeeji had used words like extremely sorry while speaking in the Parliament on

17th December, however, these words were forgotten on 24th December and these feelings vanished in the Resolution passed by the executive of BJP. That sorrow, that pain, that poem and that sensitivity which the people of this country were expecting from the heart of poet all vanished.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, BJP have been inciting the sentiments of the majority people in various forms for the last 50 years and sought to score the political mileage from such tactics and neither the Congress nor the country has any surprise over this. I am saying all this before you because we know their thinking but this House also wanted to know whether there is any difference in the ideology of NDA from that of BJP. Their colleagues are making tall-talk that they will remain united and their Government will remain in power for five years. We also want that the Government should remain in power for 5 years since we have been elected by the people. Would this Government run in the name of Hindutva and with the Hindu votes only? This House is eager to know whether the allies would stand by the Government shedding off their own secular image. There may be an outcry but it has become evident that what intension you have. The way the members have spoken over secularism, it is an indication that their Government will not survive for five years. When they are overwhelmed with secularism, when the thought of the honour of the country overwhelms them and when the savour of the power is gone and when the people who want a package for their regions do no longer want that then they will get indifferent to this communal party.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not know whether the hon'ble Prime Minister will speak over this or not. Hon. Prime Minister is given to rebutting his statements with the same promptness and sensitivity with which he makes the sentiments that is why the country is seeking the clarification from the Prime Minister.

What was the attitude of Congress over this, this point has also been mentioned here but I do not want to go into it. Just now hon'ble Shahnawaz Hussainji was also speaking and giving paradoxical statement that the Muslims of India are proud that they enjoy equal status. Sir, this is the country where Hindus-Muslims fought the freedom struggle unitedly and achieved their goal. The war that was fought for democracy and for the freedom of India in that there is no caste-discrimination. Therefore, everyone got equal rights here. During Harijan Movement in 1922 Gandhiji had said that the democracy and freedom will lose its meaning if all the people do not get equal rights. Therefore, everyone should get equal rights. Nobody can forget that incident when India and Pakistan both were making preparations to celebrate independence and on the same night Gandhiji was fasting and

he was sad too because he never imagined that partition would take place and country would be divided in two parts.

The allegations have been made against us that we adopt the policy of appeasement. This can be well understood by the care and favour shown by a mother towards her weak child *vis-a-vis* the healthy one. In the same way, weaker people are definitely given a helping hand in this country.

I would like to remind the incident of putting up the statue of Ramalala. I remember that at that time the constables were the workers of RSS and the then Commissioner was Shri K.K. Nayyar, who later on joined the Jan Sangh. In 1984, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad.
...*(Interruptions)*

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur) : At that time, who was the Chief Minister of State and who was the Prime Minister of country?

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : I am coming to that point.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : She is not yielding. Now you have become senior.

... *(Interruptions)*

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : You have not ended that. You continued even afterwards.... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Aditya Nath, unless the hon. Member yields to you, nothing will go on record. She is not yielding. I am not allowing you. Nothing will go on record except the speech of Dr. Girija Vyas.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Aditya Nath, please resume your seat. She is not yielding. You are not permitted to speak. Whatever you are uttering will not go on record. Please do not interrupt Dr. Girija Vyas.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There is a convention that if someone yields, then you can speak.

YOGI ADITYA NATH : One should not mislead the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If someone tries to mislead the House, then you can bring Privilege Motion against him.

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...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will not allow anyone to misguide the House.

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : In September 1984, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad had brought out one Tableau from Sitamarhi to Ayodhya. In 1986, the temple was opened for pooja on the order of District Court, Faizabad. I would like to tell one thing very clearly that the year 1989 was the year of election. As my colleague had said, the Congress has always believed in dialogues. I never resorted to the act of destruction or such politics. The Congress has never indulged in separating brother from brother. It never exploited emotions. This was the reason that for the unity and integrity of the country and to create love in the hearts of people the then Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi had drawn attention of the people towards Ram temple issue. As hon'ble Jaitleyji had said that today I am feeling proud. The people feel proud having 'Darshan' of Lord Rama. He had the sentiments of having solidarity, coordination with people and upliftment of weaker sections of society. After this incident of 1989, in this year itself negotiation started between these two groups. It seemed as if both the communities would solve their problem through negotiations but this was not acceptable by BJP and RSS family. These people resorted to the acts of hatred in the country and they indulged in laying stones or undertaking yatras to attain their ends. The time and again they gave undertaking to the effect that the structure would be kept intact and also the temple would not be touched. They destroyed the structure under the promise of laying Ram Shila.

What Shri Syed Saheb had said was true. The then Minister of Home Affairs said that the sights chosen was right. But he was not representing our party. On November, 1992 he had said that the Supreme Court has symbolically reiterated that only some worship will take place. He gave a statement in NIC and in Parliament that *status quo* will be maintained. The incident of 6th December has not only brought down the historical tomb enshrining the spirit of harmony, but the frenzied elements also brought down the three pillars of our democracy i.e. rule of law, the supremacy of law and the judiciary. It can never be forgiven for damaging the cultural identity of the country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to place this fact before you that the BJP has always misled the people and played Hindu card to bag more seats in the election. If we see the figures we will find that Jan Sangh has won 3 seats by getting 3.1% of the total votes cast in 1952, 4 seats by getting 5.9% of the total votes in 1957, 14 seats by getting 6.4% of total votes in 1962, 35 seats by getting 9.4% of total votes in 1967 and in 1971 it won

22 seats by getting 7.4% of total votes. In 1977 they were part of alliance headed by Janata Party. In 1984, the party won 2 seats and got 7.4% of the total votes and once again a poll alliance was made in 1989 and in 1991 it won 120 seats with a vote of 20.08%. If we see all these things, we will find that during 1967, 1989 and 1991, the Jan Sangh or BJP have picked up the issues like cow-slaughter, laying of foundation stone and construction of the temple on disputed sites which provoked the sentiments of people during their election campaigns. The way these three Ministers were given clear chit by the Prime Minister after making a statement is indicative of the fact that BJP, by raising this issue once again, wants to endanger the identity and secular fabric of a country. I am levelling this allegation after thinking a lot in this regard that the BJP is not only against the other religion but it is against even Hindu religion. Right now, Shri Katiyarji is also not present here. Last time, when I was on an election campaign, I took notice of the hoardings which bore the slogans "I am proud to be a Hindu", quoting Swami Vivekanand. I want to ask these people whether they have gone through the works and acts of Swami Vivekanand Had they done so, they would never have uttered such words. While speaking in the Parliament of religions in Chikago Swami Vivekanand had made the following opening remark :

[English]

"May He who is the Brahman of the Hindus, the Ahura-Mazda of the Zoroastrians, the Buddha of the Buddhists, the Jehova of the Jews, the Father in Heaven of the Christians, give strength to you to carry out your noble ideal."

[Translation]

He had not mentioned about his religion, he mentioned about all religions. Further, he had said that I deny that my religion is limited in its scope. On 11th September, 1893, he had said that I feel proud of being follower of such a religion which preached universal ethos. We not only have faith in universal tolerance instead we consider all religions as true. Today, I feel proud of being citizen of such nation which has given shelter to the follower of all the religions and all the oppressed persons. But to say that 'I am proud to be a Hindu' is against the basic tenets and identity of Hindu religion. Only that person has a right to claim so who respect other religions also.

YOGI ADITYA NATH : What you people had done in 1984? I would like to know the definition of Hindu. Whom do you called Hindu?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Aditya Nath, I will have to view your interruption seriously. You are a senior Member.

[Translation]

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : I would once again like to quote what Swami Vivekananda had said ... (Interruptions) According to him Hindu is a religion which has the capacity to absorb other religions.... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are interrupting again and again. You are a senior Member. In spite of being senior Member, you are interrupting like this again and again.

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Iqbal had said

"Kuch baat hai ki hasti mitthi nahi hamari". This is so because we have taken along with us the people who have faith in other religions as well.

15.16 hrs.

[SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA in the Chair]

[Translation]

I would like to reiterate what Vivekanandji had said on 27 September, 1983—

"Much has been said about the basic tenants of religious unity. I would only like to highlight only one of them which states that it is nothing more than a mirage to expect that the religious unity can be brought about by securing the domination of one religion under the others by decimating them, i.e. if we carry forward along with all other religions and communities then we can proudly claim that we are Hindus."

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today I find the basic image of Rama threatened to be wiped out in view of the peculiar interpretation of the Dharma by some political parties which is contrary to basic tenants of religion as mentioned by Swami Vivekananda. Lord Rama was the epitome of and virtue uprightness (Maryada Purushottam) and the champion of the theme of Tulsiji's "Udarcharitam Tu Vasudhev Kutumbkam" (To the liberal minded whole universe is like a family). Hence I would like to remind Shahnawazji that the words uttered by Tulsiji when he was forced to leave Ayodhya by hardliners reflect the liberal and comprehensive attitude and vision of our religious and spiritual heritage. Probably he might have said these words in a depressed state of mind, "Maang

Ke Khaibo, Maseeb Ko Soibo, Lene Ko Ek Na Dena Ko Do" meaning thereby that I will eat by begging, sleep in the mosque. I have nothing to do with anybody. These words could have been uttered by a great person alone whose worshipped God was Lord Rama, the 'Maryada Purushottama.' Composite culture has been a part of our heritage. It was due to the capacity of our culture to encompass everything which came in its contact that several religions and communities enjoyed the fruits of its shelter on equal terms with its native religion and this was the reason that not only Raskhan, follower of the stream of Krishna cult was born here but several other devotees of Lord Rama who were his contemporaries also influenced the Indian cultural scenario. But before I switch over to explain the Rama of Tulsiji, I would like to quote what Valmiki's Rama when Sita was exiled Lord says "My country is first and foremost in my view and the national religion is my own religion" When such a concept of national religion can be hypothesized so many years ago why can not we establish our national religion as our own religion? One feels proud to be either a Hindu, Sikh, Christian or Muslim but this identity of our religion can only be maintained by the preservation of our National religion. Similarly, the qualities which Tulsiji embodies in Lord Rama, make him the greatest of all. Tulsiji had said—

"Sambhal Nisambhal Ko, Sakha Asaahaya Ko
Pagure Ke Haath Paanv, Andhre Ki Ankh Ko"

and impressed by this stream of thought, many sufi saints went on to surrender themselves in the pursuance of the same. Lizza Majhad called him Nabi while Iqbal said,

"Hai Ram Ke Wagood Se Hindustan Ko Naaz
Ahle Nazar samajhate Hain Usko Imane Hind"

Maulana Jafar said—"Naksha Tehjib Hunub Ab bhi Numaya Hai, Agar to Sita Mein Hain, Lakshman Mein Hai, Ram Mein Hai.... (Interruptions) please listen the definition of 'dharma'. Hence I am saying.... (Interruptions)

SHRI SAHIB SINGH (Outer Delhi) : You tell us the definition of Congress.

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : Such a Lord Rama who is the epitome of equanimity and harmony can not be the worshipped Lord of Bhartiya Janta Party and other fanatic parties. You should bear it in your mind that Rama conceived by Tulsiji and Valmiki is the Rama of the country. I would like to percolate, through this House, this truth down to the entire country that such a Ram could never have done any thing to dismantle the fabric of our culture. However, the infrastructure of our secular fabric has been damaged by the deeds of BJP and other parties following the same ideology. Hence I have demanded for the resignation of all these three Ministers so that our secular fabric may remain intact.

Mr. Chairman, Madam, in 1921 when this question arose in the mind of Mahatma Gandhi as to what does India have to offer to the world except our culture. Giving its reply to self he had said that we have to follow this liberal spirit in order to bring the world community closer to us. If we try to project ourself as the devotee of Lord Rama then we will have to shun the venomous attitude perpetuating religious and communal hatred. We have to adopt the path of defining the religious spirit in order to truly implement the democracy and to eradicate the fundamentalism from our society.

Madam, the same line which I have just said, was uttered by Shri Ayangarji. Hence we should respect the sentiment echoed by the Supreme Court seeking to include the Ministers found prima-facie guilty in the matter into the category of heinous criminals. The Ministers whose resignations we have sought should resign.

Madam, a case of 1951 has been mentioned here. I would like to draw your attention towards the Congress Constitution wherein it clearly seeks to find justice through conciliatory measures. Conciliation is the very basic of our survival. If we fail to resolve the deadlock even through mutual discussion, then the Court is the last resort. Even today, we are on the same track.

Madam, the clear example of what the BJP Government in U.P. had done in gross violation of and contrary to the spirit of Constitution in the disposal of its duties can be found in the reign of then BJP Government in U.P. I would like to conclude by quoting the words of hon. Justice Jeewan Reddyji of Supreme Court in which it has been clearly stated that all that which occurred on 6th December, 1992, is due to the sustained propaganda launched by these elements—

[English]

"That it was the outcome of a sustained campaign carried out over a number of years throughout the country and that it was the result of the speeches, acts and deeds of several leaders of BJP and other organizations."

[Translation]

These people who have been found prima facie guilty by the Supreme Court have no right to continue in power. They should tender their resignations on moral grounds. Congress has always made efforts to bring harmony. Hence, I would like to conclude after reciting this couplet:—

"Ram Rahim Mein Fark Nahin Hai Samajh Kab Ayegi
Man Ka Mandir Dil Ki Masjid Pahle Tum Banvao To."

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri M.S. Palanimanickam.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mailyadutarai) : Mr. Chairman, Madam, you please ask Shri Palanimanickam to speak in Hindi. Yesterday, when it was my turn to speak then he had asked me to speak in Tamil.....(Interruptions)

*SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur) (Interruptions) It started with Aiyar only.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar, please sit down. Will you please sit down? Order.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : Madam Chairperson, I thank the Chair for giving me an opportunity to participate in this discussion on the motion moved by the 'Best Parliamentarian of the Year' Hon'ble Member and our senior colleague Shri S. Jaipal Reddy who functions ably whichever party he is in. I thank him too. I am also happy to address this august House in Tamil, upholding my mother tongue, which is one of the cherished principles that had attracted me towards my party Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam which was founded as a social reform movement to safeguard the interests of the downtrodden, the backward classes and the minorities. I find this as an opportunity to listen to parties that come out with their present stand on this issue explaining their ideologies, policies and perceptions. This is also an opportunity to see those who stand exposed due to their alternating stand and defective policies.

Our party DMK was not founded to capture power whereas it was founded with the lofty ideal of safeguarding the interests of the downtrodden backward classes and the minorities. In fact it was founded as a social reform movement.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Mani Shanker Aiyar Please don't. What is this?

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam was founded to uplift the downtrodden, the lowly and the under privileged who were crushed down the centuries in this country. DMK came forward to take up the cause of these toiling masses and fight for their rights. DMK dedicated itself to ensure the progress of the people by way of educating them, making them understand their condition and motivating them to shed their inhibitions. We had taken up several steps to see that our movement caught the imagination of the people and attracted them towards DMK. After making early strides in its venture, DMK came to the world of politics and came to power to translate into action our principles and policies and to legislate for the deprived classes. We

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

hold the same faith and belief in our principles even when we form part of the Union Government today if only to continue our mission. We find this an opportunity to implement our policies for the welfare of the under privileged and the minorities. The election manifesto of our party DMK enjoins itself with the manifesto of National Democratic Alliance. Our manifesto reflects our commitment to secularism. It is only secularism that can strengthen the unity of all communities and sections of Indian society. DMK has totally dedicated itself to secularism. "National Democratic Alliance is new. The NDA is the future and the NDA is a broad-based movement for progress and justice. Our vision is one of national renewal with modern programmes of change for a resurgent India. We reach out to the minorities and even at the cost of repetition proclaim that we will safeguard the rights as enshrined in our Constitution. NDA is the political arm of none other than the Indian people as a whole. No one will be cast aside; fairness and justice will be rendered to one and all and we assure you that there will not be any discrimination. We appeal to our brothers and sisters of the minorities that we wholeheartedly extend our hands of friendship, with these fraternal words :

Let us hold hands and walk together to build a resurgent, modern India.

Let us throw away our old prejudices.

Let us put an end to divisiveness.

Let us have a moratorium on contentious issues.

Let us bind ourselves with bonds of trust and friendship.

We want India which we all feel part of, in whose future we all have a stake. And we want to enter the new millennium with confidence; not with divisive feelings. This is our call for reconciliation and it is part of our commitment to the minorities."

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar, please maintain some discipline. You cannot disturb the hon. Member.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : Madam, I am not yielding. *We have reiterated this having it incorporated in the National Agenda for Governance of the NDA. "We are committed to establish a civilised, humane, and just civil order; that which does not discriminate on grounds of caste, religion, sex, colour, race or sex. We will truly and genuinely uphold and practise the concept of secularism, consistent with the Indian tradition of *sarva panth samadara*, equal respect for all faiths, and on the basis of equality of all. We are committed to the

economic, social and educational development of minorities and will take effective steps in this regard". Our President's Address to our Parliament reiterated this view point dear to us. "Government is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all citizens of India irrespective of their caste, religion, gender or language..."
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Instead of making a speech, you are reading the manifesto of DMK. You should speak on the Resolution.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : Shri Natchiappan, I am not yielding.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Siva Ganga) : They were holding anti-Hindi agitation.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing should go on record. All these disturbances should not go on record.

....(Interruptions)**

*SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : This commitment of ours is sound echoed in the statement issued by our leader and the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. Kalaignar on 10th of this month. He had stated that NDA is a secular forum. NDA has several parties with different ideologies and perceptions. There must be efforts to arrive at a consensus or a general view on common issues and we do not accept any view being imposed on us. He made that statement even before you could raise any doubt on this. In order to obviate your doubts our NDA's Political Affairs Committee passed a resolution in this regard. "We believe that all parties to the dispute, and every political party in the country whose constitution in its preamble/ aims and objects commits it to uphold the Constitution of India, must accept the verdict of the Supreme Court. The *status quo* must be maintained until the Supreme Court delivers its verdict. The NDA reiterates its unambiguous to the protection and promotion of secularism. It remains unreservedly committed to implement its national agenda without any deviation." This is not mere assemblage of words. This constitutes the basic principles of all its constituent parties. This reflects our basic faith in secularism that nourish the fabric of unity of this country ensuring its integration. This cannot be understood easily by those who change their colours and shift their loyalties and change their political platforms. That is not that easy. I have been listening to the presentations made by various political parties for the last two days in this august House. Our leftist friends and CPM comrades believe in history

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

† Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.
** Not recorded.

and its events. Even ignoring history or failing to mention them amounts to distorting history. When they were recalling the events of Ayodhya history, they had ignored the role of Congress. Had they mentioned it we who had aligned with them once would have felt very happy. Conveniently they had forgotten that. Why do you seek to hide the hand of Congress in contributing to this problem from its genesis and also the launching of Congress campaign from Ayodhya. When there was an alliance between DMK and the Marxists, CPM used to insist that it would not participate in any of the All Party meetings with the participation of the Muslim League. Those Marxist comrades have now joined hands with them. We would only welcome your change of heart to have them as your alliance partners. Vested interests may be with political parties but it should not be with an elected Government. After being returned to power a Government must be common to all people and must strive for their progress and development. Whether this was the guiding principle of Congress during the time when it was in power is another question and I am not going into it. But I would like to make it very clear that our NDA Government would be guided by this common approach principle. I would like to reiterate that DMK would strive to ensure this within the NDA. In this august House I would like to record that DMK strongly expresses its unassailable confidence reposed in our Prime Minister. The people of this nation also have the same faith in our Prime Minister.

...(Interruptions)

Shri Aiyar you know my original face.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : But you did not have this faith till last year.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar, please don't carry on like this.

*SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : Yesterday my Marxist friends who are now initiating the formation of the Third Front expressed that they have faith in our Prime Minister. Even Congress friends said that they have faith in our Prime Minister. They said that he is in the wrong hands of BJP and they try to misuse him. However, I thank them all on behalf of my party and the NDA for their faith in our Prime Minister. Young men can be misled but not a seasoned elderly man. There is a story in our countryside. One day the young rats or the micelings that lived in a rat hole by the side of a paddy field rushed to their mother in great panic. They told their mother that somebody was digging the bund that may damage the rat hole. The mother coolly asked them whether that was an aged man or a young man. The young ones said that it was a young man. The mother asked them not to worry saying that it would not be easy for the young man to get

at them. She also told them that it is only the seasoned aged men who cannot be fooled easily. That way no one can mishandle or misuse and take for granted our seasoned elder statesman Vajpayeeji.

Madam Chairperson, through you we would like to convey to this august House and the people of the country that DMK will not be there if NDA is to deviate from its principles and collective policy guidelines. We are firm on this stand. I would like to point out that the magnanimity that was with our colleague Shri P.H. Pandian was not with Shri Malhotra. Shri Pandian was holding brief for BJP even without taking any consideration, all for free. He himself said that. Should you not congratulate them for sending *kar sewaks* on their own? My dear Congress friends, I would like to appeal to your good senses. you have moved this motion against three Ministers saying that they have been charge-sheeted. At the same time you walk hand in hand, and hug each other with the convicted persons or parties led by such personalities. You have aligned with persons who have been sentenced with imprisonment. Is it fair?

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is this? Please sit down. Mr. Pandian, you were the Speaker of an Assembly Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli) : They are going to supply cement. They are going to sell bricks because DMK is cementing Tamil Nadu and cementing Andhra Pradesh. They have got so much of cement.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record after this. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)*

1543 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri K.K. Kaliappan and some other hon Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Pandiyan, nothing is going on record. You are a member of the Panel of Chairmen. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Pandiyan, please stop this.
Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Pandiyan, what is it that you
are all doing? Please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not the way to behave in
the House. Nothing is going on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please go back to you places.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, we will have a discussion.
But you give a notice for a discussion on the Report of
the Sarkaria Commission. Please go back to your seats
now

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You give a separate notice for
that discussion.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Pandiyan, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am calling the next speaker.
Shri Palanimanickam, do you want to speak or not?

...(Interruptions)

15.46 hrs.

*(At this stage, Shri A. Krishnaswamy and some other
hon. Members came and stood on the floor
near the Table.)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no question of a
discussion.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned to
meet again at 4 p.m.

15.47 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*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Palanimanickam,
your time is over. Please conclude now.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur) : I have
not yet concluded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You spoke. As per the
record, you have taken ten minutes. No more than ten
minutes will be given to any hon. Member now because
the hon. Prime Minister will have to give the reply. Please
conclude now.

*SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : Hon'ble Deputy
Speaker Sir, it has become an annual feature now and
every year we find political parties are raising this issue
here. There is an adage, an old proverb in Tamil, if mother-
in-law breaks the pitcher it is a mere earthen ware and it
would be a golden vessel if it is broken by the daughter-
in-law. It would be a serious one if it is done by the
daughter-in-law and it would be ignored if it had happened
at the hands of mother-in-law. Whatever that had
happened when the Congress Government was in power
are sought to be hidden and only things that happen during
the BJP regime are sought to be highlighted. This is done
so with a view to politicise issues. Political motivation is
there behind this move. The Congress party which has
moved this motion stating that it is in the interest of the
nation seeks the resignation of three ministers who have
been charge sheeted. At the same time they are hand in
hand with a convicted gang that had resorted to corruption
and looted when they were in power and we simply cannot
understand this. I would like to hint upon BJP that they
could have some more sense of fratitute. Why do I say
this. My friend and colleague Mr. P.H. Pandian was holding
brief for BJP without taking any consideration. His party
had also despatched men for *kar sewa* and they should
have acknowledged it. I do not know why they have not
thanked them. Even today an erstwhile Minister of Tamil
Nadu was sentenced to a 5 year term.... (Interruptions)
If that former Minister belongs to their party I am not
responsible for that. Right from the Chief Minister to the
then Speaker of the Assembly all the bigwigs of AIADMK
Government are facing charges, trials and are being
convicted getting imprisonment sentence. Almost all the

Ministers of the erstwhile Government of their party are facing criminal corruption charges. Now, we Tamils cannot hold our heads high when we go out. This is for the first time in the Indian political history that a former Chief Minister has been convicted with a prison sentence. Even here the Members of Parliament are astonished to see the sentence they have been awarded with. I wish the entire nation take note of it. ...*(Interruptions)* I am not yielding.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli) : Sir, he referred to my name. That is why, the problem started ...*(Interruptions)* Now also, he has referred to my name. That is why, the problem has started.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is not yielding. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir, in order to maintain political decency and Parliamentary decorum I did not even mention the name of my colleague Mr. Selva Ganapathy and about the member who has been convicted on corruption charges. The motion that is being discussed today has been moved for political gains. It is politically motivated. There are some here who are longing to see elections as an annual feature. They are longing and dreaming to come to power. I can understand the expectations of some Congressmen to ride to power looking forward to ride on something to capture power exposing their rank opportunism ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : He was referring to my name. That is why, I replied*...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU (Pudukkottai) : Sir, he is making personal allegations against a person who is not a member of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI (Salem) : We want a discussion on the Sarkaria Commission's Report.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Selvaganapathy, please take your seat. I have to take serious action against you.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : *

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Selvaganapathy, this is too much. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Pandiyan, this is too much. I am on my legs. Please take your seat.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : He was referring to our side. Why should he refer to my name?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is unbecoming of a Member. You are not allowed to speak like this.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Pandiyan, I have to take a serious note of your conduct here.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If there is anything unparliamentary, I will remove it.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Palanimanickam, please conclude now.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : On behalf on DMK, I strongly oppose this politically motivated motion. With this, I conclude. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : At this rate, it is impossible to conduct the proceedings of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What is going on there? Those who want to go out, they can do so quietly.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU : I request the Chair that personal allegations against the present Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu should be expunged.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You leave that to me

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponani) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Member Shri Jaipal Reddy has made

* Not recorded.

a submission before the Prime Minister to sack from his Cabinet, those three persons i.e. Shri L.K. Advani, Dr Muri Manohar Joshi and Kumari Uma Bharati who have been facing trial in the court for committing the heinous crime of demolishing the Babri mosque. It was in this context that a clarification, later on, was issued regarding the statement of the Prime Minister in this regard.

Sir, these three persons are facing various charges of indulging in extremely heinous and condemnable acts. It is a matter of shame and misfortune for the country. It is indeed a matter of shame for the entire country that such type of persons are a part of the Government who have been charged of being involved in such a heinous crime. The situation is so grave that even the Home Minister is facing trial in the court regarding these accusations.

The trial of the Home Minister in the court leads to a situation where the accused and the prosecution are the same. It is mockery of the rule of law and our democracy. Hence, this suggestion has been put forth so that the country may not have to hang its face in shame over the fact that such persons, who have been accused with so heinous ... (Interruptions) Charges, are enjoying the stint as Cabinet Ministers. ... (Interruptions). What impression of the country we are creating before the entire world. ... (Interruptions) then several things are put forth before which are really a matter of shame for us. Babri mosque has been converted into a field of politics and the allegations and counter allegations are being made against each other. Our hearts are broken ... (Interruptions) Several so called sympathisers of Muslims are coming up but quite a new breed among them has generated who, after demolishing the mosque, are trying to proclaim themselves as the friends of Muslims, standing on the heave of debris of the demolished mosque. Such in the situation today, the Prime Minister has designated the construction of the temple as the fulfilling of the national sentiments. It is really the misfortune of the country that she is ruled by such a Prime Minister who label the aggressive motives and the heinous crimes committed by it as national sentiments.

The Supreme Court, in its judgement, remarks the act of demolition as a national shame while the Prime Minister stands to support it as a matter of national sentiment. I am quoting it from para (7) of the page no. 613 of the DIR (1995) SC (605). Prime Minister comes forward to claim as national sentiment the thing which is remarked as national shame by the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court says :

"Around mid-day a crowd addressed by leaders of B.J.P., V.H.P. etc. climbed the Ramjanmabhoom-Babri Masjid structure and started damaging the domes. Within

a short time the entire structure was demolished and razed to the ground. Indeed, it was an act of national shame. What was demolished was not merely an ancient structure, but the faith of minorities in the sense of justice and fair play of majority. It shook their faith in the rule of law and the constitutional process."

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR (Faizabad) : What date has been mentioned on it? ... (Interruptions) He is misleading the House.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Vinay Katiyar, he is not yielding. Please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

... (Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Our Prime Minister does not have any respect for even the Supreme Court. He gives more weight to what he says than the opinion of the Supreme Court.

The attack on the mosque is not the attack on it alone but an attack on the culture of the entire country.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If he is misleading the House you are free to bring 'Privilege Motion' against him.

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR : I have the order of the Supreme Court with me. He is misleading the House as no such ruling has been given by the Supreme Court.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

... (Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is not yielding.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What are you doing?

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can have other relief. You can move a Motion of Privilege against him but not like this.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : This is an attack on the rule of law. The ruling of the Supreme Court has been completely discarded.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What is this? How am I to conduct the House?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Prime Minister is to give a reply.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If he is misleading the House, then Privilege Motion can be brought in the House.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I have given the details in the House and I have referred it from AIR 1995, SC 605 para 7 page 613. I am saying this with reference to the rulings given by the Supreme Court. I am a responsible Member of this House. The Prime Minister has made a statement.

Hon. Prime Minister what a selection of time and place for give such a statement? The holy month of Ramjan is going on. The Muslims guests have gathered in Iftar party hosted by one of your Ministers. It is Iftar time i.e. time to rejoice and break the fast which is going on. The Muslims are engaged in offering their prayers and the Prime Minister of the country says that the mosque should be displaced somewhere else. It has given a jolt to the entire Muslim community of the country. What did you say? Prime Minister has not said that any sort of dialogue should be held in this regard. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except with Shri G.M. Banatwalla says.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : He says that we have to finish an unfinished task.

6 December, 1992 was a black day but the day today is even more so far the hon. Prime Minister, expressing the tone of fundamentalists and fanatics, says that we are going to finish the task which has remained unfinished.

It is the most unfortunate day. That day the fanatics demolished the mosque and today the Prime Minister himself, underlines the view of fanatics in that he says that we are to complete a unfinished task. It is a more black day. Much can be said regarding Babri Mosque. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Vinay Katiyar, do not interrupt.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Banatwalla, please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : The question relates to those three persons who have been accused of committing heinous crimes. The treasury benches here misused the privilege of expression from the floor of this House. It has been abused. Efforts have been made to dilute and negate the allegations against these accused. It is a very serious matter. The question is not as to whether the accusations against them are true or false which would be decided by the court.

[English]

Here, the floor of the House has been abused in trying to exonerate these accused people.

[Translation]

In fact, this is leading to apprehension in my mind. ... (Interruptions) let me speak out what I want to for I have been listening to everyone's views with full patience and despite it if I am not given an opportunity to express my views here then where shall I go to express my sentiments. It is the only place where we can express our views before you. It is being said to me. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Katiyar, how many times, will I have to tell you to keep quiet?

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : When the Prime Minister himself and the Law Minister also take a stance to defend and exonerate the accused by claiming that the cases are fabricated, it certainly debase our faith from not only the three Ministers but from the entire Cabinet. I am apprehensive that this Prime Minister and his Government would not fulfil the needs of the prosecution. In fact this resolution does not provide moral right to the Prime Minister or his Government. Now it is said that it is Prime Minister's prerogative that who so ever he desires he can retain in his Council of Ministers.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Banatwalla, please conclude now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Banatwalla, please conclude now.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, please give me half-an-hour more.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Oh, my goodness! Please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I know only this much that one Minister got up from that side and said that he is the sole Muslim who have risen here to speak. It is his claim from treasury benches whereas I have not got an opportunity to express my views. Everything was talked about here. For the last several years Muslims have been weakened, destroyed and now they are bent upon destroying even our identity. It is being said that it is Prime Minister's prerogative to keep any one, who so ever he desires, in the Council of Ministers. It is true that it is Prime Minister's prerogative, but in politics, governance or Government is above all responsibilities. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Vinay Katiyar, you have to withdraw that word.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, may I know what that word was?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, you please resume your seat.

[Translation]

We too should speak on the basis of our number in the House. Are you doing any favour in this regard?

[English]

Do not pass such remarks.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are interrupting every now and then.

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to clarify. I would like to ask you, did I say anything of that sort? I did not say anything. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I did not say anything of that sort....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am on my legs. I am appealing to you all to please resume your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please resume your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Will you please resume your seats?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Will you please resume your seats?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Ramdas Athawale, please resume you seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please resume your seats.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Everywhere, there is communalism.... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Ahamed, please resume your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, you express regret. Let him express regret. He has said it.

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR : Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I said nothing. Initially I only said that there are two Members and if you allot time accordingly, then everyone would get an opportunity to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There are several parties with only one Member. No member from one party has been called so far. I have called one each Member from each party. Here, normally Members do not speak on the basis of their strength. You have spoken several times, but number of Members is not the criteria.

[English]

This is casting aspersions on me, on my conduct. I felt if.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, none has anything against you in his mind.

[English]

There is absolutely nothing against you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, Shri Banatwalla, you continue.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Ramdas Athawale, that is over.

[Translation]

He does not have anything of that sort in his mind.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, please tell us for how long the debate would continue.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Prime Minister would reply after this.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Please tell us, upto what time the debate would continue, since today there is Roja Iftar also. That's why I have asked.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I too, am to perform Roja Iftar.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was telling that no doubt it is Prime Minister's prerogative, whosoever he desires he can keep as a Minister in the Council of Ministers....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now you may conclude it in brief.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I would conclude my speech if you so desire, but let me raise one point.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Well, you conclude your speech with one point.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it does not mean that the Government will escape from all moral responsibilities. After all, propriety too is a factor and as I have already said, it will be a matter of shame for the whole nation, its public, in whose cabinet such people are included who have appeared before the court for their involvement in such heinous crime(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri G.M. Banatwalla, will you please resume your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : In fact, it is not time for putting allegations from one party to another one. Today, the public is calling you and they are putting you on a test and the History will stand witness to the call by the public, the rule of law, that this NDA Government has conspired and is leading towards fascism. You will see that the time will decide their course.... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri G.M. Banatwalla, will you please resume your seat?

(Translation)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Today, the allies of NDA, BJP should realise that the BJP is implementing the agenda of Sangh Pariver in the name of NDA's agenda. With these words, I support this proposal. Similar suggestion was given by me and other Members as well.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav says.

...(Interruptions)*

(Translation)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak in connection with the resolution brought untimely, merely for a political motive. It was not an appropriate time to bring this resolution. What our colleagues in the Congress have been doing for the last three years? Were they sleeping during this period? When this resolution was to be brought, that time you did not bring it.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am a science student, thus I have studied science. I have studied about Good and Bad conductor in Physics. Good conductor means if you heat up one end of a rod the other end automatically gets heated up. For example iron. If you heat up one end of it the other end gets heated up automatically. Now come to Bad Conductor, for example dry wood. If we burn one end of it, the fire will reach up to the other end of it gradually. Poverty, price-rise, unemployment, and problem of peasantry are similar to Bad Conductor.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, what we are discussing today in the House is as good as political short-circuiting. Fundamentalists, be they Hindus or Muslims, provocative people's sentiments to gain political mileage. They are enemy of the country. Secularism is the only path, the country has to follow. I am not taking about any party or the individual in particular. I am talking about the people of the entire nation. We cannot compromise with anyone, as far as our policy is concerned but this political short cutting is definitely going to harm the nation. We should discuss the issue relating to poverty, unemployment, price-rise and problems of farmers, whereas we not doing it. We are not discussing the burning issues of the country. But we are discussing issues which help in provoking

people's sentiments. I would like to tell both, treasury benches and the opposition as well that if they act like this they can neither become follower of Ram nor follower of Rahim.

Shri Ram travelled from North India to South India and Swamvar ceremony of Lord Ram was held in Janakpuri. I understand very well his teachings, the path he had shown to us. Shri Murlī Manohar Joshi must be knowing better than us since he is a learned person. I do not challenge him on this issue. I have great regards for Shri Murlī Manohar Joshi and Shri L.K. Advani. But the way this resolution has been brought and the way they are being focussed is not proper and it is not an appropriate time for it. Thus I would like to say that Shri Ram travelled from North to South, i.e. he travelled right upto Srilanka which helped in unifying India. Therefore, the name of Shri Ram should not become a cause of worry to anyone. Similarly, no one should have any objection on Rahim's name. "Wahi Mahadev Wahi Mohammad". Amongst entire Saint tradition of India, Saint Kabir said most secular line that is Wahi Mahadev, Wahi Mohammad, Wahi Ishwar, Wahi Allah. What a fine philosophy our nation has got? We need to get inspiration from our philosophy. Ram unified India from North to South and Krishan from East to West i.e. upto Dwarikadham. In between there are several legendary tales like Mathura, Kashi, Jarasan. He started from Viratnagar, Nepal and went to Dwarika, a coastal area. He did the task of unifying India from East to the West. We should get inspiration from the philosophy, the ideals he provided to us.

I would like to tell that my party is totally against dividing people or their sentiments in the name of Ram or Rahim. Since hon. Prime Minister is present today, so he would clarify the entire position. We are strongly opposed to national manifestation.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now conclude, please.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : I do not believe that what has appeared in newspapers is the statement of the Government. Hon. Prime Minister has made it clear several times that verdict of the courts will be honoured. I would like to tell that be it an issue related to Article 370, common civil code or Mandir-Masjid dispute, these all are outside NDA's agenda. Since all these issues are not in national agenda, so to include all these issues in the agenda, all constituents of NDA will have to be taken into confidence. We are sure, the Government will not back track from common minimum programme. Therefore, we urge upon you that, the matter

which is sub-judice, be it in Allahabad High Court or the Supreme court....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now conclude please.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : We should wait for the verdict since the matter is sub-judice and we should honour the verdict of the Court. Meanwhile, any disputed statement, dividing the nation on religious grounds, or matter related to national feelings should not be made. Feelings for one community may relate to construction of temple whereas for other community it may be construction of mosque. Therefore, we should not divide ourselves on the issue of national feeling. Similarly, the bomb explosion which rocked Mumbai, and violence which erupted in Assam also may be national feelings.(Interruptions). I not only request you, but urge upon you also that do not divide country on this issue. It is a sensitive issue. In this connection we should honour fully our secular constitution. Since limited time is left, I would like to conclude with these words :—

"Ek do jakham nahi hai, sara badan hai chhalani,
Dard bechara preshan hai, ki uthoon to kahan se."

I would like to tell the people who boast of relations or Hindu-Muslims communal harmony that ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now you conclude.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : I would like to tell:

Jo salook badi ke saath, wahi salook neki ke saath ho,
Aina kya samajhata rishte kiske saath."

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA (Sirsa) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our party has not been allotted time. Therefore, kindly give us an opportunity.(Interruptions) We too want to express our feelings and we are also NDA ally....(Interruptions)

CAPT. (RETD.) INDER SINGH (Rohtak) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue being discussed today under Rule 184 is a very serious one. India is a very great country whose culture is very old. This country has seen many ups and downs, it was under monarchy once and had been a democratic country for quite some time. Being representative of one billion people, we are trying to instigate the sentiments of people. If we do not confine ourselves in kothis and flats, we would realise that the public is not happy with present state of affairs and the

people do not want that their representatives create a dividing line between them by raising communal issues out provocation sentiments of common man. The issue is that the three Ministers against whom charges have been levelled, should be removed. It is the prerogative of hon. Prime Minister. Anyone may be chargesheeted, but until and unless it is decided by the court, we should not take our own decision. Today's issue is clearly politically motivated. The Prime Minister made a statement and by virtue of inter-change of some words if one does not understand the contents of it, and proceedings of Parliament are stalled for seven days, it is not good. Today, for the Ninth day in a row, we could not carry out the business in the House. One voter has even said that he would file a PIL on the ground of 'No work, no pay'. My party, Indian National Lok Dal believes cent percent in secularism and we are committed to NDA's agenda. We are secular and we believe in progress and development of the country and not in provoking people's sentiments to attract the attention of voters. We do not believe in it. Therefore, my party strongly opposes this resolution.

[English]

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Coochbehar) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me the chance. Sixth of December, 1992 is the black day in the history of India. While supporting the Motion of Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, I must say that as far as the demolition of the Babri Masjid is concerned, it is the BJP, it is the Shiv Sena, it is the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and it is the Bajrang Dal, which are responsible. But, at the same time, I cannot keep silent—because I have been a Member of this House and am a Member even now — about the Congress role. It is they who had opened the lock in 1986.

In 1986 they opened the lock and then in 1989 they had gone to place the pavement of the *Ram Janmabhoomi* or whatever that may be. In 1991 the then Central Government's role was a vicious role. They have helped the BJP to demolish the mosque. It is clear that by this demolition you have not only attacked the Hindu culture but also you have attacked the Indian culture and you have attacked the very essence of the Hinduism.

I have got a little learning about the Hinduism. Hon. Prime Minister, I think you have read the *Geetha*. What did Lord Srikrishna say in the *Geetha*? He said : "Sarvdharm parityajyo mam ekam sharanam varjayate" "What is this 'Mam'? It is : 'Aham Brahma, Aham Vishnu and Aham Dharma'. What does this 'Aham' mean? Swami Vivekananda had clarified it. I think you are all the followers of Swami Vivekananda.(Interruptions) They are not.

If you serve the human beings then you will be serving the God. It may be God, it may be *Bhagwan* or it may be or whatever He may be. But what is going on now?

Hon. Ministers Shri Advani, Dr. Murlī Manohar Joshi and sister Uma Bharati are here. I have got great respect for all of you—not in politics but in other spheres. Shri Advaniji, as a political leader in India, you have got a stature. Dr. Joshiji, apart from this ministership, you have got a stature in the educational field. You are a scientist. Kumari Uma Bharatiji, when I saw you ten years back, you were a lady with saffron and were a great devotee of the Hindu religion. What have you done?

Yesterday, during the course of the debate, hon Minister Shri George Fernandes said that he saw that in Vietnam and Indonesia all the Hindu temples were being maintained by the Muslims. But here, your BJP Government, which has come to power after years, has demolished and destroyed the mosque. Is it the culture? Is it the Indian culture? ...*(Interruptions)* You are the culprit. You are destroying the Hindu culture and you are destroying the Indian culture. You can definitely not succeed in this. You have developed the criminal culture here.

Hon. Ministers Shri Advani, Dr. Joshi and Kumari Uma Bharati—the CBI has named you. After that you are here in the ministerial office without any moral ground. If you follow the ethics, if you follow the philosophy then you must have come forward on your own and say : 'Yes, we have demolished the mosque'. If so, then, hon. Prime Minister, what would be the position? I think they do not have the courage. Shri Advani, Dr. Joshi and Kumari Uma Bharati if you have that heart or that courage, you must act on it. Sir, they are criminals in that case on the moral grounds.

Hon. Prime Minister, I know that you have got the preogative to decide who should be the Minister and who should not be the Minister or whom you could sack from office. After following the example of Shri Harin Pathak, you must have done similar action here. I think, the BJP Government have no other agenda. There is the unemployment. There is crisis of drought and flood. Nothing has been solved. This Prime Minister has opened this hidden agenda which he has stated on the 6th and 7th of this month that let a temple be built at the place where the Babri Masjid was demolished. We have all condemned it.

At this last moment, I wish to appeal to the Prime Minister to please sack those Ministers and create an atmosphere in which the Hindus, the Muslims, the Christians or persons of any other colour may be united as one.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I too, should be given an opportunity. My party Janata Dal (Secular) has not got an opportunity to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Everytime is not equal. If you act like this you would never get an opportunity.

16.51 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale came and stood on the floor near Table of the House.)

16.51 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MR. SPEAKER : Mahale ji, you go to your seat.

[English]

Shri Athawale, this is too much, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

16.52 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale went back to his seat.)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I too should be given two minutes time...
(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Please go to your seat. Where is your seat? Please go to your seat. Shri Athawale, please take your seat, this is too much.

[Translation]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry to state that I cannot support the resolution moved in the House on which we have held discussion for quite sometime. I have been asked to remove some of my colleagues from the Council of Ministers. I have been made a target of criticism saying that I have been shielding those Ministers.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this issue has not been raised for the first time. It has been going on for the last several years. I remember that last year also this issue was discussed in the House. Therefore, I had made a statement, which was referred yesterday by my colleague Shri George Fernandes.

I had stated .

[English]

"Neither the Constitution nor the law disqualify a Minister from holding office merely because a chargesheet is filed by the police or formal charges are framed by the court."

[Translation]

Neither it has been challenged nor it can even be challenged, but the question of morality is being raised. The logic is that the others have resigned. Harin Pathak's name was referred. Even Harin Pathak did not know that some of my colleagues in the Congress party like him so much. Yesterday, there was a talk of making him the Prime Minister. It will be a matter of great happiness if he becomes Prime Minister after me, but then what about my friends in the Congress who have been aspiring? ...*(Interruptions)* Harin Pathak resigned under certain different circumstances, he himself tendered resignation. He could not be forced to resign. When he expressed his desire to resign he was advised to wait for sometime. We wanted to see the nature of case to be framed in the court, but he was adamant on resigning, so it was accepted...*(Interruptions)* It depends upon their wish, but as far as the demand of removal of three Ministers is concerned...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER : This sort of confrontation is not good.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : The question of asking them to resign does not arise. I will not accept their resignation even if they resign. It needs to be understood...*(Interruptions)* It is not a common offence...*(Interruptions)* It is to be appreciated that they are my colleagues hence I know them well. They have been entrusted responsibilities according to their abilities and qualifications and they have been carrying it out very well. We should wait for court's verdict since the matter is sub-judice. Justification is yet to be defined.

I would not talk about Bihar. Whom are you supporting to? I would not like to say with whose support colleagues from your party are holding office of Ministers. But one thing is clear, with every one's consent we should frame a code of conduct so that none can be alleged to

have adopted double standards. It cannot be one sided affair. Therefore, I would like to request my friends in the opposition not to raise issue of morality. It is not a question of justification. As far as I know personally, but you would say that I am trying to influence the court. No, I do not want to do so nor I do so. I am sure the court will not be influenced even if best lawyers appear before it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) Efforts have been made...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : No effort has been made...*(Interruptions)* Come along, let us all sit together, discuss it and find a way out with consensus. Advani ji has not hunger of power.

17.00 hrs.

When charges of financial misappropriation were levelled against Shri Advani ji, he resigned from Membership and said as long as I am not proved to be innocent, I will not come here. He stayed out and then contested election and got elected. With whom the public is? Our votes are being counted, we are in the majority in the House. Our allies are supporting us in this regard and we are committed to national agenda. We have dropped disputed issues deliberately, there was no such compulsion. But, keeping in mind the present state of affairs in the country and frequent changes in political affiliations, we should work unitedly. See, after all, you also take support from other parties. You form Government with their support and later on topple it. Perhaps, you do not like smooth running of our Government. Our coalition partners are working with us despite minor differences. It is a good sign for democracy and you should welcome it. But you had thought that the NDA Government would go, since it was a very serious issue. But NDA stands united. Though, I do not want to make it an issue of NDA versus the opposition. Ayodhya issue is a sensitive one. I would not use the language which was used against me yesterday. That day I was present in the House. There is my speech. I had moved a No-Confidence Motion at that time. That is also a part of the record and I had given vent to my anguish and resentment. "The mask has been unveiled" — what does this expression connote? What kind of language is this? That is true of the opposition. I have not resorted to defections and thus there is no question of changing the masks. I have been a Member of Parliament for the last 40 years. I have not defected to different parties. I have expressed my views fearlessly and have stood by the contemporary Governments in the time of crisis. But, today, no one is ready to deliberate upon the national crisis.

I have said just now that there should be unanimity in some matters. We cannot work without consensus. We do not enjoy a majority in the Rajya Sabha. We need the cooperation of other parties. They may stall the proceedings but such tactics are not in the interest of the welfare of the country. Just a few minutes back, I said that I have never spoken on this matter since the Ayodhya tangle but I was constrained to speak out when the proceedings were brought to a standstill. I do not understand this act of stalling the business of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : Are you asking me?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you know that Shri Somnath Chatterjee has been present here from the very outset and I am reminded of Shri Indrajit Gupta.

We had laid our heads together and taken some decisions. Objections may be raised but not in a manner that hampers conduct of the business of the House ... (Interruptions) or jeopardise decisions connected with shaping the destiny of the country. Now, they may ask as to what did we do when we were in the opposition? Somnathji you may recall that I have always laid emphasis on the fact that the Question Hour should never become a subject of pandemonium in the House.... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sometimes you made it so.... (Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Whatever you want to say, you may say it at 12.00 O'clock ... (Interruptions). Now-a-days the Members troop into the well and lay a siege around the hon. Speaker even before he assumes his chair ... (Interruptions) Are we, that way, setting a right precedent?

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : It is the latest development.... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : This latest development does not augur well. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : If only you had come and tried to consult the Opposition, it would not have happened. You did not even attend the Speaker's meetings.... (Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : All the time, consultations were going on.

[Translation]

We did not extend formal invitations since it was a matter concerning the hon. Speaker.... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You should have found a way out.... (Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : If this is your grievance, then I would say that it is logical (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I had many times asked where the Prime Minister was, where the Leader of the House was and where the leader of the Government was when there was a crisis here. You may ask him. I have said that in the Speaker's meetings also.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I did not know that you were so eager to meet me, otherwise I would have come.... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You do not fulfil our demands whenever we approach you.... (Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Sir, there are certain sensitive issues about which the political parties should observe a measure of restraint. I was taken aback by the allegation that I did not condemn what happened at Ramjanambhoomi and Babri Masjid. I was one of those who criticised it.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Then criticise it today also.... (Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I have already done ... (Interruptions). Now it is being said that all this is being done to gain a political mileage. That is what has been said here. I would like to clarify in the backdrop of what circumstances I was constrained to utter a few words. The House is stalled, the proceedings have come to stand-still. Is it so because the Prime Minister is not meeting the leaders of the opposition. (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : We did not say this, we only asked where is the hon. Prime Minister!

... (Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : There were some other Ministers present there. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are a witness to the fact that I have presented myself before you whenever I have been remembered.

...(Interruptions)

Sir, I did not speak for three consecutive days, why were the proceedings of the House stalled? My statement which is being discussed and criticised here, came later on....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mulayam Singhji, please take your seat now, you may speak later on. It is not in good taste to speak at this moment. [English] The Leader of the House is speaking. Please understand what is the confrontation?

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I do not understand the reasons behind stalling the proceedings of the House. They are demanding the resignation of the Ministers, why? Just because they wish so. They think that they can sow the seeds of dissension. I did not want to raise this issue. Now, it is being said that I made the statement under duress and Shri Chandrashekharji is also speaking in the same vein that I have said all this under pressure. Mr. Speaker, Sir, those who are acquainted with me and my disposition would never accept this theory.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal) : You are Atal.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Besides being Atal, I am also Bihari. There was no pressure. It is also an unfounded premise that raking up this issue was necessitated by the compulsions of strengthening my party. In Uttar Pradesh, elections are round the corner. Elections are still far off and all the political parties are making preparations for the elections. But to think of raising this matter for the purpose of harnessing the popular support in the ensuing elections is highly wrong. Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are a lot of conjectures in the air. It has also been said that hon. Advaniji was ready to tender his resignation and that is why this matter has been raised. The media quizzed me, the moment I came out after attending the meeting with you. There was only one pressure and that was from the media. I also wanted to say that the environment being created for the resignation of Ministers was highly inappropriate and we would never concede to it. I would like to clarify two points regarding the question- answers session that ensued. I can read out for them and Shri George Fernandes has gone through my statements yesterday. One thing is to be noted that I have not given any *suo-moto* statement. If we do not give reply to a particular question, it is said

that we are ignoring them. They ask me whether any medley is going on in the NDA and when I reply in the negative, objections are raised on this. I have no differences with Advaniji but there is a propaganda that we differ with each other. It is also being said that I have raised this issue in order to keep him in good humour. Someone even went to the extent of saying that since we wanted to go back to the stand of Hindutva that is why we have raised this issue. I would like to aver that our stand has already been chalked out with our allies. We will firmly adhere to the understanding reached with our allies. There is no question of deviating from that I have said this in reply to the second question. I am saying as to how can this matter be resolved. They have raised the issue of Ram Mandir. I said that there are only two ways of constructing the Ram Mandir. First is the legal method whereby the court may provide land to the organisations interested in constructing the temple by giving decision in their favour and thus the temple may be constructed...(Interruptions) I am sorry. Second option is that both Hindu and Muslims may confer together and reach an understanding thus paving the way for construction of a temple and a mosque...(Interruptions) Only if a mutual understanding is reached and you will also agree that there is no third way out.

But distorted connotations are being derived. Now Chandra Shekharji is saying that if I had clarified the facts then why did not they come to know about that?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : Please tell us about the Masjid where it is located.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Balija) : You are repeatedly taking my name. I am surprised and I do not understand as to why is the resignation of the Ministers being demanded. I have said that if the media has published a distorted statement of the hon. Prime Minister, then why did not he issue clarifications in the last eight days? If the hon. Prime Minister could make three statements outside the House, then why not the fourth statement of clarification was given outside the House itself. We are not going to be impressed by your oratory because I have been with you since long and know you very well. If you would have given a statement outside, then proceedings of this House would not have been stalled for eight long days and we also would not have contradicted your statement. The hon. Speaker, was kind enough to invite the party leaders by sending them notices. The Prime Minister and the former Prime Minister, Shri Chandrashekhar being no exception. I received the notice as did you but you did not turn up. Business of the House would have been conducted smoothly. If you would have come that day.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : On behalf of the Government the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs participated in every meeting. If due to some reason, I could not participate in any meeting, I informed the hon. Speaker but how can this crisis be attributed to my absence from the meeting.

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR : You had made a statement but did not issue a clarification, that is why this crisis emerged.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Had a clarification been issued, the House would have functioned smoothly.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not right.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : The crisis occurred because two parties were vying with each other.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : What is this national sentiment? You shall have to define it.

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the way.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : When two parties try to jostle their way to raise this matter in the House ... (Interruptions) Did he ponder over it. He is not in the race but the main opposition party is vying with Mulayam Singhji on this issue. This is a very dangerous trend.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Please do not divert it.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : So far as appeasement is concerned, no one can beat Mulayam Singhji. He was the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. He ordered firing at the devotees of Rama. He clamped curfew in whole Uttar Pradesh so as to restrict the movement of people altogether.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I saved the country by ordering firing. Temples have been demolished in all the Muslim countries of the world. We safeguarded those temples.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : You did a very good job, but there should not be competition amongst the political parties on such an issue. We shall have to avoid such competition. I am not digressing from the issue. Regarding my statement, I have said that this is a matter of national sentiment and how can any objection be raised on it?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : What is the national sentiment....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : How shall we continue like this?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : This can be a subject of discussion. When the Somnath Temple was renovated and reconstructed after hundreds of years of the temple remaining in a dilapidated condition after the country achieved independence, then Somnath was again, I am not referring to Shri Chatterjee... (Interruptions) Whether the statements uttered at that time, or the viewpoints or feelings expressed regarding construction of Somnath Temple then do not apply today? ... (Interruptions.)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jaipal Reddy is sitting here to give the reply.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : It is not that it is a Hindu temple and is being constructed. So it is a national feeling, a few days back....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai) : He is misleading the House....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are also disturbing the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : There have been a number of observations on this, both on the floor of the House and outside but not a single party has ever said that there should not be any temple. The dispute is only whether it should be constructed on that spot. Therefore, during Shri V.P. Singh's tenure it was suggested that the land would be given next to that spot and you can build any temple you want. Therefore, there was no question of anybody standing in the way of construction of temple. When you say, the task is yet to be fulfilled and you say that it represents the national sentiments, then the question arose.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : No, no that is not so. Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether the construction of such an

ancient and holy temple is not considered to be an expression of national sentiment? I have only said that the construction of that temple should be done by common consent and consensus. ...*(Interruptions)* Demolition of the mosque was condemned. I do not want to go into the controversy, but the leader of the Congress Party and former Prime Minister went there and laid the foundation stone.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SONNATH CHATTERJEE : It was done wrongly.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Yes, but I do not blame him for that. He had a feeling in the heart of his heart that whatever he was doing served lesser purpose for his elections, but more for a good cause because the construction of Ram Mandir was obligatory.... *(Interruptions)* I am not ready to accept this, because previously.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : During Shri Rajiv Gandhi's time, it was done not at the disputed spot....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except what the Prime Minister says.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari is sitting here. Is he not aware of the entire situation?

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Leader of the House is misleading the House. I have got the High Court order with me.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You are also disturbing the House.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : I am not disturbing the House, Sir. He is misleading the House.

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Aiyar, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing except the Prime Minister's reply should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a few days back a function was held to celebrate the tri-centenary of Khalsa Panth—was it not the expression of national sentiment? Khalsa Panth was established 300 years back and a national function was organised on this occasion. The Khalsa Panth may be a sect but it is important component of our national life. I remember that Dr. Rajendra Prasad had on the occasion of Somnath Temple....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Aiyar, if you do not have patience, you can leave the house.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have decided right now....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : If you do not have patience, you can leave the House.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : All right. I am leaving the House.

MR. SPEAKER : From the beginning itself, he was disturbing the House.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : We have decided to make the memorial of Dr. Ambedkar ...*(Interruptions)* more grand and expansive. Is it not the expression of national feeling. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Prime Minister, are you yielding?

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Recently, we have decided to celebrate the 2600th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Mahavira.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI (Nainital) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, perhaps the facts supplied to the hon. Prime Minister are erroneous because whatever he said about the Babri Masjid and the laying of foundation stone of the Temple is far from truth. The plan submitted was in the court by Waqf Board demarcating the area by ABCD that housed the mosque. It was after due deliberations for one full week that permission was granted to lay the foundation stone of the temple at a site far from the ABCD marked area of the Sunni Waqf Board, which was not included in the disputed site and then it was a condition in the agreement that no further construction would be done after laying the foundation stone. All shall wait for the verdict of the court and during the premiership of Shri V.P. Singh in this House. ... (Interruptions) You are not ready to listen the truth (Interruptions) and in this House, it was said that foundation stone had not been laid at the disputed site ... (Interruptions) This reply was given here during Shri V.P. Singh's tenure. So the statement of hon. Prime Minister that the foundation stone of the temple was laid at the disputed site is wholly untrue.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I have not said so.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, right now the Government have decided that a National committee should be constituted to celebrate 2600th birth anniversary of Lord Mahavira. The persons of different political parties having different sets of ideologies are the members of the committee. We are thinking in terms of celebrating this occasion collectively. It would not be wrong on my part to say that celebrating this kind of occasion reflects the national sentiments. What do you want to define... (Interruptions) It is ultimately a question of sentiments. At that time also some people had criticised Dr. Rajendra Babu. The efforts were made to the extent of preventing Dr. Rajendra Babu from attending the Somnath Celebration. But he did not accept the same by saying that he will go to even a mosque and a church he was invited to do so. Our country is not anti-religion ... (Interruptions) The ideology of communists is different in this regard. But our ideology is based on the basic tenant of respect towards all regions and equal treatment, without fear or favour, towards all religious.

These are the words of Dr. Rajendra Prasad.

[English]

"Even though I am a *Sanatanist* Hindu by faith and daily practice, yet I believe that every man can reach God by worshipping Him according to the dictates of his own faith. Not only have I respect for all religions and their places of worship, but I also go to them to pay my respects whenever possible. Whenever there is an opportunity I go to Dargah, Masjid, Church and Gurudwara with the same feeling of respect with which I go to the temple of my faith."

[Translation]

Dr. Rajendra Prasad had also said that the reconstruction of Somnath temple is the symbol of our national sentiments. Similar sentiments are also affiliated with Ram temple but the possibility of its construction can only emerge when a consensus evolves after holding celebrations. I had said this thing only. And this thing was extended to made a mountain out of a mole hill with the intention of deriving mileage. Though some manipulations are always there in politics yet it was purely a political game. ... (Interruptions) I need not give any explanation in this regard by I am definitely perturbed to find that my honesty has been put under doubt.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : No.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda) : Your own allies have suspected you.... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : My life is like a open book wherein there is nothing to hide. You can have difference of opinion with me and I have nothing to hide in this regard. But to accuse me of putting on a mask ... (Interruptions) Those who change the parties, they not only change their mask but their entire body and also their soul and yet accuse me of... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Order, please.

[Translation]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You had inducted Sukhram ji... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Order, please.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the only mode of expressing the national sentiment is not the construction of Ram temple at Ayodhya. Our national sentiment is affiliated to several other great leaders and great places. I gave the example of Chaitya Bhoomi in this regard. We have decided to construct a glorious national monument there. I would like to once again quote from the speech of Rajendra Babu :

"There are many symbols of our national life of which we are proud of, whether it be Dargah Sharif at Ajmer or Dargah of Nizamuddin Aulia in Delhi, be it the Golden Temple at Amritsar or the Church of St. Francis in Goa, these are all the great symbols of our national life".

Whether these monuments do not reflect our national sentiments? There is no reason to believe this ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Babri mosque was also a symbol of national sentiment. Why was that allowed to be demolished. Which temples are responsible for its demolition ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM DAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Who are these people who have demolished the Babri mosque?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ramdas Athawale, please take your seat. This is too much.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : My submission is that there should be a limit to look at this problem from the narrow perspective of party politics alone.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, elections will be fought, defeat also would have to be faced but it is always necessary to keep in mind that this thing do not harm our national unity and integrity. It is shameful on the part of those who indulged in hampering the proceedings of the House despite knowing about the truth. These people have once again raised this question before our national forum. Why it is so? We have not done so far we were bound by NDA manifesto. What was the need to demand resignation for it was made last year itself and it was denied. Why is it so that the proceedings of the Parliament is being disrupted?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, our's is the biggest democracy in the world. Despite differences of opinion we are trying to make it surge ahead. We are also getting success in this

regard but if the issues pertaining sentiments are kept on being raised in this manner how can the democracy prosper? Why were the proceedings of Parliament disrupted. You cannot go ahead of Mulayam Singh ji in this respect. Hence it is my submission to the main opposition party that you will have to think over it seriously and in an impartial manner. We are running a coalition Government. The public will give its verdict over our performance but if the national sentiments are raised by some political parties or by some persons then its consequences will be very dangerous.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have evaded some issues and fun was made of us. One of the issues among there is Ram temple also and I would not have replied the questions if they had not been associated with Ram temple. I did not call the press conference of *suo-moto* conference. If I did not answer, I would have been accused of not replying.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Give honest replies.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I am giving right replies.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : This is the right answer and that is the danger.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : This can be debated as to what is the right reply and it will be decided by the public at last and we are ready for that but sentiments of the people should not be provoked ... (Interruptions) You need not wrong about our partners. You are searching for new partners. Is there any one to align with Jyoti Basu. Mulayam Singh ji has a distinct opinion in this regard.

Until you are in alliance with the Congress Mulayam Singh ji cannot extend his hand of friendship to you (Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : It is true (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You are present for the same.... (Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to take more time of the House. We should seriously ponder over the matters related with the sentiments. Party politics should be confined to a certain limit and we should be ready to face the challenges in a collective manner irrespective of the difference of opinion which will certainly continue. Till yesterday you were in favour of open market economy but now you are changing

tracks. You have a right to change your stand over the economic issues but you should certainly refrain from indulging in such bend of behaviour which may hinder the path of the Government for implementing its decisions on economic front.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You want to make them your ally...(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Not only do we want to shake hands but we want to go to the extent of embracing them...(Interruptions) If you are talking about mutual love then one should express it by throwing a hearty embrace and it is also on Iftar occasion...(Interruptions) Merely shaking of hands would not do instead one should cordially embrace others, not that the interests of the other persons are harmed...(Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not question of embracing one or two persons or parties. The country will get success only when the entire country unitedly try to achieve it. We want to go ahead in that direction only.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have long admired Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee as an outstanding orator. I have heard him perform like a thespian in this House. But today I regret to note that let alone by his standard but by anybody's standards, his performance was poor to the point of being miserable....(Interruptions)

Yesterday, when I was moving the Motion, there were heavy interruptions. May I say, as somebody who has been in these Houses not for as many years as Shri Vajpayee, that I do not know of a single instance when a mover of the Motion was so heavily interrupted. This Prime Minister, who is holding forth so eloquently on the virtues of parliamentary etiquette, maintained his guilty silence in the midst of the interruptions. Why were they interrupting me? I would like to draw your attention to the fact that they were objecting to the way you admitted the Motion. They questioned your authority....(Interruptions)

The Prime Minister said that we had stalled the House. May I, in all humility, point out to him the boot is on the other foot? If only you agreed to a discussion on this Motion on the very first day, this House would not have been stalled at all.

Why did you not agree for discussion on the very first day, or the second day, or the third day? We know, you had a lot of problems, at three levels. One, at the level of *Sangh Parivar*, another, at the level of the BJP, still another, at the level of the NDA. So, you, Shri Pramod

Mahajan, and others needed time. You took time. And we gave time. Therefore, you cannot blame us for what happened in the House.

Today, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was so deeply hurt by what I said that he stooped down to the level of mounting a personal attack on me. Well, I leave Shri Vajpayee to his level. But I must offer a clarification. This is a clarification, not only for you, Sir, but also for many others, who are in your Cabinet. I do not want to name them.

When I quit the Congress party in 1975 in the context of Emergency, you thought my changing the party then was an act of idealism. By the same token, Shri Vajpayee, when I rejoined the Congress in 1999, I did it for the sake of secularism. It was a greater example and a greater demonstration of ideological commitment, and lofty idealism. May I tell you, I joined the Congress party when it was clear to everybody, including the purblind, that the Congress party would be in the Opposition? ... (Interruptions) At that time, my erstwhile Congress colleague, Shri Sharad Pawar, left the Congress party. It was an act of sacrifice, dear Sir.... (Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati) : I was expelled.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : I stand corrected, Sir – after you were expelled. At least, you would credit me with some understanding of Indian politics. I never thought the Congress party had a ghost of a chance of coming to office at that time.

It was Benjamin Disraeli who gave the ultimate definition of a political party.

“Political party is an organised opinion; political party is an instrument of ideology, not an instrument of office, not a tool for getting into positions.”

Even Winston Churchill changed from the Conservative party, he joined the Liberal party because his conscience felt that he should turn liberal. It was not for the sake of an office. It is odd that I am explaining all this to the PM. Some of whose cabinet colleagues have changed more than 20 parties in 20 years, who are our colleagues....(Interruptions)

Even today, you have refused to condemn the demolition of Babri Masjid. We provoked you, taunted you, and incited you. I must admire, laud, appreciate, applaud your reserve, your taciturnity, you refused to respond.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : He is not a free man.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : So, you stick to the theory of Shri Advani, who considers it unfortunate, regrettable, but not condemnable. I want the NDA allies to note this distinction.

Today, our Prime Minister brought in the question of Somnath temple. Let me tell you, I got into politics, I got into Congress Party, in 1964. By that time, I had read the Discovery of India, the Glimpses of World History and the Autobiography of Jawaharlal Nehru. May I tell you, I was then a Nehruite, I have since been a Nehruite, I am still a Nehruite. It is this ideological consistency that is the quintessence of political process.

Sir, I must come back to the question of Somnath temple. Late Shri Madhu Limaye wrote devastating articles to tell Shri Advani that there was a world of difference between the question of Somnath temple and the controversy of *Ramjanmabhoomi*. There was never ever any controversy about the location of Somnath temple. ...(*Interruptions*) Shri Madhu Limaye wrote it, not that I consider him quite an authority and he wrote a lot about Shri Advani and his secularism also. There was never any controversy about the fact of history that Somnath temple was desecrated. The question was as to who should build the temple. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru took a view that Somnath temple should be built not with the funds of the Government, but with the funds of the people of India. Sardar Patel and Jawaharlal Nehru both agreed on this and were instrumental in getting Somnath temple built. There was never any controversy about the visit of Shri Rajendra Prasad as to whether he should do it as the President of India or in his individual capacity. Shri Rajendra Prasad said that he was doing it in his individual capacity, it was perfectly welcome and perfectly correct.

Therefore, when the Prime Minister tried to equate these two things, he was trying to give a signal to the Sangh Parivar. I can understand the problem. As regards the *shilanyas* and disputed site, Shri N.D. Tiwari himself offered an explanation and I do not have to add anything at all to that. As far as the word *mukhota* is concerned, it seems to have touched thick-skinned Shri Vajpayee to the quick.

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi) : Why do you say thick-skinned?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Yes, this is my view. You are entitled to have your view. ...(*Interruptions*)

Sir, I must say that I do not have that much command over Hindi. It is Shri Govindacharya who had that command over Hindi. I am not the author of that phrase. Our Prime Minister has offered a clarification which has

rendered the confusion worse confounded. Did he clarify at all? Did he clarify or mystify? Some friends asked, in the course of the debate yesterday and today as to why we are raising an issue of a chargesheet which is three years old. We are very poor by your standards, Mr Prime Minister. You have raised an issue of *Babri Masjid* — more than 300 years back. We cannot suddely match you in this art....(*Interruptions*)

Our Prime Minister and our Minister of Law have propounded a new doctrine — in my view, a perverse doctrine — of constitutional morality. No democratic system — for that matter, any system of governance — survives through the letter of law. It survives, flourishes and thrives under the spirit of law.

The lofty morality of democratic Constitution was laid down by none other than Caesar who said : "Caesar's wife should be above suspicion." I am referring to the three Ministers when I refer to Caesar's wife. Lord Rama, whom we all revere in common, is believed to have subjected Goddess Sita to exile on the basis of a sacrilegious suspicion. Today, the self-styled devotees of Lord Rama are flagrantly flouting the sublime principles followed by Lord Rama. The jurisprudence is for lawyers. I am a politician. I would like to go by the principle of constitutional morality. If this constitutional morality, that you have laid down, was to be followed from the days of Shri Nehru, nobody from Shri T.T. Krishnamachari to Shri Rameshwar Thakur would have resigned. Hundreds of people have resigned. In our State, late Shri Sanjiva Reddy, when he was Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, resigned when the Supreme Court merely said : "The allegation levelled against him went unrebutted." They never held allegation to be true. It was a passing remark and on that Shri Sanjiva Reddy resigned. Anyway, this is a principle of morality laid down during Shri Nehru's era — not valid for Shri Vajpayee's era....(*Interruptions*)

As for NDA, may I point out to everybody in the House that it is genetically defective baby? It has entered into wedlock with BJP but not with RSS. RSS is like an octopus with so many tentacles. BJP is only one tentacle of the RSS. These 24 or 25 parties or whatever is the number of parties have married one tentacle. They say "We have formed an agenda." This agenda is not for the nation. This is only for governance. Please remember, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that this agenda is only for governance. If, for any reason, this governance falls through, what happens to the agenda? The BJP goes back to its original agenda. The *status quo ante* in terms of Shri Advani's ideological posturing will be restored with retrospective effect and compound interest.

18.00 hrs.

One does not have to wait for that long. Even while the NDA agenda is supposed to be in operation, there

are many people in the party pursuing that agenda both inside the House and outside the House. That agenda, which is a saffron agenda, is being concurrently pursued. If NDA Allies want to turn a Nelson's eye to that, well of course, let them be blessed with blindness.

SHRI VAIKO : If he became blind, what could we do?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : I would like to tell for the benefit of the House that today this Government is being led by a party which has never recognised Mahatma Gandhi as the Father of the Nation, which has the history of rejecting the sanctimony of Tricolour Flag. ... (Interruptions) which has the history of rejecting the National Anthem written by Rabindra Nath Tagore. Where is my Didi Mamata? She was singing poems of Tagore. It is RSS requiem which felt that Rabindra Nath Tagore was an agent of British Imperialism.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central) : When the RSS persons went to sing National Anthem in Jammu & Kashmir ... (Interruptions) Seven persons were killed.... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : They may table a privilege motion.... (Interruptions)

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR (Dumdum) : Sir, how can a Member like him speak like that in the House?

... (Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : This party wanted saffron flag to be the National Flag.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, it is 6 o'clock. The House can be extended till the completion of this debate.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, they plead for saffron flag. It is known to everybody in this House that Mahatma Gandhi fought for India's freedom. But we must note one thing that Mahatma Gandhi died for secular India. It is that India which need to be preserved. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Order, please

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : I am going to tell my NDA friends, other than Shiv Sena and BJP, that NDA is only a ladder for Sangh Parivar. It will be kicked out on the day it will no longer be required. They are only a ladder on which Shri Vajpayee is trying to climb atop.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Order, please.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Our friends here must have heard the phrase *Fabian Socialism*.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Order, please.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : What is being practised by Sangh Parivar is Fabian Fundamentalism. They may ask me, what is Fabian? I need to explain... (Interruptions) There are some people who cannot be educated at all ... (Interruptions) Therefore, I am leaving them out.

There was a Roman General, Fabias, who wanted to conquer the enemies of Roman Empire through delaying tactics, through outflanking tactics. Therefore, Fernard Shah and Sidneyweb who founded Fabian socialism thought they would conquer capitalism in instalments. Therefore, they called it Fabian socialism. Now, Sangh Parivar is adopting the Fabian tactics. They want to advance their fundamentalism in instalments.

The Prime Minister charged us with having unnecessarily raised suspicion about his statement. It was Trinamool Congress and TDP which rushed to you and asked you to give clarification. Therefore, it is no longer the wife of Caesar. It is the Caesar himself who has been suspected now. That Caesar is none other than the Prime Minister of India.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Jaipal Reddyji, the time for Iftar is approaching.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : I do not believe in Iftar secularism. This nation cannot afford to have a Prime Minister who is Janus faced; who shows one face to Sangh Parivar and another to the NDA. This is not the proper situation which our country is finding now.... (Interruptions)

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN (Calicut) : What is this going on?... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Order please. Please do not make any noises.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Shri Bangaru Laxman who came from Andhra Pradesh became the BJP President. He drew a *Lakshman Rekha*. That *Lakshman Rekha* has been crossed by the Brahma of Bangaru Laxman, that is, the Prime Minister. It was he who created him. He has himself crossed that *Rekha*. Now, today, Shri Bangaru Laxman himself made a statement that if

Shri L.K. Advani and others are prosecuted and convicted by the Court, he would take it to streets. Shri Bangaru Laxman himself has crossed his own *Rekha*.

I do not think our Prime Minister should feel hurt by the speech I made yesterday. Yesterday, my senior colleague, Shri George Fernandes, was also referring to the anguish expressed by the Prime Minister with anguish. We do not speak personally of anybody here in this House, least of all the Prime Minister of India. He is our Prime Minister too. But if the truth hurts, can I help? If the bitter truth, hard truth hurts, can I help? I would like to say that the Prime Minister is venerable for his age. At this venerable age, I do not want him to be vulnerable to pressures. Therefore, for goodness sake, you go while the going is good. Your career has passed the peak, hit the plateau. Before it bottoms out, you should go. This is my view.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER Nothing should go on record please.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I have said whatever I wanted to say about the three Ministers and the statement of the hon. Prime Minister. But he did not utter a single word regarding mosque. Hence I boycott the House.

18.09 hrs.

(Then Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and some other hon. Members left the House)

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Order, please.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seats. Please take your seats. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Order, please.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Not now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, Division has not been announced.

MR. SPEAKER : That is not the procedure.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Division has not been announced by the Chair. The hon. Members have a right to seek clarifications...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Bandyopadhyay, what is this?

SHRI SUDIP BANDOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West) : May I know whether the Central Government will abide by the judgement and verdict of the Supreme Court and whether the Mosque will be built there?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You have said this thing during your speech.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : We have made it clear that the decision of the Court will be accepted and it will be implemented in toto. ...(Interruptions) It is the tradition of the Congress to amend the Constitution in view of the decisions of the judiciary and not to implement the decision. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put the motion moved by Shri S. Jaipal Reddy to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That this House calls upon the Prime Minister to drop three Ministers from his Government, namely, Shri Lal Krishna Advani, Dr. Murl Manohar Joshi and Kumari Uma Bharti against whom *prima-facie* charges have been found to exist for their involvement in the demolition of the *Babri Masjid* on 6th December, 1992 and disapproves the stand of the Prime Minister seeking to exonerate the concerned Ministers."

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Sir, we want Division.

MR SPEAKER : Let the lobbies be cleared—

Division No. 3

AYES

18.22 hrs.

SECRETARY GENERAL : Kind attention of the hon. Members is invited to the following points in the operation of the Automatic Vote Recording system :

Abdullakutty, Shri A.P.

Acharia, Shri Basu Deb

Ahamed, Shri E.

Aiyar, Shri Mani Shankar

Ajaya Kumar, Shri S.

Alva, Shrimati Margaret

Ambareesha, Shri

Amir Alam, Shri

Athawale, Shri Ramdas

Babbar, Shri Raj*

Baghel, Prof. S.P. Singh

Banatwalla, Shri G.M.

Bansal, Shri Pawan Kumar

Barman, Shri Ranen

Basavanagoud, Shri Kolor

Basavaraj, Shri G.S.

Basu, Shri Anil

Bauri, Shrimati Sandhya

Baxla, Shri Joachim

Begum Noor Bano

Bhadana, Shri Avtar Singh*

Bhagora, Shri Tarachand

Bhatia, Shri R.L.

Bhaura, Shri Bhan Singh

Bhuria, Shri Kantilal

Brar, Shri J.S.

Bundela, Shri Sujan Singh

Chakraborty, Shri Ajoy

Chakraborty, Shri Swadesh

Chatterjee, Shri Somnath

Chaudhary, Shri Ram Raghunath

Chennithala, Shri Ramesh

Choudhary, Col. (Retd.) Sona Ram

Choudhary, Shrimati Reena

1. Before a division starts, every hon. Member should occupy his or her own seat and operate the system from that seat only.

2. As may kindly be seen, the "red bulbs above display boards" on either side of the hon. Speaker's Chair are already glowing. This means the voting system has been activated.

3. For voting, please press the following two buttons simultaneously immediately after sounding of first gong, viz.,

(i) One "red" button in front of the Member on the head phone plate and also

(ii) Any one the following buttons fixed on the top of the desk of seats:

Ayes - Green colour

Noes - Red colour

Abstention - Yellow colour

4. It is essential to keep both the buttons pressed till the second gong sound is heard and the red bulbs are "off".

Important : The hon. Members may please note that the vote will not be registered if both buttons are not kept pressed simultaneously till the sounding of the second gong.

5. Please do not press the amber button (P) during division.

6. Hon. Members can actually "see" their vote on display boards and on their desk unit. In case vote is not registered, they may call for voting through slips.

Mr. Speaker : Now the Lobbies have been cleared.

The question is :

"That this House calls upon the Prime Minister to drop three Ministers from his Government namely Shri Lal Krishna Advani, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi and Kumari Uma Bharti against whom *prima-facie* charges have been found to exist for their involvement in the demolition of the Babri Masjid on 6th December, 1992 and disapproves the stand of the Prime Minister seeking to exonerate the concerned Ministers."

The Lok Sabha divided:

1

* Voted through slip.

Choudhury, Shri A.B.A. Ghani	Kaliappan, Shri K.K.
Chowdhary, Shri Adhir	Kamal Nath, Shri
Chowdhary, Shrimati Santosh	Kaur, Shrimati Preet
Chowdhury, Shri Bikash	Khan, Shri Abul Hasnat
Chowdhury, Shrimati Renuka	Khan, Shir Sunil
	Krishnadas, Shri N.N.
Das, Shri Nepal Chandra	Kumarasamy, Shri P.
Dasmunsi, Shri Priya Ranjan	Kurup, Shri Suresh
Deepak Kumar, Shri	Kyndiah, Shri P.R.
Dev, Shri Sontosh Mohan	
Dhinakaran, Shri T.T.V.	Lahiri, Shri Samik
Dome, Dr. Ram Chandra	
Dudi, Shri Rameshwar	Mahant, Dr. Charan Das
Dullo, Shri Shamsher Singh	Mahato, Shri Bir Singh
	Makwana, Shri Savshibhai
Eden, Shri George	Mandal, Shri Sanat Kumar
	Mann, Shri Simranjit Singh
Farook, Shri M.O.H.	Meena, Shri Bherulal
	Mohan, Shri P.
Galib, Shri G.S.	Mohol, Shri Ashok N.
Gamang, Shrimati Hema	Mollah, Shri Hannan
Gamlin, Shri Jarbom	Muniyappa, Shri K.H.
Gandhi, Shrimati Sonia	Muraleedharan, Shri K.
Gavit, Shri Manikrao Hodlya	Murmu, Shri Rupchand
George, Shri K. Francis	Murugesan, Shri S.
Ghatowar, Shri Paban Singh	Muttemwar, Shri Vilas
Gogoi, Shri Tarun	
Govindam, Shri T.	Naik, Shri A. Venkatesh
Gowda, Shri G. Putta Swamy*	Narah, Shrimati Raneer*
Hamid, Shri Abdul	Ola, Shri Sis Ram
Handique, Shri Bijoy	Osmani, Shri A.F. Golam
Haque, Mohammad Anwarul	
Hassan, Shri Moinul	Pal, Shri Rupchand
	Pandiyani, Shri P.H.
Jaffer Sharief, Shri C.K.	Paswan, Shri Sukdeo
Jaiswal, Shri Shriprakash	Patel, Shri Atmaram Bhai
Jos, Shri A.C.	Patel, Shri Dahyabhai Vallabhbbhai

Patel, Shri Dharm Raj Singh
Patel, Shri Dinsha
Patel, Shri Tarachand Shivaji
Patil, Shri Amarsingh Vasantryao
Patil, Shri Bhaskarrao
Patil, Shri Laxmanrao
Patil, Shri R.S.
Patil, Shri Shivraj V.
Patil, Shri Uttamrao
Pawar, Shri Sharad
Phoolan Devi, Shrimati
Pilot, Shrimati Rama
Pramanik, Prof. R.R.
Prasada, Shri Jitendra
Premajam, Prof. A.K.
Puglia, Shri Naresh

Radhakrishnan, Shri Varkala
Rajbangshi, Shri Madhab
Rajendran, Shri P.
Rajukhedi, Shri Gajendra Singh
Rau, Shrimati Prabha
Rawat, Shri Ramsagar
Reddy, Shri N. Janardhana
Reddy, Shri S. Jaipal
Reddy, Shri Y.S. Vivekananda
Rizwan Zahir, Shri
Rongpi, Dr. Jayant
Roy, Shri Subodh
Roy Pradhan, Shri Amar

Saiduzzama, Shri
Sanadi, Prof. I.G.
Sangma, Shri Purno A.
Sangtam, Shri K.A.
Sar, Shri Nikhilaranda
Saradgi, Shri Iqbal Ahmed
Saroj, Shri Tufani

Saroj, Shrimati Sushila
Saroja, Dr. V.
Sayeed, Shri P.M.
Scindia, Shri Madhavrao
Selvaganpathi, Shri T.M.
Sen, Shrimati Minati
Seth, Shri Lakshman
Shahabuddin, Mohd.
Shakya, Shri Raghuraj Singh
Sharma, Capt. Satish
Shervani, Shri Saleem I.
Shinde, Shri Sushil Kumar
Singh Deo, Shri K.P.
Singh, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad
Singh, Kunwar Sarv Raj
Singh, Rajkumari Ratna
Singh, Sardar Buta
Singh, Shri Ajit
Singh, Shri Balbir*
Singh, Shri C.N.
Singh, Shri Charanjit
Singh, Shri Khel Sai
Singh, Shri Lakshman
Singh, Shri Rajo
Singh, Shri Ram Prasad
Singh, Shri Tilakdhari Prasad
Singh, Shrimati Kanti
Singh, Shrimati Shyama
Sivakumar, Shri V.S.
Sorake, Shri Vinay Kumar
Sudarsana Natchiappan, Shri E.M.
Sudheeran, Shri V.M.
Suman, Shri Ramji Lal
Sunil Dutt, Shri
Suresh, Shri Kodikunnil

Thomas, Shri P.C.
Tiwari, Shri Narayan Datt

Tiwari, Shri Sunder Lal

Topdar, Shri Tarit Baran

Verma, Shri Beni Prasad

Verma, Shri Ravi Prakash

Vyas, Dr. Girija

Wangcha, Shri Rajkumar

Yadav, Shri Akhilesh

Yadav, Shri Balram Singh

Yadav, Shri Bhal Chandra

Yadav, Shri Mulayam Singh

Yadav, Shri Ramakant

Zahedi, Shri Mahboob

NOES

A. Narendra, Shri

Abdullah, Shri Omar

Acharya, Shri Prasanna

Adhi Sankar, Shri

Aditya Nath, Yogi

Adsul, Shri Anandrao Vithoba

Advani, Shri L.K.

Ananth Kumar, Shri

Angle, Shri Ramakant

Argal, Shri Ashok

Arya, Dr. (Shrimati) Anita

Azad, Shri Kirti Jha

Atkinson, Shri Denzil B.

Baalu, Shri T.R.

'Bachda', Shri Bachi Singh Rawat

Badnore, Shri V.P. Singh

Bainda, Shri Ramchander

Bais, Shri Ramesh

Baitha, Shri Mahendra

Bandyopadhyay, Shri Sudip

Banerjee, Kumari Mamata

Banerjee, Shrimati Jayashree

Bansiwal, Shri Shyam Lal

Barwala, Shri Surendra Singh

Behera, Shri Padmanava

Bhagat, Prof. Dukha

Bhargava, Shri Girdhari Lal

Bishnoi, Shri Jaswant Singh

Biswas, Shri Ananda Mohan

Bose, Shrimati Krishna

Brahmanaiah, Shri A.

Bwiswmuthiary, Shri Sansuma Khunggur

C. Suguna Kumari, Dr. (Shrimati)

Chakravarty, Shrimati Bijoya

Chandel, Shri Suresh

Chaubey, Shri Lal Muni

Chaudhary, Shri Haribhai

Chaudhary, Shri Ram Tahal

Chaudhri, Shri Manibhai Ramjibhai

Chauhan, Shri Nandkumar Singh

Chauhan, Shri Shriram

Chautala, Shri Ajay Singh

Chikhalia, Shrimati Bhavnaben Devrajibhai

Choudhary, Shri Nikhil Kumar

Choudhry, Shri Padam Sen

Chouhan, Shri Nihal Chand

Chouhan, Shri Shivraj Singh

D'Souza, Dr. (Shrimati) Beatrix

Daggubati, Shri Ramanaidu

Dahal, Shri Bhim

Dattatreya, Shri Bandaru

Delkar, Shri Mohan S.

Deo, Shri Bikram Keshari

Dhikale, Shri Uttamrao

Diler, Shri Kishan Lal

Diwathe, Shri Namdeo Harbaji

Durai, Shri M.

Elangovan, Shri P.D.

Fernandes, Shri George

Gadde, Shri Ram Mohan

Gadhavi, Shri P.S.

Gandhi, Shri Dilipkumar Mansukhlal

Gandhi, Shrimati Maneka

Gangwar, Shri Santosh Kumar

Gautam, Shrimati Sheela

Gavit, Shri Ramdas Rupala

Gawali, Kumari Bhavana Pundlikrao

Geete, Shri Anant Gangaram

Gehlot, Shri Thawar Chand

Goel, Shri Vijay

Gohain, Shri Rajen*

Gudhe, Shri Anant

Gupta, Prof. Chaman Lal

Hussain, Shri Syed Shahnawaz

Indora, Dr. Sushil Kumar

Jadhav, Shri Suresh Ramrao

Jag Mohan, Shri

Jagannath, Dr. Manda

Jagathrakshakan, Dr. S.

Jai Prakash, Shri*

Jain, Shri Pusp

Jaiswal, Dr. M.P.

Jaiswal, Shri Shankar Prasad

Jatiya, Dr. Satyanarayan

Javiya, Shri G.J.

Jayaseelan, Dr. A.D.K.

Jha, Shri Raghunath

Jigajinagi, Shri Ramesh C.

Joshi, Dr. Murli Manohar

Joshi, Shri Manohar

Kamble, Shri Shivaji Vithalrao

Kannappan, Shri M.

Kanungo, Shri Trilochan

Kashyap, Shri Bali Ram

Kaswan, Shri Ram Singh

Katara, Shri Babubhai K.

Kataria, Shri Rattan Lal

Kathiria, Dr. Vallabhabhai

Katiyar, Shri Vinay

Kaushal, Shri Raghuvir Singh

Khaire, Shri Chandrakant

Khan, Shri Hassan

Khandelwal, Shri Vijay Kumar

Khandoker, Shri Akbor Ali

Khanduri, Maj. Gen. (Retd.) B.C.

Khanna, Shri Vinod

Khunte, Shri R.P.

Khurana, Shri Madan Lal

Kriplani, Shri Shrichand

Krishnamraju, Shri

Krishnamurthy, Shri K. Balarama

Krishnan, Dr. C.

Krishnaswamy, Shri A.

Kulaste, Shri Faggan Singh

Kumar, Shri Arun

Kumar, Shri V. Dhananjaya

Kuppusami, Shri C.

Kusmaria, Dr. Ramkrishna

M. Master Mathan, Shri

Mahajan, Shri Y.G.

Mahajan, Shrimati Sumitra

Maharia, Shri Subhash

Mahtab, Shri Bhartruhari

Mahto, Shrimati Abha
Majhi, Shri Parsuram
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Mallikarjunappa, Shri G.
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Mandal, Shri Brahma Nand
Mane, Shri Shivaji
Manjay Lal, Shri
Manjhi, Shri Ramjee
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Mohite, Shri Subodh
Mookherjee, Shri S.B.
Moorthy, Shri A.K.
Munda, Shri Kariya
Muni Lall, Shri
Murthi, Shri M.V.V.S.

Naik, Shri Ali Mohd.
Naik, Shri Ram
Naik, Shri Shripad Yasso
Nayak, Shri Ananta
Nishad, Capt. Jai Narain Prasad
Nitish Kumar, Shri

Oram, Shri Jual

Padmanabham, Shri Mudragada
Palanimanickam, Shri S.S.
Pandey, Shri Ravindra Kumar
Pandeya, Dr. Laxminarayan
Panja, Dr. Ranjit Kumar
Panja, Shri Ajit Kumar

Paranjpe, Shri Prakash
Parste, Shri Dalpat Singh
Parthasarathi, Shri B.K.
Passi, Shri Raj Narain
Paswan, Dr. Sanjay
Paswan, Shri Ram Vilas
Paswan, Shri Ramchandra
Patasani, Dr. Prasanna Kumar
Patel, Dr. Ashok
Patel, Shri Chandresh
Patel, Shri Deepak
Patel, Shri Mansinh
Patel, Shri Prahlad Singh
Pathak, Shri Harin
Patil, Shri Annasaheb M.K.
Patil, Shri Balasaheb Vikhe
Patil (Yatnal), Shri Basangouda R.
Patil, Shri Danve Raosaheb
Patil, Shri Jaysingrao Gaikwad
Patnaik, Shrimati Kumudini
Patwa, Shri Sundar Lal
Pawaiya, Shri Jaibhan Singh
Ponnuswamy, Shri E.
Potai, Shri Sohan
Prabhu, Shri Suresh
Pradhan, Dr. Debendra
Pradhan, Shri Ashok
Prasad, Shri V. Sreenivasa

Radhakrishnan, Shri C.P.
Radhakrishnan, Shri Pon
Rai, Shri Nawal Kishore
Raju, Shri A.
Raje, Shrimati Vasundhara
Ram, Shri Braj Mohan
Ramaiah, Dr. B.B.
Ramaiah, Shri Gunipati
Raman, Dr.

Ramachandran, Shri Gingee N.

Ramshakal, Shri*

Rana, Shri Kashiram

Rana, Shri Raju

Rao, Shri Ch. Vidyasagar

Rao, Dr. D.V.G. Shankar

Rao, Shri Ganta Sreenivasa

Rao, Shri V.V.

Rathwa, Shri Ramsinh

Ravi, Shri Sheesh Ram Singh

Rawale, Shri Mohan

Rawat, Prof. Rasa Singh

Rawat, Shri Pradeep

Ray, Shri Bishnu Pada

Reddy, Shri A.P. Jithender

Reddy, Shri B.V.N.

Reddy, Shri G. Ganga

Reddy, Shri Gutha Sukender

Reddy, Shri N.R.K.

Renu Kumari, Shrimati

Rudy, Shri Rajiv Pratap

Sahu, Shri Anadi

Sahu, Shri Tarachand

Sai, Shri Vishnudeo

Samantray, Shri Prabhat

Sanghani, Shri Dileep

Sangwan, Shri Kishan Singh

Sankeshwar, Shri Vijay

Sarkar, Dr. Bikram

Sathi, Shri Harpal Singh

Sengupta, Dr. Nitish

Sethi, Shri Arjun

Shah, Shri Manabendra

Shaheen, Shri Abdul Rashid

Shandil, Col. (Retd.) Dr. Dhani Ram

Shanmugam, Shri N.T.

Shanta Kumar, Shri

Sharma, Vaidya Vishnu Datt

Sikdar, Shri Tapan

Singh Deo, Shrimati Sangeeta Kumari

Singh, Capt. (Retd.) Inder

Singh, Ch. Tejveer

Singh, Dr. Ram Lakhan

Singh, Shri Bahadur

Singh, Shri Brij Bhushan Sharan

Singh, Shri Chandra Pratap

Singh, Shri Chandra Vijay

Singh, Shri Chhatrapal

Singh, Shri Digvijay

Singh, Shri Maheshwar*

Singh, Shri Prabhunath

Singh, Shri Radha Mohan

Singh, Shri Ramanand

Singh, Shri Ramjivan

Singh, Shri Rampal

Singh, Shri Sahib

Singh, Shri Th. Chaoba

Singh, Shri Vishvendra*

Sinha, Shri Manoj

Sinha, Shri Yashwant

Solanki, Shri Bhupendrasinh

Somaiya, Shri Kirit

Srikantappa, Shri D.C.

Srinivasulu, Shri Kalava

Swain, Shri Kharabela

Swami, Shri Chinmayanand

Swami, Shri I.D.

Thakkar, Shrimati Jayaben B.

Thakur, Shri Chunni Lal Bhai

Thirunavukarasu, Shri

Tiwari, Shri Lal Bihari

Tomar, Dr. Ramesh Chand

Tripathi, Shri Ram Naresh

Tripathi, Shri Prakash Mani

Tripathy, Shri Braja Kishore

Tur, Shri Tarlochan Singh

Uma Bharati, Kumari

Vaiko, Shri

Vajpayee, Shri Atal Bihari

Varma, Sh. Ratilal Kalidas

Vasava, Shri Mansukhbhai D.

Veerappa, Shri Ramchandra

Venkataswamy, Dr. N.

Venkateswarlu, Shri B.

Venkateswarlu, Prof. Ummareddy

Venugopal, Dr. S.

Venugopal, Shri D.

Verma, Prof. Rita

Vetriselvan, Shri V.

Vijaya Kumari, Shrimati D.M.

Vijayan, Shri A.K.S.

Virendra Kumar, Shri

Vukkala, Dr. Rajeswaramma

Wanaga, Shri Chintaman

Yadav, Dr. (Shrimati) Sudha

Yadav, Dr. Jaswant Singh

Yadav, Shri Devendra Prasad

Yadav, Shri Hukumdeo Narayan

Yadav, Shri Jagdambi Prasad*

Yadav, Shri Sharad

Yerrannaidu, Shri K.

Zawma, Shri Vanlal

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, subject to correction* the result of the division is :

Ayes : 179

Noes : 291

The motion was negatived.

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 11 AM on 15th December, 2000.

18.25 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the
Clock on Friday, December 15, 2000/Agrahayana
24, 1922 (Saka).*

*The following members also recorded their votes through slip

Ayes : 179+S/Shri Raj Babbar, Avtar Singh Bhadana, G. Putta Swamy Gowda, Balbir Singh, Smt. Rane Narah=184

Noes : 291+S/Shri Vishvendra Singh, Jagdambi Prasad Yadav, Maheshwar Singh, Ramshakal, Jai Prakash, Rajen Gohain=297

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