

# **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

## **(English Version)**

**Sixth Session**  
**(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)**



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## LOK SABHA DEBATES

### LOK SABHA

Thursday, March 1, 2001/Phalgun 10, 1922 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

11.00 hrs.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Q.101.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabd) : Sir, labourers are becoming unemployed in Bihar...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Raise it in Zero Hour.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You can raise it in the Zero Hour.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : It is not proper to behave like this everyday. Please be seated. You will get an opportunity during Zero Hour, at the time you can explain your views.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : It is a serious matter. 40 lac labourers and lacs of other people employed in industries are becoming unemployed.

MR. SPEAKER : We will take up this in the Zero Hour.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Government has not taken the matter seriously. Lockout is going on...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I would allow all the hon. Members to raise the issue in the Zero Hour.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : You allow us to raise the issue in the Zero Hour....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : It is not proper to make it a routine. You will get an opportunity in the Zero Hour. You are disturbing the House everyday.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except the reply of the hon. Minister.

(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : We will call you in zero hour. Basudeb Acharyajee, what has happened?

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : For all these these things, I have to change the procedure! What is this?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There is a Zero Hour for raising issues of urgent public importance. Every day you want to disturb the Question Hour. This is too much.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This should not go on record.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER : I am appealing once again to the hon. Members to take their seats. you can raise the issue in the Zero Hour, not now.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Question Hour is also important. What are you doing? What is going on in the House everyday. Is there no procedure in the House?

(Interruptions)

\*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, supplementary please. Nothing should go on record.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ramji Lal Suman, what is this? Is disturbing the Question Hour proper?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have already wasted five minutes of the House.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : We will ask during the zero hour. You will ask, we will also ask. We will ask the Government, but how can it be in the Question Hour.

11.01 hrs.

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

### Implementation of Recommendations of Khanna Committee

+

\*101. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :  
SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have accepted the recommendations of H.R. Khanna committee regarding safety measures in view of increasing accidents;

(b) if so, the number of recommendations implemented so far;

(c) the details of recommendations which are yet to be implemented;

(d) the time by which the remaining recommendations are likely to be implemented; and

(e) the other steps taken by the Government to strengthen the safety measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

### Statement

(a) to (d) Yes, Sir. In Part-I of the report, the Committee has made 150 recommendations on different aspects of railway working. Out of these, 103 recommendations were 'accepted', 28 were 'partially accepted' and remaining 19 were 'Not Accepted'.

Out of 131 accepted / partially accepted recommendations, 21 recommendations have already been implemented and remaining are under process of implementation at different stages. Implementation of many of these recommendations depend upon availability of funds or in some cases on success of trials.

Railway Safety Review Committee has also recommended that Central Government should provide a one time grant of Rs. 15,000 crores to Railways so that arrears in renewals of vital safety equipment are wiped out within a fixed time frame. Although, Indian Railways have not received any specific grants on the basis of recommendations of Railway Safety Review Committee, efforts have been made to suitably enhance the outlay of safety related items in the budget. Nevertheless, despite above constraints, railways are progressively implementing these recommendations within availability of existing resources. In view of the above, it may not be possible to lay down any definite time frame for implementation of these recommendations.

Part-II of the Report has recently been submitted by Railway Safety Review Committee and is presently under examination.

(e) The important steps taken by the Government to check accidents in future are listed below:

- (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.
- (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 is in operation in Mumbai suburban sections.
- (iv) Last Vehicle check by Axle Counter have been introduced on over 150 block sections and is being progressively added.

- (v) Walkie-talkie sets have been provided to Drivers and Guards of all trains for faster and better communication.
- (vi) 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.
- (vii) There has been progressive increase in use of Tie Tamping and ballast cleaning machines for track maintenance. Track Renewal Trains are Also used.
- (viii) For monitoring track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometers are being used progressively.
- (ix) Maintenance facilities for coaches and wagons have been modernised and upgraded at many depots.
- (x) 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.
- (xi) Whistle Boards/Speed breakers and road signs have been provided at unmanned level crossings and visibility for drivers has been improved.
- (xii) Audio-visual publicity campaigns to educate road users on how to make a safe crossing are conducted.
- (xiii) Level Crossings having heavy traffic density are being progressively interlocked with signals on a planned basis.
- (xiv) Periodical Safety Audit of Different Divisions by inter-disciplinary teams from Zonal Headquarters has been introduced.
- (xv) Training facilities for drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation have been modernised including use of Simulators for training of drivers.
- (xvi) Periodical safety drives are conducted to inculcate safety consciousness among the staff and road users.
- (xvii) 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.

- (xviii) Stringent penalty to the extent of dismissal/removal from service is being imposed on officials causing serious accidents.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I want to draw the attention of the Railway Minister that, ever since NDA Government came to power and Mamatajee become the Railway Minister. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ramdas Athawale, you are crossing your limits. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Anand Rao Vithoba Adsul, please ask your supplementary.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, you are always disturbing the House. This is not the proper way to behave in the House. Please behave properly in the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, I am on my legs. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are not respecting the Chair also. What is this?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is an important subject. So, you can raise it in Zero Hour so that I can ask the Government also to reply.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, If you intervene in the matter, we will agree.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, this is Question Hour. How can I ask the Government to respond? Please raise it in Zero Hour.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are ready to be quiet. You intervened several times, several leaders did so and so did we, but so far nothing has been done...(Interruptions) If the Government had invited us in your chamber, even once some way would have been found...(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, therefore, call the leaders of the Government and opposition in your Chamber so that a solution to this problem could be found...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mulayam, Singhji, this is question hour.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have no intention of blocking the question hour, ...(Interruptions) Sir, whether they will continue to commit mistakes like this? Mr. Speaker, Sir, you call everybody in your chamber and find a way out. We have no intention of blocking the question hour, but it is our compulsion ...(Interruptions) Government is listening....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a serious problem. About 40 lakh people are affected. They are coming to us daily and meeting us. We do not know what to tell them. Therefore, I think, it is a very good suggestion that you can consider. If you can kindly intervene in the matter, it would be better.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I accept that suggestion. You can call the concerned Ministers and the leaders and discuss this matter...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I do not know where our friend Shri Madan Lal Khurana has gone. He was very much concerned about this issue.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Khuranaji, meets us everyday, and asks us to raise this matter but today on

this occasion he is not present in the House. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mulayam Singhji, we accept your notice and today whenever Mr. Speaker gives us time, we will have talks with him and we will invite you also....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Banatwallajee, you will also get an opportunity, please be seated now.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of State for Railways towards the fact that when the NDA government was formed, Mamata didi became the Railway Minister. And the first thing she did after assumption of charge was that she made an announcement that priority would be given to safety and security in her Ministry ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you have already taken 10 minutes and you want to put a supplementary also.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Mr. Speaker, the statement which has been laid today on the table of the House, contains half question....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If anyone creates trouble in the question hour, we will not allow him to ask supplementary.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Mr. Speaker, 90 per cent rail accidents occur due to manual negligence. The reason cited by the Khanna Committee is that the post of Chairman in Railway Recruitment Board is filled up under political influence and not on the basis of academic qualifications. 90 per cent rail accidents take place due to manual negligence and lack of technical knowledge. Proper training is also not imparted to them. Therefore, the Khanna Committee has given one of the suggestions that officers, with outstanding service record should be appointed in the Railway Recruitment Board. This will provide good staff to the railways. One thing appeared very significant to me in the speech of Mamata didi, delivered at the time of the presentation of the railway budget. Regarding safety, she said that my speech is silver but my silence is golden. Officers should not be appointed under political pressure.

MR. SPEAKER : What is your supplementary?

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : The suggestions given about safety by the Khanna Committee are not being implemented properly. Nothing is mentioned in the statement in this regard.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have received the part one of the Khanna Committee recommendations. 103 recommendations contained in part one have been accepted. 28 recommendations have been partially accepted and 19 have not been accepted. So far as the question making appointments of persons in the Railway Recruitment Board under political pressure is concerned, we have stopped making political appointments. Today, there are competent officers in the railways and the post of Chairman in the Railway Recruitment Board is also held by one such officer and they are doing this job very efficiently.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA : Why the first one was removed?

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he was removed because as cited by the Khanna Committee the persons appointed under political pressure did many such acts which were harming the image of the railways  
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you need not reply to other hon. Members.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, underbridges or flyovers can be constructed on the railway crossings. You are talking about giving priority to safety and security. I know and acknowledge the fact that we have paucity of funds, but you may give priority to these works. Ministry of Railways should not have any problem in constructing overbridges or underbridges? It is my suggestion that if such bridges are constructed, toll tax could be levied on the users. In such a way we could provide good service to the people.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Does this matter concern the recommendations of Khanna Committee?

[Translation]

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : I am asking this

question because when the matter of safety and security comes, this becomes significant.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : The Hon'ble Member is absolutely correct. We are fully attentive towards safety. Due to the attention paid towards safety and various other reasons 26 percent money has been spent on safety. So far as construction of bridges and underbridges is concerned, we construct them on the request of the State Government. But there is a rule in this regard. Indian Railway contributes half the amount and the remaining half amount is provided by the State Government who requested in this regard. We constructed such bridges at all such places last year. I assure the House that if any further requests are made by any State Government we will make every effort in this regard.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Uttar Pradesh Government are not providing funds for constructing a railway bridge in Etawa. What should we do in such a situation. There, the bridges is not being constructed for the last seven years. Uttar Pradesh Government are not providing Rs. 2 crore for this purpose...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Mr. Speaker Sir, strengthening the safety measures is a very important aspect in the Indian Railways today. Sir, safety and pendency in the renewal of the safety equipment has been pointed out by the Railway Safety Review Committee. It has recommended Rs. 15,000 crore, as one-time grant, from the Government of India for taking up the job, and in a time-frame manner, the pendency will be wiped out.

Now, the Government of India is turning a blind eye on this issue. The recent Budget also does not mention about how they are going to raise these resources. Unless this is done, strengthening of safety and security is not possible at all.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that unless this is done, all these reports will be only on paper and are not going to be implemented, and unless the Government of India gives the grant, they cannot do it. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what the Ministry is going to do in this regard. I would also like to know what other ways they have, to solve this problem.

MR. SPEAKER : Good questions!

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Sir, I share the perception as has been mentioned by the hon. Member. He has correctly said that the Khanna Committee has recommended Rs. 15,000 crore as grant from the Government of India. These types of grants are given even in those countries where the Railways come under private sector. In our country, however, the Railways are a Government organisation. I would like to cite an example of the British Railways. There was a Railway accident in Britain two years back, and the British Government had paid to that private concern about 400 billion pounds, that is around Rs. 30,000 crore, for safety. We are expecting this Government also to do something in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Whose Government is this?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Sir, he is a part of the Government...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : I am coming to that...*(Interruptions)* I am defending my Government only...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, it is their collective responsibility...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : I know about the collective responsibility. . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : 'There is no grant to the Railways', that is the allegation made by the hon. Minister during the all-party meeting. The hon. Minister also said that no funds are given to the Railways...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pandiyan, this is Question Hour. Please take your seat.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Sir, only yesterday, the hon. Finance Minister, in his Budget Speech, said that there will be a tax holiday on road and rail for ten years. We are expecting in the scheme of things that a lot of money will be given for the infrastructure sector of the Railways also.

As far as we are concerned, we already have, in our hands, 26 per cent of the Budgetary out lay for Safety. We had done it last year and we have done it this year also.

*[Translation]*

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you that gave me an opportunity to ask questions. As the hon'ble Minister has stated that rail overbridges are constructed in cooperation with the state and union Government and under this arrangement rail overbridges have been constructed for which several state

governments and union governments have contributed. In my Lok Sabha Parliamentary constituency of Ratlam, former Minister of state for Railways Shri Bangaru Laxman had laid foundation stone earlier but no work has been started till date. Like-wise, foundation stones were laid at many places but work has not been started as yet. I want to know from the Government as to what is the reason that only the foundation stone has been laid and no work has been started.

MR. SPEAKER : You may explain your views on safety measures at the time of discussion on railway budget.

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am asking because of the safety point as many accidents have occurred as there is no overbridge and many people have been killed. In this situation, I want to know whether government will start the work soon where foundation stone has been laid?

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very important question about which I want to intimate the august House that whenever we lay foundation stone for a rail overbridge, we do so with full preparation. But the map of the rail overbridge is prepared in consultation with the State Government. As such, when the State Government provides the approved map, then only our work for constructing of bridge over railway commences. Again the approach roads are also constructed as per the map provided by the State government. I am not knowing the details of the matter but I am sure that the state government would not have provided the map till date, causing this delay....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : But that is above the state highway road.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Even if it is a state highway road, the map has to be provided by the state Government ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Since we are going to discuss the Demands for Grants in respect of Railways, I am not going to allow any more supplementary.

Now, Q.No. 102.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : Sir, yesterday at Vizag, two trains, Konark Express and Tirumala Express, were looted....*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH :** We have got the information  
...(Interruptions)

**MR. SPEAKER :** Mr. Minister, you need not reply to all these things.

Now Q.No. 102 – Dr. (Shrimati) Sudha Yadav.

### Power Scenario

\*102. DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the power scenario in the country is grim;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the short term and long term measures being contemplated to achieve the target of power generation; and

(d) the measures being taken to prevent theft of electricity?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### Statement

(a) and (b) The energy availability in the country during the period April 2000 to January 2001 registered an increase of 4.4% over the corresponding period of previous year. However, the energy requirement during the same period increased by 6.4%. Consequently the energy shortage in the country during April 2000 to January 2001 increased to 7.6% as compared to 5.9% during the corresponding period of the previous year. The State-wise and Region-wise power supply position during the current year (April 2000 – January 2001) as compared to the previous year is given in Annexure.

(c) Cumulative electricity generation during the year 1997-98 to 2000-01 (upto Jan. 2001) of the Ninth Plan has been marginally higher than the cumulative targets. The growth in generation during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 was 6.6%, 6.6% and 7.1% respectively. During the current year (April 2000 – January 2001), the actual generation is 4.4% higher over the corresponding period of last year. The following steps are being taken to improve the generation and availability of power:-

- (i) Renovation and Modernisation (R&M) and life extension of existing old and inefficient generating units. Special fund under Accelerated Power Development Programme for undertaking R&M schemes is being provided to States.
- (ii) Speedy implementation of Reforms and Restructuring in the Power Sector.
- (iii) Early stabilization of newly commissioned units and overall increase in Plant Load Factor of thermal units.
- (iv) Reduction in Transmission and Distribution losses.
- (v) Promoting energy efficiency and conservation measures.
- (vi) Disbursement of loans by the Power Finance Corporation for improving operation and maintenance of thermal power station under Accelerated Generation programme.
- (vii) Expeditious implementation of capacity addition programme to enable doubling of the generation capacity by 2012.
- (viii) Increasing the inter-state and inter-regional power transfer by construction of transmission links and system improvement and finally leading to formation of the National Grid.
- (ix) Formulation of hydel policy for exploitation of hydro potential at a faster pace.
- (d) Electricity distribution falls within the purview of the State Governments and measures pertaining to prevention of theft of electricity has to be taken by the power utilities operating within their jurisdiction. The utilities have to effectively implement the provisions of the law to curb the theft of electricity. Guidelines for energy audit and for reduction of transmission and distribution losses have already been issued which include:-
  - (i) Installation of meters inside tamper proof meter boxes sealed with numbered seals.
  - (ii) Setting up of vigilance squads and conducting surprise raids to check theft of energy.
  - (iii) Prosecution of persons found indulging in theft of energy.



As per the decisions taken in the Power Ministers' Conference held on 26.2.2000, actions have been initiated by SEBs/State Power Utilities to reduce the T&D losses

through energy audit, 100% metering, reduction of power theft, and strengthening/upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution system.

### Annexure

#### Actual Power Supply Position

(All figures in MU net)

Region/States/ System	April'99 – January'2000				April'2000 – January'2001			
	Require- ment	Availability	Shortage	%	Require- ment	Availability	Shortage	%
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>Northern Region</b>								
Chandigarh	885	884	1	0.1	926	925	1	0.1
Delhi	15050	14592	458	3.0	15935	15193	742	4.7
Haryana	13375	13004	371	2.8	14505	14210	295	2.0
H.P.	2574	2564	10	0.4	2635	2588	47	1.8
J&K	4940	4041	899	18.2	5240	4565	675	12.9
Punjab	22890	22722	168	0.7	23645	23242	403	1.7
Rajasthan	20630	19545	1085	5.3	20690	20017	673	3.3
U.P.	37105	32295	4810	13.0	38390	33012	5378	14.0
N.R.	117449	109647	7802	6.6	121966	113752	8214	6.7
<b>Western Region</b>								
Gujarat	42275	38977	3298	7.8	44575	40108	4467	10.0
M.P.	29905	28034	1871	6.3	32691	29015	3676	11.2
Maharashtra	60178	56904	3272	5.4	66507	58864	7643	11.5
Goa	1488	1160	328	22.0	1492	1306	186	12.5
W.R.	133844	125075	8769	6.6	145265	129293	15972	11.0
<b>Southern Region</b>								
A.P.	37369	35195	2174	5.8	39112	36264	2848	7.3
Karnataka	22580	20844	1736	7.7	24401	22158	2243	9.2
Kerala	10533	9764	769	7.3	11211	10463	748	6.7
Tamilnadu	31900	29491	2409	7.6	34920	32263	2657	7.6
S.R.	102382	95294	7088	6.9	109544	101148	8496	7.7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>Eastern Region</b>								
Bihar	7338	6833	505	6.9	7655	7209	446	5.8
DVC	7046	7224	-178	-2.5	7048	7195	-147	-2.1
Orissa	8937	9205	-268	-3.0	9770	10136	-366	-3.7
West Bengal	14910	15224	-314	-2.1	15541	15752	-211	-1.4
E.R.	38231	38486	-255	-0.7	40014	40291	-277	-0.7
<b>North-Eastern Region</b>								
Ar. Pradesh	98.0	98.9	-0.9	-0.9	106.0	108.6	-2.6	-2.5
Assam	2411.1	2460.8	-49.7	-2.1	2571.8	2810.5	-238.7	-9.3
Manipur	382.8	361.6	21.2	5.5	385.8	382.9	2.9	0.8
Meghalaya	414.5	437.9	-23.4	-5.6	457.8	499.0	-41.2	-9.0
Mizoram	180.8	183.5	-2.7	-1.5	203.4	210.6	-7.2	-3.5
Nagaland	168.0	170.0	-2	-1.2	186.1	192.5	-6.4	-3.4
Tripura	485.8	494.3	-8.5	-1.7	470.3	500.3	-30	-6.4
N.E.R.	4141	4207	-66	-1.6	4381.2	4704.4	-323.2	-7.4
All India	396047	372709	23338	5.9	421273	389188	32085	7.6

DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is shortage of power in the country, we all know this fact and to compensate the...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to ask the Hon'ble Minister that in those rural areas of the country where canal water is not available and which are dependent on rain or tubewells for agriculture e.g. South Haryana, Rajasthan etc., where at a particular point of time farmers requires more power for agriculture, in such areas whether Government propose to provide adequate power supply at the right time and whether it is planning to chalk out a policy in collaboration with the states?

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, considering the power scenario in the country, much needs to be done today, there is no doubt about it and it is true that power is essential for irrigation, industries, domestic consumption and this contributes in national development. For this, the Ministry of Power are taking all possible measures and in February, 2000, a conference of the power Ministers was convened for bringing a coordination

among various state governments with a view to evolve various methods for planned development in this sector, which was presided over by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. At that time, improving power situation, a political consensus was evolved and it was decided to go ahead and introduce reforms in this sector and for further deliberations on the subject day-after-tomorrow i.e. on the 3rd of March, in the presence of the Prime Minister a meeting has been convened in which Chief Minister and Power Ministers of all the states are participating. From April, 2000 to January, 2001 power generation capacity has increased. I intend to submit the figures here. In the year 1997-98 there was 6.6 per cent increase, in 1998-99 the increase was 6.6 per cent and in 1999-2000 the increase was 7.4 per cent. But unfortunately despite increased power production the demand outstrips supply because of higher consumption. This is also a fact. Therefore, it has been decided to generate one lac megawatt additional power by the year 2012 and 11th five year plan and for achieving the said targets several measures are being taken.

DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in power generation and distribution sector private sectors participation is being considered by the Government. What are the rules stipulated for that and what sort of benefits are likely to accrue from that, the Hon'ble Minister may kindly elaborate.

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA : It is true that Government of India is making several efforts to increase private participation and several incentives are proposed to be given to attract private investment in this sector. I would like to say that since it is a concurrent subject, both state government and Union government have to take joint decision about it. Due to the shaky financial condition of the state electricity boards, presently private investment is not coming forward. But for encouraging investment in this sectors various measures have been taken by which investors get a better deal; power is available at cheaper rates and there is improved distribution system.

I can certainly present those measures before you. Firstly with a view to improve regionwise power supply, different arrangements have been made for transmission so that the power generated could be made available to the consumers. Secondly efforts have to be made to make available finances to the private capital investors at cheaper rates. Besides, arrangements have to be made so that state electricity boards could get money on concessional rates through REC.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know through you from the Government about the amount of power that has been provided for the Maharashtra Government from National Power grid as well as its share and how much power is supplied to the State Government as against that share?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, today in all over the country and in Maharashtra Enron is being discussed. Maharashtra government has 30% share in this. I want the union government to clarify the work being imposed on it by the state government.

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Member has asked as to how much power is given to the state of Maharashtra from the National Grid. I would like to inform that there is a scheme to further enhance and develop our transmission lines and set up a national grid. For this five regions have been created. In whichever region there will be shortage of power, it will be supplied there. Now-a-days the state of Maharashtra is undoubtedly

given power from unallotted quota but the quantum of power to be supplied to Maharashtra will be decided only after the receipt of requisition of more power from the Government of Maharashtra. So far as the question asked about Enron is concerned, I would like to inform the house that Enron entered into an agreement signed between M.S.E.B. and Dabhol Power Project and for that both have to decide how to move forward. If the Union Government will be asked for something then only it will intervene into the matter. Right now, it is not proper for the Centre to do anything.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, there are other questions also.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today Maharashtra requires 12843.20 million units of power and from the central sector 2021.4 million units of power is being provided to Maharashtra.

[English]

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : As per the Statement laid on the Table by the hon. Minister, among the steps to improve the generation and availability of power, one is the speedy implementation of power reforms and another is the restructuring of the power structure.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has introduced power reforms and it is implementing them in true spirit. Some of the political parties tried to raise a hue and cry and provoke the people but it did not respond to it.

I want to know from the hon. Minister what are the steps that the Government would be taking against the States which do not take up proper reforms in this sector and what incentives would be provided to those which showed improved performance.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, after negotiations for reforms with various states MOU is being signed with them; gradually concurrence for entering into MOU, effecting reforms is being received from all the States. Some states are exception to it and initiatives are taken so that the states going for reforms will be provided different types of interest free aid by the PFC, REC and by the Union Government.

[English]

**SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL :** The Government has been saying that it is going to reform the power generation system and the only point which is made by the Government in this respect is the privatisation and nothing else is explained. In fact, if we want to produce power, we need a comprehensive long-term visionary Plan. If we want to produce more electricity, we should utilise the capacity, which is already established, to the fullest extent. If we want to supply electricity in an economical manner, it has to be seen that the theft of electricity is stopped. If we want to produce more electricity, all the sources, which can be used, should be used; non-conventional sources should be used and the nuclear system should be used. We can use solar energy also. If the solar energy and non-conventional energy sources cannot be used to supply electricity to industry, they can certainly be used to supply electricity for domestic consumption. That will save a lot of money.

But it is found that no attention is paid to all these aspects and the only thing, which is emphasised upon and treated as panacea to all these problems is that privatisation will solve the problem. We have seen that privatisation has increased the cost of energy by four times; with the people who are producing electricity in the private sector are selling electricity at Rs. 8/- per unit whereas the others, the Government units, are selling electricity at Rs. 2/- per unit. How is the Government going to solve these problems? Does the Government not see beyond privatisation, towards modernisation, towards using new methods of management, towards using new technologies and solving these problems?

**THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) :** I wish to thank the hon. Member for raising various issues pertaining to power generation business as well as distribution.

Sir, I would like to put before the House the view of the Government that now we really need to tackle this problem of power from the end of distribution. In fact, so far, in the last ten years, ever since we have opened our power business for private participation, we have never tried to tackle it at the distribution end. In fact, several problems that we are facing today are because we did not tackle them the way it should have been done. In fact, our policies were also screwed in favour of generation, which I have already pointed out well.

Now, the Government has decided that we would like to tackle this problem at the end of distribution and for that we have already taken a number of measures. All the

distribution in the country, barring the distribution in the places like Andaman and Nicobar or Lakshadweep Islands where the Central Government is incharge of the Administration, is the responsibility of the State Governments. Therefore, in order to have our say in the distribution, our hon. Prime Minister has convened a meeting the day after tomorrow of the Chief Ministers of all States in which we are going to take a number of steps and the Central Government, as my hon. colleague was pointing out, is willing to offer a number of incentives.

Sir, there is a provision which the hon. Minister of Finance announced in the Budget yesterday. We have stepped up our budgetary provisions for accelerated power development programmes from the previous figure of Rs. 1,000 crore to Rs. 1,500 crore. We will be able to match this figure of Rs. 1,500 crore with the support from the Rural Electrification Corporation or from the Power Finance Corporation or from other financial institutions. We will be able to give money to those who are willing to bring in changes in the distribution.

Please allow me two minutes, Sir, because this is a very important point. Unless we bring about change in distribution and only start generation, the losses of the States will keep on rising. Today, the difference between the cost of supply of power and the average cost of tariff has increased so much that probably it has reached almost Rs. 1 per unit, and when we are selling 500 billion units, you can imagine the amount of loss that the State Electricity Boards are suffering. So, on generation, it is not true that the Government is not giving enough attention. We have already decided that in the next few years' time, we shall generate at least ten per cent of our capacity from the non-conventional sources of energy – the renewable ones, which you have pointed out. That includes solar energy, that includes wind energy, that includes tidal energy and that almost includes the bio-mass conversion and bio-mass gasification. So, we are also trying the step up our generation from nuclear sources. Already, Shri Abdul Kalam, the Principal Adviser to the Prime Minister, has announced that we would like to add at least 1,000 MW per year from nuclear sources. But even after doing all this, that will leave us with a large margin, which we will have to fill up from either hydro power or from thermal power.

We are also taking a number of measures in the short-term, including research and modernisation, to improve the Plant Load Factor of all our existing plants. In fact, the Central Utilities Plant Load Factor is very good. The Plant

Load Factor is very low in the State sector as well as in Eastern India. In Eastern India, the Plant Load Factor is low because the domestic demand is low. Therefore, we are doing it immediately on a war footing. In the next two years, we will have to evacuate the entire power that could be generated in the Eastern region and bring it to the deficient regions of North, South and West. By doing that, I think we will be able to improve the PLF also.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH : Sir, the hon. Minister knows that the Eastern region, particularly West Bengal, is suffering from the frequency problems. I would like to know what the Government of India is thinking for tackling the situation. If we cannot combat the frequency situation, I think so many industries, like the processing industries, will be suffering more because already they are suffering a lot. So, may I know from the hon. Minister how they are thinking of combating the frequency problem.

Secondly, the Kolaghat Thermal Power Station, I think, is a very important power station and is generating power very efficiently. But it needs renovation and modernisation. So far as my knowledge goes, the West Bengal Power Development Corporation has submitted a proposal for renovation and modernisation. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he is going to approve this proposal.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this project of West Bengal about which question has been raised requires renovation and modernisation urgently. Many plants of eastern region have become thirty-forty year old. Therefore, renovation and modernisation is urgently required. Now-a-days there is surplus power in the eastern region. Therefore, not much attention is being paid by the State Governments towards it...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : It is not correct that attention is not being paid.

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA : The question has been asked about maintaining frequency. There is certainly the need to improve the transmission lines. My colleague Shri Suresh Prabhu has just stated that for that PLF has to be increased. After the PLF is increased we have to generate power to the full capacity. The power could not be distributed to the consumers unless there are good transmission lines. For bringing an improvement in the transmission lines firstly we have made efforts to maintain that frequency and for that we will use new technology also. After renovation and modernisation is carried out PLF will increase and generation capacity will also improve and

we would also be able to maintain frequency level. There is a need to set up national grid so that the load factor could be properly controlled. For maintaining frequency level all out efforts will be made to control demand and supply.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, it seems the ministers are very well prepared today and competing with each other well, we are enjoying it. After listening to the replies of the Hon'ble Ministers, it appears that something is going to happen in the country in near future, but I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister that recently i.e. on 10.1.2001, Shri Suresh Prabhuji wrote a letter to all the Members of Parliament with much dismay. I would like to cite some of the facts of that. This letter has been written to all the Members of the House. Do you remember? He said in that letter:

[English]

"Our *per capita* consumption of power is a meagre 348 units compared to about 750 units in the case of China....The losses incurred by the State Electricity Boards have crossed Rs. 27,000 crore."

Sir, one more aspect which he has said in that letter is very dismaying.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rudy, we are discussing the power situation in India.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, it is about the same thing. The hon. Minister has written about the power situation in this letter which makes it so dismaying and so pathetic, in case you have read it. It has been sent to all the Members of Parliament. It seems that there is no future for the country as far as power is concerned. But we are happy that he is at least trying something here.

But, I would like to just ask one thing. In order to break-even, the State Electricity Boards have to raise the tariff by an average of 66 paise to 73 paise. Or there is an option of not increasing the tariff and it could be done by reducing the transmission and distribution losses eliminating theft and improving the operational efficiency. Would the hon. Minister like to state as to which of the options he would like to take?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Sir, ideally we have to improve the efficiency of the State Electricity Boards and for that we are ready to give them money and we are willing to give them technical support. Though this activity is the responsibility of the State Governments, the Central

Government is now becoming also responsible because dues worth Rs. 30,000 crore of the Central Public Sector Undertakings are not realised from the State Electricity Boards. What will we do?

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Sir, the hon. Minister of Finance has projected yesterday the transmission and distribution losses as 'theft and dacoity'. The volume of the current position of the T&D losses in the country is reflected after yesterday's statement of the hon. Minister of Finance. The hon. Minister of Power is also aware of the functioning of the State Electricity Boards. I want to know whether the hon. Minister would like to submit a report as to which of the State Electricity Boards are profit-making and which of the State Electricity Boards of the country are totally loss-making.

Secondly, I want to know as to what is the percentage of the average losses in transmission in the power sector in the country.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA : It is true that efforts are being made to reduce the T&D losses but the states which have gone for the reforms for reducing the T&D losses were telling that this T&D losses were to the tune of 20 or 22 per cent but after reforms it has come to the notice that their T&D losses were more than 50 or 55 per cent. In one per cent T&D losses 600 MW energy is wasted and if we talk about saving 600 megawatt energy and spent four crore rupees per megawatt on that account. We can save upto at Rs. 2400 crore. Tamil Nadu and Kerala are the two states which are presently running in profit, the remaining states are running in losses. I have got details in regard to reducing T&D losses in each state and if someone is interested, I will provide the information.

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, through you I want to know from the Government, especially from the Power Minister as to whether in providing power they are discriminating against the Congress governed states? I want to mention about Rajasthan where we are facing deep crisis of power. I want to ask the hon'ble Minister as to how much cuts in power supply were effected in the state of Rajasthan during the last two years, what remained the reasons therefor and when the State Government wants to purchase power in the interest of farmers despite its difficult economic condition why the Union Government is not making power available to the state?

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA : Power is a national property, there is no question of showing any discrimination in it. In whichever state there is scarcity, power will be provided.

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : I have asked a specific question as to how much cuts have been effected and electricity supplies were diverted to other states and what were the reasons for these cuts?...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA : Sir, those states which have accepted the reforms are provided power from unallocated quota on priority basis. Rajasthan has just accepted the reforms and whenever a demand has come from their side, we have provided percentage-wise full quota to the Rajasthan Government. Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no question of providing less power.

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Sir, as per the data provided by the Government there is a shortage of 13 per cent power in Uttar Pradesh. But I think, you are not aware that in the rural areas of Uttar Pradesh, power is not supplied even for two hours in a day. In response to my letter the Hon'ble Minister has stated that in my constituency of Amroha power is supplied for 22 hours. Perhaps, he has written this in some confusion, power is supplied for two hours and not for 22 hours, I would like to ask the government through you whether they are going to privatise this system and if they are going to do so, by when are they going to do it? Along with this, I would like to know whether some instructions have been issued specifying the no. of hours for which power will be provided in the rural and urban areas...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Privatisation of power distribution is done by the State Government and not by the Central Government because 'Electricity' is a State subject.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA : Sir, this question should be asked separately.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Sir, the question of power generation is related to long term and short term. Power generation has not been mentioned in the budget speech yesterday. Everybody is aware that the country can not progress without the generation of power. I want to know whether the Government propose to include power in the basic services? One lakh megawatt is required for generation and for that an investment of Rs.

8 lakh crore is needed. I want to ask the Government what action is being taken to remove this danger so that 7-8 per cent of power shortage as mentioned by you, can be met.

MR. SPEAKER : Raghuvanshji, you are asking your supplementary with too much emphasis.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Sir, our Finance Minister has said that the matter will be looked into when the time comes and allocations for power have increased substantially. Simultaneously, States will have to make provisions to meet the targets. You had issued a direction in the last session and I said that we would achieve total rural electrification in the coming six years. You walked out on this issue. But it was announced yesterday that the Government has made provisions for rural electrification for the coming six years within three months. I hope that the Government of Bihar will also take benefit of this...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Janardhana Reddy, the time is very short, so please be brief.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : The Ministry has suggested a series of measures to take over the grim situation of power in the country. However, the main problem in the country is the financial position of the Electricity Boards. To improve that, you have talked about cutting down the transmission and distribution losses, more vigilance etc. These are not the measures. Has the Government of India got any proposal to assist the Electricity Boards financially?

According to the Minister, the Government is not supposed to supply power directly to any industry. However, the silicon industry is being supplied power directly by the National Thermal Power Corporation and that is bringing in huge losses for the Electricity Board. Has this come to the notice of the Department? If so, what steps are being taken in this regard?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Sir, we will provide all the financial assistance required by the State Electricity Boards irrespective of the existing ceiling provided they demonstrate good progress in reversing the trend. We are going to announce before the Chief Ministers' Conference, the day after tomorrow, that if a particular State brings about at least a break even point in two years and a surplus in three years, the Central Government would provide all

the assistance required by that State Electricity Board. Though it is the responsibility of the State Governments, we are willing to provide assistance required by State Electricity Boards, irrespective of the ceiling on the funds.

The hon. Member has mentioned that NTPC was providing power directly to some of the silicon industries. It is not the silicon industry but it is the ferro alloys industry that is being supplied power by NTPC directly. This policy has been pursued for the last almost ten years. We will review that policy.

*[Translation]*

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon. Minister has repeatedly mentioned reforms and privatisation in his reply. I would ask him that with the help of these two things—you have given permission to Enron Company to generate power, and as a result of this how much improvement has taken place, how much risk has been generated and how much trouble has been created for the Government and particularly for the hon. Minister? Whether he or his Government have got any solution to overcome the crisis?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, negotiations are on between Dabhol Power Company and Maharashtra Electricity Board. They have also constituted a committee and the Central Government will definitely consider the recommendations of the Committee. When we talk of reforms then we pay full attention to the point that who should be benefitted by these reforms—be it the farmers or the general public and the rates of the power at which it is now available should be brought down. Therefore, there is a need to take such steps which can improve the situation in the coming three years and the general public may be benefitted...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a specific question. You offered a dream to the country when your Government or the Government of Maharashtra gave permission to Enron. You told that it would improve things and more power would be available at cheaper rates as the hon. Minister has stated in his objectives and ideals. I just want to know whether consumers have received more power at cheaper rates and the burden which the Central Government and the country had to bear due to this?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the time when the Government talked about Enron and today when we talk about reforms, the main difference between the two

situations is that today we are trying to improve the distribution system and until we improve the distribution system, lessen the transmission and distribution losses due to theft, improvement cannot take place...(Interruptions) About Enron's liability towards State Government, Central Government have given counter-guarantee...(Interruptions). Therefore, if there is any incidence of default, the Central Government would be responsible for it...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request you to please pay a little attention to whatever I say because I am not asking a question in a round about manner and I am putting up a direct question. The hon. Prime Minister told an hon. Member day before yesterday that he will make him stand in the dock. I want to bring this Government in the dock. They should give me an answer in this regard. The hon. Prime Minister and not the Hon. Minister should answer this question because he has given approval for this...(Interruptions) he has done so much welfare of the country by doing so. He has put so much burden on the country which our next generations will have to bear. This Government is responsible for this and is standing in the dock for this act.

#### Failure of Northern Grid

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\*103. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the collapse of power grid in U.P. on January 2, 2001 resulted in total darkness and chaos in the country particularly in the Northern States;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any follow-up probe into this failure and if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) whether the Government have estimated the loss suffered in terms of money due to this failure;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken against the persons responsible therefor; and

(f) the preventive measures being considered to avoid such situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) and (b) Several factors contributed to the grid collapse in the Northern Region, which occurred on 2nd January, 2001. One Pole of Rihand-Dadri HVDC line was out of service from 14th December, 2000 due to multiple failure of converter transformers. This had restricted the transmission capability between the eastern part, where all pit-head generation is located and western part of the Northern Region, where major load centres are located. On the night of 1st/2nd January, 2001, a number of 220 KV and 440 KV lines of the U.P. transmission system had tripped and this imposed a severe strain on the transmission system. The transmission capability which had been impaired due to reduced capability of the Rihand-Dadri HVDC line got further eroded due to tripping of major high voltage transmission lines in UP system and this triggered grid separation and collapse.

(c) An inquiry was ordered by the Government on 3rd January, 2001. The Chairman, Central Electricity Authority conducted the inquiry and submitted his report on 10th January, 2001.

(d) The grid collapse of the Northern Region had caused loss due to disruption of railway traffic and loss of production in industrial units. However, it is not possible to accurately quantify the loss.

(e) Immediately after the grid collapse, Minister of Power addressed a letter to the Chief Minister of UP and to all the Chief Ministers advising them to ensure grid discipline by restricting their drawals from the grid in accordance with their allocated quota and grid requirements. Secretary (Power) on 11.1.2001 directed Chairman, Central Electricity Authority to monitor the action taken on weekly basis for implementing the recommendations made for preventing recurrence of such incidents. Chairman, Central Electricity Authority was also directed to indicate punitive action required to be taken against those responsible for the grid collapse. The implementation of the Action Plan formulated in accordance with the recommendations made by Chairman, Central Electricity Authority is being vigorously monitored by Central Electricity Authority and Ministry of Power.

(f) The important preventive measures being taken to avoid such incidents in future are as follows:

1. Periodic preventive and regular maintenance of all HVDC, 400 KV and 220 KV lines and sub-stations.



2. Introduction of free governor mode of operation at all generating stations.
3. Ensuring proper operation of under frequency load shedding relays in SEBs distribution systems.
4. Implementation of a rational commercial mechanism which would induce SEBs to regulate their drawal and the generators to generate power according to schedules, to enable stabilization of voltage and frequency.
5. Installation of capacitors at load centres of State Electricity Boards.

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in her reply that a fault has crept in the grid on 14th December. If such was the case, then why was it not repaired. In the second part of the reply the Government has stated that Chairman, Central Electricity Authority was ordered to conduct an inquiry. I want to know the results of the inquiry. Besides, an inquiry committee was constituted after the failure of northern grid, what are its findings?...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ramdas Athawale, please take your seat...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member has said that a pole of HVDC line failed on 14th December. It is a fact that Northern Region's grid is the second longest, inter-connected network of line. The day it failed, the power grid corporation wrote to all the States of Northern Grid to make them realize its importance and directed them to maintain discipline. It is a fact that the Ministry of Power constituted a committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Shrivastava, Chairman of C.E.A. regarding the Grid failure. The Committee was asked to submit its report within 7 days. Accordingly, the committee submitted its report on 10th. They submitted their report alongwith an action plan to prevent such failures in future.

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what action was taken against the people found to be responsible for the failure by the inquiry committee and what alternative system has been adopted to prevent such incidents in future?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : So, what action are you going to take?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA : The information which has been recieved from the Committee shows that out of 6 transformers installed in this pole system, 4 had gone out of order and 3 failed only in one month leading to the grid failure. The inquiry reveals that on the night of 1st January at 11.21 hours, a flash occurred in HVDC line. Similarly, at 12.17 hours flash occurred for four times and information of flash-over on Rihand-Dadri HVDC line of power grid for which information had already been given in advance. At 1.05 AM the 400 KV line which is linked with Obara-Punki line also tripped. After that, at 3.10 A.M. 400 KV Punki-Moradabad line tripped.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, the Question Hour is over now. You can send your reply to the hon. Member later.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

### Dependence on Oil and Petroleum Products

\*104. DR. SANJAY PASWAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state

(a) whether rich countries of the world are reducing the dependence of imported oil and petroleum products by adopting better conservation techniques and by ensuring better utilization of the indigenous resources.

(b) if so, the present scenario in this regard in our country; and;

(c) the details of the alternative arrangements being worked out to reduce such dependence?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) The quantum of imports of crude oil and petroleum products of a country depends on the level of its economic development as reflected in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and the indigenous availability of the products. In developed countries, the per capita energy consumption levels are high, compared to India. The demand for petroleum products in India is growing at annual rate of 6-7%.

The Government are fully aware of the need for conservation of oil and petroleum products. Mass awareness campaigns such as the Oil Conservation Fortnight are conducted throughout the country to encourage saving of oil by curbing wasteful use. The Government have further also intensified domestic exploration efforts under the New Exploration Licensing Policy. Enhanced oil recovery/improved oil recovery schemes have been implemented in several oil fields. Efforts to explore new areas such as deep-water and difficult frontiers as well as deeper layers of producing fields have been initiated. Speeding up development of newly discovered fields and use of new technologies for seismic survey, work-over and stimulation operations, acquiring acreages abroad through equity participation are other steps taken by the Government to reduce dependence on imports.

Three pilot projects for blending of ethanol with motor spirit have been approved for implementation to study the operational, logistic and environmental aspects of such blending and obtain consumer feedback.

In addition, the Government have also focused on development of alternative indigenous sources, by initiating action to harness non-conventional sources of energy such as Coal Bed Methane, Gas Hydrates as well as renewable energy sources as Wind Power, small Hydro Projects, Bio-mass, Solar Energy and Urban & Industrial Waste. Bio-diesel Di-Methyl Ether, and Fuel Cells are identified potential alternative fuels.

[English]

#### **New Policy for Development of NCES**

\*105. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to make mandatory for States to generate Power through non-conventional energy sources atleast 10 per cent of total generation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have approved the draft new policy for development of non-conventional energy;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the efforts made for providing more funds for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) The Government envisages a major role for non-conventional energy sources in the energy sector in the coming decades. For this, the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has formulated a Draft Renewable Energy Policy Statement. Among the goals envisaged in the draft Policy Statement for 2012 is to increase the share of non-conventional energy in the additional installed capacity to 10%, or 10,000 MW in the next 12 years.

(c) and (d) The objective of the Policy Statement is to enhance the contribution of renewables, viz. solar, wind, biomass and small hydro for meeting minimum rural energy needs; providing decentralised/off-grid supply for agriculture, industry, commercial and household sectors in rural and urban areas; and, grid quality power generation and supply. The draft of the Policy Statement has been submitted by the Ministry for further approval.

(e) Adequate budgetary allocations are envisaged in the Central and State Plans. Private investments, financing through financial institutions and banks, and international funding are also envisaged to augment funding to the non-conventional energy sector.

#### **Supply of Crude Oil from Paradeep to Barauni Refinery**

\*106. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal for pumping crude oil from Paradeep to Barauni and Bongaigaon refineries via Haldia;

(b) if so, the extent to which the project would be cost effective; and

(c) the steps taken by the Indian Oil Corporation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has plans to create additional facilities on the east coast to meet the increased crude oil requirement of Haldia, Barauni and Bongaigaon refineries. For this purpose, one of the options being considered is to pump crude oil from Paradeep to Barauni and Bongaigaon refineries via Haldia using the existing Haldia-Barauni

crude oil pipeline. The feasibility and techno-economic evaluation of the options are being carried out by IOCL.

#### **Status of L.C.A.**

\*107. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN :  
DR. ASHOK PATEL :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Light Combat Aircraft (L.C.A.) as well as induction of "Akash" and "Trishul" Missiles have been delayed inordinately;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the original and escalated cost of each of the projects, separately;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the views being expressed that the LCA will become outdated by the time it comes into operation;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon;

(e) the stage at which each of the projects stands at present; and

(f) the time by which these are likely to be inducted in the Army?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir. There have been some delays in induction of these high technology systems.

(b) The delays are attributable to lack of adequate infrastructure and expertise in the country, technological complexities and US Sanctions imposed in 1998. World over, such delays in development of high technology complex systems are not uncommon. The original and escalated cost of these systems are as under:

	Original Cost (Sanctioned at 1982-83 price level) (Rs. in crore)	Escalated Cost (Rs. in crore)
LCA	560	2854
Akash	95.34	282.83
Trishul	27.16	182.66

(c) and (d) LCA is an advanced technology state-of-the-art aircraft and its technology will be contemporary when inducted in the Air Force.

(e) and (f) LCA has entered Flight Test Programme and its Initial Operational Clearance (IOC) will be obtained by 2005 after which it will be ready for induction into the Air Force. The surface-to-air medium range missile 'Akash' and surface-to-air short range missile 'Trishul' are in advanced stage of guided flight tests. After user trials in 2002, these missiles will enter production and induction phase.

#### **Strength of Judges**

\*108. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN :  
SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH :

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

(a) whether the Law Commission had recommended 50 judges per million population in its earlier reports;

(b) if so, the number of judges at present per million population;

(c) whether the Government propose to review the strength of judges in different courts;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the shortage of judges, absence of necessary infrastructure such as buildings, staff and equipment and unfilled vacancies were identified as the major cause for the pendency of cases; and

(f) if so, the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

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

The Eleventh Law Commission in its 120th Report had, inter alia recommended that the present strength of 10.5 judges per million population be increased to 50 judges per million population.

(b) At present, there is a sanctioned strength of about 13 judges per million population.

(c) and (d) According to the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Act, 1986, the sanctioned strength of the Supreme Court of India is 26 judges, including the Chief Justice of India. Thereafter, no proposal has been received from the Chief Justice of India for increasing the Judge strength of the Supreme Court of India.

The judge strength in High Courts is reviewed once in three years. The last such review was held during 1999. Accordingly, as on February 15, 2001, the revised sanctioned strength of judges in various High Courts was 647 Judges/Additional Judges.

In so, far as the matter relating to subordinate judiciary is concerned, their judges strength is determined by the State Governments in consultation with their respective High Courts.

However, pursuant to the XIth Finance Commission's recommendation, an amount of Rs. 502.90 crore has been sanctioned for creation of 1,734 additional courts in the country to substantially bring down the pendency of cases in the district and subordinate courts over the next five years.

(e) and (f) Pendency of cases in different courts arises from various complex factors. These, inter-alia, include non-filling up of vacancies of judges, inadequate judge strength, inadequate infrastructure of buildings, staff and equipments, increased institution of cases on account of awareness of the rights on the part of the citizens, enactment of numerous laws, radical change in the pattern of litigation, frequent adjournment of cases, rise in population, lawyers' strike etc. as some of the major causes.

Various steps are taken from time to time for filling-up of vacancies at various levels of the judiciary by the concerned authorities.

A Centrally Sponsored Scheme relating to development of infrastructural facilities for the Judiciary i.e. construction of court buildings and residences of judges, provision of computers etc., covering the High Courts and the District/Subordinate Courts is being implemented from 1993-94 under which an amount of Rs. 800.00 crore (approximately) has been spent so far.

[Translation]

#### Use of LPG in Cars

\*109. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had taken a decision for permitting use of L.P.G. in cars to check the increasing level of pollution in cities and also for manufacture of special L.P.G. cylinders for this purpose;

(b) if so, whether a warning for introducing the cars

using L.P.G. as fuel was published in various newspapers in January, 2001;

(c) if so, whether the said warning does not amount to contradiction of the Government's policy;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to clarify the position in this matter; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (e) The Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 has been amended in August, 2000 to permit the use of LPG as an automotive fuel. The draft Central Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Rules have been published on 12th February, 2001 inviting objections and suggestions from the public within 30 days. In addition, LPG (Regulation of Use in Motor Vehicles) Order is under finalization. Till these processes are completed, use of LPG as an automotive fuel remains prohibited.

A public notice was issued by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi on 13th January, 2001 cautioning the public against the unauthorized use of LPG as an alternate fuel in motor vehicles and asking them to abstain from retrofitment of LPG kit cylinders in their vehicles till LPG is approved for use as an automotive fuel.

In view of above, there is no contradiction in the Government policy.

[English]

#### Encroachment on Railway Land

\*110. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the policy of the Ministry in regard to the problem of encroachment on railway land;

(b) the total area of Railway land encroached upon by the unauthorised persons, Zone-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to remove the encroachers?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) and (c) Unauthorised occupations on Railway land, especially those along the Railway tracks, are a potential safety hazard. Railways, therefore, make consistent efforts to remove these from their land. Fresh encroachments are removed as soon as noticed. Old

encroachments are removed under the provisions of Public Premises (Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971. Railways have also been directed to effectively use Section 147 of Railways Act, 1989 to deal with unauthorised occupants. As removal of encroachments often develop into a law and order problem, help from the Civil Police is also sought for.

(b) The details of area of Railway land under unauthorised occupation are as under:

Zone	Area under encroachment (in Hec.)
Central Railway	89
Eastern Railway	42
Northern Railway	1218
Northeastern Railway	895
Northeast Frontier Railway	358
Southern Railway	77
South Central Railway	86
South Eastern Railway	777
Western Railway	105
<b>Total</b>	<b>3647</b>

#### Fast Track Courts

\*111. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :  
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to set up subordinate "Fast Track Courts" in every district of the country in a bid to provide speedy justice in criminal cases, especially those pertaining to undertrials;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds required for setting up of such "Fast Track Courts" in every district of the country; and

(d) the extent to which these courts will help to provide speedy justice to the undertrials?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Government have decided to set up 1734

additional courts in the country on the basis of the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission. These courts are expected to serve as fast track courts for the expeditious disposal of long pending cases, priority being given to sessions cases and cases involving undertrials in jails.

(b) The State-wise break-up of the courts to be created is given in the statement-I enclosed.

(c) The State-wise amount allotted and released for these courts is at given in the statement-II enclosed.

(d) The first priority of these courts will be the disposal of long pending sessions cases and other criminal cases involving undertrials in jails. These courts will be set up by State Governments in consultation with respective High Courts and are likely to be functional from April, 2001. These courts will continue till March, 2005. Each court is expected to dispose of 14 sessions cases or 25 other criminal/civil cases per month. It is expected that these courts will dispose of about 2 million cases by the year 2005.

#### Statement-I

##### State-wise break-up of additional courts

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of Courts
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	86
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5
3.	Assam	20
4.	Bihar	183
5.	Chhattisgarh	31
6.	Goa	5
7.	Gujarat	166
8.	Haryana	36
9.	Himachal Pradesh	9
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	12
11.	Jharkhand	89
12.	Karnataka	93
13.	Kerala	37

1	2	3
14.	Madhya Pradesh	85
15.	Maharashtra	187
16.	Manipur	3
17.	Meghalaya	3
18.	Mizoram	3
19.	Nagaland	3
20.	Orissa	72
21.	Punjab	29
22.	Rajasthan	83
23.	Sikkim	3
24.	Tamil Nadu	49
25.	Tripura	3
26.	Uttar Pradesh	242
27.	Uttaranchal	45
28.	West Bengal	152
Total		1734

**Statement-II**

*Funds recommended by EFC and grant released  
under Judicial Administration  
upto 17.11.2000*

(Rupees in crore)

Sl. No.	State	Recommended by EFC		Released 2000-01
		2000-05	2000-01	
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	25.00	10.06	2.52
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.31	0.53	0.13
3.	Assam	5.89	2.37	0.59
4.	Bihar	52.96	21.30	5.33
5.	Chhattisgarh	8.79	3.54	0.88
6.	Goa	1.39	0.56	0.14

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Gujarat	48.22	19.39	4.85
8.	Haryana	10.50	4.22	1.06
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2.70	1.09	0.27
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	3.34	1.34	0.34
11.	Jharkhand	25.77	10.36	2.59
12.	Karnataka	27.02	10.87	2.72
13.	Kerala	10.87	4.37	1.09
14.	Madhya Pradesh	24.71	9.94	2.49
15.	Maharashtra	54.08	21.75	5.44
16.	Manipur	1.00	0.40	0.10
17.	Meghalaya	1.00	0.40	0.10
18.	Mizoram	1.00	0.40	0.10
19.	Nagaland	0.91	0.37	0.09
20.	Orissa	20.74	8.34	2.09
21.	Punjab	8.29	3.33	0.83
22.	Rajasthan	24.07	9.68	2.42
23.	Sikkim	1.00	0.40	0.10
24.	Tamil Nadu	14.12	5.68	1.42
25.	Tripura	0.82	0.33	0.08
26.	Uttaranchal	13.04	5.24	1.31
27.	Uttar Pradesh	70.22	28.24	7.06
28.	West Bengal	44.14	17.75	4.44
Total		502.90	202.27	50.56

**Maintenance of Tanks at  
Marketing Terminals**

\*112. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the total tankage at the marketing terminals installations and depots of various oil companies in different States which are out of service for repair and maintenance at present;

(b) whether the demurrage rates are mounting day-by-day due to these terminals being out of service;

(c) if so, the total amount of demurrage incurred per day as a result of waiting; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check such lapses on the part of oil companies in future?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) At present, 124 tanks are out of service for repair and maintenance.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The details of demurrage for the last three years are given below :

Year	Total Demurrage (Rs./Crores)
1998-99	468.4
1999-2000	113.2
2000-01 (April – December)	21.3

(d) Does not arise, in view of reply to Part (b) of the question.

#### National Power Policy for Hydro Power Generation

\*113. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated new National Power Policy particularly for development of hydro power generation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of review of progress in respect of on-going hydro power projects in terms of physical and financial targets, set and achieved, during the last three years, project-wise;

(d) the details of hydro power potentials identified and new power projects formulated with location and capacity, State-wise; and

(e) the investment proposed in general and Maharashtra in particular?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) to (e) Government of India had announced

a policy on Hydro Power Development in August, 1998 in order to accelerate the pace of hydro power development in the country. The Policy envisages the following measures for this purpose :-

- (i) Providing adequate funds to Central Sector and State Sector Hydel Projects;
- (ii) Basin-wise development of new hydro potential sites;
- (iii) Creation of shelf of projects and bankable DPRs through intensive survey and investigations;
- (iv) Promoting private investment through joint venture arrangement;
- (v) Establishing a dedicated fund for promoting hydel projects;
- (vi) Rationalisation of hydro tariff;
- (vii) Providing an institutional mechanism for dealing with geological risks;
- (viii) Taking projects locked up in inter-State issues or languishing due to want of funds; and
- (ix) Providing greater thrust for development of small hydel projects.

The hydro capacity addition target and achievement during the last three years have been as under :-

Year	Target	Achievement
1997-98	516 MW	223 MW
1998-99	544.5 MW	542.5 MW
1999-2000	1563 MW	1371.5 MW

The project wise details of the physical and financial performance of on-going hydroelectric projects programmed for commissioning during these years are given in statement-I.

The hydro potential of the country has been assessed at 84044 MW (at 60% load factor). The State-wise hydro potential identified is indicated in statement-II. At present, 50 sanctioned hydroelectric projects aggregating to 13755.85 MW at an estimated cost of Rs. 57031.52 crores are under execution in the country for likely benefits during 9th Plan and beyond. The project-wise details indicating location, capacity and investment are given in statement-III. This includes Ghatghar PSS (2x125 MW) and Bhivpuri

PSS (1x90 MW) in Maharashtra at an estimated cost of Rs. 919.87 crores. In addition, 14 schemes with an installed capacity of 3607.9 MW have been cleared by Central Electricity Authority, 4 schemes with an aggregate installed capacity of 350 MW are under examination, 166 schemes with an aggregate installed capacity of about 50418 MW are under various states of survey and investigations and 90 schemes with an installed capacity of 49,505 MW have been returned to project authorities for re-examination.

During the last three years five new hydroelectric projects have been sanctioned under Central Sector. These are Chamera II (300 MW) in Himachal Pradesh; Loktak Downstream (90 MW) in Manipur; Teesta Stage V (500 MW) in Sikkim; Koteshwar (400 MW) in Uttarakhand and Tuirial (60 MW) in Mizoram. The net budgetary support has been significantly raised from Rs. 1125.53 crores in 1997-98 to Rs. 1982.15 crores in 2001-02 to promote large and medium size hydroelectric projects under Central Sector.

Government of India has initiated action to develop

about 30,000 MW of hydro power in the various parts of the country. A substantial portion of this is in the North East, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. An MOU has been signed with Jammu & Kashmir to develop 7 hydroelectric projects (2798 MW) under Central Sector. Similarly, in North East, action has been initiated to develop hydroelectric projects in Siang and Subansiri Basins (20700 MW). In addition, Kameng (600 MW) and Ranganadi Stage II (180 MW) in Arunachal Pradesh, Tuivai (60 MW) in Mizoram and Tipaimukh (150 MW) Manipur are also proposed to be developed under the Central Sector. In Himachal Pradesh Parbati Projects (2051 MW), Kol Dam Project (800 MW), Rampur HEP (580 MW) have been identified for development. Government of India is also according high priority in developing hydroelectric projects languishing for want of funds and projects locked up in inter-State disputes. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with Government of Madhya Pradesh to jointly develop Omkareshwar (520 MW) and Indira Sagar Project (1000 MW) in Madhya Pradesh.

#### Statement-I

*Physical and Financial Targets and Achievements during the last three years, project-wise.*

1997-98

Name of the Project & Installed Capacity	State	Physical Performance		Financial Performance [Rs. Crores]	
		Target [MW]	Achievement [MW]	Allocation	Actual Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>Central Sector</b>					
1. Doyang [3x25 MW]	Nagaland	25	Nil	50.00	125.65
<b>State Sector</b>					
2. Sewa-III [3x3 MW]	J&K	9	Nil	8.5	5.62
3. Chenani-III [3x2.5 MW]	J&K	7.5	Nil	11	4.78
4. Sobla [2x3 MW]	U.P.	6	Nil	1	0.79
5. Kadana PSS Extn. [2x60 MW]	Gujarat	60	Nil	1.90	0.99
6. Wama [2x8 MW]	Mah.	16	8	1	1.06



1	2	3	4	5	6
7. Dudhganga [2x12 MW]	Mah.	24	Nil	1.60	1.99
8. Singur [2x7.5 MW]	A.P.	15	Nil	4.22	1.11
9. Kalinadi-II Kadra [3x50 MW] Kodasalli [3x40 MW]	Ktk.	90	50	75.40	82.26
10. Lower Periyar [3x60 MW]	Kerala	120	120	7.0	37.73
11. Kakkad [2x25 MW]	Kerala	50	Nil	10.20	12.27
12. Poringal- kuthu LB Extn. [1x16 MW]	Kerala	16	Nil	4.70	15.29
13. Sathanur Dam [1x7.5 MW]	T.N	7.5	Nil	0.42	4.64
14. Lower Bhawani Dam RBC	T.N.	8	8	4.68	4.74
15. Eastern Gandak [3x5 MW]	Bihar	5	5	1.50	0.19
16. Teesta Falls Phase-I & II [3x7.5 MW Each]	W.B.	45	30	72.35	58.73
17. Potteru [1x3+1x3 MW]	Orissa	6	Nil	3.00	1.56
18. Nuranang [3x2 MW]	Ar. Pradesh	6	6	2.0	N.A.
19. Bhadra RBC	Ktk.	Nil	6.0	5.0	1.58
<b>Total</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>233</b>		

**1998-99****Central Sector**

1. Doyang [3x25 MW]	Nagaland	25	Nil	90.00	54.00
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1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>State Sector</b>					
2. Sobla [2x3 MW]	U.P.	6	6	N.A.	N.A.
3. Upper Sindh-II [2x35 MW]	J&K	35	Nil	45.50	34.50
4. Sewa-III [3x3 MW]	J&K	9	Nil	5.58	6.86
5. Chenani-III [3x2.5 MW]	J&K	7.5	Nil	7.60	6.18
6. Ranjit Sagar Dam [4x150 MW]	Punjab	150	Nil	300	403.03
7. Warna [2x8 MW]	Mah.	8	8	1.25	2.22
8. Dudhganga [2x12 MW]	Mah.	12	Nil	1.80	1.96
9. Kadana PSS Extn. [2x60 MW]	Gujarat	60	60	2.14	1.77
10. Singur [2x7.5 MW]	A.P.	7.5	Nil	8.65	8.61
11. Kalinadi-II Kadra [3x50 MW] Kodasalli [3x40 MW]	Ktk.	180	180	45.93	35.13
12. Poringal- kuthu LB Extn. [1x16 MW]	Kerala	16	16	3.4	5.82
13. Sathanur Dam [1x7.5 MW]	T.N.	7.5	7.5	1.51	2.54
14. Potteru PH. I & II [1x3+1x3 MW]	Orissa	6	Nil	3.00	1.96
15. Teesta Canal Falls PH-II [3x7.5 MW]	W.B.	15	15	42.31	36.87
16. Koyna St. IV [4x250 MW]	Mah.	Nil	250	290.00	173.10
<b>Total:</b>		<b>544.5</b>	<b>542.5</b>		

1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>1999-2000</b>					
<b>Central Sector</b>					
1. doyang [3x25 MW]	Nagaland	50	Nil	110	190
2. Rangit-III [3x20 MW]	Sikkim	20	60	106.55	104.49
<b>State Sector</b>					
3. Sewa-III [3x3 MW]	J&K	9	Nil	4.60	3.39
4. Chenani-III [3x2.5 MW]	J&K	7.5	Nil	5.80	4.82
5. Upper Sindh-II [2x35 MW]	J&K	Nil	35	9.09	35.68
6. Ranjit Sagar Dam [4x150 MW]	Punjab	300	Nil	145.0	208.39
7. Rajghat [3x15 MW]	M.P.	45	45	19.69	7.60
8. Dudhganga [2x12 MW]	Mah.	24	24	3.09	3.53
9. Koyna [4x250 MW]	Mah.	500	750	113	61.85
10. Singur [2x7.5 MW]	A.P.	15	15	6.57	3.78
11. Kakkad [2x25 MW]	Kerala	50	50	1.10	9.84
12. Kalinadi-II Kodasalli [3x40 MW]	Ktk.	40	40	21.22	14.79
13. Parson's Valley [1x30 MW]	T.N.	30	30	9.11	12.26
14. Upper Indravati [4x150 MW]	Orissa	450	300	94.65	148.79
15. Teesta Canal Falls [ 3x3x7.5 MW]	W.B.	22.5	22.5	16.10	23.02
Total:		1563	1371.5		

**Statement-II****Status of Hydro-Electric Potential Development**

(As on 1.2.2001)

Region/State	Potential assessed at 60% L.F. [MW]	Potential developed at 60% L.F. [MW]	% Developed	Potential Under Development at 60% L.F. [MW]	% Under Develop- ment	% of Potential Developed + Under Development
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>Northern</b>						
J&K	7487.00	501.83	6.70	385.50	5.15	11.85
H.P.	11647.00	2012.90	17.28	631.33	5.42	22.70
Punjab	922.00	656.33	71.19	173.33	18.80	89.99
Haryana	64.00	51.67	80.73	11.67	18.23	98.96
Rajasthan	291.00	192.67	66.21	8.00	2.75	68.96
Uttar Pradesh	9744.00	1145.33	11.75	1334.00	13.69	25.44
Sub Total (NR)	30155.00	4560.73	15.12	2543.83	8.44	23.56
<b>Western</b>						
M.P	2774.00	587.83	21.19	1202.72	43.36	64.55
Gujarat	409.00	138.67	33.90	110.67	27.06	60.96
Maharashtra	2460.00	1118.83	45.48	186.83	7.59	53.08
Goa	36.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sub Total [WR]	5679.00	1845.33	32.49	1500.22	26.42	58.91
<b>Southern</b>						
A.P.	2909.00	1402.25	48.20	34.37	1.18	49.39
Karnataka	4347.00	2304.50	53.01	328.67	7.56	60.57
Kerala	2301.00	1125.50	48.91	219.30	9.53	58.44
Tamil Nadu	1206.00	946.50	78.48	67.50	5.60	84.08
Sub Total [SR]	10763.00	5778.75	53.69	649.83	6.04	59.73
<b>Eastern</b>						
Bihar	538.00	119.95	22.30	211.00	39.22	61.51
Orissa	1983.00	1100.50	55.50	8.95	0.45	55.95
West Bengal	1766.00	91.33	5.11	9.83	0.55	5.66

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sikkim	1283.00	57.50	4.48	109.00	8.50	12.98
Sub Total [ER]	5590.00	1369.28	24.50	338.78	6.06	30.56
<b>North Eastern</b>						
Meghalaya	1070.00	121.67	11.37	0.00	0.00	11.37
Tripura	9.00	8.50	94.44	0.00	0.00	94.44
Manipur	1176.00	73.17	6.22	47.83	4.07	10.29
Assam	351.00	111.67	31.81	90.83	25.88	57.69
Nagaland	1040.00	56.00	5.38	25.88	2.49	7.87
Arunachal Pradesh	26756.00	16.50	0.06	108.33	0.40	0.47
Mizoram	1455.00	1.00	0.07	36.83	2.53	2.60
Sub Total [NER]	31857.00	388.50	1.22	309.72	0.97	2.19
All India	84044.00	13942.60	16.59	5342.38	6.36	22.95

**Statement-III***Hydro Schemes under Construction*

As on 22.2.2001

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	Sector/ State	Installed Cap. MW	Commng. Schedule	Latest Estimated Cost [Rs. Crs.]	Expenditure Upto 3/2000
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>Central Sector</b>						
1.	Nathpa Jhakri	H.P.	6x250	1500.00	2001-02*	7666.31
2.	Dulhasti	J&K	3x130	390.00	2001-02*	3559.77
3.	Chamera St. II	H.P.	3x100	300.00	2004-05	1684.02
4.	Loktak D/S	Manipur	3x30	90.00	2006-07	578.62
5.	Teesta St. V	Sik.	3x170	510	2006-07	2198.04
6.	Dhauliganga	U.P.	4x70	280.00	2004-05	1578.31
7.	Tehri St.I	U.P.	4x250	1000.00	2001-03*	5690.64
8.	Koteshwar	U.P.	4x100	400.00	2005-06	1301.56
9.	Ranganadi	Ar. Pr.	3x135	405.00	2001-02	1446.09
10.	Tuirial	Miz.	2x30	60.00	2005-07	448.19

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11.	Kopili St.II	Ass.	1x25	25.00	2001-02	76.09	9.62
12.	Indira Sagar	M.P.	8x125	1000.00	10th Plan	4558.34	1121.51
Total : Central Sector				5960.00		30785.98	12326.34
State Sector							
Northern Region							
13.	WYC	Har.	2x7.2	14.40	2002.03	94.00	7.97
14.	Larji	H.P.	3x42	126.00	10th Plan	796.98	144.05
15.	Upper Sindh-II [a]	J&K	2x35	70.00	1999-01	399.50	330.50 U-I Rolled
15.	Upper Sindh-III [b] Extn.	J&K	1x35	35.00	2000-01	42.27	25.39
16.	Sewa St-III	J&K	3x3	9.00	2000-01	60.00	43.93
17.	Shahpur-kandi #	Pun.	2x40+ 2x40+ 1x8	168.00	11th Plan	1538.00	65.06
18.	Lakhwar Vyasi \$	U.P.	3x100+ 2x60	420.00	10th Plan	1446.00	233.13
19.	Maneri Bhali-II \$	U.P.	4x76	304.00	2003-05	1249.18	150.22
20.	Katapathar	U.P.	2x9.5	19.00	2005-06	27.58	N.A.
Total : Northern Region				1165.40		5653.51	1000.25
Western Region							
21.	Sardar Sarovar	Guj./ M.P./ Mah.	6x200+ 5x50	1450.00	2001-04*	3267.25	1982.57
22.	Bansagar Tons PH-II & PH-III	M.P.	2x15+3 x20	90.00	2001-02*	956.81	758.69 U-I, PH-III Rolled
23.	Bansagar Tons PH-IV	M.P.	2x10	20.00	2001-02*	84.97	5.31
24.	Ghatghar PSS	Mah.	2x125	250.00	2004-05	830.00	130.00
25.	Bhivpuri PSS #	Mah.	1x90	90.00	Beyond 9th Plan	89.87	N.A.
Total : Western Region				1900.00		5238.90	2876.57

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
26.	Srisaillam LBPH	A.P.	6x150	900.00	2000-02*	2482.00	2018.34
27.	Brindavan #	Ktk.	2x6	12.00	2001-02*	51.24	8.30
28.	Sarpadi	Ktk.	3x30	90.00	2002-03	369.45	4.68
29.	Sharavathi Tail Race	Ktk.	4x60	240.00	2001-02	420.00	313.52 U-1 Rolled
30.	Malankara	Ker.	3x3.5	10.50	2002-03	41.57	6.22
31.	Kuttiyadi Tail Race	Ker.	3x 1.25	3.75	10th Plan	13.38	7.02
32.	Pykara Ultimate	T.N.	3x50	150	10th Plan	373.06	176.07
33.	Kalpong	A&N	3x 1.75	5.20	2001-02	47.31	31.83
Total :Southern Region				1411.45		3798.01	2565.98
<b>Eastern Region</b>							
34.	Chandil	Bih.	2x4	8.00	2001-02	32.49	26.45
35.	North Koel \$	Bih.	2x12	24.00	2001-02*	47.34	36.47
36.	Upper Indravati	Orissa	4x150	600.00	1999-01	1107.10	1036.57 U-1, 2 & 3 Commnd.
37.	Potteru	Orissa	1x3+ 1x3	6.00	2001-02	18.83	19.82
38.	Balimela Dam Toe PH	Orissa	2x30	60.00	10th Plan	69.30	20.00
39.	Rammam St.I#	W.B.	3x12	36.00	10th Plan	176.59	0.30
40.	Purulia PSS	W.B.	4x225	900.00	2004-06	3188.90	67.10
41.	Rolep-I#	Sik.	2x4.5	9.00	2003-04	45.00	1.26
Total : Eastern Region				1643.00		4685.55	1207.97
<b>North-Eastern Region</b>							
42.	Karbi Langpi \$ [Lower-Borpani]	Ass.	2x50	100.00	2003-04	288.37	128.01
43.	Dhansiri \$	Ass.	5x3x 1.33	20.00	2002-03	78.63	38.94
44.	Likim - Ro	Nag.	3x8	24.00	2001-02	186.59	168.25
Total : North-Eastern Region				144.00		553.59	335.20
Total : State Sector				6263.85		19929.56	7985.97

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>Private Sector</b>							
45. Baspa St-II \$	H.P.	3x100	300.00	2001-02*	949.23	675.67	
46. Malana	H.P.	2x43	86.00	10th Plan	332.71	N.A.	
47. Vishnu Prayag	U.P.	4x100	400.00	10th Plan	1614.66	193.28	
48. Srinagar	U.P.	4x 82.5	330.00	2005-06	1699.12	100.00	
49. Maheshwar \$	M.P.	10x40	400.00	2003-05	1673.00	126.49	
50. Boothanthan- kettu \$	Ker.	16.00	16.00	2001-02*	47.26	N.A.	
Total : Private Sector				1532.00	6315.98	1095.44	
Total : All India				13755.85	57031.52	21407.75	

Hydro Capacity already spun / 565.00  
Commissioned out of the above.

New Hydro Capacity under Execution 13190.85

\* Capacity addition of 3767 MW may slip from the revised 9th Plan programme of 8399.2 MW.

# Works of the project are yet to be taken up.

\$ Works of the project are held up.

### National Tourism Policy

\*114. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether comments/suggestions from various State Government on new National Tourism Policy have been received by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details of the comments/suggestions made by them;

(c) whether the draft of new policy has been cleared by the Union Government;

(d) if so, the salient features of the new policy along with the details of comments/suggestions of the State Governments incorporated in the new policy;

(e) whether the Government plan to revise the existing Tourism Policy to attract investment for rapid development and employment;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the time by which it is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The draft of new National Tourism Policy was circulated among the State Governments/U.T. Administrations inviting their comments/suggestions. The comments/suggestions have been received from Government of Gujarat, Meghalaya, Andhra Pradesh and Mizoram. The main suggestions are indicated below:

- (i) Development of package of incentives to facilitate visits of international tourists to new destinations.
- (ii) Steps for diversification to health resources, conference/convention tourism avenues, etc. to ensure long term viability of tourism sector.
- (iii) Encouragement of private investment for promotion programmes in the tourism sector.
- (iv) Development of research and database on tourism.



- (v) Larger financial assistance for non-construction projects in various States.
- (vi) Decentralisation of power in the matter of approval of new hotel projects and delegation of power to the State Governments for sanction of interest subsidy and its distribution.
- (vii) Special strategy for development of tourism and infrastructural facilities in North Eastern States, particularly creation of enabling environment to facilitate the visits of tourists to these States giving due regard to the values and the culture of local people without compromising integrity.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) A draft Policy prepared by the Department of Tourism includes action plans for promoting tourism as an instrument for employment generation and economic development by encouraging public and private partnership for sustained growth of tourism, facilitating foreign investment and incentives for hotel and related tourism industries, facilitating larger flow of funds to tourism infrastructure, etc.

(g) The draft of the new Tourism Policy has been put in the official portal of the Department of Tourism soliciting comments/views from all concerned.

#### **Investment from Non-Traditional Sources**

\*115. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether in order to plan flow of investment from non-traditional sources of revenue, a Task Force was set up;
- (b) if so, the details of their recommendations;
- (c) whether Empowered Committees were formed to expedite issue of guidelines; and
- (d) if so, the details of their guidelines issued to zonal Railways?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to plan flow of investment from non-traditional sources of revenue, a Talks Force comprising senior Railways Officers and representatives from FICCI, CII and ASSOCHAM was set up to undertake an in-depth study of various issues. The Task

Force has recommended generating revenues from non-traditional sources like commercial utilization of land and air space, Own Your Wagon Scheme, BOLT (Build-Own-Lease-Transfer) Scheme, commercial publicity and other innovative financing packages including joint ventures and formation of SPVs (Special Purpose Vehicles) with private organisations.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir and the following actions have been taken:

- (i) Comprehensive guidelines have been issued to all the Zonal Railways for improving earnings from Commercial Publicity. The guidelines cover station premises, trains, level crossings, approaches to the major stations etc. In each area of activity, the action to be taken by the Zonal Railways have been spelt out.
- (ii) Broad methodology for commercial use of railway land/air space has been issued to all Zonal Railways and the railways have been asked to take up the sites identified.
- (iii) A new corporation namely Rail Tel Corporation of India Ltd. has been set up to commercially exploit the Right of Way of the Railways along railway track for laying of optical fibre cable and marketing surplus capacity.
- (iv) Introduction of "Own Your Wagon" scheme. Its success, however, depends upon various factors like wagon availability in general, state of economy, demand for transport, cost of capital etc. In order to bring the financing of the scheme in line with the prevailing money market conditions, the payment of lease charges has been linked to prime lending rate, depreciation benefit and corporate tax instead of a fixed rate for the entire contract period.

[Translation]

#### **Report of Planning Commission on Functioning of SEBs**

\*116. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :  
SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Planning Commission which was conducting the study of the functioning of SEBs, has

recommended in its report to increase the tariff of electricity by Rs. 72.8 paise per K.W.;

(b) if so, whether the Government have studied the report of the Planning Commission and decided to implement it;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent to which the financial position of SEBs likely to be improved?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) to (d) Every year Planning Commission brings out an Annual Report on the Working of the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) and Electricity Departments. In its latest Report published in April, 2000, it has observed that the average tariff charged by most of the SEBs is less than the cost of supply which is one of the main reasons for incurring losses by the SEBs. The estimated average tariff for the year 1999-2000 of all SEBs has been estimated by the Planning Commission as 207.8 paise per kwh as against the cost of supply of 280.9 paise per kwh of energy sold. The Planning Commission has further estimated that for this year in order to break even/achieve a ROR of 3%, as stipulated in the Electricity Supply Act, 1948, the SEBs would have to raise the average tariff by 66 paise/73 paise per kwh respectively.

As part of the Annual report on the working of the SEBs, this is only an observation and not a formal recommendation of the Planning Commission. The Ministry of Power feels that this gap between the cost of supply and the average tariff can be substantially bridged by reducing T&D losses, eliminating theft of power, rationalizing tariff structure and improving operational efficiency of SEBs. This calls for action by the State Government.

The Ministry of Power has been encouraging the States to undertake reforms so as to improve the financial health of the SEBs. The Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998 has been enacted with the objective of rationalisation of tariff, having transparent policies regarding subsidies and promotion of efficient and environment friendly policies. 15 States/UTs (Orissa, Haryana, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Punjab, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Delhi, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh) have constituted/notified constitution of their SERCs. SERCs of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, UP, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat have passed tariff orders.

Electricity being a concurrent subject, the Ministry of Power has made efforts at regular intervals to evolve consensus on the model and path of reforms in the power sector. For the purpose, the Chief Ministers'/Power Ministers' Conferences were held in 1996, 1998 and in February 2000.

In order to accelerate the reforms process, the Ministry of Power has signed an MOU/MOA with the Governments of Karnataka, UP, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Haryana, charting out joint commitments for undertaking reforms in the power sector in a time bound manner.

[English]

#### Research on Rail Fractures etc.

\*117. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :  
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether despite incurring huge expenditure on research on rail fractures and track maintenance equipment, no tangible results have been achieved so far;

(b) if so, the estimated annual expenditure incurred by the Government on this account;

(c) the reasons for non-achievement of the objectives in this regard; and

(d) the steps being contemplated by the Government in the matter?

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

(b) Does not arise. However, Indian Railways decided in 1997 to associate with the International Union of Railways in research project 'Rail Defect Management'. This project is continuing and is targeted to be completed by the end of next financial year by the International Union of Railways.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

#### Defective Voting Machines

\*118. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO :  
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

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

(a) whether the Government have received any representations from the political parties regarding defective Electronic Voting Machines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are considering to stop the use of Electronic Voting Machines in elections;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the corrective steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The Government is in favour of continuing the use of Electronic Voting Machines at elections throughout the Country on a regular basis.

(e) Does not arise.

#### Statement

The Election Commission of India is in overall charge of the implementation of the scheme of Electronic Voting Machines. It has informed the Government that it receives complaints from political parties, contesting candidates and others regarding various aspects of management of the conduct of elections, like ballot boxes, ballot papers, electronic voting machines, etc. before elections, during elections and after elections. The Election Commission considers all these complaints and takes necessary corrective steps, wherever necessary. The Election Commission has stated that during the last elections also (not the bye-elections held recently) it received complaints about non-functioning of some Electronic Voting Machines, alongwith complaints about other aspects of electoral

management. A statement showing the number of Electronic Voting Machines used, found defective and percentage thereof at elections held from 1998 onwards is enclosed at **Annexure**. As may be seen from the statement, the percentage of Electronic Voting Machines found defective is negligible, taking into consideration the overwhelming response to the use of these machines from the general public, political parties, candidates and others.

The Election Commission has further informed that after the experience gained by it with these machines at the last elections, it has initiated further action by deputing senior officers of the Commission to various States for study of procedures being followed by the States at ground level for storage, shifting, preparation of machines at the time of elections, functioning of the machines at the elections, etc. and would take necessary corrective measures required, if any, after taking into consideration the reports of the study to be furnished by these officers. It has further that whenever any Electronic Voting Machine goes out of order, after the commencement of poll, immediate steps are taken to replace the defective machines as the Returning Officer keeps these machines in reserve. Further, mechanics of the manufacturers of these machines are also stationed at strategic points to attend to defect in any machine. The Commission has also informed that a complaint regarding 26 Electronic Voting Machines found to be defective a day before the bye-election to 88-Sunam Assembly Constituency in Punjab was received from Sarab Hind Shiromani Akali Dal on 21.11.2000 i.e. after the conclusion of poll. The Commission, while stating that this allegation is being looked into, has added that all these machines are thoroughly checked up by the engineers of the manufacturer of the machines well before any election and defective machines are either set right or not put into use during the elections and hence information about this complaint is not included in the enclosed statement.

#### Annexure

##### Use of Electronic Voting Machines

##### General Elections to State Legislative Assemblies 1998

State	No. of Constituencies	No. of Polling Stations	No. of EVMs used including 50% kept in reserve	Defective EVMs.	%
1	2	3	4	5	6
Madhya Pradesh	5	1,149	1724	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
Rajasthan	5	1,070	1605	—	—
Delhi	6	711	1062	—	—
Total	16	2,930	4391	—	—

**Bye-elections to State Legislative Assemblies held in February 1999**

State	No. of Constituencies	No. of Polling Stations	No. of EVMs used including 50% kept in reserve	Defective EVMs.	%
Madhya Pradesh	2	318	477	—	—
Rajasthan	1	197	296	—	—
Delhi	2	264	396	—	—
Total	5	779	1169	—	—

**General Elections to Goa Legislative Assemblies held in June 1999**

State	No. of Constituencies	No. of Polling Stations	No. of EVMs used including 50% kept in reserve	Defective EVMs.	%
Goa	40	1,135	1702	—	—
Total	40	1,135	1702	—	—

**General Elections to Lok Sabha and Five State Assemblies and Bye-elections  
held in September-October 1999**

State	No. of Constituencies	No. of Polling Stations	No. of EVMs used including 25% kept in reserve	Defective EVMs.	%
Lok Sabha	45-PC	62,362	77852		
Andhra Pradesh	14	3,705	4631		
Karnataka	24	5,351	6689		
Maharashtra	24	5,156	6445		
West Bengal	1	108	135		
Pondicherry	1	12	15		
Total	45-PC & 64	76,694	95767	10	0.01

**General Elections to Four State Assemblies and Bye-elections held in February 2000**

State	No. of Constituencies	No. of Polling Stations	No. of EVMs used including 25% kept in reserve	Defective EVMs.	%
Haryana	45	8,077	10096	—	—
Orissa	10	2,339	2924		
Uttar Pradesh	1-PC, 8-AC	3,655	4569		
Andhra Pradesh	1	204	255		
Gujarat	2	382	478		
Madhya Pradesh	4	696	870		
Maharashtra	1	122	153		
Punjab	1	178	223		
Tamil Nadu	1	225	281		
Total	1-PC & 73	15881	19759	—	—

**Bye-elections held in May - June 2000**

State	No. of Constituencies	No. of Polling Stations	No. of EVMs used including 25% kept in reserve	Defective EVMs.	%
Orissa	1-PC	1,466	1833	—	—
West Bengal	1-PC	1,310	1638		
Andhra Pradesh	2-AC	499	623		
Haryana	1-AC	170	213		
Madhya Pradesh	1-AC	141	176		
Uttar Pradesh	1-AC	232	290-		
Pondicherry	1-AC	18	23		
Total		3,836	4896	—	—

**Bye-elections held in September 2000**

State	No. of Constituencies	No. of Polling Stations	No. of EVMs used including 25% kept in reserve	Defective EVMs.	%
1	2	3	4	5	6
Rajasthan	1-PC (7-Dausa)	1,556	1945	1	—
	1-AC (12-Lunkaransar)	383	479		

1	2	3	4	5	6
Gujarat	1-AC (74-Shahar-Kotda)	120	150		
Karnataka	1-AC (208-Kagwad)	158	198	1	—
Madhya Pradesh	1-AC (209-Lakhnandon)	171	214		
Maharashtra	1-AC (280-Shahuwadi)	161	201		
Punjab	1-AC (88-Sunam)	147	186		
Uttar Pradesh	1-AC (338-Karhal)	27	346		
Total		2,973	3719	2	0.05

#### Bye-elections held in February, 2001

State	Constituency	No. of polling stations	No. of EVMS (inc. 10% reserve)	Defect EVMS
Andhra Pradesh	2-A.C.	355	395	02
Rajasthan	1 A.C.	169	186	-Nil-
Uttar Pradesh	3 A.C.	845	930	-Nil-
Punjab	1 A.C.	137	151	-Nil-
Madhya Pradesh	1 A.C.	166	183	-Nil-

#### Gross Registered Tonnage of Ships

\*119. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to ensure that the gross registered tonnage of Indian Ships does not decrease;

(b) if so, the incentives or policy initiatives proposed to be taken by the Government to maintain a high level of registered Indian Shipping;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to protect the Indian Shipping;

(d) whether the Government propose to create a funding agency for the exclusive purpose of financing the purchase of ships; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir, Tonnage acquisition targets are fixed during the Plan period and efforts are made to provide conducive atmosphere to encourage tonnage addition. The Government had set up a Shipping Policy/Committee in 1997 which had examined the various issues relating to shipping industry and identified measures for development of the National Merchant Fleet with reference to the fiscal and other incentives, cargo and allied support mechanisms required for Indian flag vessels. The Committee had made 31 recommendations, out of which 17 have been accepted by the Government and the balance recommendations including the following, are being vigorously pursued with the concerned Ministries:

- (i) Tax relief to Indian seafarers.
- (ii) Enhancement of depreciation from 20% to 40%.
- (iii) Infrastructure status to Coastal Shipping.
- (iv) Introduction of Tonnage Tax in Lieu of Corporate Tax.
- (d) No. Sir.
- (e) Does not arise.

#### Acquisition of A.J.T.

\*120. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are negotiating for purchase of Jet Trainer "Hawk" aircraft from Britain;

(b) if so, whether in England itself, such aircraft have been declared obsolete:

(c) if so, the reasons as to why the Government are negotiating for the same; and

(d) if not, the delivery schedule of the A.J.T. and the stage at which the matter stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Certain airframe designs, especially, the trainer aircraft ones do not get outdated for considerable periods and also lend themselves to periodic upgrades to retain their effectiveness. Unless the training philosophy undergoes a change, the Hawk design would remain relevant.

(d) Negotiations on all relevant issues are in progress with M/s. British Aerospace Systems, UK. The delivery schedule will also be negotiated.

#### Power Tariffs

1015. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the power tariffs for domestic, agricultural and industrial power consumption charged by Assam State Electricity Board are very much high than other States;

(b) if so, the comparative rates of tariffs charged by ASEB and other State Electricity Boards and the all India average rates;

(c) the reasons for the losses suffered by ASEB, indicating the losses suffered during the last three years; and

(d) the accumulated losses as at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) A statement showing the comparative rates of tariffs charged by ASEB vis-a-vis other States for domestic, agricultural and industrial category of consumers is enclosed. The power tariffs charged by ASEB is comparable with other States for domestic and industrial category of consumers. However, the tariff for irrigation is higher as compared to the tariffs charged by the other States.

(c) The main reasons for the losses incurred by ASEB are as under :-

(i) High T&D losses including theft.

(ii) Unremunerative tariff.

(iii) Delay in the revision of tariff vis-a-vis increase in the cost of supply and the losses incurred by ASEB during the last three years are as under :-

Year	Amount in Rs. (in crores)
1997-98	387.25
1998-99	549.77
1999-2000	695.07

(d) The accumulated losses incurred by ASEB as on 31.3.2000 was Rs. 3123.93 crores.

#### Statement

##### Consumer Category-wise Average Tariff, 1999-2000

SEBs	Domestic	Commercial	Agri./ irrig.	Industrial	Rly. traction	Outside State	(Paise/Kwh)
							Overall average
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Andhra Pradesh	165.60	369.04	16.46	370.00	378.00	36.71	180.98
Assam	147.50	299.16	159.31	233.68	0.00	0.00	290.00
Bihar	109.35	223.20	12.23	275.33	330.00	190.59	200.00
Delhi (DVB)	270.04	247.85	119.96	313.45	0.00	0.00	282.65
Gujarat	237.00	404.00	18.00	410.71	475.00	0.00	227.00
Haryana	272.00	392.00	55.00	392.00	392.00	138.00	214.80

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Himachal Pradesh	65.00	235.00	50.00	216.29	0.00	190.00	185.07
Jammu & Kashmir	125.00	220.00	240.00	135.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
Karnataka	201.20	657.10	14.89	436.10	394.52	0.00	184.70
Kerala	83.36	340.06	54.63	198.26	123.93	0.00	190.00
Madhya Pradesh	74.48	362.37	6.32	374.48	523.28	151.85	156.31
Maharashtra	164.00	480.04	39.00	203.30	415.00	230.00	233.56
Meghalaya	130.00	181.00	50.00	203.30	0.00	180.55	167.14
Orissa	180.20	347.34	95.67	306.91	362.29	0.00	270.98
Punjab	176.95	326.18	Free su	208.19	0.00	200.00	175.89
Rajasthan	138.00	310.00	34.85	321.89	331.00	221.90	195.79
Tamil Nadu	162.18	390.57	0.00	375.72	375.72	81.68	228.08
Uttar Pradesh	104.95	303.82	48.50	418.42	449.61	15.98	185.61
West Bengal	100.51	215.38	28.06	309.34	323.23	310.63	216.98
Average	149.71	353.89	24.84	352.06	410.64	121.65	207.84
<b>II Eds</b>							
Arunachal Pradesh	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	200.00
Goa	120.00	343.00	72.49	336.00	0.00	127.62	274.38
Manipur	168.81	210.00	138.56	125.00	0.00	0.00	163.00
Mizoram	140.00	160.00	0.00	188.68	0.00	0.00	148.00
Nagaland	160.00	280.00	0.00	225.00	0.00	0.00	189.51
Pondicherry	91.43	237.61	7.52	198.94	0.00	0.00	163.24
Sikkim	85.00	200.00	0.00	130.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
Tripura	100.00	150.00	86.00	150.00	0.00	0.00	75.00
Average of EDs	111.69	328.54	34.51	253.64	0.00	127.62	186.19
All India Average	149.08	353.60	24.86	350.45	410.64	121.09	207.59

[Translation]

**Computerised Reservation Facility**

1016. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received rep-

resentations for providing computerised reservation facility in Mandsour, Neemuch and Chittorgarh railway stations of Western Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?



THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Provision of computerized reservation facilities at Mandsaur and Chittaurgarh is a sanctioned work and the work is in progress. Provision of reservation facilities at Neemuch has been included in the Works Programme 2001-2002.

**Opening of More Reservation Windows at Patna Railway Station**

1017. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that passengers have to wait for a long to get railway reservation at Patna railway station;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to set up more reservation counters there; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) At present 23 booking and one enquiry counters are operating at Patna Reservation Office. The average number of requisitions being handled per counter per shift at this reservation office is 75, which is much below the present norm of handling 120 requisitions per shift per counter. Since the existing arrangements are adequate to cater to the present level of traffic, there is no proposal at present to increase the number of counters.

[English]

**New Booking Office in Mumbai Railway Stations**

1018. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway is planning to have new booking offices and new buildings at Ghatkopar, Chembur and Mulund Railway stations in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railway is in need of more space in these stations;

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

(e) the budget provision made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (e) A new booking office with 5 counters is being made at Mulund on the east side. For this purpose, a provision of approximately Rs. 20 lakhs has been made. There is a need for more space at the station but no space is available on account of public roads adjacent to the station. At Ghatkopar a new booking office is planned to be constructed in replacement to existing booking office on East side as part of Kurla-Bhandup 5th and 6th line project. Railway land is available for this purpose. As regards Chembur, there is no plan for provision of new booking office at the station.

**Reservation Quota in Udyan Express**

1019. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of second class berths available in Udyan Express for Bangalore at Gulbarga Railway station;

(b) whether the Government are aware that there is a demand for second class berths at Gulbarga railway station in Udyan Express; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to increase the second class berths in Udyan Express at Gulbarga railway station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) A reservation quota of 238 Sleeper Class berths (including emergency quota) is available at Gulbarga station by 6529 Dn. Udyan Express. During the last 6 months period from July, 2000 to December, 2000, on an average 22 passengers remained on the waiting list per day.

(c) Due to limited availability of accommodation and full utilisation of the quota at the existing quota holding stations, it is not feasible at present to enhance the Sleeper Class reservation quota at Gulbarga by this train.

[Translation]

**Handicrafts Exporting Units**

1020. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of registered units in the country exporting handicraft items particularly in Madhya Pradesh, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken to boost the export of Indian Handicrafts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) The number of registered handicrafts units (including handknotted carpet) in the country exporting handicrafts and carpet including the State of Madhya Pradesh, State-wise, is as under:-

S. No.	Name of the State	Number of Units
1.	Andhra Pradesh	74
2.	Bihar	11
3.	Delhi	3196
4.	Goa	5
5.	Gujarat	110
6.	Haryana	209
7.	Himachal Pradesh	8
8.	J & K	96
9.	Karnataka	151
10.	Kerala	60
11.	Madhya Pradesh	21
12.	Maharashtra	616
13.	Mizoram	1
14.	Orissa	11
15.	Punjab	156
16.	Rajasthan	830
17.	Tamil Nadu	303
18.	Uttar Pradesh	2931
19.	West Bengal	198
20.	Pondicherry	4
Total		8991

(b) The steps taken to boost the export of Indian Handicrafts include organisation of buyer-seller's meet; overseas publicity; organisation of workshops on design development; participation in various international fairs; sponsoring of sales-cum-study teams abroad and

organisation of Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fairs (Autumn and Spring) and Indian Carpet Expo by Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts and Carpet Export Promotion Council respectively annually at New Delhi.

[English]

#### Construction of Road Over Bridge at Ramakistapuram

1021. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the objections raised by the Defence authority over a small portion of air space has led to an inordinate delay in the execution of road-over-bridge at Ramakistapuram road railway station;

(b) if so the main objections of the Defence authority;

(c) whether any compromise formula has been worked out; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) The dispute, if any, is in approach portion being constructed by State Govt. Railway is not aware of the details of dispute or compromise formula, if any, arrived at.

(d) Work on bridge proper which is being executed by Railway, is in advanced stage of progress and is expected to be completed in a couple of months.

#### Tour Packages by Kerala State

1022. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted Five Special Rail Tour Packages to the Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) Yes Sir, Government of Kerala has proposed special rail tourism packages for Trivandrum from Mumbai, New Delhi and Ahmedabad. Modalities for operating these packages are being worked out.

[Translation]

### Service Conditions of U.R.C. Workers

1023. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the civilian workers employed in unit-run canteens are treated equivalent to the Central Government employees in accordance with the judgement given by the Hon'ble Supreme Court recently;

(b) if not, whether any time limit has been fixed by the Supreme Court for the implementation of this judgement;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government for implementation of the same;

(d) whether the Government have filed or propose to file a review petition against this order; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) As per the judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 4th January, 2001, the status of the employees in the unit-run canteens (URCs) is to be that of Government servants, but that by itself ipso facto would not entitle them to get all the service benefits as is available to the regular government servant or even their counterparts serving in the C.S.D. canteens. It would necessarily depend upon the nature of duty discharged by them as well as on the Rules and Regulations and Administrative Instructions issued by the employer.

(b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed to determine the service conditions of employees in the Unit Run Canteens (URCs) at an early date, preferably within six months from the date of the judgement i.e., 4th January, 2001.

(c) to (e) The orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court are under examination in the Ministry of Defence in consultation with the Service Headquarters.

### LPG Distributor at Block Level

1024. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 657 dated July 27, 2000 and state :

(a) the action taken by the Government so far in

setting up L.P.G. distributorship in every block of the country;

(b) whether market survey of each block of Jharkhand and Bihar has been conducted; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have identified about 700 locations at Block, Tehsil / Mandal level in the country including 56 locations in Bihar and 5 locations in the Jharkhand State.

### Cracks in Rail Lines

1025. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the main reason for train accidents is attributed to cracks in the railway lines and disjoint of welding;

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

(c) if so, the details of cracks developed in rail lines;

(d) whether the Government conducted regular testing of these cracks;

(e) if so, the instrument used for this purpose along with its capacity;

(f) whether the Government are contemplating to purchase automatic ultrasonic rail testing cars (spart cars) for detecting the incidents of cracks developing in rail lines and disjoint of welding;

(g) if so, the number of such cars proposed to be purchased; and

(h) the total expenditure estimated to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. Cracks in the Railway lines and disjointing of welding is the reason for only some of the train accidents.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir. Railways carry out regular testing of rails for detecting flaws.

(e) Testing of rails is done by Ultrasonic rail testers and a SPURT car. USFD testers are expected to test 600 km and SPURT car 10,000 km track per annum.

(f) and (g) Sir, the Government is considering procurement of two SPURT Cars either on purchase or on lease basis.

(h) Rs. 35 crores.

[English]

#### Project Under BOLT Scheme

1026. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have not finalised projects under BOLT scheme resulting in delay in execution of several urgent projects;

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

(c) whether the Railways had not made any efforts to explore the possibilities of securing internal/external aid;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Railways had tried to execute certain infrastructure projects under the BOLT scheme. However, the scheme, as prepared, proved to be unattractive to the investors, resulting in poor response. There is only one on-going project, namely gauge conversion of Mudkhed-Adilabad section, which was awarded under BOLT scheme. In view of this, a review of the scheme has been done, so, as to make it investor friendly. Modified bid documents have been drafted and sent to the Law Ministry for vetting. Once these documents are finally approved by the Government, bids would be invited for identified project.

(c) to (e) The Railways make efforts to secure external aid for some of their projects by holding discussions with Bilateral and Multilateral Agencies for this purpose. The external aid is routed through the Ministry of Finance to the Railways as part of the budgetary support afforded to the Railways. Presently, such external aid is being utilised for the following ongoing Railway projects :-

(i) ADB loan (No. 587-IND) is being used to finance procurement of high horse power electric locomotives and transfer of technology

for indigenous manufacture of these locomotives. The total amount of ADB loan is US \$ 181.4 million, of which an amount of US \$ 175.5 million has already been disbursed.

(ii) Saudi Fund for Development has extended a loan (Loan No. 3/188) to partly finance the construction of broad gauge Railway line between Koraput and Rayagada. The total loan amount is SR 103.2 million, of which SR 73.38 million has already been disbursed.

(iii) Kreditanstalt fur Wiederaufbau (KfW), Germany has extended a loan of DM 185 million for the project of modernisation of signalling between Ghaziabad and Kanpur. The loan has not been drawn so far.

(iv) French Mixed Credit of FF 60 million to finance procurement of 38 sets of AC/DC Dual Voltage Traction Drive System on EMUs has since been agreed to by the French Government and the disbursement is expected to commence shortly.

In addition, discussions are also currently on with the Asian Development Bank for a loan of US \$ 300 million to finance the Railway Sector Improvement Project.

Similarly, World Bank has been approached for a new loan to part finance the Mumbai Urban Transport Project, which is to be implemented jointly by the Government of Maharashtra and the Railways.

Internal aid is also availed by the Railways in the form of budgetary support from the Central Government for capital expenditure on projects.

#### Funds Raised by IRFC

1027. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total funds raised by the Indian Railway Finance Corporation during 1999-2000 and 2000-01 till date;

(b) the amount of interest being paid by IRFC on these amount;

(c) whether there is any efforts to get cheaper finance for the Railways; and

(d) if so, the details of such efforts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) An amount of Rs. 2836 crore was raised during the year 1999-2000. An amount of Rs. 2722 crore has been raised so far during the current year 2000-01.

(b) Interest at the average rate of 11.74% per annum, is being paid on the funds raised during the year 1999-2000. Interest at the average rate of 11.19% per annum will be payable on the funds raised so far during 2000-01. The amount of interest paid will vary from year to year based on the outstanding balance.

(c) and (d) Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) is tapping domestic as well as overseas capital markets through diverse instruments to raise a pool of resources with varying tenors so as to reduce the average cost of borrowing. Efforts are also being made to obtain tax concessions and incentives for investments in railway rolling stock assets, with a view to further reducing the cost of capital.

#### **Welfare Fund for Lawyers**

1028. DR. S. VENUGOPAL : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a welfare fund for lawyers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this fund is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE, COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (c) The matter concerning setting up of a welfare fund for lawyers is under consideration of the Government. It is, however, difficult to indicate any definite time-frame within which the said fund may be set up, since the same involves various steps, including inter-departmental consultation.

[Translation]

#### **Handing over of Railway Land to Kandla Port**

1029. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether about 100 acres of land nearby Gandhidham old railway station lying useless and this part of the land has been encroached upon or being encroached;

(b) whether the Government of Gujarat and Kandla Port Trust have requested the Railways to hand over that land to Kandla Port trust; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Railway has about 131 Ha. of vacant land at the Ghandhidham Old Railway station due to shifting of station. Some old encroachments exist. However, new encroachments are removed as and when noticed.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, a proposal for transfer of 7320 sq.m. of railway land for widening of Jawahar Lal Nehru Road from Sirva colony to New Port colony has recently been received in the Ministry and this would be dealt with as per Railway rules.

#### **MRTP Act**

1030. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to repeal Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) Act and disband MRTP Commission;

(b) if so, whether the said decision has been taken under some external pressure to provide benefit to foreign institutions;

(c) if not, the reasons for repealing the said Act alongwith the justification thereof; and

(d) the likely impact of repeal of the said Act on Indian Industry?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (d) The Government had constituted a High-Level Committee on Competition Policy and Law to review the MRTP Act, 1969 and to propose a modern Competition Law. The Committee submitted its Report to the Government in May, 2000.

The Committee has, among other things, recommended the enactment of a new Competition Law, the drawing up of a Competition Policy, the repeal of the MRTP Act, 1969 and the winding up of the MRTP Commission.

The Government is yet to take any final view in the matter and it would do so after examining all aspects.

**Relief to Earthquake Victims  
of Jabalpur**

1031. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any financial relief was provided to Handloom Weavers of Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh to compensate the loss suffered by them due to the earthquake in the year 1997;

(b) if so, whether any financial relief has been provided to these Handloom Weavers for repair of their damaged houses;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, reasons for delay in providing relief to them; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) to (e) Yes Sir. In 1997-98 Central Assistance of Rs. 200.00 Lakhs was provided to the earthquake affected handloom weavers of Jabalpur area of Madhya Pradesh for construction, as per guidelines, of 1000 new Urban Workshed-cum-Houses under the Scheme. However, despite passage of more than three years, the State Government has not been able to utilise the funds, since no suitable land was identified for the construction of these units. The Central Govt. has now requested the State Govt. to refund the funds sanctioned to them for the purpose.

**Pending Cases in MRTP**

1032. SHRI MANSINH PATEL : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases pending before the MRTP Commission till date;

(b) whether the MRTP Commission have reviewed the pending cases registered and disposed of during the last three years, metropolitan city-wise and State-wise;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to strengthen and reorganise MRTP Commission during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) The MRTP Commission is a quasi-judicial body created under the MRTP Act, 1969. The Commission deals with cases relating to Monopolistic Trade Practices/ Restrictive Trade Practices/Unfair Trade Practices (MTP/RTP/UTP) and matters incidental thereto. The following table gives the broad details of the different categories of cases pending before the Commission as on 31.1.2001;

Enquiries	Pending
RTP	1442
UTP	1329
MTP	09
Compensation Applications	2251

(b) No, Sir. Since these are judicial proceedings, the cases get listed for consideration and disposal in accordance with the prescribed procedure.

(c) The MRTP Commission has reported that since it is a National Body, it does not maintain information with regard to pending cases metropolitan city-wise and State-wise.

(d) The Government had constituted a High Level Committee on Competition Policy and Law to review the MRTP Act, 1969 and to propose a modern Competition Law. The Committee submitted its Report to the Government in May, 2000.

The Committee has, among other things, recommended the enactment of a new Competition Law, the drawing up of a Competition Policy, the repeal of the MRTP Act, 1969 and the winding up of the MRTP Commission.

The Government is yet to take any final view in the matter and it would do so after examining all aspects.

[English]

**Direct Container Service to  
South-East Asia**

1033. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :  
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :  
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Shipping Corporation of India Limited is planning to start a direct container service to the South-East Asia and the far East during 2001;

(b) if so, whether all the modalities in this regard have been worked out;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the time by which Shipping Corporation of India is likely to start this service; and

(e) the details of implications likely to come across?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. (SCI) is contemplating starting a direct container service to South-East Asia and Far East during mid 2001. A feasibility study based on the market reports is being carried out for taking a decision in the matter.

(d) SCI plans to start the service by the end of 2nd quarter of 2001.

(e) As the proposal is in planning stage, the details of the implications of the proposed service cannot be worked out till the completion of the feasibility study.

[Translation]

#### LPG Distributors in Ranchi, Jharkhand

1034. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any efforts to set up more L.P.G. distributorships in Ranchi district of Jharkhand during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide

more L.P.G. distributorships during the current financial year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have not commissioned any LPG distributorship in Ranchi District of Jharkhand during the last two years. However, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have planned to set up 10 new LPG distributorships under various Marketing Plans. The process of commissioning of LPG distributorship generally takes about 6 to 12 months from the date of interview held by Dealer Selection Board.

#### Attachment of More Coaches

1035. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI :  
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY :  
SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD :  
SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways had attached additional coaches in many trains in view of the heavy rush of passengers during the last year;

(b) if so, the names of such trains along with the number and categories of additional coaches attached; and

(c) the trains in which the additional coaches are likely to be attached during 2001-2002?

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

(b) Following trains have been augmented in the year 2000-2001 as a regular measure:

Sl.No.	Train No. and Name	Number and Categories of Coach Augmented
1	2	3
1.	0111/0112 Mimbal-Madgaon Konkan Kanya Exp.	1 Sleeper
2.	1003/1004 Mumbai-Nanded Devgiri Express	1 Sleeper
3.	1265/1266 Bhopal-Rewa Exp.	1 AC-3 Tier
4.	1267/1268 Bhopal-Rewa Exp.	1 AC-3 Tier

1	2	3
5.	1447/1448 Jabalpur-Howrah Shaktipunj Exp.	1 Sleeper
6.	1449/1450 Jabalpur-Nizamuddin Mahakoshal Exp.	1 AC-3 Tier
7.	1503/1504 Itarsi-Jabalpur Passenger	2 General Class
8.	1507/1508 Jabalpur-Rewa Shuttle	1 General Class
9.	1511/1512 Banda-Kanpur Passenger	1 General Class
10.	1515/1516 Katni-Chopan Passenger	2 General Class
11.	1523/1524 Jhansi-Banda Passenger	1 General Class
12.	2101/2102 Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Howrah Exp.	1 AC-3 Tier, 1 AC-2 Tier
13.	2103/2104 Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Nagpur Exp.	1 AC-3 Tier, 1 AC-2 Tier
14.	407/408-A Chirmiri-Damoh-Katni Passenger	1 General Class
15.	2019/2020 Howrah-Bokaro Shatabdi Exp.	1 Executive Chair Car
16.	219/220 Howrah-Kalka Passenger	1 Sleeper
17.	2311/2312 Howrah-Kalka Mail	2 Sleeper, 1 AC-3 Tier
18.	2313/2314 Sealdah Rajdhani Exp.	1 AC Chair Car
19.	3005/3006 Howrah-Amritsar Mail	1 General Class
20.	3009/3010 Howrah-Dehradun Exp.	1 Sleeper
21.	3013/3014 Howrah-Dehradun Upasana Express	1 Sleeper, 1 AC-3 Tier
22.	3045/3046 Howrah-Guwahati Saraighat Exp.	1 AC-3 Tier
23.	3049/3050 Howrah-Amritsar Exp.	1 Sleeper, 1 General Class
24.	3073/3074 Howrah-Jammu Tawi Himgiri Exp.	1 AC-3 Tier
25.	3147/3148 Sealdah-New Coochbehar Uttar Banga Exp.	1 AC-3 Tier
26.	3201/3202 Patna-Kurla Exp.	1 AC-3 Tier
27.	3231/3232 Howrah-Danapur Exp.	1 Sleeper
28.	3287/3288 Bilaspur/Tatanagar-Patna South Bihar Exp.	1 AC-2 Tier, 1 Luggage-cum-Brake Van
29.	3307/3308 Dhanbad-Firozpur Ganga Sutlej Exp.	1 Sleeper, 1 General Class
30.	3413/3414 Malda Town-Bhiwani Farakka Exp.	2 Sleeper
31.	3419/3420 Bhagalpur-Muzaffarpur Exp.	2 Sleeper
32.	3453/3454 Sealdah-Malda Town Gour Exp.	1 Sleeper
33.	3483/3484 Malda Town-Bhiwani Farakka Exp.	2 Sleeper
34.	441/442 Gomoh-Chopan Passenger	1 General Class



1	2	3
35.	451/452 Gomoh-Barwadih Passenger	2 General Class, 1 Luggage-cum-Brake Van
36.	457/458 Barwadih-Chunar Passenger	2 General Class, 1 Luggage-cum-Brake Van
37.	475/476 Chopan-Mirzapur Passenger	1 General Class
38.	1JA/2JA Jodhpur-Ajmer Passenger	6 General Class
39.	IJJ/4JJ Jalandhar City-Jaijon Doaba Passenger	2 General Class, 1 Luggage-cum-Brake Van
40.	1PRL/2PRL Prayag Ghat-Chilbila Passenger	4 General Class, 1 Luggage-cum-Brake Van
41.	1UN/2UN Una-Nangaldam Passenger	1 Sleeper
42.	2401/2402 Patna-New Delhi Shramjeevi Exp.	1 Sleeper
43.	2421/2422 New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Exp.	1 AC-3 Tier
44.	2471/2472 Mumbai-Jammu Tawi Swaraj Exp.	1 General Class, 3 sleeper, 1 AC-3 Tier, 1 Luggage-cum-Brake Van
45.	2473/2474 Ahmedabad-Jammu Tawi Exp.	1 General Class, 3 sleeper, 1 AC-3 Tier, 1 Luggage-cum-Brake Van
46.	2475/2476 Hapa-Jammu Tawi Exp.	1 General Class, 3 sleeper, 1 AC-3 Tier, 1 Luggage-cum-Brake Van
47.	2477/2478 Jamnagar-Jammu Tawi Exp.	1 General Class, 3 sleeper, 1 AC-3 Tier, 1 Luggage-cum-Brake Van
48.	2ABP/9ABP Amritsar-Pathankot Passenger	2 General Class, 1 Luggage-cum-Brake Van
49.	3049/3050 Howrah-Amritsar Exp.	2 Sleeper between Amritsar-Lucknow
50.	3307/3308 Dhanbad-Firozpur Exp.	2 Sleeper between Firozpur-Varanasi
51.	3ABP/8ABP Amritsar-Pathankot Passenger	1 Sleeper
52.	3 JMP/2JMP Pathankot-Jalandhar City Passenger	1 General Class, 1 Luggage-cum-Brake Van
53.	3 JN/4JN Jalandhar City-Nakodar Passenger	2 General Class, 1 Luggage-cum-Brake Van
54.	4007/4008 Muzaffarpur-Delhi Sadbhavana Exp.	1 Sleeper, 1 General Class
55.	4013/4014 Sultanpur-Delhi Sadbhavana Exp.	1 Sleeper
56.	4015/4016 Delhi-Raxaul Sadbhavana Exp.	1 Sleeper, 1 General Class
57.	4017/4018 Muzaffarpur-Delhi Sadbhavana Exp.	1 Sleeper
58.	4123/4124 Pratapgarh-Kanpur Exp.	1 General Class
59.	4215/4216 Allahabad-Lucknow Ganga Gomti Exp.	2 General Class
60.	4257/4258 Varanasi-New Delhi Kashi Vishwanath Exp.	1 AC-3 Tier
61.	4269/4270 Shaktinagar/Singrauli-Lucknow Triveni Exp.	1 Sleeper

1	2	3
62.	4311/4312 Bareilly-Gandhidham Exp.	2 Sleeper
63.	4313/4314 Dadar-Bareilly Exp.	2 Sleeper
64.	4553/4554 Delhi-Una Himachal Express	1 Sleeper
65.	4555/4556 Bareilly-Delhi Exp.	1 Sleeper
66.	4633/4634 Pathankot-Amritsar Ravi Exp.	2 General Class, 1 Luggage-cum-Brake Van
67.	4645/4646 Jammu Tawi-New Delhi Shalimar Express	1 Sleeper, 1 AC-3 Tier
68.	4805/4806 Jammu Tawi-Jodhpur Exp.	1 Sleeper
69.	4811/4812 Amritsar-Jammu Tawi Exp.	1 Sleeper
70.	4845/4846 Jodhpur-Ahmedabad Suryanagari Exp.	1 AC-3 Tier
71.	4853/4854 Varanasi-Jodhpur Marudhar Exp.	1 Sleeper
72.	4863/4864 Varanasi-Jodhpur Marudhar Exp.	1 Sleeper
73.	4887/4888 Kalka-Jodhpur Chandigarh Exp.	1 Sleeper
74.	4RD/7RD Rewari-Delhi Passenger	1 General Class
75.	5003/5004 Kanpur-Gorakhpur Chauri Chaura Exp.	1 Sleeper
76.	5011/2012 Cochin-Gorakhpur Raptisagar Exp.	1 Sleeper
77.	5047/5048 Howrah-Gorakhpur Purvanchal Exp.	1 Sleeper
78.	5049/5050 Howrah-Gorakhpur Exp.	1 Sleeper
79.	5063/5064 Gorakhpur-Bandra Avadh Exp.	1 AC-3 Tier
80.	5087/5088 Gorakhpur-Jammu Tawi Exp.	1 Sleeper
81.	5089/5090 Secunderabad-Gorakhpur Exp.	1 Sleeper
82.	5091-5092 Bangalore-Gorakhpur Exp.	1 Sleeper
83.	5097/5098 Barauni-Jammu Tawi Exp.	1 Sleeper
84.	5203/5204 Barauni-Lucknow Exp.	1 Sleeper, 1 General Class
85.	5209/5210 Barauni-Amritsar Jansewa Exp.	4 General Class
86.	5211/5212 Darbhanga-Amritsar Exp.	4 General Class
87.	5217/5218 Kurla-Muzaffarpur Exp.	1 Sleeper
88.	5219/5220 Kurla-Darbhanga Exp.	1 Sleeper
89.	5221/5222 Cochin-Barauni Exp.	1 Sleeper
90.	529/530 Gorakhpur-Muzaffarpur Passenger	1 Sleeper, 1 First Class
91.	2007/2008 Chennai-Mysore Shatabdi Exp.	1 Executive Chair Car

1	2	3
92.	213/214 Chennai-Tirupati Passenger	1 Sleeper
93.	235/236 Mysore-Bangalore Passenger	1 First Class-cum-Sleeper
94.	2605/2606 Chennai-Tiruchchi Pallavan Exp.	1 AC Chair Car
95.	2607/2608 Chennai-Bangalore Lalbagh Exp.	2 General Chair Car, 1 AC Chair Car
96.	2617/2618 Ernakulam-Nizamuddin Mangala Lakshadweep Exp.	1 AC-3 Tier
97.	2619/2620 Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Mangalore Matsyagandha Exp.	1 Sleeper
98.	2635/2636 Chennai-Madurai Vaigai Exp.	1 AC Chair Car
99.	2639/2640 Chennai-Bangalore Brindavan Exp.	4 General Chair Car
100.	2673/2674 Chennai-Coimbatore Cheran Exp.	1 AC First Class
101.	2679/2680 Chennai-Coimbatore intercity Exp.	1 AC Chair Car
102.	271/272 Salem-Bangalore Passenger	1 First Class-cum-Sleeper
103.	283/284 Bangalore-Hospet Passenger	1 Sleeper
104.	287/288 Bangalore-Harihar Passenger	2 General Chair Car, 1 Luggage-cum-Brake Van
105.	6003/6004 Chennai-Howrah Mail	1 Sleeper
106.	6007/6008 Chennai-Bangalore Mail	1 AC-3 Tier
107.	6023/6024 Chennai-Bangalore Exp.	2 General Chair Car, 1 AC Chair Car
108.	6041/6042 Chennai-Alleppey Exp.	1 First Class-cum-Sleeper
109.	6119/6120 Chennai-Tirunelveli Nellai Exp.	1 AC-2 Tier, 2 Sleeper
110.	6121/6122 Chennai-Kanniyakumari Exp.	1 AC-3 Tier
111.	6203/6204 Chennai-Tirupati Exp.	1 Sleeper
112.	6221/6222 Chennai-Mysore Kaveri Exp.	1 Sleeper
113.	6231/6232 Thanjavur-Mysore Exp.	1 AC-2 Tier
114.	6319/6320 Chennai-Trivandrum Mail	1 AC-3 Tier
115.	6323/6324 Trivandrum-Howrah Exp.	1 AC-2 Tier
116.	6329/6330 Trivandrum-Mangalore Malabar Exp.	1 AC-3 Tier
117.	6331/6332 Trivandrum-Mumbai Exp.	1 AC-2 Tier
118.	6333/6334 Trivandrum-Hapa Exp.	1 Sleeper
119.	6337/6338 Ernakulam-Rajkot Exp.	1 Sleeper
120.	6339/6340 Mumbai-Nagercoil Exp.	1 AC-3 Tier

1	2	3
121.	6345/6346 Ernakulam-Lokmanya Tilak (T) Netravati Exp.	1 AC-3 Tier, 2 Sleeper, 1 General Class
122.	6351/6352 Tirupati-Nagercoil Exp.	1 AC-3 Tier
123.	6353/6354 Mumbai-Tirupati Exp.	1 AC-3 Tier
124.	6355/6356 Howrah-Kanniyakumari Exp.	1 AC-3 Tier
125.	6503/6504 Bangalore-Sri Satya Sai Prasanti Nilayam Exp.	1 AC-2 Tier, 2 General Class
126.	6525/6526 Kanniyakumari-Bangalore Exp.	1 AC-3 Tier
127.	6589/6590 Bangalore-Miraj Rani Chennamma Exp.	1 General Class, 1 AC-2 Tier
128.	6601/6602 Chennai-Mangalore Mail	1 AC-3 Tier
129.	6605/6606 Chennai-Mettupalaiyam Nilgiri Exp.	1 AC-2 Tier
130.	6627/6628 Chennai-Mangalore West Coast Exp.	1 AC-3 Tier
131.	6669/6670 Chennai-Erode Yercaud Exp.	1 AC-3 Tier
132.	6703/6704 Chennai-Tuticorin Pearl City Exp.	1 General Class, 1 AC-2 Tier
133.	6717/6718 Chennai-Madurai Pandiyan Exp.	2 Sleeper, 1 General Class, 1 First AC
134.	6731/6732 Tuticorin-Bangalore Exp.	1 General Class, 1 AC-2 Tier
135.	6803/6804 Howrah-Tiruchchi Exp.	1 AC-3 Tier
136.	6877/6878 Chennai-Tiruchchi Rock Fort Exp.	2 Sleeper, 1 General Class
137.	711/712 Madurai-Dindigul Passenger	1 First Class Chair Car, 1 Luggage-cum-Brake Van
138.	777/778 Madurai-Coimbatore Passenger	1 First Class Chair Car, 1 Luggage-cum-Brake Van
139.	2763/2764 Tirupati-Secunderabad Express	1 AC-3 Tier, 1 AC-2 Tier
140.	2779/2780 Vasco-Nizamuddin Goa Express	1 AC-2 Tier
141.	563/564 Secunderabad-Mudkhed Passenger	1 Sleeper
142.	7017/7018 Rajkot-Secunderabad Express	1 General Class, 1 AC-3 Tier
143.	7029/7030 Cochin-Hyderabad Express	1 AC-3 Tier
144.	7045/7046 Howrah-Hyderabad East Coast Express	5 General Chair Car between Hyderabad-Vijayawada
145.	7047/7048 Kakinada-Secunderabad Gautami Exp.	1 AC-3 Tier, 1 General Class
146.	7053/7054 Chennai-Hyderabad Express	1 Sleeper
147.	7225/7226 Vijayawada-Londa Amaravati Express	1 AC-3 Tier
148.	7497/7498 Kacheguda-Tirupati Venkatadri Express	2 Sleeper, 1 General Class

1	2	3
149.	2805/2806 Visakhapatnam-Vijayawada Janmabhoomi Exp.	2 General Chair Car, 1 AC Chair Car
150.	8025/8026 Shalimar-Bankura Exp.	1 General Class
151.	8225/8226 Bilaspur-Bhopal Mahanadi Exp.	1 AC-2 Tier, 1 Sleeper
152.	8253/8254 Durg-Bhopal Amarkantak Exp.	1 AC-2 Tier, 1 Sleeper
153.	8405/8406 Puri-Ahmedabad Exp.	1 AC-3 Tier
154.	8439/8440 Puri-Tirupati Exp.	1 AC-3 Tier
155.	8449/8450 Puri-Patna Baidyanathdham Exp.	1 AC-3 Tier
156.	8451/8452 Rourkela-Pur Tapaswini Exp.	1 AC-3 Tier
157.	8517/8518 Bilaspur-Visakhapatnam Exp.	1 AC-2 Tier
158.	181/182 Jaipur-Rewari/Bhawanimandi Passenger	2 General Class
159.	183/184 Alwar-Rewari/Bhawanimandi Shuttle	2 General Class
160.	185/186 Alwar-Mathura Shuttle	2 General Class
161.	189/190 Kota-Katni Passenger	1 Sleeper
162.	211/212 Rajkot-Porbandar Passenger	1 General Class
163.	2915/2916 Ahmedabad-Delhi Mail	1 AC-2 Tier, 3 Sleeper
164.	2925/2926 Bandra Terminus-Amritsar/Kalka Exp.	1 AC-3 Tier, 2 Sleeper, 1 Luggage-cum-Brake van
165.	2961/2962 Mumbai Central Central-Indore Avantika Exp.	1 Sleeper
166.	347/348 Veraval-Rajkot Passenger	1 General Class
167.	347/348 Veraval-Rajkot Passenger	2 General Class, 1 Luggage-cum-Brake van between Junagadh-Rajkot
168.	349/350 Rajkot- Visavadar Passenger	1 General Class
169.	581/582 Ajmer-Purna Passenger	1 Sleeper, 1 General Class between Khandwa-Purna
170.	75/76 Mhow-Chittaurgarh Passenger	2 General Class
171.	81/82 Nimach-Agrafort Passenger	1 Sleeper
172.	83/84 Kota-Agrafort Passenger	1 Sleeper
173.	89/90 Mhow-Chittaurgarh Passenger	2 General Class
174.	9045/9046 Surat-Varanasi Tapti Ganga Express	1 AC-3 Tier
175.	9047/9048 Surat -Patna Express	1 AC-3 Tier
176.	9601/9602 Bandra Terminus-Gandhidham Exp.	1 General Class
177.	9707/9708 Bandra Terminus-Jaipur Exp.	1 AC-3 Tier, 3 Sleeper, 2 General Class
178.	9923/9924 Ahmedabad-Veraval Somnath Mail	1 General Class

(c) Augmentation of trains on Indian Railways is an on-going process depending upon traffic pattern, operational feasibility and availability of coaches.

[English]

### Benches of Supreme Court

1036. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :  
SHRI R.S. PATIL :

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 742 dated November 23, 2000 regarding Benches of Supreme Court and to state :

- (a) the present status of the proposal; and
- (b) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) While conveying that the recommendation of the Parliamentary Standing Committee for setting up of Benches of the Supreme Court in Southern, Western and North-Eastern parts of the country was pending for consideration of the Full Court, the Chief Justice of India had stated that he would revert to it as soon as a decision was taken by the Full Court. Since the decision of the Full Court is awaited, it is not possible to indicate the time by which the final decision would be taken in this matter.

[Translation]

### Fake Ticket Checkers

1037. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :  
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to news-item captioned 'Khuleaam Loot-Khasot Karte Rahe Farji T.T.E.' appearing in, "Rashtriya Sahara" dated December 22, 2000;
- (b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;
- (c) the number of impersonators T.T.E. arrested so far and the action taken against them; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to check such type of incidents in future?

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

(b) The news-item narrating the incident of 21.12.2000 was factually incorrect as a large number of ticket checking staff alongwith Railway Protection Force, Government Railway Police and other senior officers were available at New Delhi railway station. No complaint was lodged by any passenger at the railway station. The Chief Public Relations Officer of the Railway has also advised the Editor of Rashtriya Sahara for publishing a rejoinder clarifying the Railway's position and also requesting them to avoid misreporting of such news items.

(c) Twenty-three persons have been arrested during the last year and handed over to the Police for legal action.

(d) The Railway staff have been advised to be on the look out for any person masquerading as Travelling Ticket Examiner. Checks are also conducted by the railway staff at platforms to detect imposters indulging in such malpractices. Announcements are also made on the public address system advising the passengers to beware of such persons.

[English]

### Development of Tourism in Lakshadweep

1038. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Union Government has any concrete plan to develop tourism in Lakshadweep;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the names of attractive tourist spots in Lakshadweep at present; and
- (d) the names of projects implemented in consultation with the State Government and the amount sanctioned/released thereunder during each of the last three years and the current year, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Development and promotion of tourist centres/places is primarily undertaken by the Lakshadweep Administration. However, the Department of Tourism selectively Provides central financial assistance on the basis of projects prioritised annually in consultation with the state concerned.

(c) The main tourist attractions of Lakshadweep includes islands of Bangaram, Agatti, Kavaratti, Kadmat, Kalpeni Minicoy, Suhali, Tinnakaram, Androt and Cheriyaam.

(d) During the last three years, undermentioned projects were sanctioned:

(Rs. in lakhs)			
Year	Name of the project	Amount Sanctioned	Amount released
1997-98	Five Glass Boats	5.00	2.50
1998-99	Purchase of scuba-diving equipment	29.00	13.80
1999-2000	Nil		

#### Laying of Railway Lines in Rajasthan

1039. SHRI PUSP JAIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria adopted for laying of new railway lines, doubling of railway lines, and gauge conversion of metre and narrow gauge railway lines;

(b) whether the Union Government have any proposal regarding laying of new railway lines and extension of rail lines in Rajasthan during 2001-02; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) The criteria adopted for taking up of new lines, gauge conversion and doubling projects is available in the White Paper on Railway Projects dated 28.7.1998 brought out by the Ministry of Railways. However, the same is mentioned as under:-

#### New Line

- (i) Project oriented lines to serve new industries for tapping mineral and other resources;
- (ii) Missing links for completion of alternative routes to relieve congestion on existing saturated routes;
- (iii) Lines required for strategic reasons; and
- (iv) Lines for establishment of new growth centres or giving access to remote areas.

#### Gauge Conversion

- (i) To take up conversion of lines to develop alternative BG routes obviating the need for Doubling existing BG lines on these routes.

(ii) To establish new BG links between stations connected by other BG lines.

(iii) To establish BG connection to ports, industrial centres and locations having potential for growth.

(iv) To take up conversion of lines required on strategic considerations.

(v) To minimise transshipment and to improve wagon turn around by avoiding delays at transshipment points.

(vi) To carry out the conversion of lines as per the above policy at least cost yet providing a standard of service not lower than what the rail users were getting on the MG.

#### Doubling

Doubling of single line sections/providing multiple lines on double line sections is taken up when their carrying capacity is saturated. Projects are selected during the Works Programme meetings based on the traffic needs and availability of resources.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The proposal to extend gauge conversion of Ajmer-Chittaurgarh-Udaipur project to Umra has been included in the Budget 2001-02.

#### LPG Agencies in Maharashtra

1040. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the total number of LPG agencies awaiting clearance to be set up in the Ratnagiri and Raigad districts of Maharashtra?

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) : Public Sector Oil marketing Companies have planned to set up 7 LPG distributorships in Ratnagiri District and 6 LPG distributorships in Raigad District of Maharashtra State.

#### Admissions of SC/ST in Marine Engineering & Research Institutes

1041. SHRI A.K.S. VJAYAN : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee has recommended for ensuring admission

of students from SC/ST community to the fullest extent of the quota of seats reserved for this community during 1993;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) the number of seats offered in different faculties/disciplines in all the Marine Engineering & Research Institutes in Graduation and Post Graduation courses during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) the number of students from SC/ST community admitted to the said courses in different faculties/courses alongwith their percentage as compared to the total seats during the last three years, year-wise; and

(e) the reasons for not implementing the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendation was circulated to all Ministries for implementation.

(c) There are two Marine Engineering Research Institutes (MERI), one at Kolkata and one in Mumbai. Only MERI, Kolkata offers graduate course to the students. The details of seats offered to Indian Nationals during the last 3 years in MERI, Kolkata are as under :-

Year	Total seats	General	SC	ST
1998	110	85	17	8
1999	110	85	17	8
2000	110	85	17	8

(d) The details regarding numbers of students from SC/ST community admitted alongwith their percentage as compared to the total seats during the last three years, year-wise are as under:-

Year	Total seats	General	SC	ST
1998	110	91	11 (10%)	8 (7.3%)
1999	110	85	17 (15.4%)	8 (7.3%)
2000	110	95	11 (10%)	5 (4.5%)

The quota for SC/ST is being strictly offered to the eligible candidates. However, the unused seats by SC/ST are being offered to the general candidates to avoid the wastage of training efforts.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

### Underweight LPG Cylinders

1042. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that cylinders with less quantity of LPG are being supplied by various agencies in the country, particularly in Delhi;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received in this regard and the action taken against the agencies found guilty;

(c) whether the Government propose to ensure supply of LPG cylinders with appropriate quantity; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have reported to have received 27 established complaints against their LPG distributors relating to supply of under weight cylinders in the country during the period April-December, 2000. Appropriate action against the defaulting distributors has been taken in terms of Distributorship Agreement.

(c) and (d) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies carry out 100% re-checking of weight on a check scale after the cylinders are filled on carousel. Before delivery and loading in 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 instruction to check every cylinder for soundness/correct weight before delivering to consumers. In spite of above measures, if any under weight cylinder is supplied to the consumers, the same is replaced free of cost immediately when brought to the notice of the LPG distributor/company.

### ITDC Hotels/Property

1043. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of hotels and other property of



I.T.D.C. in the country at present, location-wise and category-wise;

(b) the profit earned and loss suffered by I.T.D.C. hotels during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 till date, hotel-wise;

(c) the reasons for these losses and the steps taken to make it profitable;

(d) whether I.T.D.C has prepared a comprehensive plan for development of tourism and its units in the country, particularly in Maharashtra;

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

(f) whether the Government have set-up/propose to set up some more I.T.D.C. hotels in the country, particularly in Maharashtra;

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

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) A statement-I showing names of ITDC Hotels and Restaurants is attached.

(b) A statement-II showing profitability of ITDC during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 (upto January 2001) is attached.

(c) The main reasons for losses in ITDC hotels are (i) Higher wage cost and higher fixed and variable costs; (ii) Increase in availability of hotel rooms in approved sector resulting in cut-throat competition and price war; (iii) Uncertainty because of impending disinvestment etc. Measures taken/being taken for improving performance of ITDC hotels are (i) Aggressive marketing efforts including promotional schemes, special packages; (ii) Reduction in wage cost by roll back of retirement age from 60 years to 58 years and introduction of VRS; (iii) Drive to recover of outstanding dues from sundry debtors; and (iv) Cost control by exercising economy in expenditure.

(d) to (h) ITDC is operating a 66 room 2 Star hotel Aurangabad Ashok in the State of Maharashtra. There is no proposal under consideration to set up any new hotel in the country including the State of Maharashtra because of the ongoing process of disinvestment of existing hotels.

### Statement-I

#### *The Names of Hotels and Restaurants owned and Operated by ITDC in the Country*

Sl. No.	Name of the Hotel/Location/State	Star Category
1	2	3
<b>A-HOTEL PROPERTIES</b>		
1.	Hotel Pataliputra Ashok, Patna, Bihar	*3 STAR
2.	Hotel Bodhgaya Ashok, Bodhgaya, Bihar	*3 STAR
3.	Ashok Hotel, New Delhi	*5 STAR DELUX
4.	Samrat Hotel, New Delhi	*5 STAR
5.	Quatab Hotel, New Delhi	*5 STAR
6.	Kanishka Hotel, New Delhi	*4 STAR
7.	Janpath Hotel, New Delhi	*4 STAR
8.	Lodhi Hotel New Delhi	*3 STAR
9.	Ranjit Hotel, New Delhi	*3 STAR
10.	Hotel Indraprastha, New Delhi	*1 STAR
11.	Hotel Manali Ashok, Manali, Himachal Pradesh	*3 STAR
12.	Hotel, Jammu Ashok, Jammu, J&K	*4 STAR
13.	Lalitha Mahal Palace Hotel, Mysore, Karnataka	*HERITAGE GRAND
14.	Hotel Ashok, Bangalore, Karnataka	*5 STAR
15.	Hotel Hassan Ashok, Hassan, Karnataka	*3 STAR
16.	Kovalam Ashok Beach Resort, Kerala	*5 STAR
17.	Hotel Aurangabad Ashok, Aurangabad, Maharashtra	*2 STAR
18.	Hotel Khajuraho Ashok, Khajuraho, MP	*3 STAR
19.	Hotel Kalinga Ashok, Bhubaneswar	*3 STAR
20.	Laxmi Vilas Palace Hotel, Udaipur, Rajasthan	*HERITAGE GRAND
21.	Hotel Jaipur Ashok, Jaipur, Rajasthan	*4 STAR
22.	Temple Bay Ashok Beach Resort, Mamillapuram, Tamilnadu	*3 STAR

1	2	3
23.	Hotel Madurai Ashok, Madurai, Tamilnadu	*3 STAR
24.	Hotel Agra Ashok, Agra, Uttar Pradesh	*5 STAR
25.	Hotel Varanasi Ashok, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh	*4 STAR
26.	Hotel Airport Ashok, Kolkata, West Bengal	*4 STAR
* As Per HRACC		

## B-OTHERS PROPERTIES

1. Airport Restaurant, Delhi
2. Airport Restaurant at Bangalore
3. Airport Restaurant, Aurangabad
4. Taj Restaurant, Agra
5. Airport Restaurant, Kolkata

## Statement-II

*Profit/Loss Incurred by Hotels during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001.*

(Rs. in Lacs)

Sl.No.	Name of the Unit	1999-2000		2000-2001	
		Turnover	Net P/L	Turnover	Net P/L
1	2	3	4	5	6
(upto January 2001)					
1.	Agra Ashok, Agra	175.17	-146.48	152.97	-108.14
2.	Airport Ashok Kolkata	1073.93	-361.65	1012.89	-327.60
3.	Ashok Bangalore	1705.60	-54.80	1676.04	-65.38
4.	Ashok, New Delhi	4011.40	-1120.12	3642.23	-822.82
5.	Indrapastha, New Delhi	789.30	-339.74	559.19	-231.05
6.	Aurangabad Ashok	68.97	-114.77	64.66	-76.87
7.	Bodhgaya Ashok	81.98	-19.12	58.90	-26.68
8.	Hassan Ashok	102.16	-34.76	54.92	-57.57
9.	Jaipur Ashok	151.47	-193.22	128.00	-148.77
10.	Jammu Ashok	79.46	-75.64	69.25	-61.81
11.	Janpath Hotel	1069.41	-139.41	923.82	-197.03
12.	Kalinga Ashok	114.63	-117.86	82.03	-116.48
13.	Kanishka Hotel	1210.26	-583.60	944.01	-679.44
14.	Khajuraho Ashok	37.04	-83.35	29.22	-61.89
15.	K.A.B.R Kovalam	951.13	-126.24	849.96	-114.96
16.	LMPH, Mysore	472.10	94.25	342.86	6.92
17.	LVPH, Udaipur	210.10	-65.30	158.91	-93.12
18.	Lodhi Hotel	606.62	-128.28	458.64	-191.46

1	2	3	4	5	6
19.	Madurai Ashok	149.17	-67.74	107.94	-65.09
20.	Manali Ashok	29.39	-30.29	31.05	-17.29
21.	Pattiputra Ashok	242.17	-104.26	216.97	-25.96
22.	Qutab Hotel	749.54	33.87	636.27	46.13
23.	Ranjit Hotel	284.12	-248.49	182.65	-236.70
24.	Samrat Hotel	1282.39	-235.86	1239.17	-39.39
25.	T.A.B.R. Mamallapuram	215.19	-33.61	154.24	-35.39
26.	Varanasi Ashok	161.61	-161.20	132.26	-128.00
Total		16024.21	-4457.67	13909.05	-3875.84

*[English]***Amendments in MPT Act, 1963**

**1044. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :** Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently notified some amendments in the Major Ports Act, 1963;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have decided to invite private sector to develop the major ports;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of projects taken up by the private sector/joint ventures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) The amendments enable the Port Trusts to form Joint Venture Company with private parties and others and invest in a equity in a Company promoted for development of other ports.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Guidelines on Private Sector Participation in Major Ports were issued by the Central Government on 26.10.1996. The following areas of private sector participation have been identified:-

(i) Leasing out existing assets of the Port.

(ii) Construction/creation of additional assets.

(iii) Leasing of equipment for port handling and leasing of floating crafts from the private sector.

(iv) Pilotage.

(v) Captive facilities for Port based industries.

(e) A list indicating the details of Private Sector/ Captive Port projects is attached as statement.

**Statement***Approved Private Sector/Captive Port Projects*

Sl.No.	Project Name	Port Name
1	2	3
1	Container Terminal (2 berth.	Jawaharlal Nehru (JNP)
2.	Liquid Cargo Berth	JNP
3.	Fifth Oil Jetty	Kandla
4.	Oil Jetty and related facilities	Vadinar (Kandla)
5.	Oil Jetty	Kandla
6.	Container Terminal	Tuticorin
7.	Oil Jetty	Kandla
8.	Oil Jetty	Kandla
9.	Multipurpose berth 5 A and 6A	Murmugao

1	2	3
10.	Captive coal berth to SPIC Electric Corporation	Tuticorin
11.	Captive berth to Oswal Fertilisers Ltd.	Paradip
12.	Development & Operation of Container Terminal	Kandla
13.	Captive coal and general cargo berth at Pier Pau, Mumbai	Mumbai
14.	Container Terminal at Chennai	Chennai
15.	Multipurpose Berth No. 4A	Haldia
16.	General Cargo Terminal in Indira Dock	Mumbai

#### Surplus Power to Deficit Region

1045. SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have cleared infrastructure project for Rs. 237 crores for power transmission system to transfer surplus power from eastern to deficit western regions;

(b) if so, the time by which this project is likely to be completed and started its power transmission;

(c) the sources for funding this project; and

(d) the proposed quantum of power to be transmitted during peak and non-peak hours?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) The project of East-West Interconnection (Rourkela-Raipur Transmission System) has been approved by the Government in January, 2001 at an estimated cost of Rs. 237.38 crores. The project is to be funded with loan from Asian Development Bank and POWERGRID's internal resources. The project is scheduled to be completed by January, 2004. The transmission system will be capable of transferring upto 1000 MW surplus power from Eastern Region to deficit Western Region.

#### [Translation]

#### Capital Investment in Production of Crude Oil

1046. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :  
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

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

(a) whether the institutes of the Government sector which are wholly entrusted with the responsibility of boosting crude oil production in the country are making capital investment abroad;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the arrangements made by the Government to mobilise necessary capital for boosting indigenous production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) No, Sir. The two national oil companies engaged in oil exploration and production, viz. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) have not made any capital investment abroad as on date.

However, ONGC-Videsh Ltd. (OVL), a fully owned subsidiary of ONGC, has a participating interest of 45% in the 06.1 Gas Project in Vietnam, with the other partner, viz. British Petroleum (UK), Statoil (Norway) and Petrovietnam (Vietnam). OVL's share of the Capex is around US\$ 230 million. OVL has entered into an agreement with Rosneft, a national oil company of the Russian Federation in the Sakhalin-I project. The total investment by OVL in the project would be of the order of US\$ 1.7 billion. Besides, OIL has taken 20% participating interest in a Block in Oman with TOTAL FINA (France) for exploration of oil and gas.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Both ONGC and OIL have sufficient internal resources to meet their planned activities in oil exploration and production.

#### [English]

#### Ordnance Factory in Bihar

1047. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :  
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government had sanctioned for setting up of an ordnance factory in Rajgir of Bihar two years back;

(b) if so, whether there is no progress in setting up this factory so far;

(c) whether this project has been shelved;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and if not the other site selected for the purpose alongwith the status report of the project; and

(e) the time by which the factory is likely to be set up and start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The factory is likely to start production from 2004-2005.

#### **Institute of Excellence in Corporate Governance**

1048. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :  
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :  
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :  
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

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

(a) whether his Ministry propose to set up an institute of excellence in corporate governance;

(b) if so, the initial corpus amount required to set up the same;

(c) the main functions of the institute; and

(d) the time by which this institute is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (d) The Study Group on Corporate Excellence set up by the Government had submitted its Report to the Government on 20.12.2000. This Report contains several far reaching recommendations that would take standards of Corporate Governance in the country to

commanding heights. One of the important recommendations made by the Group is to set up, under the aegis of Department of Company Affairs, an Independent, Autonomous Centre for Corporate Excellence to mainly accord accreditation and promote policy research and studies, training & education and awards etc. in the field of corporate excellence through improved corporate governance.

The matter relating to setting up of the Institute is under active consideration of the Government.

#### **MoU between Manipur and NEEPCO**

1049. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether an MoU is proposed to be signed regarding Tapaimukh Dam between Manipur and NEEPCO;

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

(c) the time by which the project is likely to be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) Tipaimukh HE Project (1500 MW) was transferred from Brahmaputra Board to North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) to be implemented as a Central Sector Project in October, 1999. The project has been identified for benefits during 11th Plan period. As per the decision of Manipur Legislative Assembly at its sitting held on 15.12.1999, NEEPCO has been authorized to go ahead with further survey and investigations and that final project report be submitted to Government of Manipur for approval/clearance.

Accordingly, on 15.12.2000, NEEPCO has submitted the Detailed Project Report of the Project to the State Government of Manipur for their consideration. Draft Memorandum of Understanding has also been submitted to the State Government.

#### **Passenger Train between India, Nepal and Bangladesh**

1050. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reached an agreement with the Bangladesh and Nepal to commence the passenger train services between India, Bangladesh and Nepal; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is expected to commence?

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

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Demolition of Unauthorised Constructions in Cantonment Areas**

1051. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :  
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Cantonment authorities have demolished some of the unauthorised constructions in various cantonment areas in the country during the past few months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any time bound programme has been chalked out for the total demolition of unauthorised construction in all the cantonment areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Demolition/removal of unauthorised constructions, in all the Cantonment areas, is a continuing process under the provisions of Cantonments Act, 1924, as well as the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971. More than 500 numbers of unauthorised constructions have been demolished by the concerned authorities in the last few months.

(c) and (d) No time-bound programme has been chalked out for the purpose. As and when, unauthorised constructions are reported/detected, action to stop/remove the same is initiated.

#### **Booking of Parcel/Luggage by Private Agencies**

1052. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether parcel/luggage booking in certain trains starting from Chennai has been given to private agencies;

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

(c) whether the operation of luggage booking is being supervised by the Railway authority; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) With a view to optimise the utilisation of transport capacity in brakevans and to enhance earnings, the front brakevan space of 13 trains starting from Chennai has been leased out by Southern Railway to private agencies for transportation of only parcel traffic as per the extant policy. The rear brakevan space is however, kept available for parcels and luggage booked directly with Railways by the customers. A statement showing details of trains starting from Chennai in which brakevan space has been leased out for parcel traffic is attached.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The operation of luggage booking is supervised by the Railway staff of Southern Railway.

#### **Statement**

*Details of trains starting from Chennai in which front brake-van space has been leased out*

Train No.	From	To
1. 2433	Chennai	Nizammudin
2. 2615	Chennai	New Delhi
3. 2621	Chennai	New Dehi
4. 2639	Chennai	Bangalore
5. *2673	Chennai	Coimbatore
6. 2842	Chennai	Howrah
7. 5629	Chennai	Guwahati
8. 6004	Chennai	Howrah
9. 6010	Chennai	Mumbai
10. 6031	Chennai	Jammu Tawi
11. 6046	Chennai	Ahmedabad
12. 6804	Chennai	Howrah
13. 8690	Chennai	TATA Nagar

\*Not yet commenced.

#### **SKO/LDO Network in Southern States**

1053. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received a proposal to expand SKO/LDO network in the country to meet the growing demand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to expand SKO/LDO network in Southern States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) As on 1.10.2000, there were 6404 SKO/LDO dealers in the country. In order to meet the increased demand, in addition to the locations pending from the previous Marketing Plans, 155 locations have been included in the SKO-LDO Marketing Plan 1996-98. Out of these, 18 locations are in the Southern States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. More SKO-LDO dealerships will be set up on the basis of feasibility study.

#### **Funds by REC to States**

1054. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI :  
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :  
SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has released funds to some States and Union Territories to enable them to purchase electric meters under the Special Loan Portfolio;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, States and Union Territory-wise;

(c) whether the funds are being monitored by the Union Government; and

(d) if so, the results achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has introduced a new category of Special Loan Portfolio-SL (meters) during 1999-2000 for providing financial assistance to State Electricity Boards and Electricity Departments for procurement and installation of high precision electronic and electro-dynamic meters of various types for measurement of electrical energy/power flow. The details of loan assistance released by REC to the States for

purchase of energy meters during 1999-2000 under Special Loan Portfolio are given below :

(Rs. in lakhs)		
Sl.No.	State	1999-2000
1.	Karnataka (KPTCL)	4279.660
2.	Kerala (KSEB)	701.895
3.	Manipur	339.540
4.	Uttari Haryana Bijli Vitaran Nigam Limited (UHBVNL)	13.484
Total		5334.79

(c) and (d) Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) provides loan assistance to the State Power Utilities/State Governments for procurement of meters according to its guidelines. Loan assistance upto 90% is released on pro-rata basis against claims submitted by the borrower on receipt of equipment and supported by the copy of the invoice of the manufacturer duly approved and signed by the authorised officer of the Division/Circle or the Board. The balance 10% of the loan is released after the installation/completion report is received from the SEB together with the village-wise, taluka-wise, district-wise details (and sub-station details, if any, involved). The guidelines also concern quality specifications, performance guarantees, testing and inspection procedures etc. as per standards, norms and procedures specified by the Bureau of Indian Standards. However, the procurement decision, quality approvals and the payments to the suppliers against material received are done by the State Government/SEB concerned.

#### **Power Plants in Gujarat**

1055. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of power plants affected due to earthquake in Gujarat;

(b) the steps taken to renovate these power plants; and

(c) the steps taken to restore electrification to the villages in that State which are still under darkness?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) No power plant was affected due to recent earthquake in

Gujarat, except temporary tripping of a few machines. Therefore, renovation of machines is not required.

(c) The power restoration work to the affected villages and feeders was completed on 12.2.2001. Presently there is no village under darkness.

#### **Ban on HDC for Manufacturing of Wagons**

1056. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

SHRI A. NARENDRA :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Vigilance Department of Railways in its report has recommended two years ban on Hindustan Development Corporation (HDC) for manufacturing of wagons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for imposing ban on HDC; and

(d) the names of the other manufacturing units to whom the orders in turn would be placed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. On receipt of a complaint about a year back, the Vigilance Department of the Railways had investigated in details and this recommendation was based on detection of use of unspecified steel in manufacture of wagons by this firm against the Railway's contract. However, keeping in view the seriousness of the charges levelled, the matter has been referred to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for further investigation by an independent agency.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Transportation of Relief Materials**

1057. SHRI DINSHA PATEL :

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether huge quantities of relief material for the earthquake victims in Gujarat have been lying at Ahmedabad railway station;

(b) whether due to cumbersome process of Railways consignments could not reach to the victims on time;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government against the guilty railway officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The relief material transported by railways for Ahmedabad is being disposed of as per the requirement of District Collector, Ahmedabad.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Closure of Handloom Units**

1058. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE :

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the names of handloom units closed/sick in the country, particularly in Nasik (Maharashtra) and Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh), State-wise and location-wise;

(b) the reasons therefore;

(c) the number of workers affected due to this and steps taken for their rehabilitation, unit-wise; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to re-open the closed units and revive the sick units, particularly in Nasik (Maharashtra) and Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh) alongwith the amount incurred thereon, unit-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) to (d) The Government of India does not maintain the data relating to the closure or sick handloom units. The Government of India extends financial assistance through State Governments for a number of schemes, including the recently introduced Deen Dayal Hatkargha Protsahan Yojana for the overall development/revival of handloom units all over the country. The proposal, if any, received for reopening of any closed units from the State Government including Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh will be considered on merit.

#### **Reduction in Sales Tax on Petrol and Diesel**

1059. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI :

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN :

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME :

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



(a) whether the Union Government had directed all the State Governments for making suitable reductions in the sales tax on petrol and diesel in September, 2000;

(b) if so, to extent to which the State Governments agreed for cut;

(c) whether some State Governments have raised objections against it; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas has appealed to the Chief Ministers of all the States to consider a *pro rata* reduction in sales tax on petroleum products so as to neutralize the impact of *ad valorem* sales tax on the revised prices of petroleum products effective 30.9.2000. The Government of Goa has reduced the sales tax on petrol and diesel by 3% effective 15.11.2000. Some of the State Governments viz. Maharashtra, Karnataka, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh have expressed that lowering of sales tax rates is not desirable.

[English]

#### Engaging of Indian Railway Experts by British Railways

1060. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI :  
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a major British Engineering Company has entered into an agreement with Rail India Technical Engineering Services (RITES) for engaging Indian Railway experts for working in railways in Britain;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of experts and the period for which they have been engaged?

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

(b) Two UK Companies and one Consortium of two UK companies have entered into agreement with RITES for engaging Indian Railways experts for working on Railway projects in Britain. The work in Britain relates to

signaling and electrification upgradation of their Railway system.

(c) 10 experts have gone to Britain for 6 to 12 months. 64 experts have also gone to Sharjah to work in the off-shore office to two of the above Companies for a period of about 12 months, carrying out work related to the Railway project in Britain

[Translation]

#### LPG Agency at Baramulla, J&K

1061. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to open up LPG agency at Baramulla in Jammu and Kashmir; 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) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have planned to set up 4 new LPG distributorships in Baramulla District of Jammu & Kashmir under various Marketing Plans.

[English]

#### Development of Tourism in Himachal Pradesh

1062. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are drawing up specific plans for the promotion of tourism potentiality of Shimla, Solan, Bilaspur and Sirmour districts of Himachal Pradesh at the national and international level;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of proposals implemented for the development of tourism in Himachal Pradesh and the amount sanctioned/released thereunder during each of the last three years and the current year, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Development and promotion of tourist places is primarily

undertaken by the respective State Governments. Government of India Tourist Offices in India and abroad promote India as an attractive tourist destination and provide information on tourist places in the country. Department of Tourism, Govt. of India also provides financial assistance for tourism projects prioritised in consultation with the State Governments every year.

(c) The details of financial assistance provided to Himachal Pradesh are as under:-

Year	No. of Projects	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)	Amount Released
1997-98	5	119.00	65.50
1998-99	10	318.00	174.50
1999-2000	17	691.79	292.88
2000-2001 (upto 31.1.2001)	6	177.80	53.34

#### Introduction of Post Based Roster

1063. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Personnel Training (DOPT) has introduced "Post Based Rosters" in place of "Vacancy Based Rosters" for implementing reserving system w.e.f. July 2, 1997;

(b) if so, reasons therefor;

(c) whether while introducing "Post Based Rosters" in place of "Vacancy Based Rosters" the process of identifying excesses/shortages of persons if any in class I, II, III and IV category of services under his Ministry and all the Autonomous/Statutory Organisations, Attached/Subordinate Offices and Public Sector Undertakings was undertaken as prescribed under para (5) of the DOPT O.M. No. 3601/2/96-Estt.(Res) dated July 2, 1997;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reasons for introducing "Post Based Rosters" in place of "Vacancy Based Rosters" without completing the process of identifying excesses/shortages?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected.

#### Purchase of M.P.V. from South Africa

1064. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :  
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :  
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to procure a number of Caspir (South African) Mine Protective Vehicles for Indian Army for use in anti insurgency operations in Kashmir and North East;

(b) if so, the number of such vehicles to be procured alongwith its cost, indicating its prevailing international price;

(c) whether this vehicle has been in use with Indian Army earlier;

(d) if so, the time by which such vehicles are with the army;

(e) the number of mine blast accidents encountered by this vehicles and the number of security personnel killed, maimed or mutilated in such blasts and the number of vehicles destroyed therein; and

(f) the reasons for procuring more caspir MPVs despite its failure to protect against nine or more blasts?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government proposes to procure additional Mine Protected Vehicles (MPVs) for which tenders would be issued to vendors whose MPVs have been trial evaluated.

(b) AHQ have an estimated requirement of 801 MPVs. Indicative cost of one new MPV is approximately US \$ 1.65,000.00 (Rs. 78 lakhs).

(c) and (d) 90 refurbished MPVs ex-Vicker/OMC, South Africa are in use since April 1999. 75 more refurbished MPVs have also been contracted with the same vendor and are yet to be received.

(e) The MPVs have encountered 2 Mine blasts in separate accidents in which 4 Army personnel were killed and 19 injured.

(f) The MPV is designed to withstand a blast of approximately 15 Kgs of explosives. In one of the accidents referred to above, the casualties which occurred were due to the MPV being hurled 20 ft. in the air due to the blast effect of Improvised Explosive Device (approximately 40 Kgs) and subsequently tumbling downwards resulting in casualties and not due to any splinters penetrating the hull. It is, therefore, incorrect to say that the MPV has failed to protect army personnel against mine blasts.

### Development of Inland Waterways

1065. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether ten major waterways were identified for the development by the National Transport Policy Committee in 1980;

(b) if so, the progress made by the Government in developing these waterways till today;

(c) whether the Government have received any report from Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry to expedite Inland Waterways project;

(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) and (b) Yes, Sir. Out of the ten waterways following three waterways have been declared as National Waterways :-

- (i) Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly River system from Haldia to Allahabad (1620 kms) as National Waterway No.1;
- (ii) The Brahmaputra from Sadiya to Dhubri (891 kms) as National Waterway No. 2; and
- (iii) The West Coast Canal from Kottapuram to Kollam alongwith Champakara and Udyogmandal canals (205 kms) as National Waterway No. 3.

The infrastructure facilities like navigational channel, terminals and navigational aids are being developed on these waterways 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 the availability of funds.

(c) No, Sir. However, there were two seminars conducted by IWA 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.

### Speed of Goods Trains

1066. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :  
SHRI JAI PRAKASH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Railways have not been able to increase the speed of its goods trains even after a period of 52 years; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. The average speed of goods trains from 1950-51 onwards has been progressively increased as given below:-

Year	Average Speed
1950-51	12.9 kmph
1960-61	16.1 kmph
1970-71	17.9 kmph
1980-81	19.7 kmph
1990-91	22.7 kmph
1999-2000	23.8 kmph

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

### Petrol Pumps of Various Oil Companies

1067. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of petrol pumps run by different oil companies in the country, company-wise;

(b) the norms being adopted for allotment of such petrol pumps;

(c) whether any allegations for manipulation have been levelled in the allotment of such petrol pumps; 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) Company-wise number of retail outlet dealerships operating in the country as on 1.10.2000, is given below:

Name of the Company	Number of Retail Outlets
Indian Oil Corporation Limited	7047
Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited	4500
Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited	4536
IBP Company Limited	1527
Assam Oil Division	315

(b) Retail outlet dealerships are set up based on Volume-Distance norms. The locations included in the Marketing Plans are advertised by the Oil Marketing Companies and the selection of dealers is made by the Dealer Selection Boards as per the prescribed procedure. It generally takes 6-12 months for commissioning the dealerships from the date of interview.

(c) and (d) Complaints regarding selection of dealers/distributors are received from time to time and action is taken on them after investigation.

#### **Theft of Booked Goods**

1068. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether incidents of theft of goods booked with the railways are continuously increasing in various railway zones despite the existence of railway police force;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of incidents of theft of goods and coal took place in various railway zones during the last two years and the current year so far, zone-wise alongwith the value thereof;

(d) whether any inquiry has been conducted by the Government in this regard;

(e) if so, the details of the findings thereof;

(f) the number of persons found involved therein and the action taken against them;

(g) the details of goods recovered from them during the said period; and

(h) the concrete steps proposed to be taken by the Government to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. The incidents of theft of goods booked with the railways have not increased.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The number of thefts cases of booked consignment and coal alongwith the value of property stolen and recovered during the last two calendar years and current year i.e. 1999, 2000 and 2001 (upto January) is given in the attached statement-I

(d) to (f) The enquiry in to all theft cases is conducted and criminals are being dealt under the provision of RP(UP) Act.

A statement-II showing the number of persons found involved therein and details of action taken against them during the last two calendar years i.e. 1999 and 2000, zone-wise is attached.

(g) Details given against (c) above.

(h) The following preventive measures are being taken to avoid such recurrence in future:-

1. Escorting of trains carrying valuable consignment over vulnerable sections as far as possible.
2. Intensive beat patrolling in yards and other affected areas/section.
3. Joint checking at interchange points to take stock of the conditions of wagons/seals, carrying consignments.
4. RPF armed pickets are posted/deployed in vulnerable sections as far as possible.
5. Plain clothed RPF personnel are also deployed to collect crime intelligence with a view to tracking down the criminals.
6. Based on criminal intelligence, raids and searches are conducted on the dens of criminals/receivers of stolen property in order to bring them to book.
7. Dog squads are deployed for patrolling vulnerable yards and areas.
8. Close co-ordination between RPF, GRP and Local Police is maintained at various levels to apprehend criminals and receivers of stolen property.

#### **Statement-I**

*The Cases of Theft of Booked Consignment and Coal during the Period 1999, 2000 and 2001 (upto January)*

Rlys	Year	Booked Consingment			Coal		
		No. of cases	Value of Property		No. of cases	Value of Property	
			Stolen	Recovered		Stolen	Recovered
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
C.R.	1999	266	2295067	1216830	56	29641	29641

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	2000	179	1150001	823647	55	23320	23020
	2001 Upto 31 Jan.	14	127723	60550	6	2580	2580
E.R.	1999	1275	8307382	1711862	112	56700	156300
	2000	1001	4781674	1013325	54	133155	154065
	2001 Upto 31 Jan.	85	666103	124043	7	9140	9140
N.R.	1999	505	2810534	1830281	8	75075	7720
	2000	484	4075767	2617614	11	64475	2725
	2001 Upto 31 Jan.	27	78100	58000	—	—	—
N.E.R.	1999	269	1869663	330386	1	300	300
	2000	186	2554864	1314401	—	—	—
	2001 Upto 31 Jan.	20	110425	66450	—	—	—
N.F.R.	1999	112	899892	378415	—	—	—
	2000	65	2397961	333546	1	1500	1500
	2001 Upto 31 Jan.	6	23550	17650	—	—	—
S.R.	1999	198	2705532	240622	—	—	—
	2000	178	1717336	300505	—	—	—
	2001 Upto 31 Jan.	6	44320	44320	—	—	—
S.C.R.	1999	193	846724	214792	27	36450	36450
	2000	183	746615	174925	30	30190	30190
	2001 Upto 31 Jan.	4	6648	28250	3	2100	2100
S.E.R.	1999	206	1160400	496272	3	12105	12105
	2000	125	669086	142144	6	1874	1874
	2001 Upto 31 Jan.	6	27787	4500	1	25	25
W.R.	1999	181	1118937	506157	56	12975	12975
	2000	186	2003483	1025394	53	16630	16630
	2001 Upto 31 Jan.	5	101230	99650	4	500	500
Total	1999	3595	24625285	6925617	263	223246	255491
	2000	2913	21961122	7745501	210	271144	230004
	2001 Upto 31 Jan.	173	1185886	503413	21	14345	14345

## Statement-II

Details of Action taken against the Persons arrested in cases of Theft of Booked consignments over Indian Railways during the year 1999 and 2000

Rlys.	Years	No. of Persons															
		Arrested				Prosecuted				Convicted				Acquitted			
		OS	RE	RPF	OS	RE	RPF	OS	RE	RPF	OS	RE	RPF	OS	RE	RPF	Ref. for D/action
CR	1999	234	10	3	234	10	3	26	0	0	0	0	0	208	6	3	4
	2000	150	5	0	150	5	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	135	2	0	3
ER	1999	208	5	2	208	5	2	8	0	0	0	0	0	200	5	2	0
	2000	216	1	0	216	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	216	1	0	0
NR	1999	338	20	0	338	20	0	139	1	0	0	0	0	199	19	0	0
	2000	396	17	0	396	15	0	96	0	0	0	0	0	300	15	0	2
NER	1999	84	2	0	84	2	0	22	0	0	0	0	0	62	2	0	0
	2000	94	0	0	94	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	89	0	0	0
NFR	1999	95	1	3	95	1	3	43	0	0	0	0	0	52	1	3	0
	2000	52	1	0	52	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	51	1	0	0
SR	1999	61	5	1	61	5	1	36	0	0	0	0	0	25	0	1	0
	2000	65	3	0	65	3	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	58	0	0	0
SCR	1999	109	4	0	109	5	0	29	0	0	0	0	0	80	4	0	0
	2000	182	4	0	182	4	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	132	4	0	0
SER	1999	125	6	4	125	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	119	0	0	6
	2000	49	8	6	49	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	48	5	0	3
WR	1999	166	3	0	166	3	0	89	1	0	0	0	0	77	2	0	0
	2000	121	5	0	87	3	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	96	3	0	2
TOTAL	1999	1420	56	13	1420	51	9	398	2	0	0	0	0	1022	39	9	10
	2000	1325	44	6	1291	37	0	200	0	0	0	0	0	1125	31	0	10
Abbreviations		OS : Outsider				RE : Railway Employee				RPF : Railway Protection Force							

[English]

### Utilisation of Rayagada-Koraput Rail Line

1069. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Rayagada-Koraput broad gauge rail line which was constructed a year back plying no train is on this line so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have any scheme for fully utilisation of this line;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Apart from approximately 4 pairs of freight trains, the following Passenger/Express trains are running on Koraput-Rayagada section:-

1. 8447/8448 A Bhubaneswar-Koraput Link Express.
2. 8005/8006 Howrah-Sambalpur-Rayagada-Koraput Express.
3. 241/242 Rayagada-Koraput Passenger.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The number of trains can be increased subject to operational feasibility, availability of resources and traffic justification.

### Payment by Thermal Power Plants to Railways

1070. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :  
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Thermal Power Plants owe to Railways Rs. 2,700 crores towards Coal haulage;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for delay in making payment by these plants; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) A statement of dues recoverable from SEBs/Power Utilities up to December 2000 according to the Ministry of Railways is enclosed.

(c) Poor financial health of Power Utilities/BTPS due to inadequate recoveries on account of electricity charges supplied to consumers are the main reasons for delay in making payment by the Power Utilities to the Railways.

(d) Government is taking various steps including Reforms and Restructuring in Power Sector for improving the financial health of SEBs/Power utilities and also taking up the issues with respective State Governments/Power Utilities to clear the dues of Railways on account of transporting coal to the Thermal Power Stations.

### Statement

*Dues recoverable from State Electricity Boards/Power Houses upto end of December 2000, Railway-wise analysis for Traffic Movement.*

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	Name of State Electy Bd/P. Houses	12/2000
1	2	3
1.	A.P. State Electricity Board	31.98
2.	Assam State Electricity Board	2.81
3.	Bihar State Electricity Board	1.55
4.	Delhi Vidyut Board	139.60
5.	Gujarat State Electricity Board	175.94
6.	Haryana State Electricity Board	74.42
7.	Karnataka State Electricity Board	1.71
8.	Maharashtra State Electricity Board	40.67
9.	M.P. State Electricity Board	8.09
10.	Punjab State Electricity Board	203.83
11.	Rajasthan State Electricity Board	62.38
12.	Tamilnadu State Electricity Board	23.75
13.	U.P. State Electricity Board	15.43
14.	W.B. State Electricity Board	32.74

1	2	3
15.	Badarpur Thermal Power Station	1016.08
16.	N.T.P.C. / Others	54.16
17.	Damador Vally Corporation	9.33
18.	Private Power House-Sabarmati	0.54
Total		1895.01

**Appointment/Posting of SCs/STs in  
foreign Assignment**

1071. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government received representations regarding posting of adequate number of SCs/STs officers in foreign assignments on deputation;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) the total number of officers deputed/posted working in all the overseas tourist offices as on January 1, 1996 and January 1, 2000 belonging to Class I, II, III and IV and persons belonging to SCs/STs among them and their percentage as compared to the total posts; and

(d) the reasons for not giving adequate representation to SCs/STs categories in the said offices?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As on 1.1.1996

Total No. of officers Class I, II, III posted in GOITO, abroad	No. of officers belonging to SCs/STs	Percentage
29	5	17.24%

**As on 1.1.2000**

Total No. of officers Class I, II, III posted in GOITO, abroad	No. of officers belonging to SCs/STs	Percentage
30	6	20%

(d) The transfer posting of officers and staff is regulated as per the guidelines and the eligible candidates

are called for the interview and their posting is finalised on the basis of their knowledge and requirement of the place of the posting.

[Translation]

**Investment Plans of Barauni Refinery**

1072. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Barauni Oil Refinery has formulated any investment plan to improve the quality of its products, by implementing new system and modernizing its existing machinery;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this modernization scheme is likely to commence?

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) The Barauni Refinery Expansion project including installation of Fluidised Catalytic Cracking Unit and Diesel Hydrotreating Unit and associated facilities, approved at cost of Rs. 1803 crore, is scheduled to be commissioned by May, 2002. Another project viz. Motor spirit quality upgradation project has been approved "in principle" by the Board of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL) in December, 2000 and its scheduled commissioning would be 36 months after final approval.

**Setting up of Thermal Power  
Plants by NTPC**

1073. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up 1000 MW thermal power plant by NTPC in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of other proposals for new projects submitted by the State Government to meet the power requirement and action taken/proposed thereon; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to harness tremendous thermal power generation potential in Vidarbha?



THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a), (b) and (d) The setting up of a power plant in a particular region/state by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is determined, with reference to availability of coal/fuel, demand and supply position in the region, availability of key inputs like land, water, project site meeting environmental standards and guidelines with minimum displacement of Project Affected Persons and acquisition of minimum prime agricultural/forest land, ability of the beneficiary States to pay and willingness to sign Power Purchase Agreement with adequate safeguards mechanisms and other techno-economic considerations. NPTC is exploring some sites in Maharashtra/Vidarbha to assess their prima-facie suitability keeping in view the above aspects for setting up thermal power plant there as a part of its long term capacity addition programme.

(c) The following proposals for setting up of power plants in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra were received in Central Electricity Authority (CEA):-

- (i) Bhadravati Thermal Power Station (2x536 MW) in Chandrapur district to be set up in private sector by M/s. CIPCO. The project was cleared by CEA in December, 1994.
- (ii) Paras Thermal Power Station (1x250 MW) in Akola district to be set up by Maharashtra State Electricity Board. The project was returned by CEA in September, 1998 due to non-availability of land, fuel linkage, clearance by Ministry of Environment and Forests, compliance to Section 29(2) of Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, ash management plan, updated cost etc.

[English]

#### **Power Purchase Agreement with MSEB**

1074. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) has entered into a power purchase agreement with Bhadravati based Central India Power Company (CIPC) to purchase power from it at a cost based on fuel charges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the CIPC is to purchase "E" grade coal from Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) at a higher basic

price in comparison to the presently selling "E" grade coal price;

(d) if so, the details of the prevailing price and the CIPC purchase price along with the reasons for purchase of coal at higher price;

(e) whether the difference of coal price shall be borne by MSEB and ultimately by consumers, who are bound to purchase power from CIPC at a cost based on fuel charges;

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(g) the measures taken to review the agreement reached between WCL, CIPC and the MSEB in the larger interest of consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) has signed a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with M/s. Central India Power Company (CIPCO), who are developing the 1082 MW Bhadravati power project. As per the agreed arrangement, coal is to be supplied by Western Coal Fields Ltd. (WCL) from Baranj, Sasti and Pouni mines on cost plus basis with a project IRR (Internal Rate of Return) of 16%

(c) and (d) The landed price of 'D' grade coal for the Bhadravati project has been agreed to at around Rs. 1595/- tonne for a Gross Calorific Value (GCV) of 4550 K.Cal/Kg as on January, 2000 base. This is the weighted average price at power station for all the 3 mines and includes transportation cost, royalty, surcharge on excise duty, sales tax and a transportation risk premium upto the power station.

(e) The price of coal fixed by WCL has been agreed upon between the concerned parties including MSEB and as per the PPA, the cost of fuel is pass through in the tariff.

(f) and (g) Do not arise in view of (e) above.

[Translation]

#### **Gauge Conversion of Gonda-Sitapur-Lucknow Rail Line**

1075. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have accorded approval for gauge conversion of Gonda-Behraich-Sitapur-Lucknow railway line;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir, only Gonda to Behraich out of this section is included in the Railway Budget to be taken up after obtaining the requisite clearances.

(b) The estimated cost of conversion of Gonda-Behraich section is Rs. 71.06 crs.

(c) The work will be started once the clearance becomes available.

[English]

#### Market Borrowing

1076. SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the level of market borrowing by the Railways during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the purpose for which these borrowings are being utilised; and

(c) the steps taken by the Railways to mobilise resources to meet its capital needs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Market borrowings to the tune of Rs. 2470 crore, Rs. 2955 crore and Rs. 2836 crore have been raised by Railways through Indian Railway Finance Corporation during the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 respectively.

(b) Market borrowings are being used to finance the acquisition of rolling stock required for Railway operations.

(c) Besides generating higher revenues from operations and seeking increased budgetary support from the General Exchequer, Railways are also exploring avenues of raising resources from non-traditional sources such as commercial utilisation of land and airspace, commercial publicity at Railway premises and on rolling stock, and utilization of Railways' right of way along the track by laying optic fibre cables for creation of a nation-wide broad band telecom and multimedia network. Efforts are already under way to attract investments from the private sector, State Governments and local bodies in railway projects through joint ventures.

#### Task Force on Crude Output and Technology

1077. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has set up Task-Force to advise the Government on Key issues relating to enhancement of crude output and technology upgradation;

(b) if so, whether the Task Force has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the time by which the report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

#### Acquisition of Shares of ONGC by Enron International

1078. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Enron International Company have applied for acquiring shares of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of companies of ONGC for which international bids have been invited;

(d) whether the Government propose to give preference to Indian Companies in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) No such proposal has been brought to the notice of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. However, there is no proposal

under consideration of Government relating to issue of fresh shares by ONGC or disinvestment of its existing shares.

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

(c) ONGC has one wholly owned subsidiary company, namely ONGC Videsh Ltd. There is no proposal for disinvestment of ONGC's holding in ONGC Videsh Ltd.

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

[English]

#### National Task Force on Judicial Reforms

1079. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a "National Task Force on Judicial Reforms" of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) had looked into the problem of pending cases in various courts and submitted a report to the Government;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) On the eve of a National Seminar held by Confederation of Indian Industry in 1996, a report of the Task Force led by Shri C.K. Birla on Judicial Reforms was presented to the then Minister of State for Law, Justice and Company Affairs, as the Chief Guest in the Seminar.

(b) The salient features of the report include, inter-alia, timely filling up of vacancies of judges, increase in the number of judges, increase in the retirement age of High Court Judges, streamlining the procedure, rationalization of court holidays/vacations, rationalising of court fees to make it more realistic, curtailment of adjournments, accountability of executive officers in revenue matters, accountability of judges, improvement in service conditions of judges, training and orientation of lawyers, etc.

(c) The recommendations cover a wide canvas of judicial reforms. Implementation of Judicial reforms is an ongoing and continuous process. The Law Commission and various Committees constituted in this regard have suggested a number of measures on judicial reforms.

Various measures have been taken by the Government for the speedy disposal of cases. These include filling up of vacancies of judges, increase in the number of posts of Judges/Judicial Officers, establishment of Special Courts/tribunals, appointment of Special Judicial/Metropolitan Magistrates, etc.

The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Act, 1999 has been passed by Parliament which, inter alia, include restriction on adjournments upto three to a party in a suit, time bound procedure at certain stages of the case. The relevant provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Act, 1999 are awaiting Government notification. Steps have also been taken to improve the service conditions of judges/judicial officers by the Central Government and the State Governments.

#### Contribution of Union Government in State Projects

1080. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have contributed in the power projects set up in the States and Union Territories;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some States have shared the Central Power projects which were set up in the concerned States and Union Territories;

(d) if so, the details thereof, project-wise and States/Territory-wise with special reference to Maharashtra;

(e) the details of the present power generation capacity and annual demand and supply of power to States; and

(f) the steps being taken to increase the power generation capacity in each case, territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) Details of the Central Power Stations giving the name of Central Power Station, installed capacity, latest approved cost, share of Central Government through equity/loan and allocation of power generation to different States is given at statement-I.

(e) The State-wise installed generation capacity in the country as on 31.1.2001 (provisional) is given at statement-II. The power supply position in the country

State-wise as on 31.1.2001 and also during the period April, 2000 to January, 2001 is given at statement-III.

(f) Apart from setting up new power projects, Government is improving power availability through the following measures:-

- Improvement of Plant Load Factor (PLF) of existing power stations.
- Renovation and Modernisation of old thermal and hydro stations.
- Facilitating inter-regional transfer of power by establishing necessary transmission network.
- Demand side management programmes.

- Strengthening of transmission and distribution system and improving the reliability of the system.

The Government is vigorously promoting private sector participation in power generation and has also set up a special committee to look into specific bottlenecks, if any, for the private sector projects. All ongoing projects are being closely monitored through the Empowered Committee. The Government have also formulated a Hydro Policy and Revised Mega Policy in 1998 in an effort to promote growth of additional capacity in the country. The government is also promoting reforms in the power sector to restore the health of the sector and make it financially viable.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	Name of Project With installed Capacity (MW)	Latest approved cost  (Rs. crore)	Share of Central Govt. through		Share of Power generation amongst different States (MW)	
			Equity  (Rs. crore)	Loan  (Rs. crore)		
1	2	3	4	5	6	
NTPC						
1.	Singrauli-I&II (2000 MW) (Uttar Pradesh)	1190.69	560.19	308.71	U.P Raj. Delhi Punjab Har. Unallocated	850 300 150 200 200 300
2.	Rihand I (1000 MW) (Uttar Pradesh)	2387.40	539.02	—	U.P. Raj. Delhi Punjab Har. H.P. J & K Chandigarh Unallocated	365 95 100 110 65 35 70 10 150
3.	NCTPP (Dadri)-I (840 MW) (Uttar Pradesh)	1669.21	409.69	700.32	U.P. Delhi	84 756

1	2	3	4	5	6	
4.	Unchahar-I (420 MW) (Uttar Pradesh)	625.00	**	—	U.P.	286
					Raj.	20
					Delhi	24
					Punjab	36
					Har.	11
					J & K	14
					Chandigarh	2
					Unallocated	20
5.	Unchahar-II (420 MW) (Uttar Pradesh)	1412.09	**	—	U.P.	144
					Raj.	38
					Delhi	47
					Punjab	60
					Har.	23
					H.P.	12
					J&K	30
					Chandigarh	3
					Unallocated	63
6.	Tanda @ (440 MW) (Uttar Pradesh)	1000.00	**	—	U.P.	440
7.	Korba – I&II (2100 MW) (Madhya Pradesh)	1625.25	812.12	—	M.P.	610
					Mah.	610
					Guj.	360
					Goa	210
					Unallocated	310
8.	Vindhyachal-I (1260 MW) (Madhya Pradesh)	1460.37	549.79	—	M.P.	385
					Mah.	410
					Guj.	230
					Goa	35
					DNH	5
					D & D	5
					Unallocated	190
9.	Vindhyachal-II (1000 MW) (Madhya Pradesh)	2753.38	13.81	*	M.P.	273
					Mah.	273
					Guj.	239
					Goa	12
					DNH	4
					D & D	3
					Unallocated	150
10.	Ramagundam I&II (2100 MW) (Andhra Pradesh)	2059.22	704.98	277.92	A.P.	580
					Kar.	345
					T.N.	470
					Kerala	245
					Goa	100
					Pondicherry	50
					Unallocated	310

1	2	3	4	5	6	
11.	Farakka I (600 MW) (West Bengal)	730.93	259.58	179.44	W.B.	530
12.	Farakka II (1000 MW) (West Bengal)	2453.29	424.56	2.65	Bihar	375
					Orissa	235
					D.V.C.	130
					Sikkim	25
					Unallocated	305
13.	Kahaigaon-I (840 MW) (Bihar)	1715.89	569.38	30.00	W.B.	180
					Bihar	285
					Orissa	135
					DVC	67
					Sikkim	15
					Unallocated	158
14.	Talchar-I (1000 MW) (Orissa)	2592.18	574.32	676.45	Bihar	239
					Orissa	262
					DVC	66
					Sikkim	18
					Unallocated	415
15.	Talchar TPS @ (460 MW) (Orissa)	365.00	**	—	Orissa	460
16.	Auraiya Gas-I (652 MW) (Uttar Pradesh)	678.77	79.34	211.04	U.P.	234
					Raj.	60
					Delhi	71
					Punjab	81
					Haryana	38
					H.P.	22
					J & K	43
					Chandigarh	5
					Unallocated	98
17.	Dadri-I (817 MW) (Uttar Pradesh)	960.35	479.82	306.25	U.P.	270
					Raj.	75
					Delhi	90
					Punjab	130
					Haryana	40
					H.P.	25
					J & K	55
					Chandigarh	5
					Unallocated	127

1	2	3	4	5	6	
18.	Anta-I (413 MW) (Rajasthan)	418.97	50.43	100.06	U.P. Raj. Delhi Punjab Haryana H.P. J & K Chandigarh Unallocated	106 82 43 48 24 14 29 5 62
19.	Faridabad (430 MW) (Haryana)	1163.60	408.77	162.36	Haryana	430
20.	Kawas-I (645.36 MW) (Gujarat)	1599.57	103.82	75.72	M.P. Mah. Guj. Goa DNH D & D Unallocated	137 201 184 22 2 2 97.36
21.	Gandhar-I (648 MW) (Gujarat)	2500.00	1260.13	558.14	M.P. Mah. Guj. Goa DNH D & D Unallocated	116 185 234 12 2 2 97
22.	Kayamkulam-I (350 MW) (Kerala)	1310.58	*	—	Kerala	350
<b>D.V.C.</b>						
23.	Durgapur U-I to 4 (350 MW) (W.B)	113.36	—	9.78	Bihar W.B.	232.75 117.25
24.	Bokaro U-1 to 4 TPP-A(175 MW) (Bihar)	19.81	—	6.61	Bihar W.B.	116.37 58.63
25.	Chandrapur TPP U 1 to 6 (750 MW) (Bihar)	134.39	—	15.02	Bihar W.B.	498.75 251.25

1	2	3	4	5	6	
26.	Bokaro TPP-B U 1 to 3 (630 MW) (Bihar)	555.77	—	—	Bihar W.B.	418.95 211.05
27.	Mejia TPP U 1 to 3 (630 MW) (W.B.)	1552.00	—	—	Bihar W.B.	418.95 211.05
28.	Maithon Gas turbine station (82.5 MW) (W.B)	52.22	—	—	Bihar W.B.	54.86 27.64
29.	Panchet HEP U 1 & 2 (80 MW) (Bihar)	56.48	—	0.87	Bihar W.B.	53.20 26.80
30.	Maithon Hydel Station (60 MW) (Bihar)	4.27	—	1.43	Bihar W.B.	39.90 20.10
31.	Tilaiya Hydel Station (4 MW) (Bihar)	0.55	—	0.18	Bihar W.B.	2.66 1.34
<b>N.H.P.C.</b>						
32.	Biara Siul (180 MW) (Himarchal Pradesh)	148.08	68.95	75.81	Punjab Haryana H.P. Delhi	83.7 54.9 21.6 19.8
33.	Chamera — I (540 MW) (Himachal Pradesh)	2114.02	619.32	101.41	Punjab Haryana H.P. Delhi J & K Rajasthan Chandigarh	108 124.2 64.8 54 27 135 27
34.	Tanakpur (94.15 MW) (Uttar Pradesh)	379.17	93.19	36.07	Punjab Haryana H.P. Delhi J & K U.P. Rajasthan Chandigarh Unallocated	14.0 5.0 3.0 10.0 6.0 32.0 9.0 1.0 14.0



1	2	3	4	5	6	
35.	Loktak (105 MW) (Manipur)	126.72	58.46	72.27	Manipur	30.4
					Assam	24.3
					Meghalaya	8.1
					Nagaland	6.1
					Tripura	12
					Ar. Pr.	5.0
					Mizoram	4.0
					Unallocated	15.0
36.	Salal-I&II (690 MW) (Jammu & Kashmir)	928.89	470.48	300.4	Punjab	184
					Haryana	104
					H.P.	7.0
					Delhi	80.0
					J & K	237
					U.P.	56.0
					Rajasthan	20.0
					Chandigarh	2.0
37.	Uri (480 MW) (Jammu & Kashmir)	3300.00	985.58	338.32	Punjab	66
					Haryana	26
					H.P.	13
					Delhi	53
					J & K	163
					U.P.	113
					Rajasthan	43
					Chandigarh	3
38.	Rangit (60 MW) (Sikkim)	361.86	189.28	27.34	DVC	6
					Bihar	13
					Orissa	10
					W.B.	14
					Sikkim	8
					Unallocated	9
<b>NEEPCO</b>						
39.	Assam Gas (291 MW) (Assam)	1532.32	774.92	635.10	Ar. Pr.	16
					Assam	145
					Manipur	20.1
					Meghalaya	20.1
					Mizoram	12.1
					Nagaland	15.0
					Tripura	19.0
					Unallocated	43.65

1	2	3	4	5	6
40.	Agartala Gas (84 MW) (Tripura)	294.06 (322.55 now proposed)	164.96	14.52	Ar. Pr. 5 Assam 33 Manipur 6 Meghalaya 6 Mizoram 4 Nagaland 4 Tripura 14 Unallocated 12
41.	Kopili HEP (150 MW) (Assam)	243.82	123.61	48.06	Ar. Pr. 6 Assam 74.5 Manipur 8.0 Meghalaya 18.0 Mizoram 4.0 Nagaland 9.0 Tripura 8.0 Unallocated 22.5
42.	Doyang HE (75 MW) (Nagaland)	384.75 (758.70 now proposed)	192.37	247.48	Ar. Pr. 5 Assam 28.0 Manipur 5 Meghalaya 5 Mizoram 3 Nagaland 13 Tripura 5 Unallocated 11
43.	Kopili HE Extn. St. I (100 MW) (Assam)	134.48	65.72	68.76	Ar. Pr. 6 Assam 44 Manipur 7 Meghalaya 13 Mizoram 4 Nagaland 5 Tripura 6 Unallocated 15
<b>NECLEAR</b>					
44.	MAPS (340 MW) (Tamil Nadu)	245.87	—	—	A.P. 28 Karnataka 21 T.N. 255 Kerala 18 Pondicherry 4 Goa 0 NLC 0 Unallocated 14

1	2	3	4	5	6	
45.	Kaiga (440 MW) (Karnataka)	2896.00	—	—	A.P. Karnataka T.N. Kerala Pondicherry Goa NLC Unallocated	115 108 105 38 8 0 0 66
46.	Tarapur (320 MW) (Maharashtra)	92.99	—	—	Mah. Gujarat	160 160
47.	Rajasthan U-1&2 (300 MW) (Rajasthan)	175.81	—	—	Raj.	300
48.	Rajasthan U-3&4 (440 MW) (Rajasthan)	2511.00	—	—	Raj. U.P. Delhi Punjab Har. J & K Chandigarh H.P. Unallocated	87 102 53 56 25 35 3 3 66
49.	Narora (440 MW) (Uttar Pradesh)	745.24	—	—	U.P. Delhi Punjab Raj. Haryana J & K Chandigarh H.P. Unallocated	154 47 52 42 28 33 5 14 65
50.	Kakrapar (440 MW) (Gujarat)	1366.68	—	—	Gujarat Mah. M.P. Goa Daman & Diu Dadra & NH Unallocated	125 137 93 15 2 2 66

**Govt. of India Station Managed by NTPC**

51.	Badarpur TPS (705 MW)	350.33 (Capital Cost)	—	—	Delhi	705
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\* Projects funded from NTPC's Internal Resources and Direct Borrowings.

\*\* Acquired out of Internal Resources of the Corporation.

@ Taken over projects.

**Statement-II**

*Installed Generation Capacity (Utilities) (Provisional)  
as on 31.1.2001*

State/UTs.	Total
1	2
Haryana	1780.32
Himachal Pradesh	322.00
Jammu & Kashmir	409.13
Punjab	4528.94
Rajasthan	2488.83
Uttar Pradesh (i/c Uttaranchal)	6052.75
Chandigarh	2.00
Delhi	617.00
Central Sector	10852.00
Total (N. Region)	27052.97
Gujarat	7230.39
Madhya Pradesh (i/c Chhatisgarh)	4373.00
Maharashtra	12843.20
Goa	48.05
Daman & Diu	0.00
D&N Haveli	0.00
Central Sector	6512.00
Total (W. Region)	31006.64
Andhra Pradesh	6605.88
Karnataka	4456.49

1	2
Kerala	2156.52
Tamil Nadu	6078.22
Pondicherry	32.50
Central Sector	5430.00
Total (S. Region)	2759.61
Bihar i/c Jharkhand	2108.40
Orissa	2143.02
West Bengal	4582.89
Sikkim	37.89
Central Sector	6841.50
Total (E. Region)	15713.70
Assam	621.69
Manipur	12.01
Meghalaya	188.76
Nagaland	5.50
Tripura	85.36
Arunachal Pradesh	45.43
Mizoram	36.85
Central Sector	805.01
Total (N.E. Region)	1800.61
A&N Island	34.05
Lakshadweep	9.97
Total (Islands)	44.02
Total (All India)	100377.55

**Statement-III**

*Total Power Supply Position*

(All figures in MU net)

Region/State System	January, 2001				April, 2000-January, 2001			
	Requirement	Availability	Shortage	%	Requirement	Availability	Shortage	%
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Chandigarh	93	93	0	0	926	925	1	0.1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Delhi	1560	1399	161	10.3	15935	15193	742	4.7
Haryana	1410	1313	97	6.9	14505	14210	295	2.0
Himachal Pradesh	290	271	19	6.6	2635	2588	47	1.8
Jammu & Kashmir	625	444	181	29.0	5240	4565	675	12.9
Punjab	1915	1840	75	3.9	23645	23242	403	1.7
Rajasthan	2315	2075	240	10.4	20690	20017	673	3.3
Uttar Pradesh	4120	3244	876	21.3	38390	33012	5378	14.0
Gujarat	4589	3889	700	15.3	44575	40108	4467	10.0
Madhya Pradesh	3734	3216	518	13.9	32691	29015	3676	11.2
Maharashtra	6617	6180	437	6.6	66507	58864	7643	11.5
Goa	153	136	17	11.1	1492	1306	186	12.5
Andhra Pradesh	4022	3884	138	3.4	39112	36264	2848	7.3
Karnataka	2886	2749	137	4.7	24401	22158	2243	9.2
Kerala	1172	1137	35	3.0	11211	10463	748	6.7
Tamil Nadu	3507	3394	113	3.2	34920	32263	2657	7.6
Bihar	848	788	60	7.1	7655	7209	446	5.8
DVC	680	683	-3	-0.4	7048	7195	-147	-2.1
Orissa	1038	1046	-8	-0.8	9770	10136	-366	-3.7
West Bengal	1531	1523	8	0.5	15541	15752	-211	-1.4
Ar. Pradesh	11.3	11.4	-0.1	-0.9	106.0	108.6	-2.6	-2.5
Assam	273.7	299.2	-26	-9.3	2571.8	2810.8	-239	-9.3
Manipur	45.4	43.1	2.3	5.1	385.8	382.9	2.9	0.8
Meghalaya	59.4	60.0	-0.6	-1.0	457.8	499.0	-41.2	-9.0
Mizoram	25.3	25.4	-0.1	-0.4	203.4	210.6	-7.2	-3.5
Nagaland	23.6	23.4	0.2	0.8	186.1	192.5	-6.4	-3.4
Tripura	48.9	53.6	-4.7	-9.6	470.3	500.3	-30.0	-6.4

*Actual Peak Demand Vs Peak Met*

Region/State/ System	January, 2001				April, 2000-January, 2001			
	Peak demand	Peak-met	Shortage	%	Peak Demand	Peak-met	Shorage	%
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Chandigarh	161	161	0	0.0	171	171	0	0.0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Delhi	3080	2602	478	15.5	3080	2670	410	13.3
Haryana	2525	2339	186	7.4	2800	2709	91	3.3
Himachal Pradesh	562	562	0	0.0	585	585	0.	0.0
Jammu & Kashmir	1130	835	295	26.1	1170	974	196	16.8
Punjab	3675	3506	169	4.6	5004	4904	100	2.0
Rajasthan	3755	3645	110	2.9	3755	3645	110	2.9
Uttar Pradesh	7200	5539	1661	23.1	7200	6119	1081	15.0
Gujarat	7454	6141	1313	17.6	7801	6905	896	11.5
Madhya Pradesh	6409	5101	1308	20.4	7111	5310	1801	25.3
Maharashtra	11415	10188	1227	10.7	12535	10225	2310	18.4
Goa	260	234	26	10.0	296	265	31	10.5
Andhra Pradesh	6585	6211	374	5.7	7055	6211	844	12.0
Karnataka	4672	4371	301	6.4	4672	4371	301	6.4
Kerala	2351	2304	47	2.0	2391	2304	87	3.6
Tamil Nadu	6192	2805	387	6.3	6329	5805	524	8.3
Bihar	1470	1248	222	15.1	1470	1263	207	14.1
DVC	1204	1196	8	0.7	1366	1390	-24	-1.8
Orissa	1952	1904	48	2.5	1952	1994	-42	-2.2
West Bengal	3184	2997	187	5.9	3594	3233	361	10.0
Ar. Pradesh	49	49	0	0.0	49	49	0	0.0
Assam	564	562	2	0.4	564	579	-15	-2.7
Manipur	89	89	0	0.0	92	89	3	3.3
Meghalaya	119	120	-1	-0.8	122	129	-7	-5.7
Mizoram	71	70	1	1.4	71	70	1	1.4
Nagaland	52	51	1	1.9	52	52	0	0.0
Tripura	135	103	32	23.7	135	134	1	0.7

**New Tariff Issued by CERC**

1081. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Electricity Regulatory

Commision has issued new tariff orders which would reduce the NTPC's internal resources by Rs. 18,000 crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof and justification behind issuing such orders;

(c) whether the CERC has considered the adverse effect of such orders before issuing the same;

(d) if so, whether NTPC has opposed the said orders; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to resolve the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (e) The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) is an independent statutory body created under the Electricity Regulatory Commissions (ERC) Act, 1998 with powers, inter alia, to regulate tariff of generating companies owned or controlled by the Central Government and to determine by regulation the terms and conditions for fixation of tariff for such generating companies. CERC while determining the tariff is to be guided by inter alia, that the generating companies and transmission entities shall adopt such principles in order that they may earn an adequate return and at the same time that they do not exploit their dominant position in generation, sale of electricity or in the inter-State transmission of electricity; and the factors which would encourage efficiency, good performance optimum investments etc. In exercise of the powers conferred under the ERC Act, 1998, the CERC has issued orders regarding Availability Based Tariff (ABT) on 15.12.2000 and regarding Tariff Principles and Norms for Central Generation Stations including NTPC on 21.12.2000 after hearing all parties.

The orders regarding ABT were first issued on 4.1.2000 against which NTPC filed a review petition before the CERC. The CERC considered the petition and issued final order on ABT on 15.12.2000.

As regards CERC's order dated 21.12.2000 regarding Tariff Principles and Norms, NTPC has filed a review petition before the CERC. CERC has not yet considered/disposed the petition of the NTPC in this regard. NTPC has also filed an appeal before the Hon'ble Delhi High Court against the Commission's orders.

#### **Losses to SEBs**

1082. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether many of the State Electricity Boards are losing crores of rupees every year due to mismanagement and are owing thousands of crores of rupees to Coal India and Railways etc.; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to improve the working of the SEBs from the debt and mismanagement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) It is a fact that most State Electricity Boards are incurring huge losses and have large outstanding dues on account of supply/transportation of coal.

(b) The Government of India enacted Electricity Regulatory Commission Act, 1998 with a view to rationalize tariff, promote transparent policies towards subsidies etc. The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission has been constituted and has started functioning. This Act enables the State Governments to set up State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs). So far, 15 States have notified constitution of SERCs. SERCs of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, U.P., Gujarat, Karnataka and Haryana have already issued tariff orders.

With a view to expedite power sector reforms particularly in distribution, the Governments of India has taken several steps. The Conference of Chief Ministers'/Power Ministers' held in February 2000 resolved that reform must be undertaken with determination, vigour and a sense of urgency. The key elements of the reforms strategy are :

- (i) Energy Audit at all levels.
- (ii) Time-bound programme of 100% metering of all consumers by December, 2001.
- (iii) Reduction and finally, elimination of power theft within a specified time frame.
- (iv) Strengthening/upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution system by taking sub-station as a unit on a priority basis.

It has also been agreed that if the above appears unattainable in the existing set up, corporatization/cooperatisation/privatisation of distribution would have to be undertaken. The Government of India is also signing MOUs on reforms with States whereby the States commit to achieve definite milestones to reduce T&D losses, eliminate theft, improved billing and collection, setting up of functional SERCs etc. The Government of India offers financial support through the Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) and additional allocation of power from unallocated share of central pool etc. So far,

the States of Karnataka, U.P., M.P., Haryana and Gujarat have signed MOUs.

### Generation of Power

1083. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of participation of the Union Government in generating power in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to enhance the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Though the share of central sector power stations in installed capacity in the country is 30%, the share in generation was 39.4% during the period April 2000-January 2001. State-wise percentage of generation by the central sector power stations in generating power in the country during the period April 2000-January 2001 is given in the statement attached.

(b) The following steps are being taken to improve generation of power in the central sector:-

- (i) Renovation and Modernisation (R&M) and life extension of old and inefficient generating units.
- (ii) Increasing export of power from surplus regions to the deficit regions.
- (iii) Early stabilization of newly commissioned units and overall increase in Plant Load Factors of thermal units.
- (iv) Capacity addition of 18914 MW and 26251 MW have been tentatively programmed in the central-sector during Xth and XIth five year plans period, respectively.

### Statement

*State-wise Energy Generation and Percentage Ratio of Participation of the Union Government in Generating Power*

State	Generation (MUS) (Apr-Jan., 2001)	(%)
1	2	3
<b>Delhi</b>		
Central Sector	4299	64.7

1	2	3
State Sector	2350	35.3
Total	6649	100
<b>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</b>		
Central Sector	4425	89.7
State Sector	510	10.3
Total	4935	100
<b>Himachal Pradesh</b>		
Central Sector	7042	86.4
State Sector	1109	13.6
Total	8151	100
<b>Haryana</b>		
Central Sector	1847	36.8
State Sector	3178	63.2
Total	5025	100
<b>Rajasthan</b>		
Central Sector	5376	39.1
State Sector	8360	60.3
Total	13736	100
<b>Punjab</b>		
Central Sector	5069	25.3
State Sector	14984	74.7
Total	20053	100
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>		
Central Sector	42167	66.6
State Sector	21115	33.4
Total	63282	100
<b>Gujarat</b>		
Central Sector	8977	23.2
State Sector	21939	56.7
Private Sector	7748	20
Total	38664	100



1	2	3
<b>Maharashtra</b>		
Central Sector	1950	3.7
State Sector	37668	71.4
Private Sector	13105	24.9
Total	52723	100
<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>		
Central Sector	24718	57.1
State Sector	18578	42.9
Total	43296	100
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>		
Central Sector	13560	31.5
State Sector	26441	61.5
Private Sector	3023	7
Total	43024	100
<b>Karnataka</b>		
Central Sector	1569	8.3
State Sector	16270	86.1
Private Sector	1062	5.6
Total	18901	100
<b>Kerala</b>		
Central Sector	1595	21.1
State Sector	5841	77.4
Private Sector	113	1.5
Total	7549	100
<b>Tamilnadu</b>		
Central Sector	14015	39.3
State Sector	20631	57.8
Private Sector	1053	2.9
Total	35699	100

1	2	3
<b>Pondicherry</b>		
Central Sector	0	0
State Sector	193	100
Total	193	100
<b>Bihar</b>		
Central Sector	7201	70.9
State Sector	2953	29.1
Private Sector	0	0
Total	10154	100
<b>Orissa</b>		
Central Sector	6670	48.2
State Sector	6448	46.6
Private Sector	728	5.3
Total	13846	100
<b>West Bengal</b>		
Central Sector	10151	40.6
State Sector	9600	38.4
Private Sector	5221	20.9
Total	24,972	100
<b>Sikkim</b>		
Central Sector	288	94.1
State Sector	18	5.9
Total	306	100
<b>Assam</b>		
Central Sector	1526	63.5
State Sector	770	32
Private Sector	108	4.5
Total	2404	100
<b>Meghalaya</b>		
Central Sector	211	27.1

1	2	3
State Sector	568	72.9
Total	779	100
<b>Tripura</b>		
Central Sector	325	55.1
State Sector	265	44.9
Total	590	100
<b>Manipur</b>		
Central Sector	482	100
State Sector	0	0
Total	482	100
<b>Nagaland</b>		
Central Sector	72	100
State Sector	0	0
Total	72	100
<b>Arunachal Pradesh</b>		
Central Sector	0	0
State Sector	11	100
Total	11	100
<b>All India</b>		
Central Sector	163535	39.4
State Sector	219800	52.9
Private Sector	32161	7.7
Total	415496	100

[Translation]

**Reservation of Tickets by Private Agency**

1084. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the travel agencies are granted permission to sell railway tickets and arrange reservation in the railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether an advertisement was published to appoint such travel agencies in Dhanbad division of the Eastern Railway; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not completing the appointment procedure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Rail Travellers' Service Agents (RTSAs) are appointed in accordance with Rail Travellers' Service Agents Rules, 1985 to purchase tickets from railway reservation offices on behalf of passengers by standing in queue like a normal passenger.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

[English]

**Post Based Rosters in Place of  
Vacancy Based Rosters**

1085. SHRI BUTA SINGH : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court in case of R.K. Sabharwal Vs. State of Punjab as well as J.C. Mallick Vs. Ministry of Railways has held that "the Vacancy Based Rosters" can operate only till such time the representation of persons belonging to the reserved categories reaches the prescribed percentage of reservation;

(b) if so, the category of services i.e. Class I, II, III and Class IV under the Ministry of Shipping and Public Sector Undertakings/Autonomous/Attached/Sub-Ordinate Organizations under its control where the representation of persons belonging to the SC/ST categories has reached the prescribed percentage of reservation because of which "Post Based Rosters" have been introduced in place of "Vacancy Based Rosters"; and

(c) the reasons of introduction of "Post Based Rosters" in place of "Vacancy Based Rosters" in those categories of services where the representation has not reached the prescribed percentage of reservation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

[Translation]

#### **Killing due to Landmine Blasts**

1086. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Armymen killed in landmine blasts during the last three years;

(b) the number of persons arrested for having been involved in land-mining;

(c) whether intelligence agencies have submitted any report in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) 97 Army personnel are reported to have been killed due to landmine/IED blasts between 1st January, 1998 and 31st January, 2001.

(b) to (d) Information is being collected.

#### **Decline in Allocation of Funds for New Rail Projects**

1087. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a sharp decline in the allocation of funds for the construction of new rail-lines during the current plan period;

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

(c) the steps being contemplated by the Government to ensure allocation of sufficient funds for this purpose?

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

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Encroachment of Railway Land**

1088. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of places in Azamgarh, Mau, Varanasi, Jaunpur, Shahganj and Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh where the railway land has been encroached upon;

(b) the details of steps taken by the Government for removal of encroachments from railway land during the last three years; and

(c) the time by which the entire land is likely to be evicted from encroachment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Encroachments on railway land has been noticed in the following places:-

Azamgarh Azamgarh town area.

Mau Mau Station area.

Varanasi Manduadih, Watch & Ward Colony, Station Area Colony, Guard Running Room Colony, Kashi Yard, and between Kashi-Varanasi Section.

Jaunpur Jaunpur town area, and near Loco Shed.

Shahganj Colony near L-Xing no. 62-A

Allahabad Jhusi, Passiya Colony, Traffic Colony, Naini Road Colony, Police Line Colony, Leader Road Colony, Loco Colony, SFG Colony No. 1, 2, 3, and between Jamuna Br.-Allahabad station (Km. 823-824).

(b) Concerted efforts have been made with the help of local authorities, and Railway Protection Force to remove unauthorised construction from railway land. During the last three years 3445 nos. of such constructions have been removed.

(c) Removal of encroachments from railway land is a continuous process. While the fresh encroachments are removed as soon as these are noticed, old encroachments are removed as per provisions of the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971. Since the process involves implementation of judicial orders, it is not possible to fix specific target dates for removal of encroachments.

[English]

#### **Gas-Based Power Plants**

1089. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of gas-based power plants in the country, State-wise/location-wise; and

(b) the capacity of each such gas-based power plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The details of the gas based power plants in the country as on 31.1.2001 are enclosed as statement.

#### Statement

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Location	Power Project	Capacity (MW)
1	2	3	4	5
<b>Northern Region</b>				
1.	Haryana	Faridabad	Faridabad (NTPC)	430.00
2.	Jammu & Kashmir	Srinagar	Pamapore	175.00
3.	Rajasthan	Ramgarh (Jaisalmer)	Ramgarh	38.50
		Anta (Baran)	Anta (NTPC)	413.00
4.	Uttar Pradesh	Dibiya Pur, Distt. Etawah	Auraiya (NTPC)	652.00
		Dadri (Gautam Budh Nagar)	Dadri (NTPC)	817.00
5.	Delhi	I.P. Estate, New Delhi	G.T. Plant	282.00
		Total Northern Region		2807.50
<b>Western Region</b>				
6.	Gujarat	Utran (Surat)	Utran	144.00
		Dhuvaran (Anand)	Dhuvaran	54.00
		Aditya Nagar (Surat)	Kawas (NTPC)	644.00
		Jhanor (Bharuch)	Gandhar (NTPC)	648.00
		Ahmedabad	Vatwa	100.00
		Hazira (Surat)	Hazira	515.00
		Distt. Baroda	GIPCL Baroda	167.00
		Peguthan (Bharuch)	Peguthan	655.00
7.	Maharashtra	Uran (Raigad)	Uran	912.00
		Chembur (Bombay)	Tata Trombay	180.00
		Distt. Ratnagiri	Dabhol	740.00
8.	Goa	Sancoale	Salgaocar	48.00
		Total Western Region		48.07

1	2	3	4	5
<b>Southern Region</b>				
9.	Andhra Pradesh	Kovur (West Godavari)	Vijjeswaran	99.00
		East Godavari	Jegurupadu	235.40
		Kakinada, East Godavari	Godavari	208.00
		Distt. Krishna	Kondapalli	350.00
10.	Kerala	Distt. Alappuzha	Kayamkulam (NTPC)	350.00
		Cochin (Eloor)	Cochin	174.00
11.	Tamil Nadu	Ennore (Chennai)	Basin Bridge	120.00
		Distt. Nagapattinam	Narimanam	10.00
12.	Pondicherry	Karaikal (Pattinam)	Karaikal	32.50
		Total Southern Region		1578.90
<b>Eastern Region</b>				
13.	Bihar	Maithon Dam, Dhanbad	Maithon (DVC)	82.05
14.	West Bengal	Siliguri	Siliguri	20.00
		Haldia	Haldia	40.00
		Calcutta	Kasba	40.00
		Total Eastern Region		182.05
<b>North-Eastern Region</b>				
15.	Assam	Distt. Dibrugarh	Namrup	103.50
		Maibella (Sivsagar)	Lakwa	120.00
		Gileky (Sivsagar)	Mobile GT Gileky	9.00
		Kathalguri (Tinsukia)	Kathalguri	12.00
		Adamtilla	Adamtilla	9.00
		Baskhandi	Baskhandi	15.50
		Dibrugarh	Kathalguri (NEEPCO)	291.00
16.	Tripura	Hawaibari	Baramura	16.50
		Rokhia	Rokhia	48.00
		Ram Chandra Nagar	Agartala (NEEPCO)	84.00
		Total North Eastern Region		708.50
Total All India				10084.40

[Translation]

**Private Limited Companies**

1090. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Private Limited companies registered under the Companies Act till March 31, 2000, State-wise;

(b) whether all these companies have filed their regular returns during the last three years; and

(c) if not, the action being taken by the Government against such companies?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) A statement showing State-wise number of Private Limited companies registered under the Companies Act, 1956 as on March 31, 2000 is attached.

(b) and (c) The companies are required to file, with the Registrars, their Balance Sheets and Profit and Loss accounts as per provisions of Section 220 of the Companies Act, 1956. Penal action is considered against the companies which violate the law. Prosecution were filed in 3028, 5631 and 4784 cases during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 respectively for default under Section 220 of the Act.

**Statement**

Sl. No.	State/U.T.	No. of Private Ltd. Companies Registered till March 31, 2000
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	27560
2.	Assam	3329
3.	Bihar	7022
4.	Gujarat	30729
5.	Haryana	4780
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1516
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	1530
8.	Karnataka	21846

1	2	3
9.	Kerala	10186
10.	Madhya Pradesh	11372
11.	Maharashtra	105540
12.	Manipur	129
13.	Meghalaya	213
14.	Nagaland	241
15.	Orissa	4815
16.	Punjab	11228
17.	Rajasthan	13373
18.	Tamil Nadu	39752
19.	Tripura	57
20.	Uttar Pradesh	17844
21.	West Bengal	60600
22.	A & N. Islands	09
23.	Arunachal Pradesh	184
24.	Chandigarh	4285
25.	D & N. Haveli	89
26.	Delhi	87227
27.	Goa	2106
28.	Daman & Diu	71
29.	Lakshdweep	01
30.	Mizoram	26
31.	Pondicherry	912
Total		468572

[English]

**Construction of Railway Station at Bari-Brahmana Cantt. in Jammu**

1091. SHRI VISHNU DATT SHARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of crowd at Jammu station due to up and down of the pilgrims/yatris and also army and police personnel;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have decided/proposed to construct a separate cantt. Railway station at Bari-Brahamana in Jammu for corps;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (d) Jammu is an important station where considerable passenger traffic is dealt with. Passenger handling facilities at Jammu, viz. platforms etc., are being augmented as per traffic requirements. The existing and planned facilities at Jammu are considered adequate for the present and projected level of traffic at this station.

Bari Brahman is an existing railway station. Further development of facilities at this station is not considered necessary at this stage.

[Translation]

#### **Opening of Yatri Niwas/Hotels with World Bank Assistance**

1092. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any scheme to open new Hotels, Yatri Niwas in various States with the assistance of World Bank; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

#### **Non-Compliance of Supply Order by B.D.L.**

1093. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Army Headquarters had placed an indent for purchase of 2000 Konkur Missiles on Bharat Dynamics Limited, Hyderabad, to be supplied by March, 1996 with a condition that liquidated damages @ ½ percent will be charged from the supplier;

(b) if so, whether the supplier could not supply the missiles in the agreed period of time;

(c) if so, whether the liquidated damages were claimed from the supplier;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether there is any proposal to fix responsibility on the officials found responsible and to recover the charges now; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (f) An indent no. 9M 113/KONK/09/95, dt. 28th March, 1995 was placed on M/s Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), Hyderabad for supply of 2000 nos. of Konkur missiles during the year 1995-96. As per the indent in the event of the failure of the contractor to deliver the missiles as agreed to or within the stipulated or the extended time, as the case may be, purchaser shall at his option be entitled to recover from the contractor as agreed liquidated damages, and not by way of penalty, a sum of half per cent of the price of any equipment, which the contractor fails to deliver within the stipulated time for every week or part thereof subject to a ceiling of 5%. However, three months period of grace will be allowed by the purchaser before the commencement of levy of liquidated damages on any of the consignment.

Against the indent M/s BDL supplied 1156 nos. of missiles during 1995-96 leaving a balance of 844 missiles yet to be supplied as on 31st March, 1996. M/s BDL took up a case for the extension of time for the supply of remaining 844 missiles with Ministry of Defence. Keeping in view the circumstances and justification provided by the defence Public Sector Undertaking (PSU), their request for extension of time to supply the balance missiles was accepted without levying Liquidated Damages.

#### **Measures for Modernisation and Mobilisation of Resources**

1094. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the railways have requisitioned the services of Telecom Specialist Sam Pitroda to bring "fresh insight" and suggesting measures for modernization and resource mobilization for the railways;

(b) if so, the time by which the services are likely to be expected from this telecom expert;

(c) whether a Committee on this subject is already working and it is an overlap;

(d) the time by which this Committee is working and the total number of members of this Committee;

(e) whether the said Committee has submitted its report; and

(f) if so, the details of recommendations made therein and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An Advisory Committee has been set up on 6.2.2001 under the Chairmanship of Shri Sam Pitroda with two other members for initiating a comprehensive process of modernization of Railway system and for launching a new initiative for resource mobilization, as also suggesting ways and means for development of railway assets for revenue generation.

(c) to (f) Another Railway Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Dr. Rakesh Mohan, Director General, National Council of Applied Economic Research, comprising 17 members including members from Financial Institutions, Industry, Economic Research Centres was constituted on 31.12.98 to examine the financing requirements; identify sources of funding of the estimated investments and to study models of structure and ownership of rail transport facilities, etc., so as to optimise the use of rail transport in the country. The Railway Expert Group has submitted an Interim Executive Summary to the Ministry of Railways on 17.2.2001. The same is under study.

#### Detention of Wagons in Yard

1095. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether wagons are detained in yards and station-sidings thereby causing huge financial loss to the Railways;

(b) the total loss caused in this regard during each of the last three years and the current year so far; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

#### Power Finance Corporation

1096. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the deteriorating economic condition of many electricity boards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Power Finance Corporation has found the rate of return (ROR) of these electricity boards negative in comparison to minimum expected ROR which is 3 per cent on invested capital;

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

(e) whether the PFC has fixed certain conditions for providing financial assistance to these electricity boards;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the names of power projects of private sector likely to be cancelled after refusal by the Government to give guarantee to mega power projects and guarantee by the PFC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement-I indicating the profit/loss position of SEBs is attached.

(c) and (d) Most of the State Electricity Boards are not able to earn a minimum Rate of Return (ROR) of 3% on their net fixed assets, as required under the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948. The SEBs collectively showed a negative Rate of Return (without subsidy) of (-) 19% on capital during 1999-2000. The state-wise position on ROR is attached as statement-II.

(e) Eligibility Criteria for providing financial assistance to the State Power Sector as per PFC's Operational Policy Statement consist of :

- Entity related criteria
- Project/Scheme related criteria

The details of the scheme are given in statement-III.



However, the criteria can be relaxed in the case of States entering into MOU with the Government of India on power sector reforms. Further, the funding under the Accelerated Power Development Programme is conditional on the beneficiary State agreeing to undertake reforms.

(f) The list of State Power Utilities which have committed to improve their operational and financial health through OFAP is placed at statement IV.

(g) There is no proposal/case for cancellation of projects on account of non-availability of guarantee from the Government of India or PFC.

### Statement-I

#### Commercial Profit/Loss

(without subsidy)

SEBs	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Provi.	(RE)	(AP)
Andhra Pradesh	-4	-23	-981	-1255	-939	-1376	-2263	-2703
Assam	-205	-197	-255	-261	-225	-411	-306	-336
Bihar	-280	-190	-189	-211	-442	-496	-514	-548
Delhi (DVB)	-207	—	0	-578	-626	-760	-961	-794
Gujarat	-519	-493	-550	-1003	-1069	-1274	-1440	-1498
Haryana	-404	-507	-468	-554	-625	-765	-532	-502
Himachal Pradesh	2	-51	19	11	17	10	-33	-4
Jammu & Kashmir	-225	-293	-347	-363	-507	-662	-643	-347
Karnataka	-19	-2	-164	-502	-652	-331	-604	-365
Kerala	-65	-75	-129	-183	-208	-199	-162	-451
Madhya Pradesh	-493	-377	-594	-602	-464	-941	-1288	-1966
Maharashtra	162	-189	-276	-408	-92	-11	115	214
Meghalaya	-8	-3	-21	-20	-158	286	105	204
Orissa	-85	-196	-136	-231	-344	-287	-405	-186
Punjab	-626	-693	-681	-644	-606	-979	-1381	-1223
Rajasthan	-260	-415	-412	-430	-269	-386	-577	-882
Tamil Nadu	-258	-302	-2	-77	-257	-318	-885	-709
Uttar Pradesh	-808	-1202	-1152	-1136	-1821	-1853	-1991	-2142
West Bengal	-258	-231	-339	-322	-387	-492	-692	-675
Total	-4560	-5060	-6125	-8770	-9357	-11246	-14458	-14913

**Statement-II****Rate of Return on Capital**

(without subsidy)

SEBs	(%)							
	1992-93 Actual	1993-94 Actual	1994-95 Actual	1995-96 Actual	1996-97 Actual	1997-98 Provi.	1998-99 (RE)	1999-2000 (AP)
Andhra Pradesh	-0.20	-0.60	-22.30	-28.80	-21.80	-33.95	-50.15	-56.66
Assam	-43.30	-47.30	-25.70	-32.10	-25.39	-38.88	-28.02	-29.39
Bihar	-20.00	-12.70	-19.00	-12.90	27.57	32.66	35.29	34.36
Delhi (DVB)	-26.20	NA	NA	-29.00	-27.75	-28.58	-32.52	-23.30
Gujarat	-16.50	-14.60	-14.30	-24.90	-25.70	-27.83	-30.16	-34.51
Haryana	-26.10	-31.20	-27.90	-31.80	-38.35	-47.79	-33.27	-31.34
Himachal Pradesh	0.50	-14.90	-2.50	2.60	3.34	1.58	-4.56	-0.48
Jammu & Kashmir	-39.10	-50.10	-51.70	-48.20	-56.65	-60.00	-51.64	-24.07
Karnataka	-2.00	-0.20	-11.40	-29.40	-36.16	-17.00	-27.09	-14.24
Kerala	-11.40	-11.40	-17.90	-24.10	-19.11	-17.05	-9.44	-19.29
Madhya Pradesh	-14.60	-9.60	-13.50	-14.30	-10.99	-23.04	-30.47	-48.18
Maharashtra	3.10	3.10	4.10	-5.30	-1.20	-0.14	1.37	2.22
Meghalaya	-7.90	-4.00	-6.90	-9.60	74.92	-140.68	48.84	89.27
Orissa	-8.70	-13.50	-10.20	-21.50	-17.57	-14.85	-21.44	-8.61
Punjab	-19.90	-20.90	-19.40	-21.10	-18.27	-33.21	-46.76	-29.93
Rajasthan	-11.40	-17.90	-19.10	-16.00	-10.36	-13.81	-20.07	-21.92
Tamil Nadu	-8.80	-9.70	-0.10	-1.90	-5.40	-5.23	-14.19	-11.01
Uttar Pradesh	-16.70	-17.80	-12.20	-9.60	-14.09	-13.21	-13.47	-12.88
West Bengal	-35.30	-29.70	-42.20	-56.10	-41.00	-45.34	-58.50	-45.26
Average	-12.70	-12.30	-13.10	-16.40	-14.67	-16.79	-58.50	-18.98

**Statement-III**

Details of schemes for providing financial assistance to the State Power Sector as per PFC's Operational Policy Statement:

**Entity related criteria:**

- Availability of Exposure Limits as per PFC policy

- The utilities should have achieved a minimum ROR on net fixed assets of 5% or Return on Equity of 12% for the year preceeding to the immediately previous financial year; and

- The utility should not be in default to PFC.

**Project/Scheme related criteria:**

Financial assistance is provided to those projects/schemes which meet the following criteria:-

- are techno-economically sound with Financial or Economic Rate of Return of not less than 12% (as may be applicable);
- are feasible and technically sound and provide optimal cost solutions for the selected alternative;
- are compatible with integrated power development and expansion plans of State/Region/Country;
- compliance to environmental guidelines, standards and conditions;
- schemes should have obtained the required clearances;
- all inputs required for the implementation and operation of the projects are tied up and proper procurement and implementation plans have been drawn up.

In case of environmental upgradation, meter installation, load despatch, computerisation and communication, R&D and non-conventional energy projects, the rate of return of 12% i.e. (economic or financial) may not be insisted upon.

**Statement-IV****List of OFAPs****SEBs**

Punjab	Himachal Pr.	Gujarat	Maharashtra
Madhya Pr.	Tamil Nadu	Kerala	West Bengal

**Assam****State Generating Corporations**

OPGCL	OHPCCL	TVNL	DPL
WBPDCCL	BSHPCL	JKPDCL	RRVUNL
KPCL			

**State Transmission Corporation**

GRIDCO	KPTCL
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**State Power Departments**

Manipur	Mizoram	Nagaland	Sikkim
J&K	Goa		

**Municipal Utility**

BEST

**Autonomous Entity**

DVC

[English]

**Administrative Control of Strategic Defence Roads**

1097. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Defence personnel in Nagaland have proposed to hand over the administrative control of most strategic defence roads running along Indo-Myanmar border;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reasons therefor particularly in absence of any no-war pact signed among the neighbouring countries; and

(c) the strategy worked out to handle the situation in case of any eventuality?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) A number of roads in Nagaland are being constructed/maintained by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO). Four of such roads along the Indo-Myanmar border in Nagaland have been approved for handing over to the State PWD:-

(a) Road Tuensang-Kiphire

(b) Road Tuensang-Mon

(c) Road Nunhebot-Kiphire (under construction and Will be handed over to the State PWD on completion).

(d) Road Akhegwo-Kiphire.

Roads are constructed in border areas by the BRO considering the operational requirement. A periodic review is carried out to see the availability of funds, requirement of construction of new roads, availability of maintenance agency and our operational needs. It is after such a review that decisions are taken to hand over some roads to other agencies for further maintenance.

**Appointment/Posting of SCs/STs in  
Autonomous Bodies**

1098. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL :  
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to post/appoint adequate number of persons from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes community as Heads/CMD and Official/Non-Official Members of Board of Management/Governing Councils of the Public Sector Undertakings, Autonomous, Statutory Organisations/Attached Offices of the Ministry;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(c) the total number of posts in the rank of Heads/CMD, Official/Non-Official Members of Board of Management/Governing Councils in different autonomous bodies such as organizations under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power and total number of persons from SCs/STs community working against such posts as January 1, 1996 and January 1, 2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) There is no reservation for Members of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe community for posting/appointment to the posts of Heads/CMD and Official/Non-official Members of Board of Management/Governing Councils of the Public Sector Undertakings, Autonomous, Statutory Organizations/Attached Offices of the Ministry. Members of these communities are treated at par with others while considering them for said postings/appointments.

(c) There are 15 posts of CMDs/Heads and 40 posts of functional Directors/Members in the various PSUs/Autonomous/Statutory Bodies under the Ministry of Power. There are 77 official and 17 Non-official Directors/Members on the Boards of Management/Governing Councils of the Public Sector Undertakings, Autonomous/Statutory bodies under the Ministry of Power. As regards number of persons from SC and ST communities posted/appointed/nominated against these posts as on 1.1.1996 and 1.1.2000, no such record is maintained since there is no reservation for SCs/STs.

**Vacancy Based Roster**

1099. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the "Vacancy Based Rosters" can operate only till such time the representation of persons belonging to the reserved categories reaches the prescribed percentage of reservation;

(b) if so, the categories of Class I, II, III and Class IV where "Post Based Rosters" have been introduced in place of "Vacancy Based Rosters" under your Ministry and its undertakings/autonomous/attached/subordinate organisations; and

(c) the reasons for introducing "Vacancy Based Rosters" in those categories of services?

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

**Asian Development Bank Loan to  
Power Grid Corporation**

1100. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Asian Development Bank has approved 250 million dollars to the Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. for inter-State and inter-regional transmission system in the country;

(b) if so, whether any concrete steps have been taken to utilize the loan by the Power Grid Corporation of India;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the amount of loan provided by ADB and the projects on which this loan is to be spent and the projects which have been completed so far from this loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) A direct loan of US\$ 250 million has been approved by the ADB recently. The loan has become effective from 10th January, 2001. This loan would be utilized by POWERGRID for the following :

(i) Upgrading and expansion of 400 KV, 220 KV and 132 KV Transmission systems for transferring additional power, improving system reliability and enhancing efficient utilisation of power plants. The projects in this category include inter-regional link between Eastern and Western Regions, grid strengthening for Goa (Kolhapur-Mapusa Transmission System), grid

strengthening for Southern Region and strengthening of inter-connection between India and Bangladesh.

- (ii) Establishing 400 KV and 200 KV transmission systems for evacuation of power generated by the power stations of Central Power Utilities and Independent Power Producers. The projects in this category include transmission systems associated with Kavas-II, Anta-II and Gandhar-II GBPPs, Ramagundam-III Project and Tala HEP.

The transmission projects will take about 2-3 years time for completion. POWERGRID has already placed awards for Kolhapur-Mapusa and East-West inter-connection. Since, this is a sector loan, POWERGRID has the flexibility to utilize the loan proceeds for other projects also subject to the approval of ADB.

#### **Setting up of Railway Development Corporation for Western Maharashtra**

1101. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have been requested to set up Railway Development Corporation for Western Maharashtra covering Vidharbha and Marathwada regions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof with the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Ministry of Railways has received a proposal for setting of separate Railway Development Corporation for Marathwada region.

(b) The Ministry of Railways is agreeable to considering such a proposal, if it were received from the State Government and if it were modelled after the Corporation proposed to be set up along with the Government of Karnataka, for the taking up viable schemes in the State of Karnataka.

#### **Committee for Development of Waterways**

1102. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether to overcome the pressure on the road transport the Government propose to encourage sea or river transport;

(b) if so, whether to develop coastal shipping in the country the Government have appointed a high level Committee for the assessment of quantity of coal, steel and fertilizers to be carried by the coastal shipping;

(c) if so, the ways and means suggested by the high level Committee in this regard;

(d) the total national waterways at present in the country; and

(e) the future strategy chalked out by the Government for the development of more such waterways and coastal shipping in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Working Groups to assess quantity of coal, steel and fertilizers to be carried by the Coastal Shipping were set up in the Ministries of Coal, Steel and Fertilizers in 1998. Whereas the Working Group in the Ministry of Coal has mainly recommended that adequate provision for development of Inland Waterways and Coastal Shipping for the movement of coal, be made on the other hand Working Group in the Ministry of Steel recommended that in view of the proposed Study by NCAER it is premature to make any specific recommendations on the feasibility of inland water transportation and coastal shipping of iron and steel products. Working Group of the Deptt. of Fertilisers had recommended exploring possibility of identifying routes of coastal shipping and inland waterway traffic.

(d) and (e) Out of ten Major Waterways identified for declaration as National Waterways following three Waterways have so far been declared as National Waterway 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 (801 kms); and
- (iii) National Waterways No. 3 : The West Coast Canal from Kottapuram to Kollam along with Champakara and Udyogmandal Canals (205 kms).

The said National Waterways are being developed by IWAJ 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, as also on Barak river, East Coast Canal, D.V.C. Canal and Kakinada-Mercanum Canal and these waterways have been found to have the potential for development of inland water transport. However, the declaration of these waterways as National Waterways and subsequent development thereof will depend upon availability of funds.

Government have recently decided to conduct a study of the coastal routes, availability of cargo including return cargo and development of infrastructure at ports, also covering integration of coastal shipping and inland water transport, wherever feasible. A Steering Group has also been set up to monitor the above referred Study.

#### **Sales Tax on Oil Sector**

1103. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Hefty sales tax creates anomaly in Oil Sector" appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated January 8, 2001;

(b) if so, the Government have received any representation from Oil companies for reduction of sales tax on domestic sale of Naphtha and Furnace Oil which is 16 to 30 per cent as a result import has become much cheaper;

(c) if so, whether the Government are considering to reduce sales tax on domestic sale of Naphtha and Furnace Oil; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (d) Sales tax is a State subject and administered by the respective State Governments.

#### **Power Wasted Due to Inefficient Electric Equipments**

1104. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large quantum of power goes waste due to inefficient electronic equipment and appliances;

(b) if so, whether the Government have formulated any legal framework for establishing an apex level central body for laying down standard and norms of energy consumption for equipment and appliances and energy labeling;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the total expenditure incurred by the Government during the last one year in promoting awareness in respect of energy conservation and development and improved technologies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) A large quantum of power is lost due to use of energy inefficient and sub-standard equipment/appliances. The Government has introduced the Energy Conservation Bill, 2000 in the Lok Sabha to provide a legal framework for promoting energy efficiency and conservation. The legislation provides for the establishment of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) by merger of existing Energy Management Centre (EMC). The legislation will enable the Government to :

(i) specify norms for process and energy consumption standards for any equipment, appliance which consumes, generates, transmits or supplies energy;

(ii) prohibit manufacture or sale or purchase of specified equipment or appliance unless such equipment, or appliance conforms to energy consumption standards; and

(iii) direct display of such particulars on label on equipment or on appliance specified.

A participatory approach is proposed to be followed while fixing standards and norms for energy consumption.

The Government incurred Rs. 2.75 crore on Energy Conservation programme during 1999-2000.

**Cancellation of Train Service**

1105. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railway had cancelled 561/562 Passenger Train Service between Secunderabad/Mudkhed Section in 1997;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to reintroduce this service; and

(c) if so, the time by which the said train is likely to be reintroduced?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

**Disposal of Scrap**

1106. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a scrap management group in the railways to monitor the disposal of scrap;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total revenue generated by sale of scrap by different railways during 2000;

(d) the quantity of scrap sold during the said period by each zonal railways; and

(e) the steps being taken by railways for better sale management of scrap?

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

(b) The Scrap management group comprises of Senior Administrative officers of Stores, Civil Engg., Mechanical Engg., Electrical Engg. Departments etc. and headed by Additional General Manager at Zonal Railways.

(c) and (d) A statement is attached.

(e) The disposal of scrap is arranged through Public Auctions/Advertised Tender. Programmes of scrap disposal is given wide publicity in newspapers. Any prospective bidder can participate in Auctions. All activities related to scrap disposal are closely monitored at a high level of Additional General Manager of Zonal Railways to ensure prompt disposal.

**Statement**

*Value of scrap disposal by Zonal Railways and disposal quantity during January to December, 2000 is given below*

Railways	Ferrous Scrap Including Rails (In MTs)	Non-Ferrous Scrap (In MTs)	Wagons (In FWUs*).	Coaches (In Nos.)	Locos (In Nos.)	Total Sale Value (Rs. in crore)
Central	212524	1175	6758	241	37	209.76
Eastern	84271	1288	1880	167	80	93.34
Northern	136325	613	4207	327	31	149.99
North-Eastern	45149	355	1300	141	19	45.23
Northeast Frontier	13804	120	1033	130	0	13.32
Southern	80797	1409	1301	197	0	77.74
South-Central	70871	2146	1445	63	34	67.52
South-Eastern	197520	936	2990	42	40	178.12
Western	85450	1908	3444	148	38	99.97
Total	926711	9950	24358	1456	279	934.99

\*FWUs stands for four wheeler units.

**Re-development Programme of  
Mumbai High**

1107. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have launched Rs. 7500 crore Mumbai High redevelopment programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith year-wise financial investment and production targets for next five years alongwith order of investment made on Mumbai High during the last three years and targets achieved;

(c) the details of foreign investment committed for Mumbai High so far and further investment and production plan proposed; and

(d) the likely impact of the project on the country's economy in general and for industrial sector of Maharashtra in particular?

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) In order to improve the production and recoveries of oil/gas from Mumbai High field, ONGC carried out studies for redevelopment of the field, in consultation with international consultants M/s Gaffney Cline Associates, UK and the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons. The Studies for Mumbai High North have already been completed and the feasibility report envisaging a capital outlay of the order of Rs. 2930 crores has been approved. Implementation of the programme has since been launched by ONGC.

The studies for redevelopment of Mumbai High South are expected to be completed by end of March 2001.

(b) The year-wise break up of proposed investment for redevelopment of Mumbai High North and the expected crude oil production therefrom is as under:-

Year	Rs. in crore	Production (MMT)
1	2	3
2000-01	58.38	2.85
2001-02	428.29	3.34
2002-03	972.15	3.71

1	2	3
2003-04	936.22	3.85
2004-05	376.10	4.46
2005-06	158.26	4.62
Total	2929.40	22.84

The likely investment for the proposed redevelopment plan of Mumbai High South is estimated to be about Rs. 4500 crores.

Investment (fixed assets and development drilling) on Mumbai High made during the last three years is as under:-

Year	Fixed Assest (Rs. cr.)	Dev. drilling (Rs. cr.)	Total (Rs. cr)	Crude Prod'n. (MMT)
1997-98	314.38	273.81	588.19	12.44
1998-99	261.25	180.23	441.48	11.59
1990-00	129.75	332.69	462.44	10.15

(c) Investment for the redevelopment of Mumbai High North has been envisaged through internal resources only.

(d) The project is expected to increase the ultimate recovery of oil from the Mumbai High which will help in saving the foreign exchange required for import of oil. The economy of Maharashtra is also likely to benefit in general from this investment.

**Upgradation of Kochuveli Railway Station**

1108. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to upgrade Kochuveli station (Trivandrum) as second coaching terminal;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(c) the time by which Kochuveli station is likely to be upgraded?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.



### Development of Natural Health Centres

1109. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated new strategy to develop natural health centres to take advantage of the modern facilities and Indian system of medicine;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of projects/proposals received in this regard and the funds sanctioned and released by the Union Government thereunder to each State during each of the last three years and the current year, project-wise;

(d) whether the Government propose to consider foreign earnings of medical institute to promote this form of centres; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government inter-alia propose to facilitate and enhance accessibility of standardized Panchkarma Therapy to hotels who desire to offer this facility of Indian system of medicine.

(b) Guidelines to set up Panchkarma Centres in the hotels have been formulated.

(c) Being a new scheme, no proposals have been received so far.

(d) The promoters of such facilities who have foreign earnings are free to invest the same in to such projects. Tax incentives, are also available for encouraging investment of profits in such tourism infrastructure.

(e) As above.

### Ezhimala Naval Academy

1110. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of progress made so far and the present status report of the construction work of Ezhimala Naval Academy in Kerala;

(b) the expenditure incurred so far; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The work on construction of Part of Group II activities of the project viz. roads (primary and secondary) and part of external services i.e. electricity and water supply schemes, storm water drainage net work and sewage disposal scheme at the estimated cost of Rs. 17.35 crores has commenced.

(b) The sum of Rs. 63.688 Crores has been spent so far on the project.

(c) The Naval Academy is likely to be commissioned in the year 2004.

### Presence of Army in Red Fort

1111. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :  
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

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

(a) whether the officials of the Archaeological Survey of India have expressed serious concern over the presence of Army in the Red Fort, Delhi;

(b) is so, whether a decision was taken in the past to withdraw the Army from Red Fort premises but no action has been taken so far;

(c) if so, the facts thereof;

(d) whether in view of the recent incidence in the Red Fort premises the Government propose to get it vacated from the Army authorities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (e) A Public Interest Litigation has been filed in the Delhi High Court for the vacation of the Red Fort Delhi by the Army and the matter is sub-judice.

### Election Procedure for Rajya Sabha Members

1112. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of certain lacunae in the election system for Rajya Sabha Members considering that independent candidates get elected and party candidates get defeated;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to make amendments in the system; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The issue involves examination of various options such as, dispensing with the secret ballot system and replacing it with the open ballot system. The matter requires consultation with all concerned. It is premature to give any reaction in this regard.

#### **Stoppage of Shatabdi and Super Fast Trains at Rewari**

1113. DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering on public demand the stoppage of Shatabdi and other Super Fast Express trains at Rewari (Haryana) railway station;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be made effective and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being proposed to meet the demand of people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. At present, Rewari station is served by 16 pairs of Express/Mail trains and 13 pairs of Passenger trains which are adequately serving the passengers of this station. 2015/2016 Delhi-Ajmer Shatabdi Express and 2957/2958 Delhi-Ahmedabad Rajdhani Express are high-speed long distance trains primarily meant for serving through passengers between the originating and terminating stations. These trains have been provided with a limited number of stoppages in order to reduce the travel time. However, 14 pairs of Express trains and 2 pairs of Passenger trains are available for the passengers of Rewari desirous of travelling towards Delhi and 6 pairs of Express trains each are available for Ajmer and Ahmedabad.

[Translation]

#### **Accelerated Power Development Programme**

1114. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :  
DR. ASHOK PATEL :

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :  
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have cleared the accelerated power development programme to meet the shortage of electricity;

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

(c) the total amount proposed to be spent on this programme;

(d) the time by which the said programme is likely to be launched; and

(e) the extent to which the power generation is likely to be increased as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (e) Government of India has approved Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) in November, 2000, with the outlay of Rs. 1000 crores for 2000-2001. APDP will continue till the year 2012 with enhanced outlay from year 2001-02 onwards. APDP will finance projects relating to :-

- (i) Renovation & Modernisation/Life Extension/Uprating of existing old generating stations, costing less than Rs. 100 crores; and
- (ii) Upgradation of sub-transmission & distribution network including energy accounting and metering in the distribution circles in a phased manner.

During the current year, based on projects received from non-special category States and after joint appraisal conducted by CEA, PFC and REC projects, worth Rs. 1588 crores relating to R&M and Upgradation of Sub-transmission & distribution have already been approved. APDP provides only 50% of the project cost. On this basis, Ministry of Finance has been recommended to release Rs. 794 crores as advance Central Plan Assistance to the States. Some projects including those received from Special Category States are being processed for approval.

APDP is to finance R&M/LE of old generating stations and upgradation of sub-transmission & distribution network. Out of Rs. 794.82 crores, Rs. 340.18 crores (50%

of the project cost) have been approved for R&M projects. Implementation of these projects would result in improvement in operational efficiency of these power stations. Under phase-I of the programme, 50 distribution circles have been identified in consultation with the State Governments for implementation of projects relating to upgradation of sub-transmission & distribution network. Short-term and Long-term measures will be taken up in these circles for reduction of T&D losses (both technical & commercial losses). State Governments have been directed to prepare projects for strengthening the distribution system in the remaining distribution circles so that projects could be appraised and funded in a phased manner under APDP.

#### **Employment by NHPC**

1115. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL :  
SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Hydro Power Corporation has provided employment to the local people where hydel power projects have either been completed or under construction in the country;

(b) if so, the number of people provided employment under various categories of posts along with names of the concerned projects providing the employment, State-wise;

(c) whether the Himachal Pradesh Government has signed any MoU with NHPC for fixing certain percentage for the purpose of providing employment in Parvati Hydel Power Project in the categories of employees of Class I, II, III and IV to the local people;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of the local people provided employment under each category in the Parvati Hydel Power Project so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (e) National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) has provided employment to the local people in its projects in accordance with the agreements/understanding with the concerned State Governments.

The scope for fresh employment in the new projects

is for the present limited since the projects are not being executed departmentally and existing surplus staff needs to be redeployed.

As per the agreement dated 20.11.1998 entered with Government of Himachal Pradesh for hydroelectric projects on river Parbati, 30% of the staff at executive level will be taken on deputation from HPSEB, subject to their suitability and all the unskilled Class III and IV staff required for the execution of the project after deployment of surplus workers from other projects of the Corporation will be recruited through employment exchanges located in Himachal Pradesh. Parbati H.E. Project Stage-I and Stage-III are under survey & investigation while Parbati Stage-II is under pre-construction stage. NHPC has so far met its requirement in these projects by re-deploying its existing surplus workers from other projects of the Corporation in accordance with the agreement entered with the Government of Himachal Pradesh.

#### **Oil Refineries in Private Sector**

1116. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :  
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

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

(a) whether oil refineries are being run under the private sector in the country;

(b) if so, the average production of petrol, diesel, natural gas and other petroleum products by these refineries annually;

(c) the percentage of said production being utilized within the country and abroad, separately; and

(d) the average foreign exchange earned annually through the export of said products?

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 only one oil refinery viz. Reliance Petroleum Limited is being run under the private sector in the country.

(b) to (d) The information for the period April, 2000 to January, 2001, as provided by the Company, is given in the statement enclosed.

## Statement

(Provisional)

Product	Production (in thousand Metric tonnes)	Percentage of Production being utilised within the country	Percentage of Production Exported	Foreign exchange earned through exports (in million US \$)
1	2	3	4	5
Liquefied Petroleum Gas	1630	100.0	Nil	—
Petrol	1583	41.8	58.2	243
Aviation Turbine Fuel	150	18.7	81.3	30
Diesel	7945	79.9	20.1	409
Kerosene	1493	100.0	Nil	—
Naphtha	2409	37.9	62.1	394
Others	4301	66.1	33.9	74
Total	19511	71.3	28.7	1150

[English]

[Translation]

### Reform and Restructuring of Power Sector

1117. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Power Finance Corporation proposes to float a \$ 5 billion special power sector fund to speed up the reforms and restructuring of the ailing power stations in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have granted permission to PFC to mobilize the funds for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the sources from where funds are proposed to be mobilized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) The Power Finance Corporation has no proposal to float a special power sector fund of US\$ 5 billion to speed up the reforms and restructuring of the ailing power stations in the country.

### Irregularities at Petrol Pumps

1118. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Petrol Grahakon ki Jeb Par Bhari Ek Karamati Garari" appeared in "Nav Bharat Times" dated January 3, 2001;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been/being conducted into this matter by the various oil companies;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action being taken/proposed to be taken against erring petrol pump owners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The information is given in the statement attached.

### Statement

*Checking of malpractices/irregularities at petrol pumps is a continuous activity of oil companies. Inspections are carried out at retail outlets by Oil Companies as per schedule given below :-*

Sales Officer	Once in 3 months
Officers of Grade "C" and above	Once in 6 months
Joint Inspection	20% of Retail outlets to be covered in year.
Random Inspection by Officer Of "C" Grade and above	10% of Retail Outlets to be covered once a year.

In addition, special vigilance drives are also carried out by oil industry both on their own and under directions of the Government from time to time to check malpractices. Under the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, the State Governments have also been empowered to take action and they have been suitably advised from time to time by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in this regard. If any irregularities are detected during inspection, action is taken against the erring dealers.

[English]

### Canal Network in Andhra Pradesh

1119. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Inland Waterways Authority of India has made any study of the canal network in the district of East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna and Guntur;

(b) if so, the details of the potential of this canal network for Inland transport;

(c) whether any proposal is under consideration in this regard;

(d) whether the Inland Waterways Authority has approached the World Bank for the aid in this regard; and

(e) if so, the response given by the World Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the Techno-Economic feasibility study conducted through M/s RITES, the integrated canal system

between Kakinada and Mercaunam in Andhra Pradesh and Tamilnadu i.e. Kakinada Canal, Eluru canal, Commamur canal, north Buckingham canal and South Buckingham canal integrated with river Godavari from Cherla to Rajahmundry and Krishna river from Nagarjuna Sagar Dam to Vijaywada, has been found viable for IWT development. The total volume of traffic estimated to be handled by IWT is 6.41 million Tonnes by the year 2011-12.

(c) The declaration of this waterway system as a National Waterway and subsequent development thereof would depend upon the availability of funds.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

### Construction of Dallirajhara-Rowghat-Jagdalpur Rail Line

1120. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made in regard to construction of Dallirajhara-Rowghat-Jagdalpur rail line; and

(b) the time by which it is expected to be Completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Dallirajhara-Jagdalpur new line is to be constructed on cost-sharing basis among the Ministry of Railways, Steel Authority of India (SAIL), National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) and State Government of Madhya Pradesh. The first phase of this railway line from Dallirajhara to Rowghat is to be constructed entirely at the cost of M/s SAIL, as the line is primarily meant for transportation of iron ore to the Bhilai Steel Plant. M/s SAIL have not yet deposited the cost of this project with the Railways. The work will be taken up as soon as the cost is deposited by them, once they receive the requisite environmental clearance.

[English]

### Intensive Oil Exploration Measures

1121. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :  
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :  
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

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

(a) whether various enhanced oil recovery schemes and intensive oil exploration measures had been initiated by the oil companies in the past few months have started to yield results;

(b) whether in one of the first positive signs, crude oil production in the country was 2 per cent higher than the target set for November, 2000;

(c) if so, the extent to which it was more in comparison to earlier months;

(d) whether any new target has been set up for 2001-02; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps to achieve the targets?

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) To improve the recovery factor from existing major oil fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes have been/are being implemented by the national oil companies, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL). The production of crude oil by the national oil companies and Private/Joint Venture companies in November 2000 was 2.708 Million Metric Tonne (MMT) as against the target of 2.627 MMT i.e. about 3% higher than the target.

(c) The position regarding the month-wise crude oil production by ONGC, OIL and Private/JV companies during the initial 7 months of the year 2000-01 was as follows:-

Month	April 2001	May	June	July	August	Septem- ber	Octo- ber
Quantity (MMT)	2.55	2.71	2.68	2.78	2.76	2.69	2.77

(d) and (e) For the year 2001-02 a target of 32.30 MMT (BE) has been fixed for crude oil production by ONGC, OIL and Private/JV companies as given below:-

ONGC	25.00 MMT
OIL	3.45 MMT
Pvt./JV Companies	3.85 MMT
Total	32.30 MMT

Several important steps have been taken 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; in particular Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has taken up 15 fields for this purpose at an estimated investment of Rs. 10,000 crore, which would also help in accelerating oil production from these fields.
- (ii) To increase exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP); under the first round of NELP, 24 Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) have been signed and 25 blocks have been offered under the second round of NELP, with bid closing date of 31.3.2001.
- (iii) To attract technology and investment; PSCs for 9 discovered fields, 8 in Gujarat and 1 in Assam, were signed on 23.2.2001 with consortia of Indian and foreign companies.
- (iv) To explore in new areas, especially in deep water and difficult frontier areas, as also explore in the deeper layers of the producing fields.
- (v) To develop faster the newly discovered fields and to step up the use of new technologies for seismic surveys, work over and stimulation operations, drilling of wells etc. in producing areas.

#### Defence Cooperation with Russia

1122. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :  
SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO :  
SHRI GEORGE EDEN :  
SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any specific agreement has been reached with Russia for purchase of T-90 tanks;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure involved therein;

(c) whether some Aircraft, including MI-17 helicopters are also proposed to be acquired from Russia;

(d) if so, the delivery schedule of the same and the terms and conditions laid down for their maintenance;

(e) whether the Government also propose to hire KH-22 Bomber, equipped with Missiles; and

(f) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir. A contract has been signed for procurement of T-90S tanks on 15th February, 2001.

(b) 310 T-90S tanks of which 124 numbers are in fully formed condition and 186 numbers in Semi Knocked Down/Completely Knocked Down form to be assembled in India, together with transfer of technology to take up production of the tanks in India.

The expenditure involved is as under:

(i) 124 numbers fully formed T-90 Tanks at a cost of Rs. 1401.2068 Crore.

(ii) 186 numbers of Semi Knocked Down and Completely Knocked Down tanks at a cost of Rs. 2225.9752 Crore.

(c) A contract for 40 numbers MI-17-IV helicopters was signed on 25th May, 2000 at a cost of 170 million US Dollars.

(d) The helicopters are being assembled in India and till date 16 helicopters have been handed over to the IAF. The delivery of all the helicopters will be completed by August, 2001. IAF personnel have been trained in Russia on systems not common with the existing fleet of MI-17 and the maintenance facilities for these new helicopters do exist with the IAF. A team of Russian specialists is available in India during the warranty period of one year to provide technical assistance, if required.

(e) and (f) The matter is under consideration.

#### Power Deficiencies

1123. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :  
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :  
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :  
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :  
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :  
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :  
SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have assessed the deficiencies of power sector which are costing the nation

Rs. 50,000 crore annually because of various factors including thefts and slippages of transmission and distribution;

(b) if so, the details of steps taken/being taken thereof for reforms in the power sector indicating the plan of action for such reforms;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to provide financial assistance to States for plugging the loopholes and to overcome their losses;

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

(e) the concrete steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to reduce the losses in power sector indicating the action plan drawn for such reforms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (e) Various studies and the deliberations in the Chief Ministers'/Power Ministers' Conferences at regular intervals have clearly brought out that the primary factors responsible for the unsatisfactory health of the power sector are high transmission and distribution losses including pilferage and theft of power, low realisation and non-viable tariff structure leading to an increasing gap between the cost of supply and realisation per unit. Since supply of electricity to consumers is still not fully metered, it is difficult to undertake energy audit and assess actual losses on account of power theft etc. However, more accurate estimation in the States undergoing reforms indicate that the losses on account of T&D, theft and pilferage are actually much higher as revealed by the following figures :-

State	T&D Losses (%)	
	Before reform	After reform
Orissa	23	51
Andhra Pradesh	25	45
Haryana	32	47
Rajasthan	26	43

It has been recognised that restoration of viability of the distribution sector is key to improving the health of the power sector. Distribution is the responsibility of the States and the magnitude of the problems afflicting the sector calls for a concerted action by them.

Electricity being a concurrent subject, the Government of India has taken several initiatives to encourage reforms in States. The Electricity Regulatory Commission Act, 1998 has been enacted with a view to rationalize tariff, transparent policies towards subsidies etc. Central Electricity Regulatory Commission has been constituted and has started functioning. This Act enables State Government to set up State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs). So far 15 States have notified constitution of SERCs. SERCs of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, U.P., Gujarat, Karnataka and Haryana have already issued tariff orders.

With a view to expedite power sector reforms particularly in distribution, the Government of India has taken several steps. The Conference of Chief Ministers' Power Ministers' held in February 2000 resolved that reform must be undertaken with determination, vigour and a sense of urgency. The key elements of the reforms strategy are:-

- (i) Energy Audit at all levels.
- (ii) Time-bound programme of 100% metering of all consumers by December, 2001.
- (iii) Reduction and finally, elimination of power theft within a specified time frame.
- (iv) Strengthening/upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution system by taking sub-station as an unit on a priority basis.

It was also agreed that if the above appears unattainable in the existing set up, corporatization/cooperatisation/privatisation of distribution would have to be undertaken. The Government of India is also signing MOUs on reforms with States whereby the States commit to achieve definite milestones to reduce T&D losses, eliminate theft, improved billing and collection, setting up of functional SERCs etc. Government of India offers financial support through the Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) and additional allocation of power from unallocated share of central pool etc. So far, the States of Karnataka, U.P., M.P., Haryana and Gujarat have signed MOUs.

#### **Power Trading Corporation**

1124. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to set up Power Trading Corporation;
- (b) if so, the functioning of the Corporation;

(c) whether such type of Corporations are working in other countries also; and

(d) if so, the details of studies conducted by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The revised mega power policy announced by the Government in 1998 envisaged establishment of a power trading company for purchase/sale of power from the identified mega power projects. Power Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (PTC) has been incorporated on April 16, 1999 with the major objective of buying power from mega power projects under long term Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) and selling the power to the beneficiary States also under long-term PPAs. The Articles of Association of PTC, inter-alia, provide for purchase of power from Independent Power Producers, Captive Power Plants, generating companies/transmission companies, State Electricity Boards etc. and sale of the same to the above said agencies or the bulk consumers of power.

(c) and (d) The concept of trading of power has already been introduced successfully in several countries like the USA, UK, Australia, Norway, Sweden, etc. No study has been commissioned or conducted by the Government of India in this regard.

#### **Upgradation of LPG/CNG Marketing Network in Southern States**

1125. SHRI S.D.N.R WADIYAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for upgrading the marketing and distribution network of LPG and CNG in southern States and particularly in Mysore and Bangalore; 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) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies make the plans for setting up of LPG distributorships in the country including Southern States depending upon the economic viability of the locations from time to time. At present, in Southern States the following number of LPG distributorships are operating as on 1.10.2000 :-



Name of State	Number of distributorships
Andhra Pradesh	568
Karnataka	375
Kerala	246
Tamil Nadu	467

At present, there is no distribution network for CNG in Southern States.

[Translation]

#### US and British Warships Captured in Indian EEZ

1126. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :  
SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY :  
SHRI A. NARENDRA :  
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA :  
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the warships of America and Britain were captured recently surveying the maritime areas of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the follow-up action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) On 28th November, 2000, a US Navy Survey Vessel USNS Bowditch was detected 30 Nautical Miles East of Car Nicobar. On investigation, the ship indicated that it was carrying out oceanographic survey.

On 6th December, 2000, a UK Royal Navy Vessel HMS Scott was sighted at about 190 Nautical Miles from Diu on the West Coast of India. The ship indicated that it was carrying out military survey for the Ministry of Defence of UK and had declined to furnish any further information. The ship was again detected to be operating 90 to 138 Nautical Miles from Porbandar during 12-16 January, 2001.

(c) The Government regards the operation by the US and UK Naval vessels within the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) as violation of the United Nations Convention on the Laws of the Sea III (UNCLOS III) and

the Indian Maritime Zones Act, 1977, as its prior approval was not obtained for conducting such operations. A strong protest with the US Government through its Embassy in Delhi has been lodged. The Government also took up the matter with the British High Commission in Delhi expressing India's concerns on such unauthorized operations in our EEZ. It has been conveyed to both the Governments that such activities without prior approval of the Government of India will not be permitted in the Indian EEZ.

[English]

#### Bureaucrat-PSU Nexus

1127. SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :  
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :  
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :  
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Electricity Regulatory Commission criticized the bureaucratic-PSU nexus which is costing the consumers badly;

(b) if so, whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in 'The Statesman' dated January 19, 2001 in this regard;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to remove bureaucratic hurdles in the functioning of various PSUs in power sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Government's attention has been drawn to the news item. However, there has been no communication/reference from the CERC to this effect.

(c) and (d) The question does not arise.

#### Expansion of Thermal Power Plants

1128. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Thermal Power Plants proposed to be expanded during the Ninth Plan; and

(b) if so, the total MW of power expected to be added in these Thermal Power Plants after their expansion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF  
POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The

details of thermal plants proposed to be expanded/already  
expanded during the 9th Plan period are enclosed as statement.

**Statement**

Sl. No.	Name of the Thermal Power Plants & State/Impl Agency	Unit No. & Cap. (MW) Proposed to be added		Actual (A)/Expected date of Commissioning
		Unit No.	Capacity (MW)	
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Godavari CCGT AP/Spectrum Power Gen. Ltd.	GT-I	47	21-Jun-1997(A)
		ST	67	31-Mar-1998(A)
2.	Jegrupadu CCGT-II AP/GVK Ind. Ltd.	ST	77	20-Jun-1997(A)
3.	Kothagudem-IV AP/APGENCO	U-10	250	28-Feb-1998(A)
4.	Gandhi Nagar TPS Gujarat/GEB/GSECL	U-5	210	17-Mar-1998(A)
5.	Hazira WHRU Gujarat/Essar Power	ST	185	26-May-1997(A)
6.	Wanakbori TPS Gujarat/GEB/GSECL	U-7	210	31-Dec-1998(A)
7.	Panipat TPS Haryana/HPGCL	U-6	210	3/2001
8.	Raichur TPS Karnataka/KPCL	U-5	210	31-Jan-1999(A)
		U-6	210	22-Jul-1999(A)
9.	Chandrapur TPS Mah./MSEB	U-7	500	01-Oct-1997(A)
10.	Khaparkheda TPS Mah./MSEB	U-3	210	31-May-2000(A)
		U-4	210	07-Jan-2001(A)
11.	Sanjay Gandhi TPS MP/MPEB	U-3	210	28-Feb-1999(A)
		U-4	210	23-Nov-1999(A)
12.	Vindhyachal TPS MP/NTPC	U-7	500	03-Mar-1999(A)
		U-8	500	26-Feb-2000(A)
13.	Rokhia GT Ph.II Tripura/Govt. of Tripura	U-6	8	05-Aug-1997(A)
14.	Tanda TPS UP/UPSEB	U-4	110	20-Feb-1998(A)
15.	Unchahar TPS St.II UP/NTPC	U-3	210	27-Jan-1999(A)
		U-4	210	22-Oct-1999(A)

1	2	3	4	5
16.	Neyveli Lignite TPS St.III TN/NLC	U-1 U-2	210 210	Nov-2001 May-2002
17.	Mejia TPS WB/DVC	U-3	210	25-Mar-1998(A)
18.	Lakwa WH Assam/Govt. of Assam	WH	47.50 (Revised to 38 MW)	Slipping from 9th Plan
19.	Kutch Lignite TPS Gujarat/GEB	U-3	75	2-Apr-1997
20.	Rokhia GT Extension Ph-II Tripura/Govt. of Tripura	U-7	21	3/2002

#### Hate Campaigns and Communal Rantings

1129. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :  
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :  
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

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

(a) whether the Election Commission has received some memoranda from various organizations to take immediate steps to ensure that hate campaigns and communal rantings of 'from' and 'sisters' organizations of some political parties be brought within the purview of election law;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (c) The Election Commission has informed that during elections, a large number of complaints/representations from various political parties, organizations, candidates, etc. are received raising various charges and counter-charges. The Election Commission has stated that it looks into these complaints/representations and takes action wherever necessary and as such it is difficult to furnish details since no specific memoranda have been mentioned in the Question.

#### Computerised Reservation at Chandausi Railway Station

1130. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal is pending to provide computerised reservation facilities at Chandausi railway station of Moradabad Division in Northern Railway; 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. Provision of computerized reservation facilities at Chandausi Railway Station has been included in the Works Programme 2001-2002. This work is likely to be commissioned in 2002-2003.

#### Investment by ONGC

1131. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :  
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

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

(a) whether ONGC has decided to invest about 20,000 crores for recovery of enhanced oil from the Indian oil fields;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether production from Mumbai High has been coming down continuously;

(d) if so, the details of production of Mumbai High during the last three years, year-wise;

(e) the reasons for decrease in production;

(f) whether to increase the production of Mumbai High, ONGC has planned to inducted foreign companies to enhance the recovery; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) ONGC proposes to carry out Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) programmes in 15 of its major fields, including Mumbai High at a total cost of Rs. 10,000 crores spread over 6 to 7 years.

The IOR programme in the 15 fields is projectised into 19 schemes out of which 10 schemes costing Rs. 4742 crores have been approved by the ONGC management and the implementation of the schemes has started.

(c) and (d) Over the last three years, production from Mumbai High has been declining as given below:

Year	Oil production (Million Metric Tonne)
1997-98	12.44
1998-99	11.59
1999-2000	10.15

(e) The Mumbai High field, discovered in 1974, was put on production in 1976 and reached plateau production between 1984-85 to 1989-90. Thereafter the field has gone into a declining phase, which is a natural process in aging fields.

(f) and (g) ONGC may consider associating reputed international service companies in the execution of the IOR programme with the objective of inducting latest technology and best practices.

[Translation]

#### Budgetary Assistance to PU in Power Sector

1132. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the budgetary assistance being provided to the public undertakings in power sector has been cut down;

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

(c) whether there is a adverse affect on the public sector undertakings functioning under the ministry;

(d) if so, whether the Government intend to take some steps to help public sector undertakings emerge from financial crisis; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Net Budgetary Support (NBS) for the Power Sector has been increasing. The NBS (BE) for the last three years has been as under :-

1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
1804.18	1974.73	2086.99

(Figs. In Rs. Crores)

(c) to (e) Question does not arise.

[English]

#### Entitlement of T.A. to Doctors of A.M.S.

1133. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether non-practising allowance payable to Army Medical Service (AMS) doctor is not considered as part of pay for computing their travelling allowance entitlement as is done in the case of other Central Health Service doctors;

(b) if so, the reasons for this discrimination;

(c) whether this practice has lately been reviewed by the Government; and

(d) if so, the decision taken in the matter to bring AMS doctors at par with other Central Government Medical Doctors in the matter of entitlement to travelling allowance?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Non-practising allowance is considered as a part of Pay for the purpose of travelling allowance

**entitlement of the Army Medical Services (AMS) doctors, as in the case of the Central Health Service doctors.**

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

#### **Utilisation of Allocated Funds**

**1134. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU :** Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) the total outlay approved for the modernisation of the Dredging Corporation of India;

(b) the details of amount spent during the first quarter of the year therein;

(c) whether the Government have not utilised the total outlay approved for the said Corporation; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) The approved Plan outlay is Rs. 595.00 crores of which Rs. 497.36 crores is for modernisation.

(b) The amount spent during the first quarter of the year 2000-2001 is Rs. 86.9 crores.

(c) No financial support has been provided to Dredging Corporation of India during the year 2000-01. Out of the approved outlay of Rs. 595 crores, the anticipated expenditure is Rs. 546 crores to be met entirely from Dredging Corporation of India's Internal resources and commercial borrowings.

(d) The shortfall in utilisation of the approved outlay is on account of appreciation of Rupee with respect to Dutch Guider and non-finalisation of order for replacement of Dredger VII.

#### **Compensation to the Victims**

**1135. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the cases of compensation of Rail accidents settled by the Government during the last one year and the amount paid as compensation;

(b) whether the Government propose to enhance the ex-gratia payment to accident victims in all the categories;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps taken to reduce the time taken by the Government to extend medical assistance on long-term basis to accident victims;

(e) whether the Government propose to frame norms for compensating each accident victims; and

(f) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) 645 cases of compensation in Rail accidents were settled and an amount of Rs. 10.96 crores was paid as compensation during 1999-2000.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) A statement is attached.

(e) and (f) Under the Railway Accidents and Untoward Incidents (Compensation) Amendment Rules, 1997, norms have already been fixed for paying uniform scale of compensation to each accident victim as under:-

(i) Rs. 4 lakhs for death and permanent disability.

(ii) Rs. 32,000/- to Rs. 3,60,000/- depending upon the gravity of the injury.

#### **Statement**

Top priority is given to rush the medical teams to the accident site and to extend medical assistance to the victims. Besides, existing Accident Relief Medical Equipments, seven self propelled ARMEs of very high speed and equipped with modern gadgets are available and three more are under manufacture. These are kept in proper preparedness by conducting mock drills and trial runs. A database of non-railway medical facilities in the vicinity of Railway tracks has been compiled and is made available at various places which will enable the Railways to seek the help of such organisations in emergencies at the time of need even before the arrival of Railway Rescue and Relief Teams particularly when the accident site is located away from Railway Medical Establishments or when the same is inaccessible for any reason. The data includes name of the in-charges, the facilities available, approximate distance from the railway tracks, the phone number, fax number, etc. This data is being constantly updated duly incorporating changes if any in telephone numbers or any addition or deletion of the facilities, etc. Instructions exist that such facilities are to be contacted simultaneously on

priority while rushing the medical teams so that rescue can be rendered without losing precious time to save lives and limbs.

[Translation]

### Lok Adalats in Bihar

1136. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases relating to accident claims disposed off by Lok Adalats in Bihar during the last three years; and

(b) the number of cases still pending despite written mutual consent submitted by the concerned parties?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) The number of Accident Claims Cases disposed of by Lok Adalat in Bihar during the last three years is as under :-

Year	Accident Claims Cases Disposed of
1998	451
1999	545
2000	734

(b) No such case is pending for disposal.

### Comprehensive Power Policy

1137. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received a report submitted by the Task Force to study various aspects of bringing down cost of power production and evolving comprehensive power policy;

(b) if so, the details of the main observations and recommendations made by the Task Force;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the details of action taken/proposed to be taken thereon along with short and long term action plan formulated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The Government has set up an Inter Disciplinary Group under

the Chairmanship of Special Secretary (Power) in the context of the need to reduce the cost of delivered power to the end users and bring total transparency in the bidding process of power projects. Evolving a comprehensive power policy is, however, not a term of reference of the Group. The Inter-disciplinary Group has deliberated upon and consulted experts on various issues. The Group is yet to submit its report.

(b) to (d) The questions do not arise at this stage.

[English]

### Creation of New Courts

1138. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government allocate 50 per cent funds to the State Governments for the creation of new courts;

(b) if so, the amount allocated to the various States during the last three years for the purpose, State-wise;

(c) whether any proposal is pending with the Union Government to allocate more funds for constituting additional courts for speedy disposal of cases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) No, Sir.

However, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of infrastructural facilities for the judiciary is in operation since 1993-94. Allocations to the State Governments/Union territory Administrations are made on the basis of norms fixed by the Planning Commission. Accordingly, the State Governments are required to contribute equivalent matching share against the funds released by the Central Government. The State Governments are free to spend more than their matching share.

(b) A statement showing the amount released to various States during the last three years is attached.

(c) On the basis of the recommendation of the 11th Finance Commission, the Government has sanctioned a scheme for creation of 1734 courts in the States @ Rs. 29 lakhs per court. An amount of Rs. 502.90 crore has been allocated for the purpose.

(d) Statements II & III indicating the number of courts proposed to be set up in various States and the amounts allocated are attached.

**Statement-I**

*Amount released to various States during the Last Three Years under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme relating to Development of Infrastructural Facilities for the Judiciary*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No	State	Amount released during		
		1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001 so far
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	382.60	405.05	547.71
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	21.00	25.30	15.89
3.	Assam	134.00	280.00	330.00
4.	Bihar	297.48	314.93	430.52*
5.	Goa	36.00	39.00	58.00
6.	Gujarat	171.70	181.78	246.29
7.	Haryana	81.89	86.70	118.52
8.	Himachal Pradesh	36.00	39.00	58.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	36.00	39.00	59.00
10.	Karnataka	249.33	263.96	368.01
11.	Kerala	166.15	175.90	243.26
12.	Madhya Pradesh	305.87	323.82	438.17+
13.	Maharashtra	328.17	374.43	474.95
14.	Manipur	42.00	45.00	Nil
15.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	Nil
16.	Mizoram	42.00	45.00	60.00
17.	Nagaland	42.00	45.00	60.00
18.	Orissa	195.09	284.17	282.34
19.	Punjab	87.72	92.87	126.95

1	2	3	4	5
20.	Rajasthan	235.64	249.47	341.03
21.	Sikkim	36.00	39.00	60.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	330.02	349.39	477.62
23.	Tripura	42.00	45.00	60.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	731.61	774.54	1058.82++
25.	West Bengal	492.71	521.63	705.81
Total		4276.27	5012.94	6620.89

\* Includes an amount of Rs. 52.75 lakhs released to Jharkhand.

+ Includes an amount of Rs. 57.08 lakhs released to Chhattishgarh.

++ Includes an amount of Rs. 25.82 lakhs released to Uttaranchal.

**Statement-II**

*State-wise break-up of additional courts*

S.No.	Name of the State	No. of Courts
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	86
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5
3.	Assam	20
4.	Bihar	183
5.	Chhattisgarh	31
6.	Goa	5
7.	Gujarat	166
8.	Haryana	36
9.	Himachal Pradesh	9
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	12
11.	Jharkhand	89
12.	Karnataka	93
13.	Kerala	37
14.	Madhya Pradesh	85

1	2	3
15.	Maharashtra	187
16.	Manipur	3
17.	Meghalaya	3
18.	Mizoram	3
19.	Nagaland	3
20.	Orissa	72
21.	Punjab	29
22.	Rajasthan	83
23.	Sikkim	3
24.	Tamil Nadu	49
25.	Tripura	3
26.	Uttar Pradesh	242
27.	Uttaranchal	45
28.	West Bengal	152
Total		1734

**Statement-III**

*Funds recommended by EFC and grant released  
Under Judicial Administration upto 17.11.2000*

(Rupees in crore)

Sl. No.	State	Recommended by EFC		Released 2000-01
		2000-05	2001-01	
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	25.00	10.06	2.52
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.31	0.53	0.13
3.	Assam	5.89	2.37	0.59
4.	Bihar	52.96	21.30	5.33
5.	Chhattisgarh	8.79	3.54	0.88
6.	Goa	1.39	0.56	0.14
7.	Gujarat	48.22	19.39	4.85
8.	Haryana	10.50	4.22	1.06

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2.70	1.09	0.27
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	3.34	1.34	0.34
11.	Jharkhand	25.77	10.36	2.59
12.	Karnataka	27.02	10.87	2.72
13.	Kerala	10.87	4.37	1.09
14.	Madhya Pradesh	24.71	9.94	2.49
15.	Maharashtra	54.08	21.75	5.44
16.	Manipur	1.00	0.40	0.10
17.	Meghalaya	1.00	0.40	0.10
18.	Mizoram	1.00	0.40	0.10
19.	Nagaland	0.91	0.37	0.09
20.	Orissa	20.74	8.34	2.09
21.	Punjab	8.29	3.33	0.83
22.	Rajasthan	24.07	9.68	2.42
23.	Sikkim	1.00	0.40	0.10
24.	Tamil Nadu	14.12	5.68	1.42
25.	Tripura	0.82	0.33	0.08
26.	Uttaranchal	13.04	5.24	1.31
27.	Uttar Pradesh	70.22	28.24	7.06
28.	West Bengal	44.14	17.75	4.44
Total		502.90	202.27	50.56

**FDI in Power**

1139. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering proposal to allow 100 per cent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in power trading through the automatic route; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) In order to optimally utilize available resources, encourage competition and in line with the policy for 100% foreign



direct investment (FDI) in respect of projects for electric generation, transmission and distribution (other than atomic reactor power plants), the Government is considering a proposal to allow 100% FDI for power trading on the automatic route.

### Strike in Railways

1140. SHRI C.N. SINGH Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of strike took place in Indian Railways during the last three years till date, year-wise and zone-wise;

(b) the reasons for each strike;

(c) the loss suffered by the Indian Railways in each case;

(d) whether the Government propose to impose ban on strikes; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No strike took place in Indian Railways during the last three years (till date).

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

### Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express Trains

1141. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Rajdhani and Shatabdi express trains running in the country as on date;

(b) the details of the route of the said trains;

(c) whether these trains are earning profits; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) A list is attached as statement.

(c) and (d) Neither earnings nor expenditure is booked train-wise, therefore, profitability of individual trains is not maintained.

### Statement

#### Shatabdi Expresses

1. 2011/2012 Chandigarh-Delhi Shatabdi Express via Ambala.
2. 2015/2016 New Delhi-Ajmer Shatabdi Express via Rewari, Jaipur.
3. 2009/2010 Mumbai-Ahmadabad Shatabdi Express via Vadodara, Surat
4. 2019/2020 Howrah-Bokaro Steel City Shatabdi Express via Asansol, Dhanbad.
5. 2027/2028 Mumbai-Pune Shatabdi Express via Kalyan.
6. 2013/2014 Amritsar-New Delhi Shatabdi Express via Ambala, Ludhiana, Jalandhar.
7. (a) 2029/2030 Amritsar-Delhi Swarn Shatabdi Express (6 days a week) via Ambala, Ludhiana, Jalandhar.  
(b) 2031/2032 Amritsar-Delhi Shatabdi Express (weekly) via Ambala, Ludhiana, Jalandhar.
8. 2017/2018 New Delhi-Dehradun Shatabdi Express via Meerut, Saharanpur.
9. 2001/2002 New Delhi-Bhopal Shatabdi Express Agra, Gwalior.
10. 2003/2004 New Delhi-Lucknow Shatabdi Express via Kanpur.
11. 2007/2008 Mysore-Chennai Shatabdi Express via Bangalore.
12. 2021/2022 Rourkela-Howrah Shatabdi Express via Kharagpur, Tatanagar.
13. 2005/2006 New Delhi-Kalka Shatabdi Express via Ambala, Chandigarh.

#### Rajdhani Expresses

1. 2953/2954 Mumbai-Nizamuddin August Kranti Rajdhani via Kota, Ratlam, Vadodara.
2. 2429/2430 Bangalore-Nizamuddin Rajdhani via Bhopal, Nagpur, Secunderabad.
3. 2431/2432 Nizamuddin-Trivandrum Rajdhani via Mathura, Kota, Vadodara, Madgaon, Calicut, Shoranur, Ernakulum.
4. 2423/2424 Dibrugarh/Guwahati-New Delhi Rajdhani via Kanpur, Mughalsarai, Patna, Katihar.

5. 2435/2436 New Delhi-Guwahati Rajdhani via Moradabad, Lucknow, Varanasi, Barauni, Katihar, Guwahati.
6. 2421/2422 Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani via Allahabad, Mughalsarai, Gaya, Howrah, Kharagpur.
7. 2305/2306 Howrah-New Delhi Rajdhani via Allahabad, Mughalsarai, Patna, Asansol
8. 2313/2314 New Delhi-Sealdah Rajdhani via Allahabad, Mughalsaria, Gaya, Dhanbad.
9. 2957/2958 Ahmadabad-New Delhi Rajdhani via Rewari, Jaipur, Ajmer.
10. 2433/2434 Chennai-Nizamuddin Rajdhani via Bhopal, Nagpur, Vijaywada.
11. 2301/2302 Howrah-New Delhi Rajdhani via Allahabad, Mughalsaria, Gaya, Asansol.
12. 2425/2426 Jammu Tawi-New Delhi Rajdhani via Ambala, Ludhiana, Jalandhar.
13. 2951/2952 Mumbai-New Delhi Rajdhani via Kota, Ratlam, Vadodara.
14. 2309/2310 New Delhi-Patna Rajdhani via Kanpur, Allahabad, Mughalsarai.

[English]

#### Conservation Work by ASI

1142. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the conservation of certain monuments were not carried out for years together due to inadequate funds and lack of detailed report from the respective Superintending Archaeologist;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the list of such monuments which need to be conserved, circle-wise;
- (c) whether the Government have approached any foreign funding agencies like the UNESCO or any other foreign country for financial assistance to carry out conservation works; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) It is the constant endeavour of the Archaeological Survey of India to maintain its Monuments in good shape.

Works relating to structural conservation chemical preservation and environmental development of Monuments are taken up as per the intense priority of the Monuments and the availability of funds.

(c) and (d) The details are attached as statement.

#### Statement

*Financial assistance has been received from UNESCO in respect of the following*

- (a) Conservation of Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi and Satdhara in Madhya Pradesh.
- (b) Scientific investigations of Sun Temple, Konark.
- (c) Preservation of Taj Mahal & other Monuments in Agra.
- (d) Organising a SITE MANAGEMENT WORK-SHOP at Elephanta.
- (e) Organising a SITE MANAGERS WORKSHOP for World Heritage Monuments at Hospet.

[Translation]

#### Construction of Low Budget Hotels

1143. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government failed to construct hotels for middle class on account of non-availability of land;
- (b) if so, the names of the places where the Government have taken a decision to get the hotels constructed for the middle class during the last three years so far; and
- (c) the price at which the land is available at these places along with the price at which the Government intended to buy the land?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Hotels of all categories are primarily constructed in the private sector. State Governments/UT Administrations also construct some budget accommodation units such as Yatri Niwases, Yatrikas, Tourist Bungalows etc. where private sector participation is unlikely to fructify. The Department of Tourism, Government of India provides Central financial assistance for such projects prioritised in consultation with them every year based on the merit of proposals and availability of funds. Land for such projects is required to be made available by the concerned State Government/UT Administration.

[English]

**Special Technology for Food  
Grade Jute Bags**

1144. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Jute Industry Research Associations (IJIRA) has developed a special technology based on Rice Bran Oil to manufacture Food Grade Jute Bags for packing edible items;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether only 17 out of 70 Jute Mills are reported to have the facility to manufacture Food Grade Jute Bags; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefore and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Jute Industry Research Associations (IJIRA) has developed a technology using Rice Bran Oil to manufacture hydro-carbon free jute bags which is commercially known as food grade jute bags. The standard Specification of International Jute Organisation (IJO 98/01) for such jute bags used in packaging selected food items (Cocoa Beans, Coffee Beans and Shelled Nuts) stipulates that the bags should not contain unsaponifiables exceeding 1250 mg./kg; the ingredients used as batching oils shall be non-toxic and approved for use in packing materials that will come in contact with food materials and batching oils shall also not contain compounds that could produce off flavors or off tastes in food materials packed in jute bags.

IJIRA developed RBO technology for commercial production of (Hydrocarbon free) jute bags suitable for packing of selected food items. RBO is non-toxic and biodegradable. It is unique in terms of high thermal and oxidation stability and therefore reasonably free from rancidity.

(c) At present twenty four (24) jute mills having the facility to use Rice Bran Oil and produce such Jute Products, have obtained license under Process Capability Scheme of IJIRA and are producing hydro-carbon free Jute Products. There are also six converters licensed to buy FGJP cloth from IJIRA licensed mills and convert the same into bags.

(d) Since the technology is available for Commercial use by Indian Jute mills, as and when the demand for these bags increases, more mills are expected to upgrade their process capabilities and obtain licenses from IJIRA.

**Over Staffing of RPF Personnel**

1145. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have been grossly violating the standard staffing pattern envisaged for RPF;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether against 3593 posts of head constables, ASIs, SIs and inspectors, there are 28694 posts sanctioned and working;

(d) whether 19268 RPF personnel were deployed for "other" duties like CSC offices, sports meet, mela duties, VIP escorting etc.; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to utilise the services of RPF assigned to them under the Act?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir. 19268 RPF personnel were not deployed for duties like CSCs offices, Sports Meet, Mela duties, VIP escorting etc., though some staff have been utilised for such duties.

(e) Does not arise as the RPF personnel only are utilised for the work assigned to them under the RPF Act, 1957 and the Rules made thereunder.

**Inquiry Report on Train Accidents in  
Ambala Division**

1146. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :  
SHRI MOINUL HASSAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the commissions set up to enquire into the causes of two major rail disasters in the Ambala Railway Division, have submitted their reports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have examined the reports; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to implement the recommendations?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### **Functioning of Coach Repairing Workshop at Mancheswar**

1147. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Coach repairing workshop at Mancheswar is functioning with full sanctioned strength;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to make full utilization of the workshop?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The post are being operated as per the requirements to meet the targets fixed.

(c) Presently the capacity of the workshop is being utilised as per the requirements of the Railway.

#### **Energy Supply to Metro CCPP**

1148. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has undertaken the study of LNH/Gas supply issue for the implementation of 650 MW Hyderabad Metro CCPP;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether State Government has made its apprehensions that Naphtha is unaffordable due to rising prices;

(d) if so, whether the Government are considering for alternative fuel supply for the said project;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the steps taken or being taken by the Government to find alternative fuel other than Naphtha to the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has examined the possibility of LNG/gas supply issues for 650 MW Hyderabad Metro CCPP. The price of naphtha/LNG is linked to crude oil price. The recent hike in international crude oil price has caused a steep increase in naphtha/LNG prices. At the current naphtha/LNG price, the cost of generation is expected to be very high (over Rs. 4.50 per unit) which will make the tariff unaffordable from such power plants.

(d) to (f) The domestic gas from Krishna-Godavari basin will be the most economic fuel for this project but the possibility of obtaining linkage from this source is very remote and uncertain. Some alternatives to gas from domestic resources like Coal Bed Methane (CBM) and gas hydrates were examined but were not found suitable presently.

#### **Revival of Balmer Lawrie and Company, Kerala**

1149. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received a proposal to revive Balmer Lawrie and Company, Kerala through diversification for production of LPG cylinders etc.; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Balmer Lawrie & Company Limited has been granted permission for the closure of the unit in terms of Industrial Dispute Act on 29th December, 2000 itself and all the workmen have left the services of the company after availing Voluntary Separation Scheme. In view of these circumstances, considering of any revival package at this stage is not desirable.

#### **Palace on Wheel in different States**

1150. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :  
SHRI R.L. JALAPPA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some State Governments have made joint venture with the Railways to start Palace on wheel type of trains in their States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether operational details have been worked out in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Indian Railways have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Maharashtra on 7th February 2001 for running a Palace on wheel type train on Mumbai-Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg-Goa-Pune-Aurangabad (Ajanta & Ellora)-Mumbai circuit.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir, the Railways will provide the bare shells of the rake and all facilities necessary for the operation of the train. The entire cost of furnishing the rake, Air Conditioning and other coach equipment fittings will be borne by the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation who will also be responsible for housekeeping hospitality services and sight-seeing.

(e) The luxury tourist train is likely to start during the current year.

#### Deccan Power Grid

1151. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to establish a separate Power Grid (Deccan Power Grid) for distribution of power supply to Maharashtra and Gujarat considering the rapid industrialization and heavy demand in these two States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether more power is likely to be supplied to Maharashtra from Western Grid till a separate power grid has been established;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) Maharashtra and Gujarat are part of Western Regional Grid. There is no proposal to establish separate Power Grid for Maharashtra and Gujarat. The existing transmission network has sufficient capacity to deliver allocated Central Sector Power to all the states in the Western Region including Maharashtra and Gujarat.

(d) to (f) Maharashtra has been allocated 2022 MW power from Central Sector generating stations in Western Region and is also getting 16% (122 MW) from unallocated quota of Central Sector stations. The allocation of power from out of unallocated quota is periodically reviewed to mitigate power shortages of the constituent states.

[Translation]

#### Sale of Vacant Land

1152. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated a scheme for selling its vacant land to utilise the sale of proceeds for creating funds for its port employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of land lying vacant with its major port trusts;

(d) the funds required for creation of pension fund; and

(e) the methods to be adopted for selling of this land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The details of land lying vacant with the Major Port Trusts are as under:-

Port	Land laying vacant (In acres)
1	2
Cochin	57
Calcutta Dock System	54

1	2
Haldia Dock System	2328
J.L. Nehru	784
Vizag.	2863.72
New Mangalore	288
Paradip	552.07
Kandla	206562
Mormugao	Nil
Mumbai	85
Tuticorin	966.11
Chennai	Nil

(d) Depending on their operating surplus, the Port Trusts transfer funds annually on ad-hoc basis to the Pension Funds created in each Port to meet the pension liabilities.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

#### Funds for Paradeep Port

1153. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount demanded by the Paradeep Port Authorities for renovation, reconstruction and development after the super cyclone of 1999;

(b) the amount sanctioned by the Union Government for this purpose to Paradeep Port Authorities during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001; and

(c) the progress of renovation made by Paradeep Port therein so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (c) An amount of Rs. 68.50 crores was demanded for repair of damaged Port and harbour facilities as well as for providing School-cum-cyclone relief centers in the area adjoining to Paradip Port. The entire amount as demanded by the Paradip Port Trust has been made available by the Government during the fiscal year 2000-01. The repairs and restoration of damaged Port and harbour have been completed and out of total 117 school-cum-cyclone relief

centers to be constructed by Paradip Port Trust, 61 centers have already been completed.

#### Tourism Projects in Kerala

1154. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN :

SHRI P.C. THOMAS :

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN :

SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

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

(a) the names of projects for the development of tourism submitted by the Government of Kerala during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(b) the names of projects cleared and the amount sanctioned and released thereunder by the Union Government during the said period, project-wise;

(c) the progress made by the State Government in the development of tourism; and

(d) the specific plan taken up to focus tourism potentiality of Kerala at national and international level?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The requisite information is given in the statements-I and II.

(c) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territories themselves. However, Central Department of Tourism provides funds on the basis of projects prioritised annually in consultation with them. Proposals prioritised are processed in the Department of Tourism on the basis of inter-se-priority and funds released, subject to availability. However, maintenance and upkeep of tourist places is the responsibility of the State Government/Union Territory concerned.

(d) The Government is attracting foreign as well as domestic tourists by promoting India through its 18 overseas offices including the State of Kerala by advertising in print and Electronic media, participations in travel fairs, interacting with media and travel agents, extensive use of Information Technology in tourism promotions, etc. State Governments/Union Territories also promote and publicise their tourist attractions.

**Statement-I**

*Projects Submitted, Sanctioned and Amount Released during 1999-2000 in  
Respect of the State Government of Kerala*

(Rupees in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the project	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1.	Backwater side amenity, Kotharathode	50.00	15.00
2.	Backwater side amenity Nedumudi	50.00	0.01 (token amount)
3.	Backwater side amenity Vattakkayal	50.00	0.01 (token amount)
4.	Sewerage and solid waste disposal system Integrated development of Kovalam Beach	71.19	21.36
5.	Integrated development of Wagamon Tourist Resort	25.00	7.50
6.	Const. Of wayside amenity at Mannarkkad	75.00	22.50
7.	Integrated development of 98 lakhs to Hill Palace, Kochi	70.00	0.01 (token amount)
8.	Tourist Ayurvedic Health Centre at Kumaradom	7.50	2.25
9.	Tourist Ayurvedic Health Centre at Bolgatti	7.50	2.25
10.	Eco friendly silent generator at Thekkady	38.09	19.05
11.	Integrated development of an eco-friendly Floating Resort at Pathiramanal	100.00	30.00
12.	Integrated development of Road linkages from Thekkady to Munnar	50.00	15.00
13.	TRC (3 Nos. Thekri & Munnar and Vythiri) Rs. 25 Lakhs each)	75.00	22.50
14.	Fairs & Festivals (5 projects)	5.00	2.50
15.	Yatri Niwas at Munnar	98.00	0.01 (token amount)
16.	Arab Dhow Resort in Malabar Region	Proposal Incomplete	
17.	Integrated development of Kottayam-Kumarakom, Nenmara-Nelliyampathy Road, Thiruvananthapuram to Ponmudi and Chalapudi to Wazhachal	Not Approved	

**Statement-II**

*Projects Prioritised, Submitted, Approved and Funds Released during  
2000-2001 in Respect of State Government of Kerala*

(Rupees in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the project	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1	2	3	4
1.	Introduction of high value innovative Water sports based tourism products in the backwaters of Kerala	Proposal Incomplete	—

1	2	3	4
2.	Houseboats in Malabar (8 Nos.)	Proposal Incomplete	
3.	Tourist complex, Thanneermukkom	100.00	30.00 (funds awaited)
4.	Promotion of adventure tourism in Munnar	Proposal Incomplete	
5.	Illumination of SVJT Hall	-do-	
6.	Pay and use Toilates at major city centres	100.00	30.00 (funds awaited)
7.	Procurement of battery operated boats at Periyar Lake, Thekkady	Proposal Incomplete	
8.	Purchase of double hull boat for boating in Shendurune Wildlife Sanctuary Reservoir	-do-	
9.	Proposal for website, maintenance Multimedia and video production	-do-	
10.	Malabar Dhow	-do-	
11.	Landscaping and Gardening of multipurpose cultural complex in Trivandrum	30.00	9.00
12.	Preparation of Master Plan for integrated development of backwaters of the State	Proposal Incomplete	
13.	Restoration of heritage buildings Jewish synagogue, Kottayil Kovilakom, Vaippaikotta seminary and Kottappuram Kotta	31.20	9.36
14.	Elephant festivals	Proposal incomplete	
15.	Ashtamudi Arts & Crafts	-do-	
16.	Malabar Mahotsav	-do-	
17.	Aranmula Boat Race	-do-	
18.	Nehru Trophy Boat Race	-do-	
19.	Indira Gandhi Boat Race	-do-	
20.	Village fair	-do-	
21.	Refurbishment of Museum Napier in Kerala	34.00	10.20 (revalidated during 2000-2001)
22.	Integrated development of Fort Kochi Mattancherry and Jew Town	75.00	22.50 (-do-)
23.	Backwater side amenity at Pallathurthy	50.00	15.00 (sanction revalidated but funds awaited)

**Security Arrangement in Monuments**

1155. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :  
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :  
SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be

pleased to state :

(a) the manner in which security arrangements are made in the historical monuments in the country;

(b) whether the Government have chalked out any plan for security arrangements after Red Fort security lapses;



(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the other steps taken by the Government for preserving and protecting the monuments in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) A mix of monument attendants of the Archaeological Survey of India, Private security and State police personnel are deployed for the security of the centrally protected monuments.

(b) and (c) The arrangements have been further intensified wherever necessary.

(d) It is the constant endeavour of the Archaeological Survey of India to maintain its monuments in good shape; conservation, chemical preservation and environmental development of monuments is taken up as per requirements on site, subject to availability of funds. Fencing of the protected sites has also been stepped up to prevent encroachment.

#### **World Bank Loan for Power Projects in Rajasthan**

1156. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has announced a \$ 180 million loan for restructuring of Power projects in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether restructuring of project is likely to advance the privatisation of Power distribution and promote small scale generation in the State;

(c) if so, the estimated amount to be spent on restructuring of power sector in Rajasthan;

(d) whether losses in Power Sector are likely to be reduced by restructuring of projects; and

(e) if so, the extent thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (e) The World Bank has approved a loan of US \$ 180 million to India for the Rajasthan Power Sector restructuring project in January, 2001. World Bank Investment Loan of US \$ 180 million is intended to be used mainly for strengthening of transmission, sub-transmission and distribution system, installing LT less distribution system, improved metering

and also for improving customer services. World Bank loan is aimed at expediting power sector reforms. Rajasthan has already unbundled its electricity board into one generation, one transmission and three distribution companies. Rajasthan Electricity Regulatory Commission is functional and tariff petitions have been filed by transmission and distribution companies. Rajasthan has also decided to privatise distribution by the year 2002. With rationalisation of tariff, reduction of T&D losses and elimination of theft, the sector is likely to achieve commercial viability.

[Translation]

#### **Export of Petroleum Products**

1157. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :  
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

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

(a) whether several petroleum products are exported from the country;

(b) if so, the names of petroleum products exported during the last three years, year-wise?

(c) the quantum of exports made from the private and public sector separately during the same period; and

(d) the foreign exchange earned by both the sectors separately during the period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The petroleum products exported by oil companies during the last three years, year-wise are as under:-

1997-98 Naphtha/NGL, FO/LSHS

1998-99 Naphtha/NGL

1999-2000 Naphtha/NGL, MS, others (offspec LPG)

(c) The quantum of export of petroleum products made from the private and public sector separately during the last three years are as under:-

	000 Tonnes		
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Public Sector	2381	720	406
Private	—	—	340
Total	2381	720	746

(d) The foreign exchange earned by both the sectors separately during the last three years are as under:-

	US \$ Million		
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Public Sector	355	86	78
Private	—	—	83

[English]

#### Losses to SEBs

1158. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the press news-item captioned "Power hungry politicians suck electricity boards dry" as reported in 'Statesman' dated January 8, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government as well as State Governments have misused and ruined all the SEBs for their own political benefits;

(c) whether due to faulty Government policies the SEBs have suffered losses worth crores of rupees;

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

(e) the corrective steps Government propose to take now in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The main reasons for losses of State Electricity Boards (SEBs) are pilferage and theft of power, high transmission and distribution losses, low realisation and non-viable tariff structure leading to an increasing gap between the cost of supply and realisation per unit.

(e) The Government of India enacted the Electricity Regulatory Commission Act, 1998 with a view to rationalize tariff, have transparent policies towards subsi-

dies etc. The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission has been constituted and has started functioning. This Act enables State Government to set up State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs). So far 15 States have notified constitution of SERCs. SERCs of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, U.P., Gujarat, Karnataka and Haryana have already issued tariff orders.

With a view to expedite power sector reforms particularly in distribution, the Government of India has taken several steps. The Conference of Chief Ministers'/ Power Ministers' held in February 2000 resolved that reform must be undertaken with determination, vigour and a sense of urgency. The key elements of the reforms strategy are:-

- (i) Energy Audit at all levels.
- (ii) Time-bound programme of 100% metering of all consumers by December, 2001.
- (iii) Reduction and finally, elimination of power theft within a specified time frame.
- (iv) Strengthening/upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution system by taking sub-station as an unit on a priority basis.

It was also agreed that if the above appears unattainable in the existing set up, corporatization/cooperatisation/privatisation of distribution would have to be undertaken. The Government of India is also signing MOUs on reforms with States whereby the States commit to achieve definite milestones to reduce T&D losses, eliminate theft, improved billing and collection, setting up of functional SERCs etc. Government of India offers financial support through Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) and additional allocation of power from unallocated share of central pool etc. So far, the States of Karnataka, U.P., M.P., Haryana and Gujarat have signed MOUs.

#### ONGC Exploration in Mumbai High North

1159. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :

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

(a) whether ONGC has started operations at a new field called Mumbai High North recently;

(b) if so, the crude resources estimated to be at this new oil field;

(c) the quantum of crude in million tonnes is planned to be produced from this new field during 2000-01 and 2001-02;

(d) whether this new source will balance the reducing output from the other oil fields at Mumbai High; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to exploit this new well?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) No, Sir. However, Mumbai High North field is a part of Mumbai High Field, which is under development/production since May 1976.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

#### Facilities to Hotel Industry

1160. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the hotel industry has requested the Union Government to abolish hotel expenditure tax and demanded that the State Government should bring their luxury tax level within range of 10 per cent;

(b) if so, whether in addition to this, industry also wants that the expenditure tax should not be charged on foreign guests paying the bills in foreign exchange;

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

(d) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The suggestions received from the Hotel Industry Associations to either abolish Hotel Expenditure Tax altogether or to exempt foreign guests paying bills in foreign exchange from the Tax have been recommended by the Department of Tourism. All the State/Union Territory Governments have also been requested to rationalize their Luxury Tax levels within a range of 10%.

(d) Same as above.

#### NTPC

1161. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "NTPC heading for dark days" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated January 6, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the new tariff and depreciation norms announced by CERC would affect NTPC;

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

(d) the corrective steps the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission has issued orders on Availability Based Tariff (ABT), and Tariff Principles and Norms for Central generating stations including National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) on 15th December, 2000 and 21st December, 2000 respectively. The impact of the above orders as indicated by the NTPC involves a substantial reduction in internal resources generation by NTPC which will adversely affect its capacity addition programme of 20,000 MW by 2012. The total impact pointed out by NTPC over the next 11 years, i.e. upto 2011-12 will be to the tune of Rs. 18,000 crores as per details given below :

Due to increase in Target Availability	Rs. 5,000 Crores
Due to reduction in Depreciation Rates	Rs. 11,000 Crores
Due to adoption of Lower Escalation rates for O&M cost.	Rs. 2,000 Crores
Total	Rs. 18,000 Crores

(d) The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) is an independent statutory body created under the Electricity Regulatory Commissions (ERC) Act, 1998 with powers inter alia to regulate tariff of generating companies owned or controlled by the Central Government and to determine by regulation the terms & conditions for fixation of tariff for such generating companies. In exercise

of the power conferred under the ERC Act, 1998 the CERC has issued the aforesaid orders. However, NTPC has filed a review petition with CERC and has also filed an appeal in Delhi High Court against CERC order on Availability Based Tariff.

#### Rail Link with Srilanka

1162. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to link Rameshwaram (India) with Srilanka (main land) by rail;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Rail links are considered when the need for such a link is evident and where it is felt the project would be viable. There is no such proposal received by this Ministry from any where.

#### Production of Tasar Silk

1163. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the vast scope for increasing Tasar Silk production in various States particularly in Orissa and Jharkhand State;
- (b) if so, the possibility explored to increase Tasar Silk production in these States during the last three years, till date, State-wise; and
- (c) the funds provided thereunder for the said period State-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) to (b) Yes, Sir. The steps taken by Central Silk Board (CSB) during the last three years to increase tasar silk production in the State of Orissa and in the areas now falling within the State of Jharkhand are given as under:

- (i) A sub-programme on Non-Mulberry silk under UNDP-FHAP Programmes in Orissa;
- (ii) A coordinated project on the conservation of wild tasar eco-race in Similipal biosphere, Mayurbhanj district, Orissa;

(iii) Catalytic Development schemes in both States for

- (a) Support to States for up-gradation of seed multiplication infrastructure for tropical tasar;
- (b) Support to co-operatives for popularization of improved reeling and spinning devices for tropical tasar; and
- (c) Crop insurance for tasar.

(iv) Research, seed multiplication, demonstration cum training and technical services and activities through CSB centres located within these States

(c) State-wise expenditure incurred on the above projects/schemes during the period from 1997-98 to 2000-2001 (till December, 2000) is given below:-

(Rs. in lakhs)		
Year	Orissa	Jharkhand
1997-98	125.22	443.32
1998-99	147.78	464.79
1999-2000	203.80	515.48
2000-2001 (till December, 2000)	188.71	452.10

#### Exploration Blocks Offered under NELP

1164. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :  
 SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :  
 SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO :  
 SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :  
 SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :

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

- (a) whether the Government has approved New Exploration Licensing Policy;
- (b) if so, the salient features thereof;
- (c) the number of licenses issued for oil exploration alongwith the names of licensees under the NELP-II so far;
- (d) the basis under which these licenses have been issued;

(e) whether foreign investors have shown interest in the field; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), which provides a level playing field for both private and public sector companies for the award of exploration acreages, was approved by the Government in February, 1997. The salient features of NELP are given in the attached statement-I.

(c) The bids for exploration of oil and gas in 25 blocks under the second round of NELP have been invited on 18.12.2000. Petroleum Exploration License (PEL) will be issued after award of blocks and signing of Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) for the respective blocks.

(d) PEL for the blocks awarded under NELP are issued as per the authority vested under the Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 1959, as amended from time to time.

(e) and (f) As against the first offer of blocks made under NELP, a total of 25 blocks has been awarded. Out of these, 10 exploration blocks have been awarded to the foreign private companies/consortium of companies having foreign companies as member. The company-wise details of these blocks are in the attached statement-II.

#### Statement-I

The broad terms of NELP are as under:-

- No signature, discovery or production bonus.
- No mandatory state participation.
- No carried interest by National Oil Companies (NOCs)
- Income Tax Holiday for seven years from start of commercial production.
- No customs duty on imports required for petroleum operations.
- Biddable cost recovery limit upto 100%.
- Option to amortise exploration and drilling expenditures over a period of 10 years from first commercial production.
- Biddable sharing of profit petroleum based on pre-tax investment multiple achieved by the contractor.
- Royalty for onland areas is payable at the rate of 12.5% for crude oil and 10% for natural gas. For offshore areas, it is payable at the rate of 10% for oil and natural gas. Royalty for discoveries in deep water areas beyond 400 mso-bath will be chargeable at half the applicable rate for offshore areas for the first seven years of commercial production.
- Fiscal stability provision in the contract.
- Freedom to the contractor for marketing of oil and gas in the domestic market.
- Provision for assignment.
- Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1996 will be applicable.

#### Statement-II

Name of Companies/Consortia	Name of Blocks
GAIL-Gazprom	NEC-OSN-97/1
Cairn Energy India Pty. Ltd.	KG-DWN-98/2
Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL)- Niko Resources Ltd. (Niko)	KG-DWN-98/1, KG-DWN-98/3, MN-DWN-98/2, GK-OSN-97/1, KG-OSN-97/2, KG-OSN-97/3, KG-OSN-97/4, KK-OSN-97/2, MB-OSN-97/2, MB-OSN-97/3, NEC-OSN-97/2 & SR-OSN-97/1
Mosbacher Energy-Energy Equity-Hindustan Oil Company Ltd. (HOEC)	CY-OSN-97/1
Geoenpro India Ltd. - Geopetrol International - Enpro India Ltd.	ARP-ONN-97/1

### Tidal Energy

1165. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

- the steps taken to harness the Tidal energy to augment the energy requirement;
- the details of the ongoing schemes; and
- the reasons for neglecting the natural source of non-conventional energy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) Techno-Economic Feasibility Reports have been prepared for 900 MW tidal power plant in the Gulf of Kutch, Gujarat and 3 MW tidal power plant at Durgaduani Creek in Sundarbans, West Bengal. Govt. of Gujarat has carried out a pre-feasibility study for Kalpsar tidal site in Gulf of Cambay, Gujarat.

- The capital investment for harnessing tidal energy is very high, Rs. 10-12 crore per MW and the cost of generation of electricity through this route is also very high, about Rs. 10 to Rs. 12 per kWh.

[Translation]

### New Power Plants in Bihar

1166. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- whether the Government propose to set up new power plants in Bihar particularly in Katihar;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) The following projects have been commissioned so far in Bihar in the Ninth Plan :

Name of Project	Capacity (MW)
1. Eastern Gandak	5
2. Jojobera TPS (U-I)	12

The second Unit of Jojobera TPS (120 MW) is also expected to be commissioned during the Ninth Plan.

The following projects are tentatively proposed to be set up in Bihar in 10th and 11th Plan period:

Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)
Muzaffarpur TPP Extension	2x250
Tenughat Extension	630
Koel Karo	710
North Koel	24
Chandil	8
North Karanpura (NTPC)	1980
Barh (NTPC)	1980
Kahalgaon Stage II (NTPC)	1320
Maithon Right Bank (Joint venture company of DVC and BSES)	1000

The Kahalgaon STPP Stage-II (2x660 MW) and Barh STPP (3x660 MW), both power projects proposed by NTPC in Bihar are under examination for accord of techno-economic clearance by the Central Electricity Authority. Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of the following projects, including Katihar, have been returned to project authorities for want of essential inputs:-

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)
1.	Katihar	2x250
2.	Ray	2x200+4x500
3.	Patratu Extn. St. V	2x210
4.	Kadhawan MPP	5x90
5.	Bgrun St. I	2x500
6.	Patna G.T. Comb. Cycle	2x50+2x30
7.	Barauni G.T. Comb. Cycle	2x50+2x30
8.	Patna TPS	2x67.5
9.	North Karanpura St. I	2x500
10.	Kanhar Pumped Storage Scheme	3x100
11.	Sankh St. II HEP	186

A proposal for setting up of Katihar TPS (2x250) was received in January 1994 from Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB). The proposal was examined in CEA, and for want

of certain essential inputs/clearances the scheme was returned to BSEB in October 1995. There has been no further response in the matter from BSEB.

The pending projects would be considered for techno-economic clearance as soon as necessary inputs/clearances are tied up and clarifications are furnished by the project authorities.

[English]

### **Security Mechanism for Mega Power Projects**

1167. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal for alternative payment security mechanism for mega power projects at Hirma, Ennore and Pipavav as suggested by financial institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the financial implications thereof as conceived by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and financial institutions;

(c) the reaction of the government to the proposal; and

(d) the present status of the proposal and the follow-up action proposed in the regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) Government is considering a new payment security mechanism for large power purchase systems and support to Power Trading Corporation for purchase of power from large power projects in the private sector. The details of the mechanism are being worked out in consultation with the concerned Ministries/Departments of the Government of India and financial institutions.

### **Supply of Gas to RCF by GAIL/ONGC**

1168. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether ONGC/GAIL have reduced the gas supply to RCF in Mumbai whereas the gas supplied to the private industry has been curtailed in the similar proportion to the Government PSUs;

(b) if so, the reasons for short supply and the manner by which the Government has planned to cover it;

(c) whether the Government propose to give more weightage to RCF while considering the quota to the Government PSUs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) In view of the overall shortfall in the availability of natural gas from the Mumbai High fields, the gas supplies to all the consumers ex-Uran have been curtailed by making prorata cuts as compared to their allocations, after giving priority to feedstock consumers like Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited (RCF).

(c) Apart from priority to feedstock consumers, no additional weightage is proposed to be given to the Public Sector Undertakings as compared to other consumers.

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

### **Detection of Track Fractures**

1169. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the South Central Railway has unable to detect track fractures in time;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to hire private firms to detect and repair track fractures in the South Central Railway; and

(d) 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. However, in the tenders invited for procurement of two Self Propelled Ultrasonic Rail Testing (SPURT) cars, option of only service as against supply has also been kept, in which case detection of flaws and fractures may be carried out by the private firm. Repair of rail failures will however continue to be with the Railway.

(d) Does not arise.

### Manufacturing of Sukhoi Jet Fighters

1170. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :  
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :  
SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an agreement has been signed with Russia for manufacture of Sukhoi (SU-30 MKI) jet fighters in India through a collaboration with HAL;

(b) if so, the details thereof; indicating the terms of the agreement;

(c) the steps taken to implement the same;

(d) whether the H.A.L. has, accordingly, started preparation for the same; and

(e) if so, the details of orders placed with H.A.L. in this regard and the expenditure likely to be involved thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The salient features of the Agreement are:-

(i) Licence is transferred to HAL for manufacture of 140 SU-30 MK-I aircraft, their engine and airborne equipment and also additional 920 engines and 140 sets of airborne equipment for catering to maintenance during the expected total life of the aircraft.

(ii) Russian side shall supply all necessary technical documentation relating to various technologies, identified technical equipment including special machines, jigs and fixtures and tooling as well SKD/CKD kits and components; and

(iii) Russian side shall provide necessary technical assistance by deputing Russian specialists and also by training Indian specialists in Russia.

(c) and (d) The General Contract regarding various terms and conditions for Russian supplies has been concluded on 28th December, 2000.

(e) Necessary sanction has been issued, Manufacture of the aircraft under licence involves an expenditure of US \$ 4809.3 million (Rs. 22,122.78 Crores) at year 2000

price level (on the basis of 1 US \$ = Rs. 46.00) spread over a period of 17 years.

[Translation]

### Afforestation Programme in Railways

1171. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any target has been fixed under the afforestation programme in railways in order to earn profit every year;

(b) if so, the break up about the profit and loss in each railways zone under the afforestation programme during the last three years and the current year, till date;

(c) whether the Government propose to encourage the commercial utilization of the railway land through afforestation programmes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Plantation is undertaken on railway land till such time the land is required by Railways for its own use. This helps in improving the environment. In the process, Railways have developed large wealth of trees which have become nature and can be harvested. No profit or loss account is maintained by Railways for such harvesting which is incidental to Railways endeavour to improve ecological balance as also to protect railway land.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. With a view to streamline afforestation over railway land, Railways have decided to undertake plantation through professional groups.

Under the proposed scheme, plantation, protection and management of trees would be done by the professional parties with their resources and the profit would be shared by them with the Railways in pre-determined proportions.

[English]

### Conservation of Monuments

1172. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India has requested the government for the allocation of more financial assistance for the conservation of various monuments in the country;



(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the funds allocated for the conservation of monuments were not fully utilized for the same in some of the Circles;

(d) if so, the reasons therefore; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Rs. 2 Crores have been provided as additional allocation to the Archaeological Survey of India in the Revised Estimates for the current financial year.

(c) Since the current financial year has not yet concluded it will be premature to make any assessment in this regard.

(d) and (e) Question does not arise.

#### **Self Sufficiency in Production of Petroleum Products**

1173. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :  
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

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

(a) the percentage of petroleum being produced indigenously;

(b) whether country's massive dependence on import of petroleum to meet its total energy needs has led to a vulnerability that India faces on account of global oil price fluctuations;

(c) if so, whether experts have suggested some ways to achieve the self-sufficiency in oil production; 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) The level of self-sufficiency in indigenous production of crude oil during 2000-01 taken as a percentage of refining crude throughput has been about 30%

(b) Upward movement of crude oil prices in the international market leads to increase in the import bill and the cost of sourcing of petroleum products by oil marketing companies.

(c) and (d) Several important steps have been taken 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; in particular Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has taken up 15 fields for this purpose at an estimated investment of Rs. 10,000 crore, which would also help in accelerating oil production from these fields.
- (ii) To increase exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP); under the first round of NELP, 24 Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) have been signed and 25 blocks have been offered under the second round of NELP, with bid closing date of 31.3.2001.
- (iii) To attract technology and investment; PSCs for 9 discovered fields, 8 in Gujarat and 1 in Assam, were signed on 23.2.2001 with consortia of Indian and foreign companies.
- (iv) To explore in new areas, especially in deep water and difficult frontier areas, as also explore in the deeper layers of the producing fields.
- (v) To develop faster the newly discovered fields and to step up the use of new technologies for seismic surveys, work over and stimulation operations, drilling of wells etc. in producing areas.

Supplementing the above efforts for increasing oil production in the country, measures are being taken to acquire equity oil from abroad. The gas from Lan Tay/Lan Do fields of Vietnam, where ONGC-Videsh Ltd. (OVL) holds 45% share, is likely to come on stream by the end of 2002. Recently, on 10.2.2001, OVL has signed a major Agreement for acquisition of 20% share in Sakhalin-I offshore in Russia, with an estimated investment of Rs. 8,000 crore. OVL has also signed a contract for Exploration Block No. 8 in Iraq on 28.11.2000. Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) have also been signed by OVL with National Oil Companies of Algeria, Indonesia, Vietnam and Venezuela for co-operation in hydrocarbons exploration and production.

#### **Concession to Textile Industry**

1174. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether during the meeting of the Labour, Textiles and Finance Ministries the representatives of the textile industry have urged the Government for liberal labour laws, removal of import curbs and phasing out of the multi-fibre agreement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the Government have considered their views;

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

(e) the other concessions being provided to the textiles mills in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR) : (a) to (e) There has been no formal joint meeting of Labour, Textile and Finance Ministries with representatives of textile industry on these issues. However, the exporters do raise export related problems including need for removal of import curbs and creation of a labour productive environment for investment and growth at various fora from time to time. Majority of Quantitative restrictions for investment have already been phased out. The Multi-fibre Agreement, governing quota regime would be phased out by 1st January 2005, as agreed under Agreement on Textiles and Clothing.

#### Supply of Solar Power

1175. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of villages in Orissa where solar power is being supplied; and

(b) the details of solar energy units supplied as on December, 2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing a solar photovoltaic (SPV) programme in the country including the state of Orissa. The programme includes deployment of solar lanterns, solar home lighting systems, street lighting systems, solar pumps and power plants for lighting, water pumping and other applications. The programme is implemented through the state renewable energy agencies, manufacturers, 'Aditya' solar shops and reputed non-governmental organisations.

In the state of Orissa, the Orissa Renewable Energy Development Agency (OREDA) is the main agency responsible for the implementation of the programme. The details of photovoltaic systems installed by OREDA in the villages of Orissa up to December, 2000 are as follows:

(i) 5845 solar lanterns distributed in 4713 villages.

(ii) 1447 solar home lighting systems installed in 1208 villages.

(iii) 4974 solar street lighting systems installed in 2675 villages.

In addition, seven stand alone SPV power plants of 37.36 kWp aggregate capacity and three solar pumps have also been installed in the state.

#### Workers in LPG Bottling Plants

1176. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of skilled/unskilled workers in LPG bottling Plants, in the country particularly in the North-eastern Region, district-wise/plant-wise;

(b) the minimum/maximum wages being paid to them by these plants; and

(c) the details of other facilities being provided by each Plant to the workers of bottling Plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Presently, the total number of skilled/unskilled workers working in LPG bottling plants of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies in the country are about 1800 and 3600 respectively. In the North-Eastern region, the number of skilled/unskilled workers are 89 and 93 respectively.

(b) The minimum/maximum wages being paid to the skilled/unskilled workers of bottling plants in North-Eastern Region is given as under:-

	Minimum	Maximum
Skilled	Rs. 4892	Rs. 11241
Unskilled	Rs. 4594	Rs. 8184

(c) The major facilities being extended to the workers of bottling plants are shift allowance, uniform, conveyance allowance, medical facilities, contributory Provident Fund, leave and house rent allowance etc.

#### Functioning of MRVC

1177. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation (MRVC) has become functional;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total acreage of land developed by this Corporation for raising resources to undertake railway works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation (MRVC) has started functioning with effect from 29.04.2000. Functional Directors of the Corporation and essential staff have been posted. MRVC is a Government company under Ministry of Railways with an equity of Rs. 25 crores contributed by the Ministry of Railways and Government of Maharashtra in the ratio of 51:49. The corporation has been set up to execute fourteen rail projects identified under Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP). The estimated cost of these projects is Rs. 5,600 crores. The cost will be shared equally by the Ministry of Railways and Government of Maharashtra.

(c) No land has so far been developed by the Corporation.

#### Setting up of Corporation for Train Services in Mumbai

1178. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a separate Corporation for train services in Mumbai considering heavy traffic and potentials;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set up; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Setting up of a separate Corporation to run train services in Mumbai will entail segregation of the suburban train services with in Mumbai area from the main line train services to the rest of the country. Such a segregation is not operationally feasible and has therefore not been considered.

[Translation]

#### Decline in Prices of Crude Oil in International Market

1179. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :  
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

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

(a) whether the Government have made any agreement with oil producing countries for the import of crude oil when its prices fell in the international market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of countries, the price and date of purchases alongwith quantity for which deals were struck; and

(d) the time by which the crude oil is likely to reach in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Indian Oil Corporation Limited, a canalising agency for import of crude oil for public sector oil refineries has term contracts with various oil exporting countries for the year 2000-2001.

(c) These term contracts are with National Oil Companies of the oil exporting countries at their official selling price (OSP) applicable uniformly for all customers in a region. The purchase process is spread over the entire year.

(d) The crude oil lifting are spread throughout the year.

[English]

#### Trains from Earthquake Area

1180. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the arrangements made by the Government to send thousands of passengers stranded at the earthquake affected areas in Gujarat;

(b) whether the arrangement made in this regard were insufficient; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) 30 trains were run from Gujarat to the other states and 25 trains from the other states to Gujarat between 27-01-2001 and 07-02-2001 for the passengers affected by the earthquake.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Environment Clearance to NTPC and NHPC

1181. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a huge time gap between conceiving the Project and its implementation for want of forests and environment clearance both under NTPC and NHPC;

(b) if so, the details thereof, project-wise since 1980;

(c) whether due to such undue delays results in Cost Escalation of the projects besides delay in implementation; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to minimize such delays?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of time taken in environment and forest clearance of projects under National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) are as follows :

Name of the Project	Approximate period involved in getting clearance (in months)	
	Environment Clearance	Forest Clearance
1	2	3

#### A. NTPC

Talcher-I	24*	—
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1	2	3
Rihand-II	51**	—
Khalagaon-I	19	—
Vindhyachal-II	26**	—
Farakka-III	7	—
Anta-II	15	—
Faridabad GPP	14	—
Talcher II	20	—
Ramagundam-II	11	—
Kawas-II	13	—
Sipat I	21	2
Auraiya II	9	—
Gandhar II	11	—
Dadri Gas II	5	—
Dadri Gas I	5	—
<b>B. NHPC</b>		
Chamera I	9	20
Tanakpur	3	15
Rangit	3	21
Dhauliganga	37	18
Kol Karo	—	48
Teesta-V	15	15

\* Environment clearance was mainly held up pending finalisation of acceptable plan for Rehabilitation and Resettlement and the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF) insisting for forest clearance for the forest land involved.

\*\* Considering the sensitive nature of the Singrauli region, several important environmental issues related to ambient air quality, ash disposal area (specially in view of involvement of submergence of land of Govind Ballabh Pant Sagar, R&R, water quality, consent of UP Government for transfer of submergence land for ash disposal etc. were considered in details by MOE&F.

(c) In case of NHPC projects, such delays results in cost escalation of the projects. However, in case of NTPC projects, time taken for environment and forests clearance has generally not resulted in cost escalation and delay in implementation of the projects.

(d) To get environment and forests clearance for various projects in time, the matter is closely followed up with the concerned authorities in State Government and Ministry of Environment and Forests. Inter-Ministerial meetings with MOE&F are also held to expedite such clearances. As decided by the Ministry of Power, NTPC proposes to create a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for undertaking project related environment protection activities. Creation of Forest Bank envisaged through this SPV may reduce the time for identifying area for compensatory afforestations required in lieu of forest land diverted for project construction and would thus accelerate environment and forest clearance of projects. During discussions in the Ministry, NHPC has also indicated its willingness to join the proposed SPV.

#### **Boundary Wall Around Red Fort**

1182. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Army's proposal for boundary wall around its area in Red Fort was rejected by the Archaeological Survey of India; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) The Archaeological Survey of India has not received any proposal for the construction of a boundary wall inside the Red Fort Delhi.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Completion of Railway Projects**

1183. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the railway projects costing more than Rs. 100 crore that have not been completed as per their target set for completion project-wise;

(b) the cost over-run in respect of these projects for

running behind their respective target time, project-wise and

(c) the present position of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) Due to continuing scarcity of resources, the availability of funds for various projects in any particular year is known only in the beginning of that year. Consequently, when taking up a new project, as the schedule of deployment of funds ahead for that work can not be laid down; it has not been possible to fix time schedule for completion of such works. It is, therefore, not possible to determine the time over-run for the project.

Cost over-run can be calculated in those cases where a time schedule for completion of the project has been fixed and full matching availability of resources is assured. This has not been possible for Railway projects, where the shelf of projects is very large when compared to the availability of resources for deployment. In view of this, it would be difficult to calculate time or cost over-runs for Railway projects.

[Translation]

#### **Pending Cases of Election**

1184. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases relating to election are pending in various courts in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the steps being taken to ensure speedy disposal of these pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) A Statement is enclosed.

(b) Both Government and Judiciary are concerned with pendency of cases in courts including cases relating to election. Further, Section 86(7) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, provides that "Every Election Petition shall be tried as expeditiously as possible and endeavour shall be made to conclude the trial within six months from the date on which the Election Petition is presented to the High Court for trial."

**Statement****Pendency of Cases Relating to Election  
in Various High Courts**

Sl. No.	Name of the High Court	No. of cases	As on
1.	Allahabad	31	9/2000
2.	Andhra Pradesh	41	9/2000
3.	Bombay	36	6/2000
4.	Calcutta	41	6/2000
5.	Delhi	9	12/1999
6.	Guwahati	6	6/1999
7.	Gujarat	15	3/2000
8.	Himachal Pradesh	7	9/2000
9.	J & K	10	9/2000
10.	Karnataka	33	9/2000
11.	Kerala	1	9/2000
12.	Madhya Pradesh	56	9/2000
13.	Madras	11	12/1999
14.	Orissa	7	9/2000
15.	Patna	29	9/2000
16.	Punjab & Haryana	37	9/2000
17.	Rajasthan	17	9/2000
18.	Sikkim	0	9/2000
Total		387	

[English]

**Development of Major Ports**

1185. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) the total capacity out of 122 million tonnes of capacity proposed to be created in the major ports during the Ninth Plan achieved and works so far undertaken in different ports;

(b) the total funds so far allocated to different ports and amount utilized out of 7215 crores earmarked

for the development of major ports during the Ninth Plan;

(c) whether the target fixed for Ninth Plan is likely to be achieved during the stipulated time;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the steps being taken by the Government to achieve the target;

(e) whether replacement of submarines and modernisation of jetties in Mumbai Port has been completed;

(f) If so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) In the first three years of Ninth Plan, the capacity addition in Major Ports is 38.05 Million Tonnes (MT). By 31.3.2001, the total capacity of Major Ports is expected to reach 314 MT. A list of major capacity yielding schemes taken up at various Major Ports and which are at various stages of implementation/completion is given in the statement.

(b) The total approved outlay for Major Ports during Ninth Five Year Plan is Rs. 8543 crores. Details of Plan expenditure incurred by Major Ports during the first four years of Ninth Plan are given below :

(Rupees in Crores)

Year	Approved Plan Outlay	Actual expenditure incurred
1997-98	1002.37	611.85
1998-99	727.00	776.21
1999-2000	1413.70	1296.85
2000-2001 (Upto January, 2001)	1589.99 (Inclusive of Rs. 42.98 crores transferred towards North-East Pool)	588.30

(c) and (d) Some slippage in capacity target of 377 MT is expected. The traffic at Major Ports is not growing as projected by the Ninth Plan Working Group and by the end of Ninth Plan, capacity of Major Ports is expected to be more than the traffic. Thus, no capacity constraint is anticipated.

(e) to (g) The scheme "Replacement of Submarine Pipelines" has been completed in June, 2000. The scheme

"Modernisation of Jetties" is progressing as per schedule and is expected to be completed by March, 2003.

### Statement

*List of Capacity Yielding Major Schemes to be taken up at various Major Ports during 9th Plan*

Sl. No.	Name of the Port/Project	Capacity Addition (in 9th Plan)		Capacity Addition (in 10th Plan)
		Continuing Schemes (In Million tonnes)	New Schemes	
1	2	3	4	5
<b>I. Calcutta/Haldia</b>				
1.	Construction of 3rd Oil jetty		6.00	
2.	Construction of Chemical Handling Jetty		1.50	
3.	Construction of multi-purpose berth in Continuation of berth No. 5		1.50	
4.	Construction of two multipurpose berths			
	Berth No. 12		0.40	
	Berth No. 4A		1.50	
	Total		10.90	
<b>II. Paradip</b>				
1.	Coal handling facilities (ADB Schemes)	20.00		
2.	Construction of oil berth including Reception facilities		6.00	
3.	Construction of second multipurpose cargo berth		1.00	
4.	Construction of Western Quay		2.00	
5.	Captive fertilizer handling facilities		2.50	
	Total	20.00	11.50	
<b>III. Visakhapatnam</b>				
1.	Construction of LPG berth	1.00		
2.	Construction of multi-purpose berth in Inner Harbour	1.00		
3.	Construction of multi-purpose berth at Outer Harbour		0.70	

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Construction of four multipurpose berths in The extended Northern arm of Inner Harbour		2.40	
5.	Construction of Addl. Berth of inner Harbour		0.80	
	Total	2.00	3.90	
<b>IV. Chennai</b>				
1.	Construction of new port at Ennore	8.00	8.00	
2.	Further extension of Container Terminal by 290 metres (Civil Works only)		0.50	
3.	Provision of Additional Container handling Equipments		2.60	
4.	Provision of 3 Nos of 20 MT gantry type Wharf Cranes		1.00	
5.	Modernisation of West quay berths			1.00
6.	Modernisation of SQ III and East quay berths			0.70
	Total	8.00	12.10	1.70
<b>V. Tuticorin</b>				
1.	Container terminal at berth no. 7		2.25	1.35
2.	8th cargo berth		1.50	
3.	Construction of shallow water at (-) 7m depth		0.25	
4.	Capital dredging		3.40	
5.	SEPC Jetty			1.50
	Total		7.40	2.85
<b>VI. Cochin</b>				
1.	LPG/LNG terminal at Pauthuvypean			2.50
2.	Vellarpadam terminal			5.00
	Total			7.50
<b>VII. New Mangalore</b>				
1.	Port facilities for refinery expansion (MRPL)		8.50	
2.	Oil Jetty (multi user)		3.00	
3.	Captive coal berths			4.50



1	2	3	4	5
4.	One berth on BOT basis			4.50
5.	Additional General Cargo berth			0.50
	Total		11.50	9.50
<b>VIII. Mormugao</b>				
1.	Modification of MOHP		1.00	
2.	Realignment of old berth/Construction of berths No. 5A & 6A		5.00	
3.	Deepening of berth no. 10 & 11 and Mooring buoy		2.80	
4.	FRH Master Plan berths			2.00
	Total		8.80	2.00
<b>IX. Jawaharlal Nehru Port</b>				
1.	Marine Chemical Terminal (3 berths)			15.00
2.	Feeder berth		1.20	
3.	New Container Terminal		7.80	
4.	Berth of Liquid cargo		5.50	
	Total		14.50	15.00
<b>X. Mumbai</b>				
1.	Replacement of submarine pipelines	7.00		
2.	Modernisation of jetties 1, 2, 3			4.00
3.	Second liquid chemical berth			3.00
4.	Construction of coal jetty			1.50
	Total	7.00		8.50
<b>XI. Kandla</b>				
1.	Construction of 3rd oil Jetty	2.00	—	
2.	Construction of fourth oil jetty	2.00		2.50
3.	General Cargo Berth 9 & 10			2.50
4.	Additional Cargo Berth (8th berth)	1.25		
5.	11th & 12th cargo berths			2.50
6.	Container handling facilities		2.40	
7.	Additional facilities for handling crude Oil at Vadinar		10.00	

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Multipurpose Berth and development Of infrastructure facilities at Vadinar		–	2.50
9.	5th oil jetty to be constructed by M/s IFFCO		2.00	
10.	Setting up of Port related facilities By M/s ESSAR Refinery at Vadinar (SBM IOMT one berth 5MT)		15.00	
11.	Development of Tuna bunder			0.85
12.	Development of Jaffervadi bunder			0.85
13.	POL Jetty by BPCL		2.00	
14.	Conversion of IOC virtual Jetty to Permanent Jetty		2.00	
15.	Facilities at berth no. 5A by APEDA		0.35	
Total		5.25	33.75	9.20
Grand Total		42.25	114.35	56.25

#### Scrapping of Railway Projects

1186. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to scrap all the rail projects sanctioned by the previous Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the total amount spent on these projects so far?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### Settlement of Claims

1187. SHRI C.N. SINGH Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the average time taken for settlement of railway claims;

(b) whether the Government have received any complaint regarding corruption in settlement of claims during 2000;

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government against the guilty officials; and

(d) the steps taken for speedy settlement of claims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) The average time taken in settling the claims by All Indian Railways for the year 1999-2000 is 32 days.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) A statement is attached.

#### Statement

The following steps have been taken for speedy settlement of railway claims:-

(i) Notice of claims can be accepted at the station/ goods shed to which the goods are booked.

(ii) Claims work on Zonal Railway has been computerized to expedite settlement of claims.

(iii) The scheme of Mobile Claims Offices has been reactivated on Zonal Railways to entertain and settle claims on the spot at important cities.

(iv) Commodity Claim Cells have been set up on the Zonal Railways.

- (v) Machinery has been toned up to implement the scheme for claims enquiry for tracing on 'end to end' basis.
- (vi) Monitoring is done over Zonal Railways to ensure that target time for finalization of different types of claims is observed.
- (vii) Full powers have been delegated to General Managers for settling time barred cases. Earlier cases beyond Rs. 50,000/- were required to be approved by Railway Board.
- (viii) Financial concurrence has been completely dispensed with in decreed claims cases.
- (ix) Strict instructions have been issued to the railways to ensure that cheques are issued and despatched within a period of 15 days after the decretal amount for claim has been sanctioned.

#### Apparel Export Promotion Units

1188. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

- (a) the names of apparel export promotion units in the country, State/location-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has any plan to create more apparel export promotion units in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, location-wise along with the progress of the Apparel Export Promotion Council during the last three years; and
- (d) the role of Apparel Export Promotion Council in the export apparels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR) : (a) to (d) The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), which is a registered company under Section 25 of the Companies Act, is engaged in promoting exports of ready-made garments from India. The Council has been assigned the administration of export entitlements in respect of ready-made garment items, which are subject to restraint in USA, European Union and Canada. Besides its headquarter at New Delhi, the Council has its Regional offices at New Delhi, Jaipur (Rajasthan), Ludhiana (Punjab), Mumbai (Maharashtra), Surat (Gujarat), Chennai (Tamilnadu), Bangalore (Karnataka), Cochin (Kerala) and Calcutta (West Bengal).

There are no apparel export promotion units as such. However, as on 31st March 2000, the total number of registered and member exporters of AEPC was 27,432.

The progress in ready-made garment exports during the last three years is as follows:-

Year	Value (in Million US \$)
1997-98	4910.3
1998-99	5269.4
1999-2000	5525.4
2000-2001 (Apr., 2000-Jan. 2001)	4460.3

AEPC regularly organises fairs, exhibitions, buyer-seller meets etc. to promote export of apparels.

#### Acquisition of Land for Haridaspur-Paradeep Rail Line

1189. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether land acquisition for Haridaspur-Paradeep Rail line is delayed for non-remittance of funds by the Union Government for land acquisition;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of the present position thereof;
- (c) whether the Government propose to postpone the construction of this new rail link to Paradeep due to lack of financial support; and
- (d) if not, the steps being taken to expedite the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Railway has deposited Rs. 5 crore in August, 1997 towards land acquisition for Haridaspur-Paradeep New Line. The State Government has handed over possession of only 51.6 acres out of 1030 acres for which demand has been placed. Further amount will be remitted on receipt of the detailed utilization certificate from the State Government.

- (c) No, Sir. However, the work will be progressed as per availability of resources.
- (d) Does not arise.

### Crisis in Cotton Trade

1190. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :  
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether cotton trade is in crisis due to uncertain policy of the Government;

(b) if so, whether on the one hand import of cotton is wide open, on the other, the export is controlled under quota system;

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

(d) whether the Government are withdrawing subsidies being given to cotton growers and eliminating support prices; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The cotton export-import policy of the Government aims at providing a reasonable return to the growers for their produce and making available the raw material to the user industry at a competitive prices.

To enable the user mills to procure raw material of desired quality parameters at a competitive price import of cotton is placed under Open General Licence (OGL) since April, 1994. From 1999-2000, a duty of 5.5% has been imposed which was duty free earlier. Further, registration of cotton import contracts have been made compulsory to monitor the import.

At the beginning of the cotton season, export quota of cotton is released, *inter alia*, taking into account the domestic availability, domestic/international price trends. However, actual exports depends upon a varieties of factors and in fact export quotas remained unutilized during last three years as shown in the following table:-

Year (Oct.-Sept.)	Quota Released in lakh bales	Quantity Exported in lakh bales	Import in lakh bales
1997-98	8.2	3.50	4.13
1998-99	5.0	1.01	7.87
1999-2000	5.0	0.65	22.01
2000-01 (upto 31.1.2000)	9.0	0.08	0.18

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

### Hydrocarbon Vision-2025

1191. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a group of India Hydrocarbon Vision-2025 was constituted on March 31, 1999;

(b) if so, whether the Group had constituted a sub-group on development and utilisation of natural gas and LNG etc.;

(c) if so, the details of points discussed in the meeting of the sub-group during 1999; and

(d) the progress made so far by the sub-group on the development and commercialisation of coal liquefaction and gasification process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Sub-Group submitted its report in November, 1999 to the Group on India Hydrocarbon Vision-2025, giving recommendations on various issues including gas availability, import of gas through transnational pipelines, import of liquefied natural gas (LNG), alternative technologies like coal gasification etc.

(d) the Sub-Group has no role to play after the submission of its report to the Group on India Hydrocarbon Vision-2025.

### External Assistance for Rayalseema Thermal Power Project-II

1192. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from Andhra Pradesh seeking permission for external commercial borrowings under the term of letter of intent for implementation of Rayalseema Thermal Power Project Stage-II to meet the cost of this project by cent percent credit package from the Chinese company;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) Rayalseema Thermal Power Station, Stage-II (2x210 MW) is proposed to be implemented by Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corporation Ltd. (APGENCO), a public sector undertaking under the administrative control of the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The letter of intent for award of EPC contract with 100% debt finance for Rayalseema TPS, Stage-II has been issued by APGENCO to a Chinese firm, namely, Zhajiang Machinery & Equipment Corporation, who had submitted the offer in consortium with China national machinery & Equipment Corporation. APGENCO requested PFC for Deferred Payment Guarantee (DPG) against, Foreign Currency Loan, (FCL) arranged and extended as suppliers credit by the Chinese EPC contractor to APGENCO for setting up 2x210 MW coal fired Rayalseema Thermal Power Plant, Stage-II (RTPP-II). PFC has sanctioned DPG assistance to cover the payments of foreign currency loan of US\$ 261.79 million by APGENCO to Chinese creditors. The DPG sanctioned by PFC is yet to be executed and is awaiting fulfillment of terms and conditions of sanction.

[Translation]

#### Refining Capacity of Crude Oil

1193. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

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

(a) whether the capacity to refine crude oil has been augmented in various refineries in the country;

(b) if so, the total capacity for refining of crude oil installed till the end of December, 2000 alongwith the break-up of refining capacity in the public and private sector, separately;

(c) whether the Government propose to further increase the refining capacity; 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 total domestic refining capacity has reached a level of 112.54 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) by the end of December, 2000 with 75.85 MMTPA in public sector, 9.69 MMTPA in joint sector and 27 MMTPA in private sector.

(c) and (d) The Government has given approvals for Bina Refinery of 6.0 MMTPA capacity, Punjab Refinery of 9.0 MMTPA capacity, Paradeep Refinery of 9.0 MMTPA capacity and the expansion of Chennai Refinery by 3.0 MMTPA. Details of other refinery capacity, expansion/new refinery projects planned by various companies are indicated in the attached statement.

Statement	
	Capacity (MMTPA)
IOCL, Barauni Expansion (Ph.II)	1.80
IOCL, Panipat Expansion	6.00
IOCL, Koyali Refinery Expansion	5.50
BPCL Refinery Expansion	5.10
KRL Expansion	6.00
Essar Oil Refinery	10.50
Nagarjuna Oil Refinery	6.00
Total Expansion/New Refinery Project	40.90

[English]

#### Stake of ONGC Videsh in Russian Oilfields

1194. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :

DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEYA :

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

(a) whether ONGC Videsh has acquired a 20% stake in a Russian oilfields;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Russian oilfields are also reputed to be afflicted with low recovery percentage;

(d) if so, the manner in which ONGC assess the oilfield before taking 20% of shares;

(e) the logic in acquiring stakes in foreign oilfields by ONGC; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken to review such ventures?

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) ONGC-Videsh Ltd. (OVL) signed an Agreement on 10.2.2001 with the Russian national oil company Rosneft-S and its subsidiary SMNG-S. for acquisition of 20% interest in the Sakhalin-I offshore project in Russia.

(c) No, Sir. The fields in Sakhalin-I Project do not have low recovery percentages.

(d) The fields have been assessed by ONGC and also by international consultant's considering all the techno-economic and commercial aspects.

(e) Considering the widening gap between demand and supply of oil and gas, acquisition of equity oil from abroad is an important plank of the strategy to achieve oil security. This is in addition to efforts to increase exploration and production in the country.

(f) Such ventures are reviewed by the Board of Directors of the Company, which have nominated directors from concerned Ministries, followed by a Committee of Secretaries constituted by the Government.

#### MOU Signed by KPTCL with CPRI

1195. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the KPTCL has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Central Power Research Institute to carry out a research to find out ways and means to conserve electricity, including reduction of energy losses;

(b) if so, the features of the memorandum of understanding signed;

(c) to extent by which it is helpful to the KPTCL; and

(d) the manner in which it is beneficial to the Karnataka Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) KPTCL has not yet signed any Memorandum of Understanding with CPRI to carry out research to find out ways and means to conserve electricity including reduction of energy losses.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

#### CNG Pumps in Metro Cities

1196. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up CNG pumps specially in the metro cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which CNG pumps are likely to be set up?

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 decided to set up CNG pumps only in metropolitan cities of Delhi and Bombay. So far 60 stations have been set up in the city of Delhi and 22 in the city of Bombay.

[English]

#### Constitution of Passenger Amenities Committee at National Level

1197. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways have constituted a Committee on "Passenger Amenities" at national level;

(b) if so, the objectives of the Committee;

(c) whether the Committee has since submitted its report; and

(d) if so, the main recommendations of the Committee and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Passenger Amenities Committee at the National level has been reconstituted in the Ministry of Railways in November, 1999 to check the passenger amenities provided at railway stations and on trains.

(c) and (d) The Committee is required to submit its report on quarterly basis. The observations and suggestions made pertain to the general cleanliness and environmental conditions, drinking water arrangements, facilities provided for dissemination of information to the passengers like enquiry offices, public address system,

indication boards etc. The suggestions are noted and action is initiated wherever justified and feasible.

### Cases Pending Against A.S.I. Officials

1198. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the officials and staff of Archaeological Survey of India are charge-sheeted by the CBI and cases against them are still pending;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the charges levelled against them;

(c) whether income tax raid has been conducted in the premises of a former Director General, A.S.I. and his subordinates;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the present status of the investigations made by both ASI and CBI, separately?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) and (d) Government have no information in this regard.

(e) The cases are before the Hon'ble CBI courts.

### Statement

*Detail of the cases of the officials and staff of ASI charge-sheeted by CBI which are still pending*

Sl. No.	Name of the Charged officials with Designation	Case
1	2	3
1.	(a) Sh. M.G. Chellapillai, ASAE (retired)	CBI case No. RC.26/86/ SPE/ACB/CBI/Madras against these officials was made for committing criminal misconduct, cheating, criminal misappropriation, forgery, use of false documents and falsification of accounts in the work of dismantling and reconstruction of the "prakara" wall and adjoining cloister of Shri Aravateswara
	(b) Sh. V. Kannian, Foreman	
	(c) Sh.S. Mathivanan, Foreman	
	(d) Sh. A. Rajamanickan, Foreman	
	(e) Sh. V. Balraj, Monument Attendant	

1	2	3
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Temple at Darasuram, Thanjavur District. Sanction for prosecution of these officials were given by Director General, ASI on 5/8/1988. Charge-sheet was filed by the CBI in the court of I ASJ, Trichy on 29.12.1989.

2. Sh. B.L. Meena L.D.C.

CBI case no. RC. 18 (A) / 90 of SPE/Jaipur was made against Shri O.P. Meena, Administrative Officer and Shri B.L. Meena L.D.C. of Jaipur for abusing their official positions and criminal conspiracy in purchasing duplicating machine and type writers on 30/1/1991. Sanction for prosecution of Sh. O.P. Meena, A.O. and Sh. B.L. Meena, L.D.C. by DG., ASI was given on 23.1.91. Charge sheet was filed against Shri O.P. Meena, A.O. and Shri B.L. Meena, L.D.C. case against Shri O.P. Meena was dropped by CBI as Shri O.P. Meena died on 29.8.1999. The case against Sh. B.L. Meena, LDC is still with the CBI court.

### Performance of Cotton Ginning Industry

1199. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of cotton processed by the cotton ginning industry during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether the industry is running at 35% of its capacity;

(c) if so, the reasons for its poor performance; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the condition of ginning industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) The quantity of cotton processed during the last three years and the current year is as under:-

Year (Oct.-Sept)	Quantity in Lakh Bales of 170 Kg. Each
1997-98	158
1998-99	165
1999-2000	156
2000-01 (Estimated)	146

Source: Cotton Advisory Board.

(b) and (c) The ginning and pressing activities are seasonal ones spanning over a period of 6-8 months in a year. During rest of the period, such activities depend on the availability of Kapas (seed cotton).

(d) Technology Mission on Cotton Development has been launched from 1999-2000 with objectives of improving productivity and quality of cotton. Mini Mission-IV of the mission aims at modernization of ginning and pressing factories. Under the scheme capital incentive of 25% of the cost of modernization subject to a limit of Rs. 20 lakh is given to the entrepreneur.

#### Power Survey Report

1200. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently released a 16th Power Survey Report;

(b) if so, whether the Government have also asked the Central Electricity Authority to complete a preliminary survey in this regard; and

(c) if so, the steps Government have taken towards meeting the electricity needs of the country by exploiting hydropower in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has finalised the Sixteenth Electric Power Survey Report. The Report has highlighted that the energy requirement by 2004-05 and 2011-12 would be 635 BUs and 975 BUs, respectively. The corresponding peak load would be 1,02,161 MW and 1,57,107 MW. The Report has been prepared after conducting a detailed survey.

(c) The Government had announced a Policy on Hydro Power Development in August 1998 with the objective of accelerating the pace of exploitation of hydro power in the country. As against the existing hydel capacity of 2644 MW under the Central Sector as on 31st January, 2001, Government has sanctioned 6 hydroelectric projects with a capacity of 1265 MW for commissioning during the 10th Five Year Plan. Separately, advance action in respect of hydel projects involving more than 20,000 MW capacity has also been initiated for capacity addition during the 11th Five Year Plan and beyond. The Government is also taking steps to streamline and accelerate the process of Survey and Investigation of new hydroelectric sites so as to have a shelf of projects which could be taken up for speedy execution

[Translation]

#### Stoppage of Trains at Dahod

1201. SHRI BABUBHAI K. KATARA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number and the names of the trains which halt at Dahod railway station of Western railways;

(b) the names of trains whose halt/stoppage is not there on the said station; and

(c) the names of trains whose halt has been demanded there by the public and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) (a) At present following trains are stopping at Dahod station :-

1. 129/130 Vadodara-Kota Parcel cum Passenger.
2. 717/718 Vadodara-Dahod MEMU.
3. 781/782 Dahod-Ratlam MEMU.
4. 9023/9024 Mumbai-Firozpur Janata Express.
5. 2925/2926 Mumbai-Amritsar Paschim Express.
6. 2961/2962 Mumbai-Indore Avantika Express.
7. 2903/2904 Mumbai-Amritsar Golden Temple Mail.
8. 5063/5064 Bandra-Gorakhpur Avdh Express.
9. 9019/9020 Bandra-Dehradun Express.
10. 1269/1270 Bandra-Bhopal Express (5 days a week).



11. 1263/1264 Rajkot-Jabalpur Express (bi-weekly).
12. 9163/9164 Ahmedabad-Faizabad Sabarmati Express (weekly).
13. 9165/9166 Ahmedabad-Muzaffarpur Sabarmati Express (tri-weekly).
14. 9167/9168 Ahmedabad-Varanasi Sabarmati Express (tri-weekly).

(b) At present following trains are not stopping at Dahod station :

1. 2471/2472 Mumbai-Jammu Tawi Swaraj Express (4 days in a week).
2. 2473/2474 Ahmedabad-Jammu Tawi Sarvodaya Express (weekly).
3. 2475/2476 Hapa-Jammu Tawi Express (weekly).
4. 2477/2478 Jamnagar-Jammu Tawi Express (weekly).
5. 5045/5046 Ahmedabad-Gorakhpur Express (weekly).
6. 2951/2952 Mumbai-New Dehi Rajdhani Express.
7. 2953/3954 Mumbai-Nizamuddin August Kranti Rajdhani Express.
8. 2431/2432 Trivandrum-Nizamuddin Rajdhani Express.
9. 2955/2956 Jaipur-Mumbai Express.

(c) Demands have been received for stoppage of the following trains at Dahod :

1. 2471/2472 Mumbai-Jammu Tawi Swaraj Express (4 days a week).
2. 2473/2474 Ahmedabad-Jammu Tawi Sarvodaya Express (weekly).
3. 2475/2476 Hapa-Jammu Tawi Express (weekly).
4. 2477/2478 Jamnagar-Jammu Tawi Express (weekly).
5. 2951/2952 Mumbai-New Delhi Rajdhani Express.
6. 2953/3954 Mumbai-Nizamuddin August Kranti Rajdhani Express .
7. 2431/2432 Trivandrum-Nizamuddin Rajdhani Express.

8. 2955/2956 Jaipur-Mumbai Express.

These demands have been examined, but stoppages of the trains at Dahod have not been found feasible at present.

[English]

### Protection to Garment Industry

1202. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether in the New Textile Policy 2000, the textile industry has been opened to multinational companies;

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme framed in this regard along with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this has adversely affected the Small Scale local units manufacturing readymade garments;

(d) if so, the approximate number of workers likely to be affected thereby;

(e) whether views of the small scale sector has been taken in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the effective measures taken by the Government for their protection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) (a) to (f) National Textile Policy, 2000 does not make a mention of opening of textile industry to multinational companies. However, the garment sector has been de-reserved on the recommendations of Advisory Committee on Reservation and it is hoped that this decision would encourage investment from both domestic and outside sources. It is expected that it will not adversely affect the SSI units.

### LPG Through Pipeline

1203. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :  
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

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

(a) whether any survey has been conducted for the supply of LPG through pipeline in the country particularly in Kerala; 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) No, Sir. However, for supply of Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG) in bulk to the oil marketing companies, Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) has commissioned a pipeline from Kandla in Gujarat to Loni in Uttar Pradesh.

[Translation]

#### **Opening of Computerised Railway Reservation Centre**

1204. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had decided to establish computerised Railway Ticket reservation centres at Kullu or Manali;

(b) if so, the reasons for not establishing that centre so far; and

(c) the time by which the said centre is likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Till date State Government could not provide suitable accommodation for setting up of computerized reservation centre at Manali. As soon as suitable accommodation is arranged by the State Government Railway will commission this facility immediately.

[English]

#### **Fencing Around Security Installations in Jammu & Kashmir**

1205. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the security installations in Jammu and Kashmir have been provided with fencing to ward off any attack from Militants;

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

(c) the extent to which this fencing has proved effective in checking attacks by militants?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Adequate security arrangements including fencing, wherever required, have been made to

improve the security of Army and Rashtriya Rifles posts/pickets and other installations.

(b) The information will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) No fencing is impregnable. However, continued augmentation in security arrangements against sneak-in-attacks by terrorists is taking place. Security fencing along with other military measures has been adopted to minimise such attacks.

[Translation]

#### **Expansion of Gas Pipeline in Rajasthan**

1206. SHRI JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Limited are contemplating to expand the gas pipelines in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which Rajasthan is likely to be benefited by the expansion of the said gas pipelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

#### **Rooms Allotted to Advocates**

1207. SHRI RAJAJAH MALYALA : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to the unstarred Question No. 2262 dated December 6, 1996 and to state :

(a) whether the new building at Bhagwan Das Road has provided 20 cubicals space on each floor to provide a table and chair for working to 20 advocates;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and whether any responsibility has been fixed for this lapse;

(d) whether steps have been taken to make available 20 cubicals on each floor of the said building to lawyers; and

(e) if not, the time by which the said space is likely to be made available to the lawyers?

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

[Translation]

#### **Maritime Boundaries**

1208. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are providing adequate security cover to their maritime boundaries;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action plan chalked out to safeguard the national maritime boundaries?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) The security of our Maritime Boundaries is being ensured by way of deployment of ships and aircrafts belonging to the Indian Navy and Coast Guards on patrolling of the International Maritime Boundaries and to conduct surveillance operations on the Western and Eastern Seaboards. The Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is also kept under regular surveillance to curb the illegal movement of arms/ammunition, immigrants, etc. through sea routes and to prevent smuggling and poaching, etc. in our waters.

[English]

#### **Facilities in 'Tippu Sultan'**

1209. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether 'Tippu Sultan', a passenger ship playing in Lakshadweep and other vessels carrying passengers are far below the standard;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that even proper toilet facilities and boarding facilities in the ships are not available;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to provide all such facilities in the ships?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) No, Sir. All the Passenger vessels including "Tippu Sultan" owned by Union Territory of Lakshadweep Administration conform to the standards stipulated vide various relevant Regulations.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Shortage of Officials in A.M.L.**

1210. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is still shortage of officials in the Army Medical core;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to recruit the prescribed number of officials in the Army Medical core and upgrading the Army Hospitals as well;

(d) the details of places including Pune, where upgradation work of Army Hospitals is in progress; and

(e) the details of upgradation work being undertaken there?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (e) At present there is a shortage of only 203 officers in a total authorised strength of 5363 officers in Army Medical Corps.

(I) The following measures are being taken by Government in the interest of adequate recruitment to the AMC:-

- (i) Grant of Short Service Commission in the AMC to civilian doctors through advertisement given in the leading Newspapers. Selection interviews for grant of commission are being held at New Delhi, annually.
- (ii) Grant of Permanent Commission to the MBBS graduates, passing out from Armed Forces Medical College, Pune in January and July sessions each year.
- (iii) Grant of Short Service Commission to civilian Doctors, who obtain Post Graduate Degree/Diploma from Armed Forces

Medical College, Pune, and other Defence Services Hospitals.

(II) The following work has been undertaken for upgradation of Army Hospitals:-

Five years' comprehensive plan, covering the period 2001 to 2005 for construction of hospital project, pertaining to the five commands, has been prepared and prioritised. This plan includes 12 hospitals for the year 2001-2002, 29 hospital projects for 2002-2003 and 34 hospital projects for 2003-2005.

The details of places, including Pune, where upgradation of Army Hospitals is in progress and the details of upgradation of work being undertaken is as under:-

- (i) Military Hospital Chennai: 28% construction of Phase I of Military Hospital Chennai has been completed.
- (ii) Military Hospital Jabalpur: Construction of Phase I is nearing completion.
- (iii) Command Hospital (Southern Command) Pune: Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the new multistoreyed modern hospital complex, operation theatre and accommodation, including accommodation of essential categories of staff of the hospital has been completed.
- (iv) 166 Military Hospital: Phase II work is in progress.

[English]

#### **Rural Electrification Corporation**

1211. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :  
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Bihar has requested to repay Principal part of overdues amounting to Rs. 129.25 crores to Rural Electrification Corporation in ten equal installments provided the REC waives the entire interest;

(b) whether the request of the State Government has been considered by the Union Government; and

(c) if so, the time proposed to be taken by REC for the disbursal of the remaining balance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The proposal contained in the Memorandum submitted by Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB) contemplates freezing of interest and penal interest due to REC and waiving of the same. It also proposed payment of only the principal outstanding Rs. 129.25 crores, in ten yearly installments.

(b) and (c) The total loan outstanding and overdues payable by BSEB to REC currently stands at Rs. 431.79 crores as on 31.12.2000, of which Rs. 132.97 crores is the principal and Rs. 298.82 crores the interest including 66.90 crores as penal interest. Rural Electrification Corporation has not been able to disburse any amount to Bihar due to heavy default by Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB). Despite continuous default in payment of REC's dues, REC in 1996-97 sanctioned 39 new projects for rural electrification for loans outlay of Rs. 40.83 crores to BSEB. They, however, did not execute loan documents and furnish Government guarantee and hence could not draw the loan amount against the sanctioned claims. The Government has also allocated a sum of Rs. 37.67 crores for village electrification during the year 2000-01 under Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) being released directly to the States instead of earlier practice of routing it through REC.

In order to resolve the issue of outstanding dues and to start fresh credit flow to Bihar for RE programme, REC on many occasions proposed re-scheduling of REC dues which included part payment of overdues through one time cash payment and re-scheduling of the balance principal and interest over mutually agreed number of years. Despite favourable terms given and repeated offers for rescheduling the amount overdue, BSEB has not responded to this offer. The interest charged by REC is the minimum required to meet its cost of funds and as a financial institution, REC cannot afford to write off the entire interest amount on its loans to BSEB.

With regard to the request for freezing and waiving of the interest and penal interest, it may be mentioned that Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) as a financial institution raises money as loan from various sources including the Government of India for carrying out its lending operations, and has to continuously discharge its liability for payment to Government and other lenders in the market both on account of principal and interest as per the commitments.

The Minister of Power convened a meeting with the MPs from Bihar on December 11, 2000 with the objective of consulting and obtaining their suggestions on improving the poor pace of rural electrification and power sector development in Bihar. In this meeting, it was agreed that a workable arrangement needs to be urgently evolved by which the rural electrification programme in Bihar can move forward and at the same time, REC is enabled to recover its dues over a period of time to ensure that REC's ability to access funds from the market is not affected. Subsequent to the meeting, the Minister of Power has also taken up the matter with the Chief Minister, Bihar inviting her for discussions on the pending issues so that these issues could be resolved. The response of the State Government is awaited.

#### **Production of Passenger Aircraft by H.A.L.**

1212. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited has decided to enter into an agreement with a French Aviation Company ATR for producing passenger aircraft;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the work on the project is likely to commence and the first aircraft expected to be ready?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited has initialled a cooperation agreement with ATR in January 2001 for co-production of 50-70 seater passenger aircraft, with a phased increase in HAL's share upto 50%.

(c) The work on the project would commence on receipt of orders. The delivery of the first aircraft would be possible in six months thereafter.

#### **Allotment of LPG/Petrol/Kerosene/ Diesel Outlets**

1213. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications for allotment of dealership of LPG, Petrol, Kerosene and Diesel pending at present in the country, State-wise;

(b) the time by which these applications are pending alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to clear the pending applications?

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 proposals for setting up new retail outlet dealerships, SKO-LDO dealerships and LPG distributorships are at various stages of the process of selection of dealers/distributors.

The selection of dealers/distributors for some of the locations could not take place owing to the non-functioning of the Dealer Selection Boards (DSBs) on account of the announcement of General Elections, 1999 and the enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct and the dissolution of these Boards subsequently. Now 59 new DSBs have been set up for early selection of dealers/distributors.

#### **Missed Spare Parts of Cannons from COD Jabalpur**

1214. SHRI SANJAY PASWAN :

SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI :

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether spare parts of cannons/tanks worth Several lakh of rupees are missing from Central Ordnance Depot, Jabalpur;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted in the matter;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and the follow-up action taken thereon; and

(d) the steps being taken to prevent theft in such sensitive areas?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir. Preliminary inquiry conducted by Central Ordnance Depot, Jabalpur has revealed loss of Ordnance Stores made of brass worth about Rs. 17.40 lakh weighting approximately 989 Kg.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A Court of Inquiry has been ordered by Head Quarters Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa Area. Inquiry is still in progress. Follow up action will be taken based on the Inquiry report.

(d) Necessary instructions on strengthening the security of Ordnance Depots, have since been issued again to all concerned.

[Translation]

### Sale of Readymade Garments

1215. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether foreign companies are selling readymade garments in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith their turn over during each of the last three years till date, company-wise;

(c) its likely affect on domestic companies; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to provide level playing field for the domestic companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR) : (a) to (d) The details of firms, sales, turnover etc. of foreign companies selling ready-made garments in the country are not maintained.

Imports are governed by market forces subject to export-import policy in force from time to time. The liberalised trading regime would result in increased international trade in textiles thus providing greater export opportunities; and at the same time expose the domestic industry to import penetration in the domestic market. The industry will have to improve its efficiency and productivity to meet the emerging global competition.

Government have been taking several steps to strengthen and provide a level playing field to the textiles and clothing industry. Some of the important initiatives are as under:-

- (1) The Government has de-reserved the woven segment of ready-made garment from the SSI sector.
- (2) Government has imposed a combination of ad-valorem and specific duty on 'whichever is higher basis' on import of a number of textile items to safeguard the interest of domestic industry.
- (3) In case any unfair trade practices come to the notice, action, if necessary, under anti-dumping, countervailing measures etc. of the WTO could be taken.
- (4) 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.

- (5) 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.
- (6) 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.

[English]

### Archaeological Museum at Dholavira

1216. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is proposal to set up an Archaeological Museum at Dholavira (Kutch) in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken so far for establishment of the museum and amount sanctioned for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The Archaeological Survey of India proposes to construct a museum at Dholavira. However, no detailed exercise in this regard has been conducted so far regarding design, location, funding etc.

### Hold of US Based Enron Development Corporation on DPC

1217. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have finally allowed controversial US-based Enron Development Corporation to strengthen its hold on the Dabhol Power Corporation (DPC) by allowing to enhance its equity to US\$ 1118.7 million against US\$ 886.7 million;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this step has reduced the stake of Maharashtra Government to 10 per cent as against 30 per cent;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government of Maharashtra has expressed its inability to retain 30% stake in the project; and

(f) if so, the type of control either of the State Government or the Union Government will be on this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (f) On April 30, 1996, Government of India approved a foreign equity participation of US\$ 434.2 million for implementation of Phase-I of the 2184 MW Dabhol Combined Cycle Gas Turbine by M/s Dabhol Power Company (DPC) in Maharashtra. The Government had also approved the proposal to offer 30% equity to Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) for Phase-I of the project. The total equity capital actually raised for the Phase-I of the Project is US\$ 430.073 million. The Government of Maharashtra has informed that MSEB has purchased 30% equity from M/s Enron Mauritius Company who are the major foreign equity partner after completion of Phase-I of the project.

On February 16, 1999, Government of India approved foreign equity participation of US\$ 452.7 million for Phase-II of the project with the option for MSEB to acquire 30% equity. Under the financing agreements for Phase-II of the Dabhol CCGT, the lenders to the project had required that if MSEB failed to make any equity contribution for funding the project, any shortfall would be met by Enron Corporation as additional equity over and above their commitment of 50%. On the lines of its participation in Phase-I of the project, MSEB intend to participate in the equity for Phase-II of the project once it is completed.

Phase-II of the Dabhol project is scheduled to start commercial operation by November, 2001. In an application made to the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) on October 13, 2000, DPC stated that MSEB was not making any contributions due from it for Phase-II of the project and therefore, proposed that the 30%

shareholding of MSEB in Phase-II of the project be picked up by a new affiliate of Enron based in Mauritius. In addition to this, DPC also sought the approval of the Government for raising an additional equity of US\$ 233 million by way of contingency equity at the insistence of the lenders to the project, which would be required to meet any cost variations arising during construction. GoM had conveyed their no objection to the proposal of M/s Enron for picking up MSEB's share of equity for phase-II of Dabhol CCGT subject to the condition that 30% equity of Phase-II should be transferred to the nominated company of MSEB after its completion on terms and conditions mutually agreed upon.

Government of India conveyed its approval to the above proposal of M/s Dabhol Power Company on February 12, 2001.

#### Royalty to States

1218. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to allow oil producing States to have a share of profits from the on-shore drilling revenues;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to privatise some of the oil fields; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) The State Governments get royalty on production of crude oil. The present rate of royalty on crude oil is Rs. 800 per metric tonne or 20% of well-head value, whichever is less.

(b) and (c) Does not arise. However with a view to attract investments to accelerate exploration and production of crude oil in the country, the Government has announced New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). Under the first round of NELP, the Government has signed Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) for 24 blocks. Under the second round of NELP, the Government has put on offer another 25 blocks.

12.00 hrs.

[English]

## PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : I Beg to lay on the table—

- (1) A copy of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee Rules, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 582(E) in Gazette of India dated the 3rd July, 2000, under sub-section (1) of section 30 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 637(E) dated the 25th July, 2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3274/2001]

- (2) A copy of the Conduct of Elections (Amendment) Rules, 2001 (Hindi and English versions) published in S.O. No. 90(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st February, 2001 under sub-section (3) of section 169 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3275/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following statements (Hindi and English versions) showing action taken by the Government on assurances, promises and undertakings given by the Ministers during the Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth and Thirteenth Lok Sabha:-

### TENTH LOK SABHA

- (1) Statement No. XXVI Twelfth Session, 1994.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3276/2001]

### ELEVENTH LOK SABHA

- (2) Statement No. XXI Second Session, 1996.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3277/2001]

- (3) Statement No. XIX Third Session, 1996.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3278/2001]

- (4) Statement No. XIX Fourth Session, 1996.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3279/2001]

- (5) Statement No. XVII Fifth Session, 1997.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3280/2001]

- (6) Statement No. XIV Sixth Session, 1997.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3281/2001]

### TWELFTH LOK SABHA

- (7) Statement No. XV Second Session, 1998.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3282/2001]

- (8) Statement No. XII Third Session, 1998.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3283/2001]

- (9) Statement No. XI Fourth Session, 1999.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3284/2001]

### THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA

- (10) Statement No. VIII Second Session, 1999.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3285/2001]

- (11) Statement No. VII Third Session, 2000 (Vol. I & II).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3286/2001]

- (12) Statement No. III Fourth Session, 2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3287/2001]

- (13) Statement No. I Fifth Session, 2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3288/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Centre for Jute Diversification, Calcutta, 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 Centre for Jute Diversification, Calcutta for the year 1999-2000.



- (2) **Statement (Hindi and English versions)** showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3289/2001]

[Translation]

SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV : I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Cochin Port Trust, Cochin, 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 Cochin Port Trust, Cochin, for the year 1999-2000.

- (2) **Statement (Hindi and English versions)** showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3290/2001]

- (3) **Statement (Hindi and English versions)** explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1999-2000 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the Accounting year.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3291/2001]

[English]

12.02 hrs.

## COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

### Twelfth Report

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK (Pondicherry) : I beg to present the Twelfth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.03 hrs.

## COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

### Minutes

[English]

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK (Pondicherry) : I beg to lay on the Table the Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the Ninth to Eleventh sittings of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions held during the Fifth session.

12.04 hrs.

## COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

### Sixth Report

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARYA (Bankura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the sixth report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Petitions.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now take up the 'Zero Hour', Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Mr. Speaker Sir, the Government of India has given counter guarantee to Maharashtra Government regarding Enron. President House has been mortgaged under it, only the department of defence has been spared. This agreement has been signed in a hurry which has resulted in great loss to the people of Maharashtra. People are staging dharnas in front of tehsil courts all over Maharashtra against this agreement. Today, people are going on Satyagrah even in Gohagar where Enron company is situated. The Government of India should cancel the counter-guarantee it has given and save the farmers.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, Shri Ramdas Athawale, Shri Lakshman Seth, Shri Ramsheth

Thakur and Shri Sunil Khan can associate with the issue raised by Shri Mahale.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara) : Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I want to bring to the kind attention of this Government a very important issue, which is taxing the mind of everyone in the whole of Delhi. This is about the closure of industrial units in Delhi in the name of pollution.

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, on this subject also we are going to have a meeting.

Prof. A.K. Premajam, Shri Basu Deb Acharia, Shri Hannan Mollah, Shri Ramji Lal Suman and Shri G.M. Banatwalla wanted to raise this. I would say that we are going to have some meeting and we will discuss this issue in that meeting.

Now, Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

[Translation]

Dr. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South-Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House towards a very important issue. In Afghanistan, the ruling Taliban Government has ordered to demolish thousands of years old statues and idols in the country.

[English]

UNESCO Chief Koichiro Matsuura, on Wednesday, urged Taliban to reconsider this decision. He said:

"Carrying out this decision would be a real cultural disaster that will cause irreparable harm to the heritage of exceptional value. This heritage is central to Afghanistan's memory and identity and is a landmark in the history of other civilisations."

Buddhists in Japan and Thailand have also called on the Taliban to re-consider its decision. It is reported in the newspaper:

"Sri Lanka has launched a major diplomatic offensive to save the historic Buddhist statues. Foreign Minister, Lakshman Kadirgamar, asked his envoys in India, Thailand, Myanmar, and Nepal to have urgent consultations to workout a strategy to deal with the threat."

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir. Sri Lanka Muslim Congress, the largest muslim party in Srilanka has also requested the

Taliban Government not to demolish the thousand years old statues of Buddha in Afghanistan. Similarly several Muslims who are living in Afghanistan and before them.

[English]

Hamid Karzi, the Foreign Minister in the ousted Burhanuddin Rabbani said:

"The Statues are no longer part of religion, but are now part of the country's heritage and history".

[Translation]

These statues should be saved because 2000 years old and world's largest statues of Buddha is in danger. I want the whole House to express its concern in this regard and the Government of Afghanistan should be asked not to demolish the statue of Buddha. It is a thousand of years old heritage of the world and it should be saved.

[English]

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : Sir, this House should condemn the *fatwa* issued by the Taliban to destroy the ancient Buddhist statues in Afghanistan. These statues are a brilliant blend of ancient Persian, Greek, Gandhara and Indian aesthetic traditions. Besides, this is a direct attack against the sentiments of the vast Asian population. India, being one of the oldest living civilisations in the world, should take a lead in resisting this movement.

I do not know whether this Government which protects the religious bigots in this country will be able to do that. These people who destroy religious places in India are the counterparts of Taliban here.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara) : Sir, the *fatwa* issued by the Taliban to destroy the ancient Buddhist statues is a very shocking incident. This should be taken very seriously. The Government should take up the issue with the Government of Afghanistan to stop any kind of demolition of the Buddhist statues. These are the symbols of our ancient tradition. Although it has come out in all the newspapers, it is unfortunate that the Government did not take cognizance of this issue. This is a very serious issue. This is agitating not only the minds of thousands and thousands of Buddhists but people belonging to other religions in this country. Destruction of the ancient monuments and statues will create ill-will among the people of our country.

[Shri Ramesh Chennithala]

Sir, through you, I request the Government to take up the issue very seriously and do the needful. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is present in the House. The Government should give an assurance to the Buddhists and other people who are really painful to know about this incident...(interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are not allowing the Government to speak.

(interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(interruptions)\*

SHRI SURESH KURUP : This House should condemn it.. (interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let us hear the reply of the Government.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the whole House is concerned and the Government is definitely concerned regarding the demolition of Buddhist statues. UNESCO has stated that it is not only a statue of Buddha but an invaluable gift to humanity also and nobody should damage it and that is why Government of India has decided that where ever it is possible we will raise this issue at the international level. We will evolve consensus at international level and try our level best to stop it. We all know that all this is happening in a country where it is very difficult to control. We could not get as much support from the international community as we need. But India will raise this matter in United Nations and other International organisations and make every possible effort for its security.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat) : Sir, I have also given a notice.

MR. SPEAKER : Your matter has been referred to the Committee of Privileges, you can not raise it here.

(interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Sir, Taliban must be wanted...(interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This matter is pending with Committee of Privileges, how can you raise it here. Please take your seat.

(interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am not allowing you since the matter is pending before the Privileges Committee.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NARESH TRIPATHEE (Seoni) : Sir, I have also given notice.

MR. SPEAKER : You have given notice. But this is a privilege matter. Please raise this matter in the Committee of Privileges. How can you raise it here?

[English]

SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA (Bhatinda) : Sir, I would like to mention a matter of urgent public importance, namely discrimination against the regional languages on Doordarshan Channel...(interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : Sir, I should be given a chance to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : You can not raise it like this. Please come to my chamber I shall tell you...(interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will not allow you to speak like this.

(interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Tripatheeji, please sit down,

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given a notice.

MR. SPEAKER : You have given notice so we will call you.

[English]

SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA : Sir, I would like to mention a matter of urgent public importance, namely discrimination against the regional languages on Doordarshan News Channel on 28.2.2001. When news about the Central Budget was telecast, regional languages like Punjabi, Oriya, Urdu, Telugu and Tamil were given five minutes each instead of fifteen minutes. It is a clear

discrimination against the regional languages. The Central Government should take action against the persons responsible.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (Satna) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Destitute Pension is not being paid on time all over the country. In Madhya Pradesh this pension is not paid even in six months. Old persons, widows and destitute are facing problems due to this. It is a grave situation. I Sailora village of Majhgavan development block of Satna district in Madhya Pradesh an 80 years old tribal of Kole tribe died due to starvation because he had not been paid destitute pension for six months. I want that the Government of India should conduct an enquiry into this matter. The whole village is saying that he was 85 years old and he had not been given pension for six months while one month after his death the pension was distributed.

I request the Government of India to make arrangements for timely payment of destitute pension and increase the amount of pension from Rs. 150/- per month to Rs. 300 per month. Besides, it should issue directions to Madhya Pradesh Government not to use the amount of destitute pension for other purposes. The amount for the destitute pension is being spent in giving salaries to government employees and on our journeys. I request the Government to increase the amount of pension and it should be paid in time. Moreover, the death of the old tribal of sailora village of Majhgavan development block is a stigma on the destitute pension scheme. The Government should conduct an enquiry and ask the Madhya Pradesh Government reasons for delayed payment of the pension.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur) Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a C.C.I. cement unit in Neemach district of Madhya Pradesh which is lying closed as power connection of the factory has been cut four thousands of workers are facing unemployment. If the central Government provides it 15 crore rupees then the cement factory which was making profit, can be restart and once the production starts in the unit, assistance can be provided to Gujarat which has been devastated by the earthquake. Therefore, I request the Government to provide Rs. 15 crore start the cement factory immediately.

[English]

SHRI M.V.V.S MURTHI (Visakhapatnam) : Sir, this is an urgent issue which I would like to bring to your kind

notice. The technical education is improving every year in our country. In Andhra Pradesh also, several technical colleges have been established and the workload has increased considerably. But the AICTE does not have any office in Hyderabad. Due to which, a lot of inconvenience is caused in developing the technical education. The AICTE is having offices in Chennai and Karnataka. The workload in Andhra Pradesh is much more than what they are having.

Therefore, I would appeal to you to impress upon the Government to open a regional office in Andhra Pradesh urgently so that it can cater to the needs of the people from this academic year itself.

[Translation]

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ (Saidpur) Mr. Speaker, Sir. U.P.S.I.D.C., Kanpur is forcibly acquiring/cent percent agricultural and productive land of dalits of gramsabha Karakhiyanaq, Mauja, Dighi, pargana – kolasla, district – varanasi, Uttar Pradesh through the District Magistrate violating the U.P. Government orders No. 1995109-03-85-r-13 Dated 24.9.1995 and 2011/90-47-r-13 Dated 13.2.1990. The dalit community of Mauja is losing its land while it has been said in the government order that the dalits should not be rendered landless and thier land should not be acquired.

Hon. President in his address to the nation on the eve of republic Day, has said that land should not be taken from tribals and dalits under any circumstances. There are laws which prevent the acquisition of such land The Supreme Court has also endorsed these provisions through its decisions.

I request that U.P.S.I. D.C., Kanpur should be directed through District Magistrate, Varanasi to take necessary action for vacating the land of the said dalits.

[English]

SHRI M. CHINNASAMY (Karur) : I would like to raise an important issue pertaining to my constituency. In Tamil Nadu there is a spinning mill popularly known as Karur Spinning Mill. For the past fifty years the mill had been functioning in profit with two thousand workers. Two years ago, the management all of a sudden ran away to Mumbai in the mid-night without any reason, without any notice or intimation to the workers.

Now the workers have been agitating. More than two thousand workers have been rendered jobless. They are

[Shri M. Chinnasamy]

unable even to pay the school fees of their children. As a result, many of the school going children have discontinued their studies. As a Member of Parliament I had written to the management of the mill and the Minister concerned. But, so far there has been no response either from the Government or from the management side.

I would therefore urge upon the Central Government to intervene in the matter immediately and settle the issue.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (East Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw your attention towards a problem which is going to trouble lakhs of people of Delhi. All the diesel run buses will go off the roads from 1 April, 2001. The Congress Government in Delhi has not taken any step in this direction. Today, they have only 130 buses while almost 10,000 buses are required for the commuters of Delhi. The Supreme Court has been repeatedly warning them since 1998 to take steps in this direction. They also made a provision in the budget for this purpose but it was not spent. Delhites who have to go their workplaces, people living in hutments will face problems and even students will not be able to go to schools, and they will not be able to pursue their studies. A Government which is going to leave whole Delhi in the lurch from 1 April onwards, does not have any moral right to stay in power. Through you, I demand that concrete measures should be taken to improve the situation of transport in Delhi which is going to become a chaos from 1 April. I want the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to say something about it because it is a serious problem concerning Delhi. People will not be able to go to attend their work. The whole of Delhi will deluge in distress. Special attention should be paid on this...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sahib Singh Verma, Shri Madan Lal Khurana, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and Shri Vijay Goel may all associate themselves with this issue.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Chief Minister of Delhi has expressed her inability to do anything in this regard. Had the Government

said that they were making efforts, some ray of hope would have been in sight but the Chief Minister said that she could do nothing, she could provide only 500-600 buses whereas requirement was of 10,000 buses. After the opening of schools, the whole of Delhi will require 10,000 buses whereas only 300-400 buses are available. Delhi will deluge in distress. People will not be able to attend their offices. Therefore, I want that after the statement of the Chief Minister that she could do nothing, something should be done by the Union Government.

[English]

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali) : I would like to raise a very important matter of urgent public importance. The Vishakapatnam Port Trust has issued a notification on 12th October 2000 calling for tenders for the construction of BOT Berths of EQ-8 and EQ-9 imposing certain stringent conditions. In response to the notification, as many as 33 agencies and parties had taken the tender documents. But, ultimately, looking at the stringent conditions, only six parties had applied for pre-qualification. After that, only three parties were pre-qualified. Even thereafter, only two parties could finally come forward for filing of the tender documents.

Sir, subsequently, the Minister for Surface Transport had relaxed all conditions which amounts to favouring these two agencies which are in the race for bidding. In normal procedure, as and when there is a revision of conditions, the earlier bids will be cancelled and fresh bids will be recalled so that there will be justification in calling for tenders and also construction of these berth. It also goes to the advantage of the Government and for equitable justice, it should be done. But it has not been done so far.

I request the Minister for Surface Transport to cancel the earlier tenders which were called, based on the notification given by the VPT on 12th October, 2000 and tenders should be recalled based on the stipulations that are given by the MoST on 28th March, 2000 so that there will be equitable justice based on the relaxed conditions.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given notice.

MR. SPEAKER : I am coming to you. Your notice is not in this list. We will see, please be seated.

[English]

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (Gulbarga) : Sir, I would like to draw the kind attention of the Minister about the plight of workers of Kurkunda Cement Corporation which comes in my constituency.

[Translation]

For two or two and a half years this factory is closed down, which has two thousand five hundred employees and along with those employees there are 8 thousand dependents also, the employees are not getting salary for the last two and half years. As such 10 thousand people are in trouble. Three workers have committed suicide till date. Government is not taking any step to restart that factory, nor giving any other facility for revival of that factory. No step either has been taken for bringing the factory under disinvestment or introducing voluntary retirement scheme as a result of which the workers took out a big agitation before the office of the Deputy Commissioner in my constituency, Gulbarga and in front of my house. Ten thousand people are starving there for the two and a half years, no one is ready to help them. The cement factory which was running in the Kurgunta village, where there was prosperity and hustle and bustle, today due to the closure of the factory there is complete ruination in that constituency and a deserted look is prevalent there.

I want to draw the attention of the Minister of Public Undertaking that for restarting this factory he should take measures for introducing V.R.S. or any other measures which is possible.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of India exports 4 lac metric tons of onion every years. Out of the total production of onion in the country, 75-80 percent is produced in Maharashtra. But when the matter of export of onion comes a very big problem arises before the farmers of Maharashtra. Despite repeated requests by the Maharashtra Government, the Director-General of Foreign Trade of Government of India has allocated a quota for exporting only 10,000 metric tons of onion to the Maharashtra State Agriculture Marketing Board. Whereas the total quota of onion to be issued is 50 thousand metric tons. The onion has started coming in the wholesale markets of Maharashtra. The onion is also perishable item. Through you I request the Government to interfere in the matter and save the farmers of Maharashtra from the impending losses. Besides, I request the Government to take a decision for enhancing the quota from ten thousand metric tons to 15 thousand metric tons.

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL (Phulpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I want to draw the attention of the Government of India towards the examinations by the Union Public Service Commission held during 1999. This year 411 examinees have passed, out of which 43 examinees of backward castes 16 of scheduled castes and 6 of scheduled tribes have passed in the general merit. But out of them only 6 from the backward castes, one from Schedule castes, one from Scheduled tribes i.e. 8 persons have been taken. Besides, among the other persons 27 from the Backward castes, 13 from the Schedule castes and 8 from the schedule tribes, who got a place in the general category, have been placed in the reserve category and out of them, 10 from the Backward castes and 2 from the Scheduled Castes have not been given appointment hitherto. The representatives of the Backward Castes Association and the SC/ST Association have requested to raise the matter in the Houde. I demand that the Government should give appointments to those who have not been appointed and at the same time those persons belonging to Backward Castes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who have stood in the general merit, be given appointment in the general category itself.

[English]

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (Kasargod) : Sir, I thank you for the opportunity given to me.

Today, during the 'Zero Hour,' I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the problems being faced by the bidi workers and the bidi industry.

Lakhs of bidi workers and their cooperatives and private management are in very serious anxiety over the Central Government's attempt to ban smoking at public places.

The Dinesh Bidi Works in Kerala is one of the biggest management Societies in bidi industry. 25000 rollers and 700 employees are working in this Society on factory basis completely avoiding child labour and home-based putting out system. This Society could guarantee better wages and living conditions to the workers. The Society itself is owned and managed by workers and they are enjoying better modern facilities.

In the current Budget Session, the Government intend to introduce the "Tobacco Productions (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation) Bill, 2000". Last year, the Kerala High Court had pronounced a verdict to ban smoking in public places. It provoked the bidi workers and

[Shri T. Govindan]

their family and they agitated in front of the High Court itself.

Now-a-days, employment opportunities are reducing and factories are closing in different sectors. So, banning of smoking in public places will throw thousands of bidi workers jobless. Now, Kerala is suffering from the low prices of agricultural products and subsequent unemployment.

In the circumstances, I request the Government to postpone the introduction of the "Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation) Bill, 2000".

DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI (Peddapalli) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw your attention and the attention of this august House to an important issue.

I want to draw your attention to the fact as to how the Government of Andhra Pradesh is put to loss of hundreds of crores of rupees by way of sales tax by the traders in the neighbouring States who use the anomalies in the Central tax structure announced by the Central Government. The *modus operandi* by the traders is simple. They open or create a fictitious branch office in the neighbouring southern States and prepare invoices. The Union Government announced uniform sales tax and advised all the States to follow it from the year 2000. The States of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry are not following the pattern of uniform sales tax and 35 items are taxed at a lesser price compared to the rest of India. This is the anomaly which the unscrupulous traders take advantage of and loot the State of Andhra Pradesh to the tune of Rs. 100 crore. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken up the issue with the Central Government and also brought it to the notice of the Empowered Committee. The Central Government warned the erring States by saying that if by January 2000 they failed to follow the Central guidelines and procedures, the Central grants would be stopped.

Hence, I draw the immediate attention of the hon. Minister of Commerce and also the hon. Minister of Finance. I request the hon. Minister of Commerce and the hon. Minister of Finance to look into the matter and act immediately to stop the loot by the trader. Thank you.

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH (Nagar Kurnool) : Sir, I would like to raise an important matter regarding sanction

of Crop Insurance for ground-nut growing districts of Mahaboobnagar, Anathapur and Cuddapah of Andhra Pradesh.

The groundnut growing farmers of Mahabubnagar, Ananthapur and Cuddapah are facing problems because of the non-settlement of crop insurance to the tune of Rs. 943.42 lakh. The reason given by the Government of India is that the areas claimed for insurance are more than the sown areas. It is not true. Actually, the sown areas claimed by the groundnut farmers are factual and, in effect, the ground reality. Some of the crop cutting experiments have fallen in irrigated areas and the same have distorted the yields in some of the Mandals, as a whole. It is requested that groundnut yields in rainfed areas only should be taken into account, after excluding the yields observed in irrigated areas.

Hence, I would request the Union Minister for Agriculture, through you, Sir, to settle the matter immediately. The hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has also written to the hon. Union Minister for Agriculture on 23.09.2000. But the matter is pending. Thank you.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the fact that in Rajasthan the percentage of literacy is very low in comparison to other States. The Union Government is providing adequate fund for educating everybody by starting campaign for total literacy. The present Congress Government of Rajasthan has politicised the education by opening Rajiv Gandhi Swarn Jayanti Schools. Due to the appointment of eighth passed persons workers of Sewa Dal etc as teachers as per the wishes of Sarpanch. There has been continuous decline in the level of education. Due to this, there is resentment and discontent among the trained teachers. The funds received for other heads are diverted for this purpose and there are irregularities in the expenditure incurred by the State on these schools... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is a State subject.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Sir, no qualification is fixed for selection, nepotism is growing on... (Interruptions). This new experiment for the propagation of education has only turned out to be political campaign, wherein there is lack of the quality of education.

Therefore, I request the Union Government to promptly intervene in it to prevent the politicisation of education...  
(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vijay Goel, Shri Manoj Sinha and Shri Radha Mohan Singh have given notices. They are all purely related to State subjects

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vijay Goel, you have given a notice and it relates to the State. How can you raise it in this House?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : These are all State subjects. How can you raise the State subjects in the House? It is entirely a State matter.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Govt. — towards West Bengal...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Vijay Goel, you cannot raise the State matter in this House.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, we shall take matter under Rule 377. Shrimati Jas Kaur Meena.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Sir, four persons of RSS have been mercilessly murdered...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vijay Goel, how can you raise the State matters in the House? Please understand and cooperate with the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. Nothing should go on record.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vijay Goel, you cannot raise the State matters in this House. Please tell me the procedure.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vijay Goel, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vijay Goel, how can you raise State matters in the House?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 1.30 p.m

12.41 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for lunch till thirty minutes past Thirteen of the Clock.*

13.33 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at thirty-three minutes past Thirteen of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

## TAXATION LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL\*\*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the House will take up item No. 9. Shri Yashwant Sinha.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further

\*Not recorded.

\*\*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 1.3.2001.



[Shri Yashwant Sinha]

to amend the Finance Act, 2000 and the Income-tax Act, 1961.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Finance Act, 2000 and the Income-tax Act, 1961."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I introduce\* the Bill.

13.34 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: TAXATION LAWS  
(AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE—LAID

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for immediate legislation by the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3292/2001]

13.35 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

**(I) Need for proper utilisation of funds meant for development of villages affected by National Tiger Project in Sawai Madhopur in Rajasthan**

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA (Sawai Madhopur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are a number of national tiger projects in India out of which one is in the Sawai Madhopur parliamentary constituency, known as Ranathambhor tiger sanctuary. The government of India had chosen the year 1997 to develop this project under the eco-development project. The total expenditure on this project was to be incurred by the Government of India and the world Bank for the development of villages affected by the sanctuary. A sum of Rs. 38 crore was sanctioned for this project which was to be spent on the development of the villages by

\*Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

constituting EDC committees in the villages in co-operation with the villages. But it has been noticed that the participation of the villagers is negligible. The officials of the forest department are misusing it.

Therefore, through you, I would like to urge upon the Minister of Environment and Forests to ensure proper utilisation of funds approved by the Government of India and the World Bank for the development of about 110 villages affected by the Ranathambhor tiger sanctuary.

**(ii) Need to release funds for early completion of Rani Awantibai Sagar Project at Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh**

SHRI RAM NARESH TRIPATHEE (Seoni) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Rani Awantibai Sagar Project, the first project under the Narmada Valley Development Programme in Madhya Pradesh, which was earlier Known as Bargi multipurpose project was launched in 1971 on the river Narmada near the village Bargi of Jabalpur district. Its main barrage was completed in 1974 and a vast reservoir of 3180 million cubic meter capacity has been prepared. The main objective of this project was to irrigate about 3 lac hectares of agriculture land in the districts of Jabalpur, Narsinhpur, Katni, Satna and Rewa as the left and right side canal for which construction of left and right canal water gates has also been completed a number of years back. The work of digging and earth work on the left bank of the canal is almost complete, but it is not hitherto started at any level due to the lack of cemented work and CC lining. Public money worth billions of rupees has been spent on this barrage and thousands of hectares of agriculture land and forests cover have come under the catchment area and thousands of people of hundreds of villages got displaced but irrigation capacity only for 25 thousand hectares of agriculture land has been achieved so far.

The Union government is requested to allocate adequate funds after fixing a time frame for the construction of canals, so that the benefits of this barrage could reach the people at the earliest.

**(iii) Need to take necessary steps to make Thermal Power Station 'A' at Bokaro in Bihar viable**

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, almost seven months have gone by since the closure of the 'A' plant of the Bokaro Thermal Power Station and this has caused a loss of around 25 crore rupees to the plant. The cause of its closure is the non-compliance

of pollution norms. The Department of Pollution had given the direction for installing the pollution control machine before closing the plant but it could not be installed because no agreement was reached between the management and the officers of Damodar Valley Corporation. Consequently about 600 labourers have been affected.

Similarly, there were huge losses and wastage due to the crack in the ash tank of the 'B' plant of the Bokaro Thermal Power Station, but the matter was ignored.

Therefore, we urge upon the Government to get the above matter investigated and take action against the guilty officers and make arrangements to open the plant at the earliest.

**(iv) Need to open Central School at Motihari in Bihar**

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH (Motihari) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Union Minister of Human Resource Development towards my Parliamentary constituency, Motihari. This is a historic district and its name is associated with the freedom movement. Since long, people of this district are making a demand for opening of a Central School, which has also been supported from time to time by the representatives of the area. I have also communicated this demand of the people to the Union Government.

I request the Hon'ble Minister to kindly approve for a Central School in Motihari (Bihar), whereby this demand of the people of the area could be fulfilled and at the same time children could also get the facility of good education.

**(v) Need to enhance export quota for coarse grains including maize for the State of Karnataka**

[English]

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ (Tumkur) : Sir, farmers in Karnataka have been severely hit by the recent price crash of agricultural produce including coarse grains like maize. Huge stocks of maize are lying unsold in Mandis. Responding to a request from Karnataka Government, the Centre has offered a package to the State Government whereby maize will be procured at a minimum support price of Rs. 540/- per quintal by the State Government for distribution under the PDS. Similar incentive given to Andhra Pradesh, Centre has undertaken to subsidise the maize procurement by nearly 50 per cent. The maize

farmers are agitated over the snail's pace in the procurement of maize by Food Corporation of India and farmers' apprehension that single shower could destroy their maize crop as it has been stored outside the procurement centres.

Further, in order to clear the stocks of maize thus procured, the Karnataka Government has suggested to the Centre to enhance the export quota for coarse grains (including maize) by another 25,000 tonnes. Therefore, I would urge the Centre to convey its approval for both the above proposals. I also request the Central Government to extend the procurement time till the end of May, 2001.

**(vi) Need to sanction Circular Ring Railway Project for Bangalore**

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA (Hassan) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, almost all the roads of Bangalore city have become highly congested and the number of accidents in each of these roads has risen very steeply. The roads where the traffic vehicles have to halt at least 15 to 20 minutes at signal lights are (1) Kempe Gowda Road (2) Jaychama Rajendra Road (3) Avenue Road (4) Residency Road (5) Roads leading to Shivajinagar Bus Stand and many others. There are no fly-overs on these roads and added to this, there are very large permanent buildings on both sides of the roads. Hence, expansion or extension of any of these roads is ruled out.

The traffic is acute during peak hours. There is tremendous increase in the number of vehicles on these roads. The Ministry of Urban Development and the State Government are expressing their helplessness in this regard. The future of transport system in the city is very gloomy. Experts have opined that Circular Ring Railway is the only solution for this long pending problem.

I, therefore, urge upon the hon. Railway Minister to sanction this Ring Railway Project to Bangalore without any further loss of time.

**(vii) Need to set up a National Folklore Academy**

SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY (Cannanore) : Sir, there are Academies in our country like Kendriya Sahithya Akademi, Lalitkala Akademi and Music and Drama Akademi. But nobody thought of constituting a Folklore Academy, which is a necessity in this era. Due to globalisation, different types of arts in rural areas which

[Shri A.P. Abdullakutty]

focus our cultural heritage are slowly facing a natural death as there is no constructive work done from our side to bring them back to glory. Folk arts include tribal arts also. To preserve these forms of arts, the Central Government should take urgent initiative to constitute a Folklore Academy.

**(viii) Need to provide more railway facilities to the people of Marathwada region in Maharashtra**

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, rail service is essential for the development of any area, but no scheme has been implemented for the development of railways in the Marathwada region (Maharashtra) during the last 50 years. Therefore, there is heavy resentment among the people of Marathwada (Maharashtra). It was seen during the Rail Roko Aandolan in the whole of Marathwada on the 25th of June, 2000 and during the Marathwada bandh on the 22nd January, 2001. We have submitted a memorandum on 1st February, 2001 and 7th February, 2001 to the Hon'ble Minister of Railways. We had also met the hon'ble Prime Minister in Mumbai. Accordingly, announcements were to be made for Marathwada in this budget, but no such announcements were made. Due to this, the people of Marathwada have started agitation at different places since the 27th February. Through you, I urge upon the hon'ble Minister of Railways and the hon'ble Prime Minister to fulfill the expectations of the people of Marathwada.

**(ix) Need to provide more Railway facilities at Fariha Railway station in Azamgarh district U.P.**

DR. BALIRAM (Lalgunj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Azamgarh district in Purvanchal is still backward and there is no development because broadgauge railway line was not available there. From 1991-1993 there were agitations in support of this demand after which the railway line was laid and mail trains started running. But, at the Fariha Railway Station, stoppage for mail express trains was not provided. The local people are again agitating over the issue and on 12th February, 2001 staged a 'dharna' before the office of the District collector and put following demands before the government, Ministry of Railways too.

1. Provide a stoppage for all mail and express trains at Fariha Railway Station.
2. Introduce a train from Azamgarh to Mumbai and Delhi via Kanpur, Aligarh.
3. Start running the Utsarag Express No. 5107 up from Chhapra at 5 in the evening and 5108 dn, from Lucknow at 9.00 in the night.
4. Run train No. 574 from Shahganj at 8 o'clock in the morning.
5. Start train No. 578 dn. From Shahganj at 3 o'clock in the morning and train No. 573 up from Mau at 4.00 p.m.

Therefore, through you, I demand the government to immediately take action on the aforesaid demands in the public interest.

**(x) Need to resume scheduled flights to and from Salem Airport in Tamil Nadu**

[English]

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI (Salem) : Salem is one of the largest industrial cities and a famous tourist location in Tamil Nadu. The surrounding districts of Salem district are also having large industrial activities. However, the people of Salem district and its neighbouring districts are deprived of air traffic facilities. Salem has got one of the finest airports in the country but no scheduled flights are operated from Salem. To establish this finest airport at Salem, the Government spent about Rs. 6 crore and finally the Airport was inaugurated in the year 1993. In 1994, for about three months, scheduled flights were operated from and to Salem, and thereafter these services were discontinued. Now this beautiful airport is being used by the non-scheduled operators. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to resume scheduled flights operation from and to Salem from different parts of the country urgently.

**(xi) Need for all-round development of North Bihar**

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Litchi and Mango are produced in 25000 hectare of land in Bihar and their production is more than three lac tonnes per year. Like other fruits in the Country, 30 to 40

per cent of these fruit perish. Only less than 50 tonnes of these are exported. Lack of basic facilities is the main cause of low exports. Even after hard work, litchi and mango growers are not getting profits.

Therefore, I would like to urge upon the Government that Litchi and Mango producing areas of North Bihar should be declared as a special area with adequate power supply so that cold storages could be set up. Roads should be repaired. More financial institutions should be set up so that farmers could get loans. To provide export facility to the farmers, Muzaffarpur Airport should be declared as dry port.

**(xii) Need for construction of flyovers on rail line at Dabawali and Sirsa in Haryana**

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA (Sirsa) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, rail line and National Highway No. 10 cross in between Sirsa Dabawali. The traffic jams at the railway crossings can be seen when a train comes. It is a reality that as soon as the Gateman of the railway crossing gets information about the arrival of the train, the traffic is disturbed in the two cities. From the business point of view, both the cities are significantly important. People living in the nearby villages and small towns come to these cities to fulfil their needs. It is also a reason that there is more traffic in these cities as compared to others.

Therefore, I would like to urge upon the Government that a flyover should be constructed on rail line at National Highway No. 10 in both the cities so that the citizens could get some relief there.

**(xiii) Need to formulate an action plan and allocate funds for Development of Vithal Rukumai temple in Sholapur district of Maharashtra**

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Vithal Rukumai temple is situated on the banks of Chandrabhaga rivers at Pandharpur in Sholapur district of Maharashtra. The devotees from various states of the country visit the temple every year. But there is lack of civic amenities. An action plan for the temple was also formulated but it has not been implemented till date. Therefore, the Government should take concrete steps to implement action plan for providing basic amenities to the pilgrims visiting Vithal Rukumai temple in Sholapur district of Maharashtra.

**(xiv) Need to open a second Regional Passport Office at Dimapur**

*[English]*

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM (Nagaland) : The North-East region consists of seven states, which includes Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland. So far these is only one Regional Passport Office for these states i.e., at Guwahati, in Assam. It becomes quite difficult for the citizens of Nagaland, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh to travel individually to the Regional Passport Office at Guwahati for clarifying the queries of Passport officials. The people of these States especially from the hilly and remote areas not only waste so many days to reach Guwahati but also spend their hard earnings unnecessarily for the purpose.

Moreover, the travel agents are making huge profits from the individuals on the pretext that they would arrange the passport from Guwahati Office and cheat the poor public. I would like to request the Ministry of external affairs to open a second Regional Passport Office at Dimapur for the States of Nagaland, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh to enable the public of these States to make their passports at the shortest time with minimum expenditure.

13.53 hrs.

**MOTION RE : DISAPPROVAL OF PROPOSED  
DISINVESTMENT OF BHARAT ALUMINIUM  
COMPANY LIMITED**

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Item No. 16.

Before Shri Rupchand Pal initiates the discussion, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Members that the time allotted for this discussion is five hours.

Party-wise also the time available is like this:

Ruling party - 2 hours and 24 minutes; Indian National Congress - 1 hour and 03 minutes, CPI(M) - 18 minutes, TDP - 16 minutes, Samajwadi Party - 14 minutes, BSP - 8 minutes, AIADMK - 6 minutes, NCP - 4 minutes, RJD - 4 minutes, INLD - 3 minutes, PMK - 3 minutes, CPI, RSP, ABLC, AIFB, ML, RLD - 8 minutes and independents and single member parties - 9 minutes.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : I think the time of the Mover is not included there.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : They are ready to sell it, how much amount they have taken...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Your disturbances are also not included. Before the discussion, the disturbances have started!

[Translation]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : They have taken certain amount, but the thing is that how much money they have taken...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : I beg to move :

"That this House disapproves the proposed disinvestment of Bharat Aluminium Company Limited".

While moving this motion, I would first thank you very much for your kind consideration to allow a discussion on this vital issue in the present form.

Parliament has every right to look into the vital developments that are taking place involving the economic and other sovereign rights of the people of this country.

The public sector undertakings have been set up by public money and it was the contribution through blood and sweat of our countrymen. This Government, with a coalition of partners having divergent principles and divergent views, have no right to sell out the valuable, promising, profit-making public undertakings like the BALCO. There is no consensus in the Government about this sell out as has already been made public by different partners like the Telugu Desam Party and Shiv Sena. I do not know the position of Trinamool Congress, but at it appears in the Press that they have approached the concerned Ministry and maybe the hon. Prime Minister to desist from such under-sell of this valued property. They may make their position clear because our earlier experience has been that they are saying one thing and ultimately to stick to power, they have been just throwing out every show of principle, which they have been publicly posing.

Sir, this Parliament has been allowed today to discuss this important issue. Before I go into the details of the sell out, I am just making a mention to the policies of this Government.

In the latest Economic Survey this Government says:

"The main elements of Government's policy towards the public sector undertakings are :

(1) to bring down Government equity in all non-strategic PSUs 26 per cent all over."

We do not agree with it. The position and the viewpoints of the Left Parties and the parties like CPI(M) are well known. So, I am not going back to that issue.

Then second point :

"restructure and revive potentially viable PSUs.

(3) close down PSUs which cannot be revived and fully protect the interests of workers."

The Government is speaking in two voices. They are saying that they will restructure and revive potentially viable PSUs. But those units which are already viable, which are profit-making, which are giants, and which are mini-ratnas, are being presented on a platter to their friends. I shall come to that.

Sir, the Department of Disinvestment is, at present, taking action in about 30 PSUs, subsidiaries of PSUs where Government decision for disinvestment and locating joint-venture partner has been taken. We know their view points about Maruti Udyog Limited, Indian Airlines; Air India, VSNL and such other ratnas and mini-ratnas.

About BALCO, I am coming to a Government Report, What does the Annual Report of 1999-2000 say? This is not manufactured by CPI(M) or by Left Parties, or they are not media rumours. It is your own report...(Interruptions) This was the best-achieved production in the last 13 years. The Company contributed a sum of Rs. 291.57 crore to the exchequer during the year which comprises as excise duty Rs. 125.13 crore.

14.00 hrs.

Your private enterprises are evading tax. I can give you any number of cases. There has been a shortfall. Even yesterday the Government has admitted that they could not reach the target with regard to the indirect taxes like excise and all those things.

This company has paid excise duty of Rs. 51.40 crore, turnover tax of Rs. 0.48 crore, electricity duty of Rs. 25.99 crore and royalty cess of Rs. 0.91 crore. This is the public sector undertaking. What is the track record of the company to which you are handing this over? I had an occasion to go there for enquiry along with so many friends of mine. That company has rigged the price in the share market with two companies and it is hand in glove with the Big Bull. Till today the judgement is to be given and this is because of their influence and clout at relevant quarters. The Sterlite company was involved in that price rigging. They have been taken to task by the Department of Telecommunications of your Government. Your Government had blacklisted this company.

Have they any technology? What is their technology? In MALCO it is all obsolete as what is described in your own language that your baby, your BALCO, is having obsolete technology. What is not true is that your MALCO is with an insignificant share in the market and Sterlite is claiming that they will provide the latest technology. Wherefrom the capital will come? It is very much here. I have got the documents. They will bring the capital from our nationalised sector, from the public sector banks and the financial institutions.

That is not the only dimension. I could have given you any number of instances as to how important BALCO is. I am referring to only one which is the security concern. Aluminium is a metal of the future. For space science and for manufacturing Air Force planes of the latest style, aluminium is vital and you know that the public sector undertakings have been set up for this purpose. Pandit Nehru had to go from one part of the world to another. No one came forward to our rescue. Only the erstwhile Soviet Union came forward to set up important industries.

Your own report says that "In addition, it also supplies aluminium and aluminium alloy products in various forms to the Defence sector in India". This is privatising the defence sector which is jeopardising our national security. This is so in a situation when we are claiming to provide and we are demanding for further provision for the Defence Budget.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam) : They have already announced that Defence Production will be privatised...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : But you are supporting them....*(Interruptions)* You call it 'India Government Incorporated'...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Now they are very vocal about this report of the Disinvestment Commission. What can we do? The Disinvestment Commission was set up at a different time. Now you have to depend on the Disinvestment Commission. Where is the Disinvestment Commission today? The Department is headed by a Junior Minister. Please do not mind my saying so. It is because everything is being done by the PMO, by the number of 'Navratnas' sitting there, the former bureaucrats sitting there. You see how many documents are there or how many calls they have made. The 'Ratnas' sitting in that PMO are ruling the roost. They are determining everything, finalising everything from the Budget to the BALCO sell-out.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : It is not 'Navratnas' but it is 'Teen Ratnas'.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Yes. I am just referring to the Disinvestment Commission. What did it say about the public sector in India?

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane) : *(Interruptions)\**

*[English]*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : No, we do not consider it...  
*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE : *(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, this kind of comments are not good in the House.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You please withdraw those comments. This kind of comments are not proper in the House. Please mind it.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It will not form part of the record.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE : What wrong I have said?... *(Interruptions)*

\*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It will not go on record please.

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia, U.P.) : Mr. Speaker Sir, may I know from the ruling party whether the talk between the ruling party Members and the Opposition Members is barred? If it is barred, I shall request the Opposition Members not to have any talk or any connection with any of the ruling party Member. If the Members on this side are doing this behaviour in this House, I do not think, it will be possible for any Member in the Opposition to have any truck with any Member of the Government or any Member of the ruling front now.

MR. SPEAKER : That has not gone on record. That kind of comments are not proper.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am appealing to the hon. Members not to make this kind of comments in the House hereafter.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It will not go on record. Shri Rupchand Pal.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, I am not being provoked to name the *ratnas* because some day if the doctor of the Prime Minister or the cook of the Prime Minister or many others close to the Prime Minister are rewarded with special honours, these people will also be honoured specially, in the coming days. I am not going beyond that. If they provoke me, I have many things to tell you about these *ratnas*. The public sector in India continues to be an important component of the Indian industry even after liberalisation unlike the experience in many other countries which went for wholesale privatisation. What is their viewpoint about this part of the Report? He should come out and tell what he understands by 'disinvestment'.

Then, I am coming to the actual part of the recommendation. We are not referring to many things with regard to Disinvestment Commission's Report. They have suggested about a Disinvestment Fund. What have they done? Have they done anything about it? They are using the whole proceeds for meeting the fiscal deficit. Only this year, after so much of criticism outside, they will provide

such amount, if collection is possible, then they will provide for social sector and the rest for retiring debt and all these things. Have they set up the Disinvestment Fund for restructuring the potential profit-making public sector undertakings, with marginal deficiencies? Have they done it? No. They have not followed many good recommendations. They say that the Disinvestment Commission had recommended. What did they recommend?

"The Commission recommends that Government may disinvest its holding in the company by offering a significant share of 40 per cent of the equity to a strategic partner, either domestic or foreign, through a transparent and competitive global bidding process."

How could they change it to 51 per cent? I know that he will show a letter, but a letter of an individual is not the verdict of the Commission. The hon. Minister should understand this simple thing. He should have the capability to make the simple differentiation. He has the guts to quote a letter of a person as he has manipulated it. I am ready to comment thus far ... (Interruptions) When you reply, you reply to my question whether any letter from an individual amounts to a final adopted Report of a Commission.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West) : Tell him when the letter was issued.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : It was issued on June 12, 1998.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : I demand that that letter be placed on the Table of the House. I will demand many more documents to be placed on the Table of the House in the course of my speech. This is the first of those documents.

I now come to the evaluation process. BALCO is a profit-making company. It has been contributing to the national exchequer. The mines have good reserves. Bauxite mines are like gold mines. What is the reserve available in those mines? Who has evaluated the mines? In the case of captive power plant even the chief of the

Power Finance Corporation had observed that it will cost no less than Rs. 1,000 crore. This had been corroborated by the former chief of the Central Electricity Authority Shri Debroy. Its life span is 35 years of which not even one-third has been covered. The captive power plant is being given away on a platter. Who can make an evaluation of the reserves available in a mine? How the selection has been made will be dealt with later on. Even Shri P.V. Rao said that he was not in a position to make an evaluation of the reserves available in the mines. Who will do it then?

There are many experts, many consultancy agencies known for their expertise in this work and reputed the world over. Some of them are in the public sector also. Had they been called? No. It was the Indian Bureau of Mines which went into it. What did they do? They collected some statistics, published some monthly and annual reports. Who are the people involved? They may be statisticians! How and when was it decided that people collecting, adding, subtracting, multiplying figures, doing mathematics and arithmetic, can understand the issue of reserves of deposits in mines?

I wonder if the hon. Minister knows that aluminium industry is subject to cost audit and its details are submitted to the Government every year. It contains report for three years in one go. There is a reference to this in the annual report also. Could the Minister place the cost audit analysis, giving the whole gamut of the assets, properties including mines and all that, on the Table of the House? Could the Minister not find any expert who could make an evaluation of the reserves in the mines? The advantage of BALCO lies in its proximity to the bauxite area. Even this strong point has been kept out of the calculations.

The Minister has stated that he appointed a global advisor – it was a good thing he did that – called Jardine Fleming. What were the terms and conditions of this appointment? Could the Minister lay them on the Table of the House? I would like him to place them on the Table of the House. Is there anything unnatural or abnormal about it?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : It has already been laid on the Table.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : What was the scope of work of this body? How much payment was made to this global adviser?

Is it not a fact that the Global Adviser also proposed to evaluate the company's assets? Then why was it ignored?

There have been four parties and without any norms, the Expression of Intent (Eoi) was published. In publication, the Government of India mentions:

"This announcement is neither a prospectus nor an offer or invitation for sale to the public of shares, security or debentures whereas the Eoi is for sale of 50 per cent of GoL's shares."

How much time was given? The Eoi parties had to submit their credentials. You know the latest Audit Report. On business and operations, were these credentials sufficient to sell 51 per cent equity? The answer he owes to this House is whether the credentials submitted by these bidders were sufficient to sell 51 per cent equity of the company or whether the credentials were invited as proposed by the consultant. What was the basis for doing it? Who guided him to do it? Was it the PMO? What was the last bid of submission of Eoi package? What was the last date? It was not later than 30th June, 2000. Normally, for submission of bids, a specific time is incorporated. But in this case, no time had been mentioned. That is another violation.

The Central Vigilance Commission, very rightly, says:

"As per normal practice and CVC guidelines, for inviting bids, the earnest money deposit in the form of a demand draft or bank guarantee is essential.

But in this case, they did not consider all this. They had to put it before the Parliament because this is a normal practice. This is done the world over, everywhere in every case. In every other case they have done it but here they had not done it. Why have they not done it here, I want an answer from the hon. Minister. He shall have to explain it.

Apart from all this, one Financial Adviser, one Legal Adviser, one Public Relations Officer and one Mining Adviser have been appointed. What for? How much have they been paid? Who are these people? What are their credentials? The hon. Minister owes it to Parliament. So long as it is a public sector undertaking, Parliament has every right to know as to how these things are happening. Parliament has every right to intervene and control, and if necessary, stop underselling of valuable properties of the nation.



[Shri Rupchand Pal]

Sir, now I am coming to the valuation process. Before that, three processes had been adopted. But never this valuation took into consideration as to how a mining asset, a capital intensive on-going concern can be evaluated. Is there any norm? Is there any precedent?

What did you do with regard to IPCL, Baroda when you are in the process of selling it to Indian Oil Corporation? When you are selling one public sector undertaking to another, you are taking evaluation into consideration. Here you have vast assets, mining reserves, the machinery, the township, the captive plant, the hospital but nothing was taken into consideration. Is it an information technology company – or a company belonging to the ICE category – where futuristic calculations will have to be made on how the share prices would go up or down through capitalisation? The practice world over is that – and it is essential to do so – such valuations are undertaken in respect of aluminium industry, power plants, steel plants and the like.

There is no dearth of competent people and competent authorities to look into this. There is MECON; there is Engineers India Limited and there are many others. There are many people capable of making asset evaluations. This was never done. In the captive plant, one unit has some defect and because of the deficiency in one unit for a small period, BALCO suffered some losses. Moreover, because of the capital restructuring, the Government had been paid an amount to the tune of Rs. 244 crore or something like that and the company lost interest on that amount also.

You have to look at the reserves and the potential. Even very recently, a new rolling unit has come into operation. The captive power plant has been re-commissioned very recently, maybe a little more than a month or two ago. BALCO has a significant market share and brand evaluation apart from mining reserves and apart from the value of the current prices of the assets.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rupchand Pal, you have the right to reply too since you are the mover.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : I do not know whether there is anything for them to reply except to try again to misinform and disinform. It is going to be a repetition of the old game. Still, I shall try to complete as quickly as

possible because they are already embarrassed and speechless. The sight of the hon. Minister sitting silently is paining me because the fault lies elsewhere and he has to bear the burden...(Interruptions)

I am saying this because the BALCO disinvestment is going to be a precedent. They often say, 'What right has the Congress got to oppose all these things?' Never before has it so happened that someone has got an asset of no less than Rs. 5,000 crore at Rs. 550 crore. He will bring even this amount from our own bank in the nationalised sector. He does not have the technology too. I am not going into the details of what he is proposing to do. He says that he would have the option to buy the rest of the shares. He says that he will control the Indian copper, zinc and aluminium markets. What will happen to our defence? What will happen to our economy? Individuals are being served in this manner. I am not going into the connections that are there.

Why are the public sector undertakings, as intending bidders, deprived of going into the nitty-gritties of any unit whose shares are being held, for selling purposes?

He was privy to many inner documents and he calculated his offer on that basis. So, again and again, it come to the same thing. Whenever the hon. Minister is trying to give his reply, he says that he was the highest bidder, what can be done. Was he the highest bidder? He has more than 40 per cent of the market share. His bid was an insignificant bid; it was a non-serious bid. It was a case of cartelisation, like "you get NALCO and he will get BALCO." Here, I have a very relevant question to ask. You know the performance of the private sector. Even two or three days back, the report of the public sector undertakings has been laid on the Table of the House. What do we find? We find that they are picking up in spite of the obstacles that are being created and in spite of the non-cooperation of the Government. They are picking up in many sectors. Look at the performance of the private sector, be it in the manufacturing sector or others. In spite of the continuous patronage from this Government, they are not performing. They cannot perform.

In the present case, they became non-serious. Take the case of the American Company. Why did it withdraw? There is no Earnest Money Deposit, and so, there have been non-serious biddings. It was a case of cartelisation. I charge this Government that this cartelisation was patronaged by this Government to serve some particular interest. I want to ask a question.

Acquisition and mergers are allowed in the case of private sector so that they can become mega companies, be it in the telecom sector, be it in oil sector or any other sectors. But in the case of public sector undertakings if someone asks why should NALCO and BALCO not be merged together to have more financial strength and to compete with the multinational companies, they would not agree to that. They will not allow it.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : Both will be in trouble.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Who told you?

The same thing happened in the case of insurance companies. I know that.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : There is no trouble in any private company!

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : We had proposed to them not to delink the GIC and its subsidiaries; but they opened it up. Now, foreign insurance companies are coming in. If you did not delink the united strength of the GIC and its four subsidiaries, they would have the muscle to compete and defeat the foreign insurance companies who are coming into India. They did not do it. Is it a level-playing field? I charge this Government. Even without amending the Insurance Act, through oral means, through telephonic instructions, you have done it. Why is it that in the case of private sector, you are so lenient? You are ready to help it; you have extended your hand of 'help and cooperation' even before it has been sold. But in the case of the public sector undertakings, you are not doing like that. You are the Government and they are your babies. Even before you are selling it out, you are saying that he is a very bad boy, he is a very naughty boy and he has many diseases. You are saying like this, before the buyer. Is he not your child? When you want to sell your house, do you do like that? Will you bring down the prices? How can you disown your public sector? It amply demonstrates your preference, your liking and your prejudices.

The nation would never tolerate it. We know what is happening with regard to BSNL. We know behind-the-scene operations that are taking place in Indian Airlines and Air India. We are not saying that you should not apply your mind with regard to companies which incur losses continuously. But there is a philosophy and consensus that it should be done on a case by case study. The companies which have the potential and strength to improve, they should be helped. BALCO is one such Company. It has its own strength, from internal generation to pick up. It had

temporary set-back because of the unit being in the captive power plant, because of the capital restructuring and because of the overall scenario in the country. Still, it is doing well. That is your own admission in the Annual Report.

I see that some of the partners of the Government, like TDP, are very unhappy with the under valuation of the assets. They are so unhappy that they thought that a probe is necessary. This is good. We also demand such a probe. Let us keep it above partisan views in the interest of the nation. I am giving a call to the partners of the NDA who have different views and different thinking to come out. It is not a place for displaying partisan politics on such an issue. It is nation's interest which is very important. *...(Interruptions)* You placed it on record. It happened in the case of Shiv Sena *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rupchand Pal, you have already taken forty minutes.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : If the allies of the NDA agree for a JPC, we are ready to withdraw the discussion under Rule 184...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Sir, we can convene a meeting again and further discussion can take place. It cannot be decided on the floor of the House...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It will not go record.

*(Interruptions)\**

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, the hon. Minister for Disinvestment is well-known for his probity. He has always been trying to catch thieves and dacoits. He has succeeded many a time. We have been his admirers, but not now. It would help him if he clears all the mysteries of the deal. Since important constituents of the NDA feel that this should be properly looked into, let us have a JPC, so that he can clear himself. It cannot be done here. It can be done in a time-bound manner.

MR. SPEAKER : The subject matter is different.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : If they agree for that, we can stop it here and take up other items.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : Before Shri Somnath Chatterjee's enthusiasm overtakes him, I would request him to please hear all the constituents of the NDA. We are all one in this matter.

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\*Not recorded.

[Shri Arun Shourie]

Secondly, you have insisted for a vote. So, we here to discuss everything and disclose everything. Whatever Shri Pal is asking for and other Members would ask for, would be disclosed point by point. My only request is, as it was in the other House, please do stay here to hear the reply and then have a vote. We want a vote.

You had asked for a vote.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, we do not want to politicise the issue. If Shri Devendra Yadav, Shri Sudip Bandyopdhyay and other constituents of the NDA sincerely desire a JPC we are prepared to withdraw the Motion...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Let them first withdraw the Motion under Rule 184. We will then decide about it...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Are they for JPC? Let it be on record...(Interruptions) Sir, you are the custodian of the House. You should ascertain the view of the House...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the issue. We are discussing it under Rule 184.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the issue. We are discussing the Motion under Rule 184.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, it seems my friends are not serious...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE Sir, we do not need their certificate as to whether we are serious or not...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This should have been decided earlier, not now.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, I have made some of the major points. I have mentioned about the status of BALCO in the economic life of the nation. I have mentioned how this Government is out to sell out our profit-making public sector undertakings. The methodology adopted is dubious and questionable and there is a reason to doubt that there has been under-evaluation. Proper evaluation has not been done. There has been cartalisation and competent evaluation experts have not been called to do the

evaluation of mines, assets, etc. Such a capitalintensive growing concern should not be taken at par with Infotech Company. Discount Cash Flow method is not at all applicable in this case.

I would like to make a mention to the evaluation made. The hon. Minister has made a reference to this on the 27th of February in the other House. He referred to the fact that the plant and equipment evaluation was done by one of the most respected and oldest engineering consultancy firms in the world, *M/s Behre Dolbear*. This was actually a report on the technical review of the operations of BALCO which was submitted on 23rd May, 2000. What did it contain? I would just like to mention that report and if I am wrong, the hon. Minister can correct me. It says:

"The review found no fatal flaw or negative factor that would prevent an investment by an outside party in BALCO Enterprise. The future outlook of BALCO as commercial company looks bright. It has its own resources. It has its own capability to stand up."

But they intervene to serve the interest of their friend – an organisation which has a dirty track record in the capital market and which was black listed, which has neither the technology nor the capital, without asset evaluation, the house, hospital and everything, without taking into consideration the power plant which itself will be more than Rs. 1,000 crore.

Sir, I conclude by saying that the Government is going on a wrong track. The nation will not forgive them. Even now there is time. You cancel it and review it. This House disapproves it. We disapprove it and we want not only the cancellation of the bid but also a probe because what has happened is scandal lous and is another scam. This nation will never tolerate the people who are indulging in this scam.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : Sir, I want only one clarification. I want to know why there is a global adviser...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved:

"That this House disapproves the proposed disinvestment of Bharat Aluminium Company Limited."

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\*Not recorded.

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : Sir, I am extremely grateful to you for having given me this opportunity. I rise to oppose the Motion which has been moved by the hon. Member, Shri Rupchand Pal.

Sir, at the very outset, I must say that I begin with a sense of disappointment. It is because I did expect, particularly when a Motion under Rule 184 was moved, I would have to answer and my colleague, Shri Shourie would have to answer towards the end certain hard facts. I kept waiting for those hard facts, and questions such as these. Why is it that disinvestment ought not to be a proper course? Why is it that this is a questionable transaction? But I kept waiting till the end and found no hard fact. There were usual arguments which had been raised almost in every Session in the last two years such as, disinvestment is not the right course, why do we disinvest, why do we disinvest profit making PSUs, are we getting right values, what is the procedure we must follow, etc. Except the same old phrases which have been used, there is no new fact in relation to this transaction which really has been placed.

Sir, the real purpose behind the Motion, in fact, became clear a few minutes ago. The object was not to state anything which is improper about this transaction and even about the policy but probably the motivation was precisely the opposite of what one of our seniormost and respectful leader, Shri Chandrashekar has suggested. In fact, he was upset and I regret the reason for that my learned friend probably from Shiv Sena said it in a lighter vein. He did not mean that Members must not socialise or speak to each other. There is a respect that we have for each other. But probably your intention was that you wanted to politically flirt with some people of the ruling alliance who very appropriately will answer you in the course of the debate today. Your motivation behind moving this Motion will be answered precisely by those against whom the Motion has been addressed.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, what is the thrust?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Sir, I am not yielding. Unless there is a point of order, I am not yielding.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Please yield for half-a-minute...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : He is not yielding.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, by keeping quiet, he has yielded...*(Interruptions)*. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thought that there is some minimum sense of culture and decorum in this House. I hope, we are not enemies.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : We are not really.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : But I hope so because that is the way you seem to be looking at us.

Just because I went and had a discussion with Shri Ram Naik on a very important issue which has nothing to do with BALCO, you are telling like this. Then let us know whether you want the Opposition to discuss with you any matter concerning the affairs of this country at all. Otherwise what was the reference you were making? Shri Arun Jaitley is a very articulate and intelligent man. He is new to this House. But I take it that he has assimilated already the culture of this House. In his exuberance he should not descend to this level. This is too much. Or else, very well, we shall not talk to the Ministers at all.

*[Translation]*

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia, U.P.) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you were in the Chair, have I said any single word which is objectionable? Shri Arun Jaitley expressed objection in this regard.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : I have supported your views.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : I would like to submit that I am already aware of the stand taken by you. But I am sorry to say that Shri Arun Shourie and Shri Arun Jaitley from whom I had a lot of expectations for the future will behave in such a manner. If you want the reply of the hard facts then read whatever your former Secretary have written about you. Shri Pal has not expressed it in detail. Read whatever Mr. Jain, Member of National Security, is speaking daily. These all are hard facts and you do not have reply to it. Therefore, I requested Mr. Chairman that I would not like to participate in this debate. Our friends will tell their own stories and you would keep the country selling. I would like to tell to the Prime Minister that they should say that there is no buyer and purchaser. Besides, it is a fact that you are selling the land of tribals and you are accountable for it....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had supported whatever Shri Chandra Shekhar has said. I have stated whatever my friend has said. Perhaps he has said in a joking way. They are saying that they have said in a joking way. Therefore, it should not be kept in mind. I

[Shri Arun Jaitley]

hope that he would understand the feelings whatever they have objected during the debate. But it seems that he has taken the explanation otherwise.

[English]

There are two specific points that the hon. Member Shri Rupchand Pal has placed before this august House while initiating the debate. Firstly he goes on the question of policy and secondly he goes on the question of the BALCO disinvestment. We have repeatedly debated the question of the overall policy of why we disinvest, what is the history of this entire disinvestment process in this country, whether this is something that we thought of for the first time in 1998-99 when the NDA Government came to power or whether this is a policy evolved over a period of last ten years started by some other Government. The precise rationale which has been given for the policy of disinvestment is not a new rationale which I am placing before this House, but this is the rationale being given right since 1991. The precise rationale, as Shri Rupchand Pal has rightly mentioned, is that what is the utility of the money belonging to the people of India which has been invested in this large corporations in today's context of a liberalised economy, whether this money is going to be locked up in those areas where the private sector has already entered in a big way, where the private sector is in a position to substitute that investment, run this business successfully and permit the State to unlock the resources which are lying in this sector and use it in more constructive areas such as retirement of public debt and also in the social sector expansion such as education, health, rural development and so on.

This is the precise question which has been raised. I can see my friend, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar saying that this is not correct. I may just remind him of the precise policy and how his Party had seen it. I am not referring to what they said in 1991 and what their Party had to say in 1998. The only defence that they built up from 1991-96 is this. When the Congress Party was in power and thereafter, for two years, when the UF Government was in power with one Communist Party as a part of the Government and the other Communist Party supporting it from outside, what was the policy which was pursued at that time?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Are you referring to the common minimum programme.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : I am precisely referring to the Common Minimum Programme, Shri Acharia. From 1991-96, 40 profit-making PSUs were singled out. I am corrected as 47 profit-making PSUs...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : There is no question of running commentary. I am not allowing anybody to interrupt. What is this?

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Today, I will not even permit Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar to retreat himself because I will place what his Party has to say on both sides of disinvestment. From 1991-96, – I said 40 profit-making PSUs but Mr. Shourie corrected me as 47 PSUs – each one of the 47 PSUs was a profit-making PSU. Each one of them was a blue chip PSU like the Indian Oil Company, the only Indian Company which is a part of the fortune 500 companies, BSNL, Gas Authority of India and so on. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : What was the percentage?

MR. SPEAKER : What is your intention, Shri Acharia?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I want to get the facts.

MR. SPEAKER : You are not supposed to intervene. You should have some patience.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : I will come to the percentage. A query has been raised and it is my duty to answer it. I strongly believe that the experience of the last ten years has taught us a lesson. From 1991-98, two per cent, five per cent, eight per cent minority shares of profit due to PSUs were taken, and off-loaded into the domestic market or into the international market. And probably, today, there is a unanimity amongst economists' opinion, that the values that we got by that kind of disinvestment were not the real value which was worth of those shares. People do not invest in PSU shares merely for the purpose of earning dividend because they do not perceive them to be so profit-earning in that sense. That disinvestment precisely had the purpose of what your criticise today. It was done during those seven years to bridge the budgetary deficit. You sold a few shares and you used whatever money was realised to bridge the budgetary deficit. There was no change in the performance of the public sector undertakings, there was no improvement in the performance of the PSUs, no investment made into the PSUs, no change in the management, no professionalisation of management at all. The disinvestment which went on from 1991-97 disinvesting minority stake of blue chip PSUs

was, in economic terms, an erroneous policy. But perhaps, people who did it at that time did it with the best of motivation because they wanted to lay down a larger agenda for the future.

Now, the criticism that is made on this is, namely, "But we were only disinvesting a few shares even though we were suffering losses from those shares." Why are you handing over managements by strategic sale? And when I said this, my friend Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar got up and said : "That was a different minority disinvestment. You are doing strategic sale." It is this that he objects to. May I just refresh his memory by reading a passage? It says :

"The Disinvestment Commission has been making far-reaching recommendations on a number of PSUs. The United Front ignored these reports. The Congress will seriously and systematically implement the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission. The Commission itself will be given a statutory status and made into a professional executive body. The proceeds of disinvestment, strategic sale, will not be used to meet the budgetary resources."

This is the 1998 Election Manifesto of the Congress Party which said that strategic sale is what the Disinvestment Commission had suggested.

The United Front Government set up the Disinvestment Commission and defied its recommendations. It said: "We will seriously implement the Disinvestment Commission's recommendations which is strategic sales." My friends, you did not stop at 1998. In the 1999 Manifesto also you said about it. This is a very important statement of fact and economic policy of the Congress Party on question of public sector restructuring. The 1999 Manifesto of the Congress Party says :

"While recognising that the public sector has served the country well in the face of numerous odds and handicaps, the Congress believes that it is time for a strategic redefinition of its role and scope. The reorientation flows from changing economic, social and technological imperatives. The needs of the future are different. The growth of entrepreneurship in the country advances in technology and the pressing demands on public sector expenditure from more essential sectors like education and health make such a reorientation essential."

This is precisely what I have said today. I said whether the national resource will have to be locked into

businesses or whether it is required for education, medical and other services. My friends, you did not stop at that. You said further :

"The public sector must be concentrated primarily in strategic, security and high-technology areas like Atomic Energy, Defence and Space, as also certain areas of infrastructure where private investment will not be forthcoming. It must operate with full commercial and managerial autonomy. The public sector must also concentrate on developing new areas and new industries and bring them to commercial fruition.

The Disinvestment Commission will be given a wider and more purposive role in the disinvestment, disinvestment and restructuring process in the public sector. The recommendations made by the Commission on different public enterprises, particularly those relating to strategic sales, will be implemented professionally and without delays."

Friends, you did not stop at that. That is what the Congress Party Manifesto says :

"The recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission in relation to strategic sales will be implemented without any delay."

This was a solemn commitment made by one of the largest political parties in the country to the people of India not once but twice in two consecutive elections. Today, we are being asked :

"Why do you go in for and accept the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission and disinvest BALCO in the manner in which the Disinvestment Commission itself has suggested?"

Well, I heard certain interjections which said: "While the Congress and you are together, you are colluding with each other."

Coming to what the United Front Government and its supporters in the Left Parties have to do, I would mention this. It was mentioned about the Common Agenda just now. In 1996, both the Left Parties were signatories to the Common Minimum Programme which said :

"The question of withdrawing the public sector from non-core strategic areas will be carefully examined subject, however, to assuring the workers and employees of job security or, in the alternative, opportunities for re-training and re-deployment."

[Shri Arun Jaitley]

Well, I am not offering a comment on the merits of your economic philosophy. I am not saying whether it is desirable or not desirable. I am only saying a matter of fact. In 1996, in the Common Minimum Programme, it was not only the United Front, it was not only the CPI but also it was the CPI (M) which were willing to consider withdrawal from the non-core areas to be examined....  
(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We said that it would be carefully examined. We said about the non-core areas....  
(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : You were so careful. I must thank you for your carefulness. The point is that on the 23rd August, 1996, within months of coming to power, they wanted to do it expeditiously.

15.00 hrs.

In fact, they are going back on the promise, but you lived up to your promise and did it expeditiously. On 23rd August, 1996, your Government issued a Notification in pursuance of the Common Minimum Programme – the United Front Government hereby constitutes a Public Sector Disinvestment Commission. The Public Sector Disinvestment Commission, the Notification says, was constituted by you in pursuance of the Common Minimum Programme....  
(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajanj, U.P) : We have never sold to disinvest the profit making PSUs.

[English]

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : I am very grateful to my friend from the Samajwadi Party, who was part of the United Front Government, to say

[Translation]

"We did not say to disinvest profit-making PSUs, only facts should be kept in mind."

[English]

On 23rd August, 1996 you constituted the Commission, but you were a very efficient Government, within a few days, in less than a month, in September, 1996, you referred 40 PSUs for disinvestment. You knew very

well, because you were a very intelligent Government, as to which are making profits and which are making losses.

The first one you referred to the Disinvestment Commission was Air India and the second that you referred was BALCO....  
(Interruptions)...knowing full well that BALCO is a profit-making PSU. I mean, in 1996, the profit was Rs. 135 crore as against the profit of Rs. 27 crore last year. When it was having a profit of Rs. 135 crore, the United Front Government thought it fit to refer BALCO to the Disinvestment Commission while in pursuance of the Common Minimum Programme.

Today, a question which is being asked is this. Why is it that you are choosing to disinvest the company which is making a profit?

15.03 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV in the Chair]

Well, this is a question which you are fully aware of that in 1996 when you referred to it. In 1997, the Disinvestment Commission written its first report saying, BALCO is an area in which the Government can get out, disinvest to the extent of 40 per cent. In 1998, they said that BALCO is a company in which the disinvestment, to have investors' confidence, should not be merely 40 per cent, but should be 51 per cent. My friends in the Congress Party were fully aware – I am sure they are fully aware of this. They have been repeatedly reading, in both the Houses of Parliament, the Report of the Disinvestment Commission. When the 1998 Election Manifesto was offered, they were fully aware; when the 1999 Election Manifesto was offered, they were fully aware that here is a profit making PSU where the Disinvestment Commission has recommended a strategic sale and they swore to the nation in their Election Agenda that they will not only disinvest, they will disinvest by strategic sale, and here is a Government which will do it expeditiously. In the backdrop of this performance...  
(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You are justifying.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Whether I am justified or not, the nation will decide. But the motivations behind this debate will be clear once the history of some of these facts are known. Sir, I do not dispute what the Congress Party said in its Election Manifesto. I do not dispute that. I do not use the same phraseology or the motivations which

you are trying to unsuccessfully impute when you referred BALCO to the Disinvestment Commission because there is a strong economic rationale, and that rationale is not merely dependent on the fact that whether a PSU is making the profit or incurring loss. The rationale is that this is the money which belongs to the people of India; and this is the money which belongs to the taxpayers. Is this money going to be used, particularly in non-strategic areas where the private sector is coming? Private sector is prepared to make an investment. Or should this money be used for a larger good for the poor people of India, for expanding infrastructure, for expanding social sector, for expanding educational, and health sectors, and for the rural development areas? Should this money be used for repaying the debt in which we seem caught every time a Budget or an *Economic Survey* is presented or should this money be used in businesses? At the end of the day, he says, when we put this money into businesses, we lost monies, and therefore, we need some more money to really return the businesses.

Sir, a question which is repeatedly raised, particularly by the Left Front is this. Is this money going to be used to bridge the budgetary deficit? That is a precise question which is repeatedly raised. Till such time that the correct question is asked, the correct answer will not come. The right question is this. Why does the budgetary deficit take place in the first instance? It is said that you are treated like a stepson; you are saying so much, but you are not prepared to own it up. This seems a very pleasant logic, but it is only skin-deep. May I just place before you two sets of figures and let us be seriously concerned beyond certain positionings and slogans, not only as far as the Central Government is concerned, but also as far as the State Governments are concerned. What is the real health of our State Governments today?

On this argument of bridging the budgetary deficit, between the 10 year period from 1991 to 1999, the total dividend that the Government of India got from all the public sector undertakings, 235 to 240 of them, was Rs. 17,938 crore. I may give another figure. The total disinvestment money accrued in the first 10 years is about Rs. 18,000 crore and the charge is that the bulk of this amount of Rs. 18,000 crore worth disinvestment took place during the Congress regime and the United Front regime. Were you using it for bridging the budgetary deficit? So, you got about Rs. 17,900 crore as dividend and Rs. 18,000 crore from disinvestment, a total return of Rs. 36,000 crore. To get the PSUs going during this period, you ploughed back an amount of Rs. 77,006 crore. Therefore, the amount that you ploughed back to keep them going was almost double the figure of dividend and disinvestment money put

together. This is a figure which has come in the *Economic Survey*. It has been projected by the hon. Finance Minister in his Budget. The target, in the last 10 years, particularly in the last 7 years, of a growth rate of 6 and 6.5 per cent could bring down the number of people below the poverty line by 10 per cent from 36 per cent to 26 per cent. Today, you are putting the economy on a course where you are targetting a growth rate of 8 per cent and more. A continuous growth rate of 8 per cent and more for a number of years is capable of bringing down this 26 per cent below the poverty line substantially. If that is the national effort and the national target, what is the kind of profit and return that you expect from this segment of the economy?

May I just place before you just one figure of what we are actually getting? When we see the position of the State Governments, the situation is almost frightening. As long as the Central PSUs were in the regulated areas, monopoly areas, controlled areas, in the Administered Price Mechanism and when there was no competition, they did well. The moment you open out and competition comes in, they have not really succeeded substantially in that competition. I will just place before the House three figures. Take the oil sector out which is a real monopoly area for the Government. The total profit of the PSUs is Rs. 4,985 crore. Take the oil sector and the power sector which till recently has been a monopoly area. The Profit comes down to Rs. 1,046 crore. Take the other two near-monopoly areas till a few years ago out, that is, oil, power, telecom and financial services. Take these areas which have been regulated where the governmental presence was substantial. Then the figure comes down to—Rs. 2,266 crores of rupees. You are targetting an economic growth at the rate of 8 per cent. Take the monopoly areas out, take the regulated areas out and when you have a large section outside the regulated areas, outside the monopoly and the price controlled areas, then, you are having a negative return.

Look at what is happening in the States. If these demands are made and this kind of issues are raised, and if the reform process is not speeded up in the States, we all do agree that the States are in a bad economic health. Today, there are a total number of 946 PSUs under the States, out of which 241 have been closed and are not working, they are paying idle wages, and 551 have been making losses. In the case of 100, no accounts are available. Is this how we are to become a competitive and an efficient economy targetting at eight per cent growth rate?...*(Interruptions)*



SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Give the picture relating to West Bengal separately.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Sir, I will also give you picture about West Bengal separately...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : That is the best way not to focus on BALCO when you have no argument.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Sir, may I say this utmost personal regards to all the Members that I will answer?

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon'ble Minister, you should express your views. You should not involve your arguments in this manner.

*[English]*

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Out of 946 PSUs, 241 are not working, 551 have been running into losses and in the case of 100 PSUs, no accounts are available. Is this what we call 'family silver'? If the shares are transferred, some private party comes and says: "Well, I shall try to revive these units. I will try to save these jobs. I will try to see that these units turn around, then, pay taxes, excise and other duties to the Government." That is the sale of family silver!

Well, when you said 'BALCO', with utmost respect, I wish to place only one fact. It is an opinion. You are welcome to reject it. I have been examining the process of privatisation on an academic basis in at least 40 countries in the world. The economic argument is to preserve these 946 in the State sector, make the taxpayer pay for it, do not build roads and hospitals. After all, when we nationalised the textile mills, how many jobs did we save at the end of the day? Sir, Rs. 7,000 crore were lost by way of Central money going into it. How many hospitals and roads would have come up it, at that time, we had a vision to see a proper road map? The economic argument behind preserving these in the non-strategic areas has been lost in each of those 40 countries. So, for those who have lost the economic argument, what is the strategy? You cannot say that my economic philosophy and ideology are wrong. Every time there is a transaction, raise up non-issues, try and scandalise a transaction. Maybe there is some support to your otherwise disappearing ideology that you may get out of it. That is the strategy.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Look at the World Bank's latest Report. They have been advising about reverting to the role of the States.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Yes, I would look into that. I am sure whenever you get an opportunity and wherever you get an opportunity, please preserve what you do in accordance with your philosophy.

In West Bengal, out of 80 PSUs having an investment of Rs. 14,081 crore, as on 31.3.2000, the loss is already Rs. 3,382 crore. Let me say this. This is not an area where I am wanting to say about the Left Parties versus the NDA. It is an area that really concerns the people of India. That equally concerns the people of West Bengal. Why have these Rs. 3,382 crore been lost? How much development in the State, particularly in the backward districts of the State, could this amount have done? But then, we have some nations. We want to preserve them. When the same charge could have been made, let me say this when I deal with the BALCO transaction that I regard it but for one fact that it has taken us four years. These are not transactions that should take four years. But for this one fact, where we need to expedite the BALCO transaction, I will deal with is the perfect model of a transparent transaction. What is not a transparent transaction, you must raise it. You will get an opportunity to raise it in West Bengal.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : West Bengal will take care of itself, I would request the hon. Minister to take care of India only...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : I am losing faith in his otherwise great ability to raise it in West Bengal...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : If the hon. Minister and Shri Advani had not joined the Government with CPM in 1977 and 1989, West Bengal would have been saved...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Well, I am, at least, very clear about where Shri Rupchand Pal stands. I am very clear about where we stand because I am not clear where Shri Dasmunsi stands on the issue of disinvestment... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : We stood where we stood, as far as BJP is concerned, and we continue to stand by that. They change their sides...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, please address the Chair.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Therefore, I would request him to please go back to West Bengal and find out whether the two or at least, one of the two disinvestments in process in West Bengal have been by a bidding process or not. He will get an answer, he will get an opportunity to raise this issue there and not here because here a perfectly transparent process has been followed by the Government.

Sir, coming back to this issue of BALCO, I have already stated two basic facts about it. In 1997, the Disinvestment Commission says, '40 per cent'. In 1998, that was the second report, and today for the first time, I found that on a person of having impeccable credentials like Shri G.V. Ramakrishna, an issue is being raised that he increased it to 40 per cent to 51 per cent as a personal recommendation and not on the recommendation of the Commission.

The Commission also made a fifth report and this raising does not carry any weight because men like Shri G.V. Ramakrishna do not need to have doubts cast by some of us as their credentials and integrities are well known. The Commission, in its second report said, 40 per cent. It made a revised report, which was the fifth report. Thereafter, they revised their suggestion to 51 per cent. They probably realised that the strategic sale would fetch higher value. This was in 1998. From 1998, every step, which is taken in this transaction, is not by a private negotiation – we could also say that we are not selling assets, we are only selling shares. In the case of Great Eastern Hotels, they have not sold assets, they have only given a management contract. But in Delhi, when hotels get management contract, they are paying 14 per cent and 21 per cent and not four per cent. When the ITDC is disinvested, a large number of hotels will go probably on management contract? But can we then take up a plea in ITDC, we are not doing it by a bidding process, we are doing it by private negotiations because assets are not being sold. Well, in a company, only the shares are sold, assets are not sold. The correct method is and I give to the Government there a benefit of he doubt, they knew little about business and therefore, they decided to do it by negotiations rather than by a bidding process.

Here every decision with regard to BALCO is taken by a transparent bidding process. How is Jardine Flemming appointed? You issue an advertisement, you define the terms, like the jurisdiction of the advisory character, you invite offers and then you select the best offer, whose credentials are sound, who has a world-wide

or domestic experience. A large number of domestic Indian corporations advisers were also being appointed in Disinvestment Commission. So, even the global adviser is picked up by a transparent bidding process.

They wanted to know, how is it picked up and on what terms it is picked up. Well are these only procedural hair splittings? If they wanted to know, this has already been placed before this hon. House by way of a response to a question. My colleague, Shri Arun Shourie will again do it. Thereafter, when you settle the contract document, the shareholder's agreement, you do not do it quietly. You do not do it and do it with the person who is eventually successful. When all those people who give an expression of offer that we are interested as potential purchasers of these shares, you call all of them. We do not know who is the eventual winner. A draft agreement is prepared. The draft is then negotiated and barring the name and the amount, every term is determined and this will apply across the board to whoever succeeds.

Thereafter, a bidding process goes on. But you are right that in a bidding process also, aberrations can come in. You may not, in a bidding process, get the best value. You may have cartelization in a bidding process. How do we then safeguard ourselves against such an eventuality? When the bidding process is about to start, there are three internationally accepted models by which valuations are done. The first model is looking at the book value of the assets. But it is generally felt that the book value does not give you always the highest value. So, we take it as only one indication. What is the value of comparative transactions or comparative sales? What is the value in which similar transactions if they exist are capable of fetching? That is the second value. The third value, which internationally is accepted as one of the best indications, is the discounted cash flow value. When somebody is buying a running business, what is the potential that this business has; what is the cash flow this business generates; what is the potential this business has; and, therefore, you determine the discounted cash flow value.

The advisers indicated that these values are enough. How are these to be retained in the public sector is an argument, which is not finding support. Losing support on that argument, you may try and canalise the transaction. So, we were not satisfied, my colleague in the Disinvestment Department was not satisfied with the three values. He says: "Even though it is not considered internationally very relevant, let me also take the asset value." The

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company is not being wound up. Its land is not being sold. The land will not belong to 'x' or 'y'. The land will remain a property of the company in which we have 49 per cent shares. So, we took the fourth value also. We keep these four values close to our chest and we do not disclose them. We, then, ask the parties to bid. And when the bidding process results in a value higher than any of the four valuations, I repeat higher than any of the four valuations, does the Department of Disinvestment then say, "Today I am getting the best value as far as this property is concerned." Well, I ask myself, "What could be more transparent than this?"

Values are determined by what the market is willing to pay. Values do not increase merely on the strength of some ill-informed suggestions. Press statements, Press reports, speeches, ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : There are no valuation experts like Engineers India, MECON, and others, who are competent and reputed! ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Values are determined what you will get from the market. In order to make it look more transparent, the day this question is raised, my colleague Shri Shourie says, "Look at this company. The profits were Rs. 135 crore, they came down this year to Rs. 27 crore." ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Why? The argument is wrong. ...*(Interruptions)* There were one problem with one Unit...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Shri Shourie will say 'Why?' You will please let us know why that amount of Rs. 3,800 crore have been lost in West Bengal...*(Interruptions)* He will certainly answer 'Why'...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : If you want, you can have a separate statement. Why are you derailing now? You cannot escape by this...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : I am not derailing. My colleague, Shri Shourie will tell you, 'Why?'...*(Interruptions)* The profits came down to Rs. 27 crore. Ultimately, what is the dividend that the Government is getting? Sir, let us look at the values. The Government was the one hundred per cent shareholder. We reduced the equity and first withdrew Rs. 244 crore. For 51 per cent shares, we get Rs. 551 crore.

So, today we have got Rs. 800 crore; Rs. 244 crore plus Rs. 551 crore plus 49 per cent shares which will further give us, as and when the Government, if at all decides in terms of increased value whenever we can find it. If we look at this larger picture, whom are we doing justice to? What did we get last year? It was Rs. 7 crore. The dividends were Rs. 23 crore, Rs. 20 crore, Rs. 18 crore and Rs. 7 crore. That is the flow of dividends for the last four years. For Rs. 7 crore dividend, let me assume if Rs. 551 crore as 51 per cent – I forget Rs. 244 which you have withdrawn—the value of this would be something like rupees thousand crore approximately which we have assessed. On Rs. 1000 crore of public money, taxpayers' money value today, we were getting so. 0.7 per cent as dividend. 0.7 per cent is what we were getting. And for Government's borrowings, to keep the business of the Government going, we pay 11 per cent. Then, we make this statement. Are we walking into a debt trap? On rupees thousand crore worth of assets, we get Rs. 7 crore, 0.7 per cent, and pay 11 per cent on borrowing. Well, if we did that and if we continue to do that, I am sure we will not be doing justice, not only to the taxpayers of India but also to the people of India.

But then, we are also seriously concerned that the object of disinvestment is, you improve performances. Those who do not understand will say, it is a sell off; it is a closure. The object is, you improve performances. This is the world experience. You improve performances. You turn around sick units, units which are on the verge of closing down, units which are even profitable but are now getting out. The downturn is moving. The profits must increase. The wealth of the units must increase. That is how, jobs are being saved. Jobs are not saved by just saying it is a sick unit, let me put in taxpayers' money back into this unit, try and give it artificial restoration for some time. We have seen the figures State after States. Out of 946 units of the State Governments, how many of them are in losses? How many of them are not having accounts? Are we likely to save jobs in those units?

Well, Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is neither good politics nor is it good economics, nor is it the appropriate management of the national economy or the taxpayers' money. But then, we are seriously concerned with the interest of the workers. Therefore, in the shareholders' agreement, as in the earlier strategic sales, even now we say, we envisage, that is, even the buyer of the shares envisages nobody will be retrenched. Our envision is, nobody will be asked to go out of jobs. In a given situation, if that were ever

to happen, it will not happen immediately. In any case, if that were ever to happen, whatever VRS the Government pays, if the Government were in management, the VRS you will pay, may be higher than that VRS. You even take the interest of the workers as far as the unit is concerned.

Sir, it is a matter of deep regret that when the Central Government pursues its economic policies on a path of reform, you have somebody in a very influential position in the State, the Chief Minister, each one of the transactions is completed with the co-operation of the officers of the States of Chhatisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. At all stages, those officers participated. They co-operated. It is not that the Chief Minister woke up one day and alleged that BALCO was being disinvested. The disinvestment of BALCO started in 1996. He knew all along even before he went there as Chief Minister that BALCO is on a disinvestment course. He knew that the global advisors have been appointed. He knew that the bids have been called. It is only when the decision is announced that he seems aggrieved. So, the reason he says, 'I think the value is little'. My friend, Shri Arun Shourie has told him, as he tells everybody, proof of pudding is in eating. Proof of valuation is in producing a better valuer. Proof of valuation is not ill-informed suggestions. Please bring a better valuer if one exists. And the answer is, 'No, I cannot produce a better valuer but I will go ahead and only discredit.'

My colleague Shri Arun Shourie would deal with the various other questions which have been raised. But let me say this. This is the policy which almost every party in the Government had pursued. At least for the Congress Party, having committed to the people of India in the 1988 and in the 1999 manifestos that they would pursue the strategic sale recommended by the Disinvestment Commission – if not to this House, to the people of India at least – owe an explanation and certainly, the Congress Party, if it is so opposed to this kind of disinvestment, I have a list of the disinvestments going on in Karnataka.

In Karnataka 17 PSUs, in Madhya Pradesh 27 PSUs, in Maharashtra six PSUs and in Rajasthan 11 PSUs have been earmarked for disinvestment. There cannot be one policy for Delhi and another policy as far as the States are concerned. There cannot be one solemn commitment made in their manifesto and a complete acrobatic turn around and saying that they are no longer bound by it. And we are being asked what our policy is.

Please pick up your 1999 manifesto. Our policy is not substantially different from that. There is no white paper required. There is no JPC required. Well, if you start saying that, then tomorrow, every State will say, 'Let me have a Committee of MLAs, that Committee of MLAs will now start opening bids and examining them.'

AN HON. MEMBER : There is nothing wrong in that.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Yes, there is nothing wrong in that. Instead of having settled at privatisation in a management contract of a hotel in West Bengal by negotiation you should have then applied that course and set an example for the others....(Interruptions)

May I say just say this towards the end? Reforms are not a very easy process. I have certainly known some and I respect them even when I disagree with them like Shri Rupchand Pal. There are some who make reforms happen, and what we call them reforms, surely there are some who are always opposed to them because their ideological opposition is bad. But I certainly cannot understand those who have failed to, even today, realise how reforms happen and which side of the fence they are on.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : I heard with rapt attention the deliberation of the distinguished Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs, the renowned lawyer of the Supreme Court and a very definite replacement of Shri Ram Jethmalani in the Cabinet of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee to defend all possible bad cases. But in the case of a lawyer, when he argues, the judge is waiting to give a judgement. But here unfortunately my dear friend forgot that this is Parliament, not a court and neither the hon. Speaker can give the judgement nor you. It is the wisdom of Parliament, it is the mandate of Parliament and the desire of the people that will act.

While we raised the issue, we did not raise the issue on the account that the Congress Party was opposed to reforms. On the other hand, we claim that we tried, that we were the architects to respond to the global situation of the economy and to initiate the proceedings under the devolution of the economy in the country and we never took sides, never took sides in a manner that the BJP does today.

While you sat in the Opposition you did question the *bona fides* of the Congress to usher in an era of reforms. When they sat in the Opposition, my dear Shri Arun Jaitley had forgotten, how he did try to question from Baladila onwards every issue and you thought that all those were

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wrong and scams. We are not saying so. We did consider that disinvestment was required. We did consider revival of all the Public Sector Units, and that restructuring was essential and we are not changing our position, we are not shifting our position from what we had stated in our manifesto of 1999. Shri Jaitley appears to be a victim of a Congress fever with a prescription of anti-biotics due for his treatment.

There is a difference between decision and recommendation.

There is a difference between Expression of Interests and decisive decision. My friend, Shri Arun Jaitley will understand the difference. Recommendations are not mandatory, intentions can be withdrawn, but decision is a firm one, which is the judgement of the Government.

Sir, I should confine myself only to BALCO. I don not want to drag on and confuse the House or mislead the House, dragging the issue of BALCO, leading to the economy of West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, etc. Hopefully only he misled and he did not link it with the world economy. I want to confine only to BALCO and shall substantiate how the deal was non-transparent, deliberate, fraudulent, cheating the workers, fraud with public sector and fraud with the nation.

I cannot justify my documentation today with the ambit of this Parliament. Therefore, I thought, in all fitness of things, the Government should have the capacity, strength and command in their long claiming transparency of national governance to accept a JPC and to examine all documents and papers that we will offer. The Government should have the guts to express its willingness. Let Shri Arun Jaitley come with his papers and documents. We shall appear and prove that Shri Arun Jaitley not only defended a bad case, but he shall have to withdraw from the JPC when we shall substantiate those charges. Shri Jaitley is a very competent lawyer.

Sir, what is disinvestment? Disinvestment means you are to disinvest certain amount of share equity to bring capital inflow into the unit and technology, to restructure, revive or to strengthen. We all share this concern...  
(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : You please tell us what is there in the Manifesto about the strategic sale... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I am coming to that. Shri Arun Shourie, I admire your articles written in the days of Emergency. I have gone through your documentation against corruption and against the deals under carpet. I have no grudge against you. I only feel you are innocent today. You are a victim of some arrangements of the Government and the Government always desires that such people be placed in the position whose earlier image was bright, but to be operated in a manner where people cannot question. I am not questioning your integrity; I am questioning the integrity of your Government. Now, I will substantiate what is the difference.

Disinvestment and privatisation are two things. If the equity participation of a management is 51 per cent, it is not disinvestment, it is total privatisation. If it is below 51 per cent, as the Congress did, it is disinvestment. Shri Arun Jaitely has said, "Did you not touch the Blue Chip companies?" Yes, we did touch them. What was the share? It was 2.5 per cent, three per cent and four per cent. What is your share? It is 51 per cent. You are comparing with 'Congress' approach of disinvestment. It is a shame...  
(Interruptions)

Now, when did the meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Group of the Cabinet take place to decisively decide for disinvestment? When did you decide to get the assessment and evaluation done? It was on 11th Jan., 2001. The ultimate decision of the Cabinet Inter-Ministerial Group was taken on that date. It means, the earlier process was a process and a not a decision. But Shri Arun Shourie writes a letter to Shri Pranab Mukherjee on August 10, 2000. I quote:

"The Government does not have the requisite resources for these overdue structural changes. It is expected that a strategic investor would bring in both capital and the best available technology. I would like to assure you that the decision regarding disinvestment in BALCO has been taken keeping in view of all relevant factors like the necessity of capital restructuring, interest of the employees, etc."

This letter is of August 10, 2000. The Cabinet comes – who will evaluate the matter, who will restructure and who will give the assessment? Now, this is done on 11th Jan., 2001. Therefore, you had a pre-determined intention with a fixed person, with a fixed party. I will establish that with further documents.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the dates are very important in this deal. Let us hear in what respect the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, with his useful comments, has described this unit. I hope that at least in this matter, the

organisation which I criticise the most, the RSS, also responds to it as to what is happening in the country. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India has said in para 12.13 of the report and I quote :

"The Company (BALCO) has also developed alloys for fuel tanks of the Indian missiles like Agni and Prithvi. The Management stated that while some of these applications might not have contributed in financial terms, the development of these alloys from the national point of view is of great significance. The Company has also commercialised production of alloy AFNOR7020 for use by ISRO, Alloy AA 3004 for incandescent and fluorescent lamp bases and IS 40800 with improved formability for PP caps."

This is the comment of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. When was it made? It was made in 1998, two years, before. In the eyes of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, this is one of the pride and responsible units to support the Indian defence.

Hon. Minister Shri Arun Shourie, being influenced by the argument of hon. Minister Shri Arun Jaitley, has very enthusiastically asked me to please explain first as to what the strategic sale is because the Congress Party has said about strategic sale and he wanted me to explain it. Mr. Minister, I never knew that you are so influenced by the Congress doctrine to find every moment your escape route. I will now explain what the strategic sale is.

Sir, who is not having this minimum common sense that a strategic partner is not a strategic owner in a public sector? Strategic sale is not a strategic hand-over of the management. The Congress said that strategic sale means to give part of it to get fresh capital and technology. What did you do? You have chosen a strategic owner and not a partner. How can there be a partner having 51 per cent equity? He will be the owner. How can the shareholder with 49 per cent equity dominate over one with 51 per cent equity? You please explain to me as to how this is possible and under what company law it is possible....(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : Are you talking of Maruti Udyog?

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai) : It is under Section 26 of Companies Act....(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Shri Arun Shourie, you deal with BALCO first. We will then come to Maruti. We will discuss Maruti also. Please do not worry.

Please try to understand. If you do not understand – and my dear friend Shri Arun Jaitley is absent now – the interpretation of a strategic partner and a strategic sale in any dictionary, better let him come to 24, Akbar Road and we will again teach him as to what is a strategic sale and who is a strategic partner.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Which partner will come to take this company?...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, alumina is a scarce material in our country. Hon. Minister Shri Arun Shourie, for your information – and if you can pass on the information to hon. Minister Shri Arun Jaitley – you always take shelter of the Congress and Dr. Manmohan Singh. I will quote from the Budget speech of 1991-92 Dr Manmohan Singh :

"In order to raise resources, encourage wider public participation and promote greater accountability, upto 25 per cent Government equity in selected public sector undertakings would be offered to mutual funds and investment institutions in public sector as also for workers in the firms."

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : That is in the first instance.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Please wait for a minute. I will come to that. I will enlighten you further.

Sir, the Congress has never said in its Election Manifesto, which was quoted often, that the Congress declares 51 per cent of the blue-chip companies. Please show as to where it is mentioned. Please do not try to play in the muddy water and try to swim. You will not reach the shore. This is not to mislead the House and to question the *bona fides* of a different political party.

I stand where I stood with the election manifesto. You do not stand. Just to grab power and to stay in power, you diluted your principle of BJP doctrine, you diluted your tall claim of NDA. You search the hearts of the NDA partners. None of the NDA partners is with you but because of voting, they will vote with you. There have their desire to get a joint probe. Can you deny that? You cannot deny that.

You are talking of a strategic sale and strategic partnership as talked by the Congress. What is the meaning? Mr. Chairman Sir, the capital restructuring during Shri Deve Gowda's Government, which Shri Arun Jaitley has forgotten to mention, was done by the State Bank of India. The capital restructuring of BALCO for its stability.

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viability and plan of disinvestment process was done by the State Bank of India. Shri Shourie may kindly listen what that State Bank of India Restructuring Group says in para 9(4). It says:

"In the light of Government's recently reiterated commitment towards the disinvestment process, we feel that Government of India may assess the benefits of capital restructuring favourably. In addition, prior to disinvestment, an appropriate stabilisation period may also be considered to be extended to the company so that the benefits of restructuring exercise can be market evaluated and factored into the share of value."

How much period was asked for? It was only four years. Let the stabilisation based on restructuring be done. Why did the Government not fund the restructuring process? It was because the Government made it a point that they were going for a sale and so, there was no question of restructuring.

Shri Shourie, will you please lay on the Table of the House the Report conducted on due diligence on the operations of BALCO? Which was the company appointed for the purpose? It was one of the finest companies of the world, M/s. Behre Dolbear International Limited. What is their Report? Did you circulate that Report to all the bidders? What did they say about the Report? Shri Jaitley is not here. It said that it was a sick company, how you would revive it, it will need money, resource and tax payers money is going there, so much of investment is there and only seven per cent dividend and how you can manage it. What did this company remark? I will only read out some extracts. M/s. Behre Dolbear International Limited gave its Report on 23rd May, 2000. I wonder – hon. Prime Minister, Shri Vajpayee has all my respect – whether he is not fed the real report by his circle. That is why, these Ministers are doing whatever they like. Sir, I will give only a few points of the Report. How is the unit? This unit, the Report says, is an excellent one. The Report further says:

"Korba Hot Rolling mill should be totally re-engineered, overhauled and brought into highly efficient and technically up-to-date condition. This re-work should include all related installations necessary to produce additional product group which at present cannot be made."

How much resource is required which would provide additional access to higher margin of profits? The resource

mobilisation is required to the tune of 20 million dollars. How much was the reserve surplus? It was more than Rs 400 crore. How much did they recommend to put in? It was a sum of 20 million dollars to bring the power unit more challenging one in order to meet the challenge of future. Did you report it to the Cabinet? In order to bring all components into good operational condition, it is not suggested here to change the actual process but merely make it work at the original design bases level. Further what is said. It is said: "It is in a good condition. The power plant is in excellent order." It further says that it has a vast potential base. It is said by the company appointed by you. It never said that the company had no future. It never said that the company was suffering. It never said that the plant and machinery were outdated and obsolete. It never said that it had no potential. On the other hand, this Report of technical review done by the company was not disclosed either to the bidders or to anybody else. It should be tabled in the House also.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I now come to the point of the status of the so-called strategic partner. Who is this strategic partner who comes from within the country to save BALCO, to release BALCO from its present technical constraints, to provide strength to BALCO in future? This strategic partner is not a Tata's baby; it is not a Rahul Bajaj's baby, it is not an organisation that has come forward with upgraded technology. It is a company called Sterlite, managed by one Anil Agarwal.

In the case of Hindustan Zinc Limited, the Minister took a decision that a company or enterprise which has come under a cloud of corruption and questionable integrity, should not be encouraged in any bidding process. Who is this strategic partner and what was his status in the eyes of the Government? The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) of this Government had once blacklisted Sterlite. The unit pleaded before the Government that the bureaucracy of the DoT had blacklisted the unit by wrongful methods. The Government sought the opinion of the Solicitor General on the matter. Shri Harish Salve, the Solicitor General, stated that the decision not to blacklist Sterlite and to further award the contract by DoT was taken on a misunderstanding of the legal and factual position. He said that there was no question of awarding any project of cable work to this unit and that the decision to blacklist this unit was just. He said that this unit should have no access to any contract under DoT.

The Minister now considers this once blacklisted unit, this unit whose presence in the sector is not more than

three per cent, to be a unit with a great technological potential and a sincere unit...(Interruptions) Shri Arun Jaitley, an able lawyer in Supreme Court who has been made a Minister to replace Shri Ram Jeth Malani now pleads this bad case, suppressing the opinion expressed by the Solicitor General on Sterlite...(Interruptions)

This Government, of which the Minister is a part, has suffered losses in a deal to the tune of Rs. 180 crore. In that deal the Solicitor General opined that under the terms of the bid document, Sterlite's failure to honour its bid makes it liable for forfeiture of its security deposit. He stated that the express right to blacklist the bidders how fail to honour their bid was a sufficient ground for the Government to impose Clause 7 of the conditions.

What does Clause 7 of the conditions say? It says that the power to blacklist a unit lies with the Government. Who blacklisted this unit? It was the Department of Telecommunications of this Government. Who embraced this unit? It is the Department of Disinvestment of this Government. Under what umbrella do these two Department come? It is the umbrella of Shri Vajpayee. How come the Minister is talking about transparency in the deal? He was saying that was introducing a strategic partner to save the future of BALCO, a supplier of strategic defence material. A unit whose presence in the aluminium sector is only three per cent is being sought to be projected as strategic partner.

During the securities scam the entire Parliament rocked. We were on the other side of the House then. In the wake of that scam, SEBI was asked to inquire as to who were the people involved in conducting wrong operations in the stock exchanges.

It is not alone Harshad Mehta. Shri Arun Shourie, you are not with your pen today. Had you been in your desk with the pen, you would have again said, "Sword is mightier than Shri Vajpayee's Government." And, you would have written that Mr. Sterlite is also under the shadow of SEBI...(Interruptions) they are talking about the status. This is the partner they have chosen.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, about the Jardine Flemming, Shri Arun Jaitley had pleaded that they had given the advertisements in the newspapers, and then after everything was done, they found him suitable. Where are my friends who plead for *Swadesh*? They feel proud of *Swadeshi*. In the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of our Independence, I heard with rapt attention two speeches – one delivered by the ex-Prime Minister, Shri P.V.

Narasimha Rao, possibly which was the best contribution in the House and the other delivered by Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi. He had said :

[Translation]

"When one thing is available in the country, why should we import it."

[English]

I liked that. He gave several examples.

Now, to give advise to the Government, Mecon Engineering is not enough. Tata Consultancy is not enough, Dastur & Company is not enough! Whom have Shri Arun Jaitley and Shri Arun Shourie thought of to give the global advertisement? They got one Jardine Flemming of the United States whose agent one Shri Srinivasan is operating in Delhi.

Now, I come to the interesting part. I am sorry for embarrassing the Government too much. The date 24th February, 2000 is very important as far as this case is concerned. On 24th February, 2000, Bharat Aluminium Company wrote to the Due Diligence Company who is associated with BALCO for inspection. They gave a dossier on 24th February, 2000:

"This has reference to our offer submitted on 20th October, 1999."

[Translation]

On 28th October, 1999 Jorden Flaming offered that I am ready to do your job. The Government took seven days to take a decision about the deal. Due Diligence Company would enquire the whole things. Due Diligence Company in its report said that BALCO is a strong unit. They sent their offer on 28 October, 1999. BALCO wrote to the Due Diligence Company for inspection. You should inspect that how many mines are there about what is the ability and what are the technicalities of the company.

[English]

These days, everything goes to America. What to do? Desire of Washington is everything.

Finally, my *Swadeshi* minded friends discorded the Tata Consultancy. Their Government thought that Dastur & company was not enough to make the valuation. They thought nobody from India was able to give valuation. So,



[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

they went in for Jardine Flemming. Jardine Flemming writes to the BALCO. What is the audacity? He is an adviser. He can only advise. He can only advise as to how the matters are to be dealt with. He is an American.

[Translation]

A US Company knows too much about India.

[English]

He is advising that 'these are the following companies.

[Translation]

You should do all these things. You received Expression of Intent two years back. Recommendation of disinvestment was made in 1998. We did not approve the recommendation.

[English]

The Expression of Intent was taken two years back. The decision to appoint the valuer came after seven days of their Inter-Ministerial Group. On 11th January, they had the Inter-Ministerial Group, and on 18th January, the decision came to appoint the sole valuer.'

16.00 hrs.

[Translation]

You have elected Shri P.V. Rao. We have no objection. In such a big deal Shri P.V. Rao have told the truth.

[English]

He had written in his letter:

"Reference your Order No.IIQ/Sect/A-7 dated 24.1.2001 which was accepted by me on 25.1.2001."

He further makes it categorical:

"My offer is for valuation of fixed assets for which my team members are licensed to practice valuation, namely...valuation of immovable property (i.e. Land and Buildings) other than agricultural land, plantation, forests, mines and quarries."

Mark these words! What is BALCO without mines and quarries? What is Shri Arun Shourie without the Ministry? He is a journalist. What is Shri Arun Jaitley without the Ministry? He is a lawyer, back to Supreme Court. What is he here in the Ministry? He is a Member of the Treasury Benches. What is BALCO without mines and quarries? It is a zero.

The valuer said 'I have no expertise on mines and quarries.

[Translation]

I cannot say about mines and quarries. I will tell about the building.

[English]

I am sorry, my acceptance of valuation is only for plant and machinery.

Let us come to the time allotted for the valuation.

[Translation]

How much time you will take for valuation.

Let us come to the time allotted for the valuation.

[English]

Shri Shourie, you have to tell me how much time you took for the Baroda refinery's valuation? Was it not 98 weeks? How much time did you take to make the assessment of disinvestment of other properties? Were they done within a week? Here is such a prime property of India and I charge you that you gave a deadline dictation. You fixed a deadline and said that the valuation was to be completed within ten days. Is it possible?

Shri Rao has given his itinerary to the Government. He says he would cover Madhya Pradesh between 31st January and 4th February; on 5th he would take up inspection at Bidan Bagh; on 6th night, he would depart and go to Asansol and finish off inspection there within one day on the 7th. On 8th, he says he would come back to Delhi and submit the report very soon.

[Translation]

You have to submit a report whatever it maybe.

[English]

Is this what you call transparency? Is this what you call seriousness or genuineness? Is this what you call absolute accountability and answerability? This was how the whole inspection was done.

The disinvestment Commission had made a recommendation. That recommendation was to protect the interests of the workers. Which is the prime union of this unit? BALCO workers are led by INTUC, the recognised union. When were they called? You had decided everything by the first week of February and you called the union on the 14th at 11 o'clock.

[Translation]

It is all right. It does not matter. I am just informing you that there has been a sacrifice. Just listen, we will have to pay the price for all whatever is happening now.

[English]

You did not take the workers into confidence.

Did you take the Chief Minister of Orissa into confidence? You will say that you took him into confidence. Did you take Shri Ajit Jogi into confidence? Did you take the Chief Minister of West Bengal into confidence for the plants that are there? I say with authority, 'No, no, no'. I can say this with authority because there are no minutes or correspondence with the Government. There was only one letter sent to the Chief Minister of Orissa... (Interruptions) Shri Kanungo, you may verify this. If I am wrong, you can move a Privilege Motion. There was only one letter. It was not written by Shri Arun Shourie or the Prime Minister but by Shri Sunderlal Patwa, the Minister of Mines. He writes to the Orissa Government on the 24th January:

"There is an interesting deal."

[Translation]

It is an interesting deal. It is another scam. Therefore, two Prime location in Bihar where Bauxite is available we will give it on lease to BALCO.

[English]

It is another scam. The Government of Orissa refused it first. I say with all authority that they were reluctant. They were then threatened. What was the threat? The threat was that if the lease was not given immediately they would invoke section 17 of the MMRD, under which the Government can take away the land on its own and take the lease in mining properties.

I was told with authority and let it be recorded. The Chief Minister of Orissa accompanied by the Chief Secretary, Mr. Bagchi, flew to Delhi on the 7th and signed with the Ministry of Mines. It is called a 'surrender.' What did you get? The Orissa Government said, "All right, we will give it on lease; but the alumina plant has to be given by BALCO." The Government agreed and said, "we will give the alumina plant," at that time, the Orissa Government did not know who is Mr. Agarwal and what is Sterlite.

What is the amount of deposit it has? What is the area that they gave? This is the Press Note of the Orissa Government. It says: "No role of State Government in

partial privatisation of BALCO, Bhubaneswar, dated 24th February, 2001." The Orissa Government was asked to give the lease of Sasubolumali and Pasangamali area with 60 million tonnes of bauxite deposit. Am I wrong? If I am wrong, I am prepared to withdraw from this House. Mr. Chairman. This is how it was done, making the Orissa Government a victim, who is already a victim of cyclone. They did not let them know who is going to be the management tomorrow.

Now does the bidder ALCOA withdraw from the race? The bidder HINDALCO was forced to remain out in the chain. Ultimately it came down to a single bidder. We are giving you a property with an additional lease on an area, which has 60 million tonnes of bauxite deposit. Did you make the valuation after this? Was Mr. P.V. Rao told to do the valuation after this? Was M/s. Behre Dolbear International Ltd. of London, told that with these additional 60 million tonnes of deposit, it has to make the valuation? No. No. No.

This is a scam and this is a scandal. This requires to be probed by the JPC, if not by the CBI. I feel pity for the officers who are bound to do it and who compelled to do it. These days if any political pressure comes on any officer and if he does not sign on the dotted lines, in future, he suffers in the gallows, taken care of by the CBI and becomes a victim. I only feel pity on them. I appeal, through you, Mr. Chairman, to the honest members of the bureaucracy to react in time.

This is what has happened. This is a scam. This is what is called transparency! They say that they are taking everybody into confidence.

Yesterday in the Budget, this Government proposed some funds on the banking corporation model for the Scheduled Tribes, for which you have applauded. We thank you for that. But do you know what Schedule 5, Clause 2A says? Shri Arun Jaitley is absent now. What does Article 244 say? What do these two guarantee? I am not talking about what will happen after the review of the Constitution. But I am talking of the Constitution that we have today. It says that the property of the tribals has to be taken with the concurrence of the State only for the public interest, by the Government.

Now who will manage the property at Korba – huge hectares of tribal land to be used only in the interest of the public, only for the defence interest and for the country's interest, to get us some jobs? Will it be managed

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

by the Government of India? Will it be managed by the 49 per cent shareholders? No. It will be done by the 51 per cent shareholders. It is made clear in the Constitution. So, this matter will be dealt with by the court later on.

What is the legal status of the court? The Union went to the court. I have to thank the court, Mr. Chairman that for the first time, the distinguished Judges of the High Court have reposed faith in Parliament. It has never happened in the past; possibly, this is the first time this has happened; I do not know whether this has happened in the past; if it had happened in the past, the hon. Members may correct me. They said:

"The matter in the High Court in Writ Petition No. 1280 of 2001 was taken for admission on 26th February, 2001. The hon. Chief Justice of Delhi High Court with hon. Mr. Justice D.K. Jain was of the view that since the matter is in Parliament it will not be proper of the High Court to proceed with the Writ Petition. The prayer of the Learned Solicitor General of India for dismissal of the Writ Petition was turned down. It was also prayed by the Learned Solicitor-General that the Court should clarify that the pendency of the Writ Petition will not affect the transaction, but the same was also turned down by the hon. High Court."

16.10 hrs.

[SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN *in the Chair*]

Both the judges reposed their faith on the Parliament. They said that since the matter is in Parliament, let them complete the Session, then we will react. This is the respect shown by the judiciary to Parliament. How Parliament should react? Should we fight for discussion under Rule 184 and 193? Should we be swayed by the jugglery of Shri Arun Jaitley, linking the BALCO deal with the world economy and with the revival of all sick units? I think the Parliament in its traditional morality should stand and respond that we reject this deal and we demand a JPC. It is not a matter of politics between the Congress and the NDA; and between CPI(M) and the NDA. It is not a matter to score points with the NDA partners. It is a matter of Parliament's own wisdom before the nation. How should we react to this situation?

Sir, let me come to the cash flow discount method on which Shri Arun Shourie relied upon. Let me quote what Shri Kapil Sibal said in the Rajya Sabha on this issue. He said:

"We took the values of BALCO, which has an operative profit of 14 per cent, HINDALCO which has an operating profit of 46 per cent, INDALCO, which has an operating profit of 20 per cent, and NALCO, which has an operating profit of 49 per cent. The average profit of these companies comes to 38 per cent. So, we take the average profit of 38 per cent and then see, after a certain number of years from now, how much would that profit come to. Calculating that by giving a premium of 25 per cent for management – that is what you have done in your statement – we come to the following conclusion that if the sales are at 25 per cent premium, for a controlling stake, at an average of 35 per cent, not at 38 per cent, the value would be Rs. 2,304 crore. If we take the sales, as at present, that is, today's sales, with 25 per cent premium, the figure is Rs. 2,304 crore."

Even fifty per cent of Rs. 2,304 would come to more than Rs. 1,000 crore. But you are selling it at Rs. 551 crore. What was the reserve bid? Is it not a fact that Government's determined reserve bid was more than Rs. 551 crore? Shri Arun Jaitley was trying to defend you and plead for you. Now, this scam is absolutely purified with the drop of holy Ganges water that came from the mouth of Shri Arun Jaitley. You have taken Rs. 240 crore which is the bid money and you have linked it with your income. How can you justify it? If a tenderer pays some security money, do you calculate that as an income of the company? This is how you are calculating.

You are terrified after the Rajya Sabha debate. You thought that Rs. 551 crore is a very low amount, so what to do? Then, you went for the legal advice. Then, you have added Rs. 240 crore. So, it has come to nearly Rs. 800 crore. This is how you are dealing with the whole issue. This is how you are dealing with the country. And this is how you are treating the public sector. You are claiming that you are very transparent. I have cited many documents and papers. They are not enough. I have many more. I have the advice of the Madhya Pradesh Legal Advisor who said that the property cannot be transferred so far as the tribal lands are concerned. I have the correspondence of the Union, right from the Prime Minister to the Minister for the last two years. I charge the Government for having struck a non-transparent deal with genuine apprehension of some under-hand arrangements which could not be substantiated without having either a probe by a JPC or by CBI; I charge the Government for having acted against the Constitution of India, Schedule V, to defend the rights and interests of the Scheduled

Tribes; I charge the Government for having violated the tender norms of the appointed values which require minimum 15 days' time for tender, but you did it within seven days.

I charge the Government for non-compliance of the basic features of the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission in regard to the interest of the workers which you have not signed till today. I say with responsibility that no agreement has been signed with the strategic partner or with the workers till to this date.

I charge the Government for having connived with the partners against moral and ethical mandate of this House and against the claim of transparency of NDA, as a whole.

I charge the Government for having encouraged a strategic partner whose credentials are under cloud by the same Government and this too was the opinion of the Solicitor-General of India which was sought by the Government itself.

I charge the Government for having selected a company with a pre-determined price with a view to get rid of other bidder stage-by-stage and to settle it with an additional Bauxite lease of Orissa Government.

I further charge the Government, Mr. Chairman, Sir, for having kept secret additional lease of Bauxite mines in Orissa before or after the settlement to other bidder or partner of the deal.

I charge the Government for having ignored completely the opinion of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Commission, Government of Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Orissa, before entering into the said deal and, therefore, I demand, let the House provide us an opportunity to justify all these charges, either before a Joint Parliamentary Committee – if the Government has enough moral, political and patriotic strength – or as the Speaker may decide, within the Cabinet to accept the scrutiny of such Joint Parliamentary committee within a month and come to the House with a clean hand.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, two other things are also in the row. One is NALCO. BALCO was a testing baby, a guinea pig. Now, NALCO, which is making profit, is the target. The whole House should know as to why a person blacklisted by the CBI has been appointed as the Chairman of NALCO. He has started the process of underhauling the unit so as to sell it at an appropriate hour. NALCO took

a sick unit of Mukul Narain, led by the Governor of West Bengal, Shri Viren Shah. On papers he is drawing only one rupee as a salary...<sup>\*</sup> This is what is happening in NDA's own family and they talk of tall claims.

*[Translation]*

We are honest because Ramji has said that whatever you may speak, speak the truth but not inside the House.

*[English]*

I charge this Government for having played fraud with the nation, betraying the dream of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and distorting the concept of disinvestment in the name of privatisation; distorting the concept of strategic sale in the name of strategic ownership.

I demand that the Government should place all the documents of transaction, right from last two years, to the Table of the House and a joint Parliamentary Committee be formed. If the Government's claim of being transparent is true and if the Government accepts the challenge, let the report of the Committee come before the Parliament. The Parliament can thereafter take the stand.

There are two future disinvestment proposals with the Government, that is Air India and Indian Airlines. Confining to these two bidders, the Government has managed its jacket well. I would suggest that all such disinvestment proposals should go to the scrutiny of the Standing Committee whose Chairman may be appointed by the Chair. The Standing Committee may then send its recommendations to the House which may not be mandatory but at least the House should know the result of the scrutiny. The Government can decide thereafter. The Government should not do anything in the name of the executive order. It should know that the money with which Shri Arun Jaitley has got the knowledge and the wisdom is the tax-payers' money. Parliament is also being run with the tax-payers' money. Parliament is supreme. Therefore, no deal in the name of disinvestment can be struck without the mandate of Parliament.

With these words I accuse the Government for having betrayed the faith of the people, the working class; the dream of public sector, the policy of disinvestment, to serve the vested interests, for implementing the policy of disinvestment in a clandestine, non-transparent manner. This is a disastrous deal. I support the Motion and demand to have a Joint Parliamentary Committee.

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<sup>\*</sup>Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai) : Sir, he should withdraw his comments on the Governor of West Bengal which are irrelevant and unnecessary. They are not in good taste...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, I did not take the name of the Governor with contempt. I respect him. I know that Governor's name should not be taken. I only said that the management of the company was in the hands of Viren Shah whose sick unit was taken over by NALCO. I only said that he is a good Governor because he is drawing only rupee one as salary.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have heard very eloquent speeches by Shri Rupchand Pal, Shri Arun Jaitley, and Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi. Each view point has a credit to it. But today in what direction the country is going. We have to decide whether we are interested in disinvestment and whether disinvestment should be carried out or not.

The decision for disinvestment was taken ten years ago in 1991 by the then Minister of Finance, Dr. Manmohan Singh. Many of us were in the House at that time. The Congress Party had piloted it. The country had suffered after independence for 45 years till that time of 1991 for want of good food, good clothing, good health, and shelter. All these years these things have been denied to the people. We do not have sufficient funds to invest on these things. As many as thousand and odd public sector units either in the State Government or in the Central Government have been functioning over these years. What is their contribution? Every year many of them have to be provided budgetary support. So, where do we lead to? Where is the surplus money? How could we eliminate poverty? How will you give good schooling to your children? How could good health facilities be provided to the people? We have not thought about all these things. This aspect had been thought rightly in 1991 by Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao and it had been brought before this august House as a part of economic reforms in 1991. Then we all approved it. We have to carry on that process. But what we have done from then onwards. We have sold only two per cent to three per cent equity of some units. Ultimately what we have gained by selling some equity in units here and there. The units have earned profit, maybe, of around Rs. 17,000 crore over all these years have paid as dividend and we disinvested equity in them to the tune of Rs. 18,000 crore. Ultimately, we ended with pumping Rs. 77,000 crores into these industries. But nothing could be gained.

Now I come to BALCO. The cost for producing one metric tonne in BALCO is Rs. 63,000. In the case of NALCO, the manufacturing cost is Rs. 38,000 per metric tonne. Can you imagine at what cost the production is being maintained in BALCO even after having the best of the mines? There have been discussion on asset valuation method whether the Cash Flow Discounting method has to be adopted or Asset Valuation method has to be adopted. Even after applying the highest valuation method, namely, Asset Valuation method, BALCO has a cost of Rs. 1072 crore. Out of that, we had bid of Rs. 551 crore.

That means the amount of Rs. 547 crore that we got appears to be reasonable. I cannot testify it as I am not in the know of things. How can we do it? We can only say whether this is a fair evaluation or not looking at the market situation and the market forces. By that standard it appears to be the right evaluation.

There are divergent views about who is a strategic partner and what is a strategic sale. The very strategy itself is the management. Without the management, no strategic partner would be inducted and no strategic sale will come through. In any capital market this is understood by everybody. How can we say that only a strategic owner should come? We have never heard in the capital market circle that there is a term like strategic owner. So, this is in line with the thinking of the people that disinvestment in favour of a strategic partner is rightly mentioned.

We felt in the beginning something. Our Party always gives great significance to transparency. Transparency is the main issue in any of these deals. Ultimately the people of this country should be benefited by any of these disinvestment. If there is any underhand dealing and if there is any shortfall in the recovery, we do not support such deals, whether they are done by the NDA Government or by any other Government that may come in future. Our main objective is to protect the interests of the people of this country. Because of this reason only today we are deliberating on this issue so meticulously.

The Government has also rightly pointed out two issues. Firstly, it has not allowed any stripping in the sale of BALCO assets. Even the strategic partner who is coming tomorrow cannot strip BALCO any of its assets and sell them away. That is one of the prerequisites of this sale. That means, all the assets that are there in the Company will continue to be there and will continue to be enjoyed

to the extent of 49 per cent by the Government of India. The other issue is that not even one single worker will be retrenched. So, there is an assurance that the work force will continue to be in the Company and their interests are being protected rightly. On the contrary, by doing the expansion of the Company, more employment could be generated. We cannot rule out that possibility also at this stage creation of additional employment.

If you want this Company to be profitable for the next ten years, it appears that you may require more than Rs. 4000 crore for the purpose of expansion and modernisation. Today, as we know, many of the public sector undertakings are not in a position of profit making, though may have been making profit earlier. Today most of them have become old, their machinery has become obsolete and we are not able to either change the machinery or modernise and expand the units. That is why, a Company like Maruti Udyog Ltd. is also suffering losses in the market. They are not investing more money in modernising the Company. It is not the same sound Company today what it was two years back. Likewise, unless you invest in expansion and modernisation of other companies, you cannot keep up the tempo of profit making. This is a fact known in the industrial circles. Where is the money to be put into these Companies in order to derive the desired results?

Government also stated that the entire deal documents will be submitted to the Comptroller and Auditor-General and after thorough scrutiny, it will submit its report. What else is required? They said that it would be put up before them. It is a statutorily authorised body under the Constitution being controlled by Government of India for auditing. I am not going into all those points which have been stated earlier because it does not make any sense. The contemplated disinvestment of 51 per cent has been done through global bidding and people who have been appointed in this global bidding are persons of outstanding career in their own way like the P.V. Rao and Company and Jardine Flemming. No aspersions can be cast on them.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Your own leader has demanded a probe...(Interruptions)

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : I am coming to that point. I would like to tell my friend, Shri Rupchand Pal that all Communist Governments world over are disinvesting. It is a known fact...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Swain, without Chair's permission, nobody is allowed to speak.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : All political parties are committed to disinvestment in their own respective way. They have done it with Great Eastern Hotel in Kolkata also. ...*(Interruptions)* Today, we are having this burden on our own shoulders...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : The Minister has clarified all our doubts.

SHRI M.V.V.S MURTHI : If you want to run these non-performing PSUs, this august House should take a decision on whether we can invest money to modernise and expand them to see the result later. Otherwise, they will become obsolete one after the other. Whatever was good enough at one point of time is not good enough today and tomorrow also, it may not be so. We are not able to pump in the required money. Please see to it that if we have the money and if we can put it into the PSUs to make them viable by expansion and modernisation, they may run. It is not the business of the Government to run them. Those days have gone. In those days, when we were very young in democracy, when nobody was coming to invest, we might have put up all these public sector undertakings. Today, it is a different story. Today, you cannot run them as you like. The only way is to disinvest, as recommended by the Disinvestment Commission. They are proceeding only according to that. There is a manner to disinvest. Do not waste that money. Do not use that money to cover fiscal deficit. It is not permitted and people will not pardon you, if you do that.

The money that is recovered from disinvestment should be put to proper use. I would request the Government to use this money to relieve the debt burden of the high-cost money. That is the best thing. If that is done, the country will not have a high debt on its shoulders. We have a debt of more than Rs. 1,10,000 crore. Every year, we are paying interest of Rs. 70,000 crore and above for external and internal debt. What is this high burden? Where will we be landing if this is being continued?

The role of the Government in this deal has been overplayed by some of our political parties stating that 51 per cent of the stake is sold out about the mining lease, I would say that it is only a lease. It is not transfer of property. Even if it is in the notified area under the Tribal Act, what they have done is that they have only leased it. The Government should have only the substantial interest. They need not have 51 per cent interest. In such a case, they can lease it out. It is only a leasing process...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Shri Murthy, you know pretty well that in Visakhapatnam the NALCO had got the tribal land. Why had the State Government approached the Government of India to permit it to give the land?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : It had already been a permitted thing. I am not going into that aspect now...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : You cannot change what you have said.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : You have not understood what I was telling. What I said is that we are not transferring the property. It is only a lease. That also, the Government of India, the Government of Chattishgarh and the Government of Orissa have to give it on lease...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Shri Janardhana Reddy, you are talking about the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant? What about the other Steel Plants? So many Steel Plants are sick. We are not going into that. Our question is why they are disinvesting this. We are not against disinvestment. Even the Congress Party started all the liberalisation process. We are supporting it. We are going in that direction...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : What has our disinvestment contributed so far?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : Sir, I have not taken more than ten minutes. Every time, you are ringing the Bell. You should allow me another five minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already taken 16 minutes. You have exhausted all your time.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : Sir, we have seen that you are a fair Chairman. You have allowed other also. At least, you should allow us a fraction of that time to us.

I come to my point now. So far, only one public sector undertaking was disinvested. That is also a bakery. That is the Modern Food Industries. Many of them are waiting to be disinvested. Today, we do not have money to modernise the Maruti Udyog Limited. We have no money to buy aircraft for Air India and the Indian Airlines. To name only a few, IBP, VSNL, ITDC Hotels and CMC, like that so many *navaratnas* are there. SAIL was one time a *navaratna*. Today, it is not a *navaratna* any more. It is also

incurring losses. The steel industry is incurring loss. Even the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant is incurring losses. We are not able to cope up with it. For the past two years, we are all going to the Government of India pleading for money for VSP. Even we gave one or two representations to the Prime Minister requesting him to give Rs. 1750 crore to our Vizag Steel Plant for modernisation. But nothing has come about. Then, if that is the case, how can you put money into that? So, ultimately, for BALCO the disinvestment is the answer. So, if that is the answer, we have to have a fair judgement whether it has been done properly or not. My friends, in any sale, if you bring all these things to the public notice, the investor will go away. What the investor will think of us? The credibility of the country is involved in it. In the case of even one agreement, if we cannot stick to it, nobody else will come to this country. The country's name is also involved in it. Whatever they agree, we can think of other ways. My friends, you cannot go back to tarnish the image of the country. This country's image is also involved in it. This deal has been done by a global bidding. The highest bidder has been given the order. What we have demanded in the other House is a different thing...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Murthy, please conclude. You are testing my patience.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : Sir, I will take only one minute. In the other House, we demanded the setting up of a JPC. But here we are not demanding a JPC. Our party is not demanding a JPC here. What we say is: "Be fair enough."

...*(Interruptions)* We request the friends in the Opposition to withdraw the Motion under Rule 184 so that our country's interest and our image are protected.

*[Translation]*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the NDA Government is going for disinvestment in the profit making public sector undertakings one by one in the name of economic liberalisation and economic reforms. Due to the disinvestment by the Government, the working class and the intelligentsia of the country apprehend that the government is selling property worth crores of rupees at a meagre amount in the name of economic reforms and economic liberalisation. Till now, the earlier governments could not even muster courage to sell the public sector units which were incurring losses, they were avoiding it, they were hesitant but the way this government is selling the profit making public sector units,

it seems that it will not hesitate in selling the country to the foreigners, it will not hesitate in pawning the country. When the government take the decision to sell the profit making public sector units, the workers of those units begin to think that hard work and honesty has no place in this country. The workers had made BALCO a profitable unit by their hard work and honesty and BALCO had earned a profit of about 598 crore rupees during the last four years and government of India had also received about 340 crore rupees in the form of debentures and capital restructuring. In view of all this, it is unfortunate to sell BALCO's 51 per cent share to private sector. The manner which the Indian Government has adopted to evaluate and to sell the unit, smells of a big scam. The Disinvestment Commissions has clearly stated in its suggestions and directions that transparency is essential while adopting the process of disinvestment but the way they have adopted the process of disinvestment in BALCO within limited period of time, it naturally arouses suspicion. The factory and mines of BALCO are in a vast area of land and how was it possible for persons who were evaluating to visit all the area and complete the survey work in such a short span it is to be kept in mind.

I would like to say that only one unit of 268 MW of BALCO whose value you have fixed at 1072 crore rupees, is worth 1340 crore rupees. The workers of that company have got the evaluation done on their own. As per their evaluation the value of BALCO is 3844.90 crore rupees. It is not known which agency was hired by the government to fix its value only at 1072 crore rupees! I would like to know from Mr. Arun Shourie the basis of this evaluation.

Transparency has not been maintained in inviting tenders in this regard. They invited representatives at international level for its evaluation but global tenders were not invited. Only three companies participated in the tendering process. In bidding only two companies remained i.e. HINDALCO and sterlite. You are taking the decision of selling the public sector unit worth 551 crore rupees on the basis of tenders sent by only two bidders. The way the Government has acted definitely arouses suspicion.

There are 6775 workers in the BALCO. Out of them more than 2000 workers belong scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and more than three thousand belong to backward classes. The three thousand acres of land which was acquired for setting up this unit previously belong to the tribals. Neither the State Government nor the people

from whom the land was taken for BALCO were taken into confidence. If the company is privatised, two thousand workers from scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and 3000 workers from backward classes, will have to face a very bleak future. The Government is hatching a conspiracy by selling all profit making public sector units one by one to snatch the jobs of people belonging to backward classes and dalits.

RSS, a subsidiary of BJP which is the main component of this Government is the propounder of "swadeshi" and make the country self-reliant and they are all for promoting foreign participation. This government is doing this country great harm by selling the profit making public sector units. The evaluation of BALCO's property has been done in a wrong manner. The suggestions and policies of the Disinvestment Commission have been grossly violated during the process of disinvestment in BALCO. To sell 51 per cent share of the property worth Rs. 3844 crore rupees at 551 crore rupees, is an act of treason. Atleast the people will not allow the NDA Government to commit such treason.

The House should be taken into confidence before making such deal. The Budget session had commenced but the House was not taken into confidence. Today, during the proceedings, the way the Prime Minister justified finalising the deal regarding BALCO outside the House, also brings the Head of the Government under suspicion. If at all it is the consequence of any decision taken by the previous governments in the name of economic liberalisation reforms, even then it must be reconsidered. Today, more than 70 per cent of the farmers are facing the consequences of economic liberalisation and reforms which were initiated 10 years earlier. If we continue those reforms on that basis, the country will suffer a great setback and nobody would be able to save the country.

Many members of the allies of the NDA Government lodged their protest while discussing this issue in the Rajya Sabha. The change that has taken place in the NDA Government within three days reveals their double standards.

An Hon. Member of one of the main ally of the NDA government was speaking just before me and we atleast expected him to say something against the governments shortsightedness and hurry in selling this public sector unit and the manner in which the government has finalised the deal by passing the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission. But he justified the deal bringing his integrity



[Kunwar Akhilesh Singh]

also under cloud. Today, if we evaluate the property of BALCO, even its offices situated in Delhi and Calcutta, if their property evaluated the amount at which 51% of share has been sold that could be acquired by just selling half of the property of these regional offices. Moreover today the way they have sold 51 per cent share to sterlite in the name of disinvestment, even the company experience and contribution in the field of Aluminium has not been considered. HINDALCO has more experience in this field. HINDALCO has a wider field but the government was in favour of sterlite not in favour of HINDALCO. The aluminium produced by this company is used as a raw material for defence production. It will not be in the interest of the country to privatise that company whose produce we use for our defence production. The Government has done an immoral act by selling the property worth crores of rupees at a meagre price to the sterlite. I, therefore, request to cancel the deal immediately and to constitute a joint Parliamentary Committee to look into the matter. The joint Parliamentary Committee should review the whole deal and only then the Government should grant its final approval.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : Mr. Chariman, Sir, several questions have been raised here regarding the disinvestment of BALCO. It is repeatedly being demanded by the opposition and our Shiv Sena leader, Shri Bal Thackerayji had mentioned this in his interview with the Doordarshan. Today BALCO is being disinvested which is being discussed in the House. Government has already taken decision to disinvest many public sector undertakings and I reiterate the demand that there should be transparency in the decision taken with regard to this disinvestment. This decision was taken ten years back when there was Congress rule in the country. The consequences are before the country today. When there was congress rule in the country no transparency was maintained at the time of making decision and the consequences thereof are being faced by us today. We are the partners of NDA...(Interruptions) Our policy is correct. The policy you had adopted during 1996-98 is not our policy.

Mr. Chariman, Sir, we are the partner of NDA and are in power as well. Therefore, we want that whatever decision we take regarding disinvestment, should be taken carefully. It should not be taken in a haste. We are facing today the consequences of the wrong policies

adopted before and if we adopt some wrong policies the country may not have to face its consequences in future. That is why the role of the Shiv Sena is crystal clear in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, whenever there is disinvestment of public sector Undertakings, first of all the workers and employees have to face the difficulties. Today unemployment is growing day by day in the country. Whenever the matter of disinvestment comes, first of all in the minds of the workers and employees a fear arises that they will have to lose their jobs. Whatever decision government is going to take regarding the disinvestment, they have to keep in mind that at any cost the government have not to throw those workers out of jobs who are getting their livelihood and nourishing their families through the public sector undertakings today. We should not deprive them of their jobs and that's why we had opposed disinvestment. Jaitleyjee, what policy has been adopted with respect to this disinvestment? How disinvestment is in the interest of our country? Please inform the House as to how we can fight poverty, promote education and development in the country by adopting the policy of disinvestment in the PSUs.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are the partner of NDA. We are part of the government and despite being partner, we oppose in the House as well as outside the House those issues which appear to us anti-people of harmony for the nation.

17.00 hrs.

So, this is the responsibility of the government also that wherever there are misunderstandings, it should remove them because we are the partners of the NDA.

Mr. Chairman, by the time when the government has started talking about disinvestment the people have apprehension in their minds that gradually foreign companies will take over our industries and if all the industries will go into the hands of the foreign companies what will happen in future to the small indigenous industries and to the people working therein? At the time of disinvestment or before taking a decision in this regard, the government has to seriously consider all these matters. Therefore, our party has always opposed and will continue to oppose in future also all those things which can hinder the development, the progress of our country. If something antinational or harmful for the country is done by the Government, we will oppose it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today we are discussing this matter under rule 184. When discussion started in the morning, hon'ble Rupchand Paljee was speaking here. At that time the coalition partners of NDA said clearly as to what the opposition wanted by discussing this matter under rule 184. Regarding the disinvestment of BALCO the allegations you are making that a big scam has been committed, it has not been done as per the guidelines of the Disinvestment Commission. If there is discussion, no one is trying to oppose it and we should seek clarifications from the government for whatever apprehensions are there in our mind and the government should give clarification, nobody has opposed it either. But Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am a Member of this House from the 11th Lok Sabha. We have seen how the governments of hon'ble Deve Gowdajee and hon'ble Gujraljee were toppled...*(Interruptions)* The mistakes you have committed, will not be committed by any coalition partner of the NDA.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the interest of the country, the welfare of the country is foremost for us and we cannot play with the interest of the country...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, it is our demand that there should be transparency in every decision taken about disinvestment and the employment of the workers of our country should remain intact as we have no right to make them unemployed.

Therefore, we oppose the disinvestment of BALCO which is a profit making Public sector Undertaking and wherein government is going to make disinvestment. There are many such Public Sector Undertakings as are running in loss, the onus of disinvesting them lies with the government. By this disinvestment problems can arise for the government in future. Hence our party Shiv Sena oppose this move in the national interest. For this, we have received directions from our leader Shri Bala Saheb Thakeray and it is my duty to express his views in this regard to oppose it in the House. Therefore, it is my humble submission at the time of disinvestment of BALCO. Government should keep in mind that the workers should not lose their jobs. There should be complete transparency in the process of disinvestment. The government should not adopt any wrong policy by which the country may have to face sordid consequences.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the way the opposition has moved this motion, they want that there should be a dispute within the National Democratic Alliance and this coalition government to topple the government should fall. So, we have seen through their design that they want to topple

the government which we will not allow. Therefore, we cannot support this motion in the interest of the nation and for the welfare of the country.

DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT (Janjgir) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am obliged to you for giving me the opportunity to speak on this subject.

I have come here as a representative of the people of that area where this plant of BALCO is situated. Therefore, on behalf of the workers of the plant, I want to entreat the House with folded hands that they have not served BALCO as a plant but have worshiped it as a temple. That is why the people of the Chhattisgarh region consider Korba as an industrial pilgrimage. One order from the government has taken away the livelihood of the workers of that area. It has compelled the farmers and tribals of that area to think about what will be their fate.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to start my speech with the subject mentioned in para 34 of the Address by the hon'ble President. He has stated that :

'That Government's approach to PSUs has a three fold objective revival of potentially viable enterprises; closing down of those PSUs that cannot be revived; and bringing down Government equity in non-strategic PSUs.'

Here BALCO has been considered as unviable. I have stood up to oppose this. At the same time I would also like to say that this is certainly a conspiracy which Shri Das Munshijee has unravelled before this House.

I would like to present before you the regional feelings in few words that there is conspiracy to disinvest BALCO. When BALCO was set up there were mainly two objectives, first to make India self dependent by increasing production of Aluminium and second objective was to fulfill the requirement of defence production. Through you, I want to inform the House that the sheets of Agni and Prithvi missiles are made from the aluminium produced by the BALCO. Here many researches of defence like MGSL-Met Grounding Surface Landing, gun shells, item of space science are going on. Handing over of this strategic industrial plot to a particular person is undoubtedly a part of a conspiracy. Through you, I would like to inform that this factory has been continuously making profit since 1992. It earned .9 crores in the year 1992, 1.9 crores in 1993, 15.3 crores in 1994, 90.5 crores in 1995, 163.3 cores in 1996., 126 crores in 1997, 134.87 crores in 1998 and

[DR. Charan Das Mahant]

134.35 crores in the year 1999 and this data has been presented in the House.

It is unfortunate for Chhattisgarh state that the Government have taken decision for disinvestment of the plant by declaring it unviable. My submission is that hon. Minister, other hon. Members and every person have admitted that it is a viable plant and not an unviable.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to say that Disinvestment Commission has not only made recommendation to sell the plant but it has also made recommendation to make improvement in it. According to the Commission if the mines are modernised BALCO can be made profit earning. Talks have been going on to purchase new mines in Gavardha district of Chhattisgarh for the last four years. It can be made profit earning by setting up new cold rolling mills. I am glad to inform you that new cold rolling mill unit costing Rs. 184 crore has been set up here. If BALCO takes captive power plant then we will get the electricity at a rate of less than rupee one per unit, which now we get at a rate of Rs. Five per unit. We will also earn profit due to it. If you keep all these things in mind, definitely it can be a useful and profit making plant for us. I am sorry that a decision has been taken for the disinvestment of the plant for personal gains.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am not a highly educated person. But I would like to quote political thinker, Maciver – "Generally leaders of political parties nourish the interests of a specific class or pressure group in the name of the interest of the people". This thing has been proved in the process of disinvestment of BALCO. There is no transparency in it. Neither the State Government nor the employees of the plant have been taken into confidence. Even they have not listened to the views of the Associations. Whatever Shri Dasmunsiji has told about the evaluation, perhaps he did not remember the exact dates. I would like to inform you that the valuers stayed in Korba for three days i.e. on second, third and fourth of February. Later on they stayed in Vidhan bagh on fifth and sixth of February. They made evaluations in five days that the whole property was worth Rs. One thousand crore in 1998, Finance Secretary to Government of India, Shri G.V. Radhakrishnan informed the Government that the property was worth Rs. 2000 crore. I would like to state that as per the assessment made by the Government of Chhattisgarh, this property is atleast worth Rs. 3844.9 crore.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur) : Purchase it in Rs. 300 crore.

DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT : We will purchase it...(Interruptions) You have talked only about 49 per cent. I am giving the details of 49 assets which are worth Rs. 3844.9 crore. It includes 300 acre land. If we assume the rate of one acre of land as Rs. 2 lakh, it comes to Rs. 60 crore. There are 5000 quarters in the township. If these quarters are allotted to the poor employees at the rate of Rs. Two lakh, then it comes to Rs. 100 crore. VCCP power plant is worth Rs. 1340 crore. Aluminium plant worth Rs. 180 crore. Smelter plant worth Rs. 122 crore. Smelter equipments worth Rs. 100 crore. Building of smelter worth Rs. 50 crore. MRSDE worth Rs. 150 crore. Foundry equipment worth Rs. 100 crore. SRS and old equipments worth Rs. 200 crore. SRS and CRM worth Rs. 184 crore. Stores and spares worth Rs. 40 crore. Instead of giving details of major items, I would like to present a complete list in the House. These assets are worth Rs. 3844.9 crore.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : Who has made this valuation?

DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT : We have made the valuation, the Government of Chhattisgarh has made the valuation. Please get it evaluated...(Interruptions) Officers of your department had taken decision in a meeting held here. Officers of your department received a copy of the decision from here. Officers of your department have informed that if investment automation of merely Rs. 150 crore is done, annual income of BALCO would increase annually by Rs. 35 crore. Today it is March 1, 2001. Production cost is Rs. 65000 per tonne since February, 23. Today, its market price is Rs. 80 to 82 thousand per tonne. You get it examined. The production cost was higher when we used to take electricity from Madhya Pradesh Government. Now our captive power plant has started production and we are getting electricity at the rate of less than Rs. One per unit. Today, BALCO is profit making undertaking. My submission is that you should not cheat the poor, workers and tribals of Chhattisgarh. Therefore, the

Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Shri Jogiji has raised a question of Rs. 100 crore. I know the Chief Minister is an honestman...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho) : Sir, it is in his constituency. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Balco is in his constituency and Sterite is in my constituency.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT : I would like to say tell the Hon. Minister that nobody has levelled any allegation against you. But it is also a fact that there is a rumour in the market that more than Rs. One hundred crore have changed hand in this deal...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : Sir, I have a point of order. Hon. Member says about the 'Bazari baatein'. I want to know whether 'Bazaari Baatein' or 'bazaar gossip' can be made a basis for parliamentary allegation... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Parliament is not a bazaar. I hold that it is unparliamentary.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : You should not make noise by saying it 'Bazaari Baatein'. He has told that there is rumour in the market and at the common place that more than Rs. One hundred crore have been taken in this deal...(Interruptions)

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA (Jhabua) : The people are saying this at every crossroad and that crores of rupees have been taken away...(Interruptions)

DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Arun Shourieji is thinking that who has become crorepati and his full attention is on this thing that who will become crorepati now...(Interruptions)

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this issue is related with his constituency. So, you should give him an opportunity to speak...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will look into the records. Please allow the hon. Member to conclude.

[Translation]

DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT : Mr. Chairman, Sir, my submission is that the hon. Minister is thinking who will become crorepati now. He has four options only. First is audience poll, he would not like to opt it. Second is fifty-fifty, he would not like to opt it. Third is phone a friend, he would not like to opt it. He will do only conspirational wantonness and we will not allow that... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has exhausted his time. Hon. Member Shri Dasmunsi has taken much of the time.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT : So, our Chief Minister has said that electricity and water would not be supplied to BALCO and we will sit on fast unto death...(Interruptions) I will also sit fast unto death in the house and outside the House...(Interruptions) The people of my area will resort to fast unto death and we will not let the Bill be passed. We strongly oppose the Bill...(Interruptions) We know that you would not listen to us. We know that you would not listen to Balasaheb Thackrayji also...(Interruptions) Hon. Minister is sitting here...(Interruptions) When he was Minister of mines then he opposed the Bill...(Interruptions) President of Bharatiya Janta Party has opposed the Bill...(Interruptions) I have one more question...(Interruptions) Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shourieji is ready to listen to me. It is the question of hundred of crore people that apply your conscious for a second...(Interruptions)

"Kuchh Kah rahi hain apke seene ki dhadkane.  
Meri suno to uska kaha maan jaeeye."

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj, Bihar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, no attention should be paid on their views because they have said that they are not educated...(Interruptions) No attention should be paid on their views because illiterates are not supposed to say right things.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, after independence when democratic set up was created in this country, primarily its objective was...  
(Interruptions)

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : You have lost your senses after coming to power. Therefore, you are not paying heed towards the poor people, the tribals?...  
(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, please do not cut even a single minute from the time allotted to me...  
(Interruptions) After independence we had a vision for the country that we would have public sector undertakings. Primarily when we start any trade our objective is ...  
(Interruptions) When we invest the capital of the country somewhere, we want that an income should be generated from that capital. Today if any trader invests his capital, he does so solely for income.

When the public sector undertakings were set up in this country, originally Rs. 2,74,000 crore were invested in these undertakings and it was envisaged that by making such a huge investment income would be generated and that income would be spent in various areas of the country. But what has happened in this sector in the last fifty years? Today the way the BALCO issue is being analysed, it is necessary to minutely examine its background. Today as we are discussing about public sector undertakings, I would like to place some data in this regard. Today, in this country, where Rs. 2,74,000 crore have been invested in the public sector undertakings and out of which 236 are manufacturing PSUs, today what is their condition? Only 127 undertakings out of them are making profit. The yearly profit earned by these undertakings is only about Rs. 13,000 crore. I would like to say on the basis of analysis that had Rs. 2,74,000 crore been put in time deposit, there would be twenty times more profit than what is being earned now. Perhaps much more income could have been generated. Built as on date, the income generated by these public sector undertakings is merely four per cent...  
(Interruptions) The problem with these undertakings is that they are not prepared to understand the economy of this country.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Had the capital invested in these undertakings been deposited in the banks, this amount would have been much more...  
(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : If you are not prepared to understand the main economic set up of the country, I fail to understand how you can understand the

disinvestment of BALCO. Till 1995, the PSUs listed in the country earned a total income of 2.4% while 476 private companies listed in the country, their return...  
(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Come to the BALCO...  
(Interruptions)

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : We are discussing BALCO...  
(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should reply when you get your chance to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You cannot answer now. You should reply when you get your chance to speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : I am analysing the points because it is necessary to understand some issues in order to understand the economy of the country and to know why such situation arose.

Shri Arun Jaitley has explained much on this issue. I will not elaborate this issue but would like to say that whereas the employee cost of public sector enterprises is 20 per cent, the same in the private sector is around 5 per cent. While there is 14 per cent interest cost in public sector undertakings, it is 5 per cent in private companies. The question is from where so many lacunae have cropped up in these public sector undertakings. I would like to know when all these malaises started. It started when Shri Manmohan Singh of the Congress Party presented his industrial policy statement in 1991.

[English]

Sir, I would like to quote:

"In case of selected enterprises, a part of Government's holdings in equity share capital of these enterprises will be disinvested in order to provide for the market discipline."

Sir, I would also like to quote from the Budget Speech of 1991 of Dr. Manmohan Singh. This was the crux of the things being discussed today. It reads:

"For the founding father of the republic of public sector that would be vibrant, modern competitive and

capable of generating, large surpluses was a vital element in the strategy of development. The public sector has made an important contribution to the diversification of our industrial economy, but there have been number of shortcomings. In particular, the public sector has not been able to generate internal surpluses on large-scale enough. At this political juncture, it has, therefore, become necessary to take effective measures so as to make the public sector an engine of growth, rather I emphasise, an absorbent of national savings, but the thought and action in this regard are still far apart."

*[Translation]*

All this started when the Congress Party was in power and when we talk about disinvestment, we did not start it at all. This concept was given by you, the Congress. Certainly it was initiated in the interest of the country. When you started disinvestment process before 1996 you said that the shares of blue chip companies will be sold. It was said that a part of these shares will be sold as their sale objectives was to cover deficit financing because their financial management was in bad shape. There was no point of social sector reforms in your mind. You did not pay heed to invest in social sector. You did so, because you wanted to hide your financial deficit. You wanted to hide. Therefore you sold the shares of food companies to cover up your financial deficit. Even then united front government the members of which are also sitting here though Shri Indrajit Gupta is no more, all had opposed the capital disinvestment and expressed their dissent. I am saying all this subject because whenever any capitalist invests his money he does not invest the same to finish it. No one invests the money to make loss. What is the condition of Air India and Indian Airlines today that India is incurring many losses. I am saying all this because Shri Arun Shourie has suggested the state government in this regard. Today every state government whether it be Karnataka government or Delhi Government or Delhi Vidyut Board all are talking about disinvestment. I am saying all this because it is my own individual experience. I am not happy as I have been visiting each and every corner of the country for the last six months. Undoubtedly you will like to ask what is the main objective of this subject. I would like to say that there were four sugar factories operating under Ministry of Textiles in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and

one of these fall under my constituency. This sugar factory has been declared sick for the last ten years. Shri Tiwari is sitting and all other members are also sitting. Everyday the matter relating to sugar is discussed here. I am sorry to say that if these companies were running...  
*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Mr. Chairman, has this got anything to do with BALCO?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Yes. You have to understand what is happening in the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN The Member may be allowed to submit his views in the way he likes.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, I feel pained today that if this concept had been well-implemented, we would not have lost four sugar factories. three in Uttar Pradesh and one in Bihar. Today those factories are closed. I am going all over the country asking people to come and take over those industries. No one is ready to come forward. Had these companies been disinvested then, had private parties been called then, these sugar mills would not have been closed at all.

*[Translation]*

I am explaining all these things because you should try to understand the main points. The other day the issue of Maruti Udyog was thoroughly discussed and I as well as Government was in favour of resolving the labour problem prevailing there. The Government strictly took the step. If you want to understand these things, I would like to tell about the main issue. Today, Maruti Udhdyog has implemented a discipline...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : Sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are in the private sector. Textile industries are in the private sector. Jute industries are in the private sector.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : I am talking about the sugar mills belonging to the Ministry of Textiles under BIC Corporation which were not disinvested because this idea was not propagated during Congress regime.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Rudy, you have exhausted your time. Please confine yourself to the topic of BALCO.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, yesterday an announcement was made in the budget that Maruti Udyog has slashed its prices showing goods performance...  
(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH (Aurangabad, Bihar) : Sir, he is talking about everything but BALCO.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : I will come to BALCO.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, it is not that Shri Arun Jaitley has finished my party's time or I do not understand the subject. I very well understand the subject. I want to explain the economics of BALCO which the Congress party is not able to understand.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, your time is over now.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, I have just started. This is not fair...(Interruptions) I am devoted to the House. I am the first speaker from my party. He was the originator.

MR. CHAIRMAN : But your Minister took a lot of time.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : The Ministers always take a lot of time...(Interruptions)

When the Maruti Udyog redefined its labour activities, it started its working at 7 o'clock in the morning. Their average production of cars was 30 cars per day, or in other words, 900 cars per month or about 10,000 cars per year. For manufacturing 10,000 cars a year, this discipline would have required Rs. 400 crore.

This is what I want to explain the economics of not doing politics everywhere. This is why, it is important that we have to start thinking in a process where disinvestment has to be looked attractive. To see people come over, it is required to come.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Rup Chand Pal was speaking about West Bengal. He talked a lot about West Bengal. I have made a case study which is very important for the House to know.

Sir, I would like to kindly draw the attention of the House to a case study of disinvestment in West Bengal. and this may be taken as a case study because I have gone through the details about a particular factory. It was *Lagan Jute Machinery Company Limited, West Bengal*. This was the only factory in the country which was manufacturing parts for jute industry. It was necessary for setting up of a jute industry. It was *Lagan Jute Machinery* established in 1955 by *Maggy & Sons Limited, Northern Ireland, U.K.* In 1978, the Government of India had 100 per cent shares in that company, and in the year 1987, the Bharat Bhari Udyog Limited took over the entire company. This company was disinvested... (Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, he is again talking about other things...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : How can I order him to speak on this topic or that topic? It is for him to choose.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, this company was disinvested by 74 per cent. You would be surprised to know.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, you have to conclude now. Your time is over.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Then, there is no point discussing things here.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Speaker has allotted three minutes or four minutes per speaker.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : If I have 3 minutes this side, how can it be possible to make points?

MR. CHAIRMAN : You Started at 1725 hours and it is already 1740 hours now.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : No, Sir. I was watching my time...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : I am just concluding.

This unit was giving a profit of just Rs. 550 crore in the year 1999, and the moment it was sold, next year, it made a profit of Rs. 800 crore.

[Translation]

I am referring this subject because.

[English]

Now people have to start realising as to what the process of disinvestment is.

[Translation]

The same West Bengal where these factories were being closed down, where the labourers were being retrained, there the same factories are still functioning after the disinvestment, keeping in mind the interests of the employees. All the members from the West Bengal would certainly endorse this fact. Mr. Minister, Shri Tapan Sikdar is also sitting here. I am presenting it as a case study before the House because we should see this issue beyond the arena of politics.

Shri Priya Ranjan Dasgupta has spoken much on the issue of Balco and Sterlite company. I don't understand the basis, the principle of economy under which he has analysed it. He has levelled so many allegations. Minister will reply to him I do not want to say anything about it. He said that the Sterlite company is a blacklisted company and deptt. of telecommunication has declared it blacklisted. I think this fact is untrue to some extent. When company had made a bid in the tender, there were some mistakes in their document. So, it withdrew its tender at the eleventh hour. When it withdrew its tender the Government of India said that it was not permissible under the rules and the company was blacklisted. Any company, withdrawing its offer can be blacklisted by the Government of India as per the rules. But, there is no point in questioning its credibility and strength.

A Plethora of issues have been brought in here... (Interruptions) In the Budget, which has been presented by our Finance Minister this time, the receipts which have been shown against disinvestment, are for Rs. 12000 crore and as on date Rs. 7000 crore will be invested to revive the public sector. And more than Rs. 5000 crore will be directed towards social sector and infrastructure. The policy of the Government and its stand is very clear. Take the BALCO issue as an example. There who want to invest in this country and the people who want to take implement the disinvestment process are thinking in different directions. If you want to revive the sick units and if this kind of political discussion goes on and everything is politicised, it will not be a good for future. There is a move to neutralise the effects of initiatives taken in 1991. I humbly request the House that if we do not encourage such kind of things in the coming days and apply different methods to adopt the disinvestment process, it will be difficult to achieve the objective set by the NDA

Government. I request the Government that whatever action it takes, it should be concrete and if Government gets even a single rupee more from some one else in this disinvestment deal, it should go ahead with them. If today Government of Chhattisgarh does not want disinvestment in BALCO, Government is prepared to take it over I request the House that Government should whole heartedly take action keeping in view the discussion taking place in the House and the stand taken by it... (Interruptions)

[English]

When you were ringing the bell, I got confused. But I am yet thankful to you for having given me this opportunity.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It was said that three Members from your party were enough.

[Translation]

KUMARI MAYAWATI (Akbarpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, our party is in favour of the fact that there should be transparency in the disinvestment of public sector undertakings. But Government has not adopted transparency in the disinvestment of BALCO. This is the issue for which a discussion under rule 184 is presently going on in the House. Though there has been much hue and cry over it in the House for the last many days and there has been statements by the treasury and opposition benches which I do not want to repeat, but it is sad that today Government is in hot water on account of its decision to sell 51 per cent share of big profit making company BALCO for just Rs. 551 crore. The Government is in this situation because it did not adopt transparency in this matter.

According to the sources and we have got information as well that many high officials are involved in under evaluation shares of the company as against the market price. But, it appears that some politics is involved in it. Whatever procedure was adopted for its evaluation, it was not adopted properly. Shri P.V. Rao was appointed for its evaluation and a period of ten days was fixed. But its report was submitted within seven days and Government took the decision. Not only this, the evaluation made by Shri Rao was to be made public but it was not done so and a decision to sell it was taken later. It reeks of corruption in the Government. The land where BALCO company has been set up belonged to tribal people. It is clearly mentioned in our constitution that the lands belonging to the tribal people cannot be sold. Any private company



[Kumari Mayawati]

cannot purchase it. A company by name of Balco was set up on the land of tribal people and disinvestment was done in it. I believe this is wrong. A coalition Government led by BJP is in power in the country. You are aware of previous Government. But, I would like to tell about the present day Government that it is not adopting transparency in the matter of disinvestment of public sector undertakings and the disinvestment is being done in these undertakings. This shows anti-SC, ST, OBC mentality of the Government on this issue. It is because there is reservation for the people belonging to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe in the public sector undertakings whereas there is no provision of reservation for these people in the private sector. Now, when Government goes for disinvestment of public sector undertakings and these become private companies, it does not think what will happen to the people placed under reserved Quota. What would happen to these people when this company was sold to the private company.

There is no reservation for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the private sector. But you people are speedily going for disinvestment of public sector undertakings. It shows your mentality that the financial condition of the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes which has improved due to reservation in Government services or public sector undertakings should not be improved any longer and these people become backward again. Anyhow, you people are against the reservation and you thought that if you directly discontinue with the reservation system and oppose it you will not continue to get support from the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, although, you are not getting the same even now. Then you people chose another way by showing that these public sector undertaking, you decided for disinvestment. You are not adopting transparency where the disinvestment is done in favour of private Companies and in private sector. The owners of these companies are not our own. The people rather, they are the people belonging to upper strata of the society. You are benefitting these upper strata people by selling the company in the loss. While you are making them rich, the people who have availed reservation facility in the public sector undertakings and when they are sold to private companies they will become jobless. What will happen to these people...*(Interruptions)* Therefore I urge upon the Government and demand that wherever you go

far disinvestment of public sector undertakings and make them private companies, first of all you should ensure that reservation is provided there. If you do not go for it, I have reasons to doubt about your intentions towards Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Therefore, if you have to take any decision in this regard, you should make a provision of reservation in the private sector first so that the people belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe may not suffer on this account.

Sir, the issue of Balco is very significant. I think, the decision for disinvestment in BALCO has been taken in a hurry which is not right. Government should reconsider over it and constitute an independent committee. Whether any unfair means have been adopted in the decision taken so far on this issue should be looked into and the persons involved therein should be punished. I feel that your hurriedly taken decision reeks of corruption. It is for this reasons that we are not supporting you. Our party supports the motion brought under the rule 184...*(Interruptions)* while you support reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the other hand you behave differently. It seems your intention is not right.

*[English]*

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI (Salem) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for having given me this opportunity. We are shocked to hear from the learned hon. Low Minister that Parliament has no authority to look into this issue.

This is a kind of respect they show to the Parliamentary democracy, that is a group of Members of Parliament cannot look into the executive action. Sir, we agree that you have the executive domain but you are accountable to the Cabinet and the Cabinet in turn is accountable to the Parliament. If this is the kind of scant respect you have for the parliamentary intervention, it is really upsetting that such types of statements come from the Treasury Bench. Sir, it is only because of such a high domain, this articulation and deliberation with regard to this issue is going on in this august House. We are not here to politicise this issue, rather we are sincerely interested in clearing our doubts and the charges that are levelled against the present Government with this issue which are well founded.

Sir, we have been discussing this issue of disinvestment on many an occasion, almost four to five times since the inception of the 13th Lok Sabha. Time and again we

have been hovering around this issue of disinvestment but yet we do not find a solution to this problem. Yet, we do not get the consensus. Neither the Government is interested in spelling out the policy with regard to the disinvestment nor a clear-cut guideline is formulated or spelt out by the Government with regard to indiscriminate selling out of nation's precious wealth.

Sir, rather the present NDA Government is interested only in shifting the burden to the previous Government. They have only one argument to say that they are following the footsteps of the previous Government, on the basis of the Common Minimum Programme of the NDA and the previous Congress regime. When we traverse through the previous record this is the only substantiation which they come out, that is they are following the policy of the previous Government. They say that the manifesto of the Congress Government says that the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission will be implemented. They kept on saying that the Common Minimum Programme of the United Front Government is followed by the present Government. Sir, these two previous governments did not ask them to do this clandestinely in a shady manner.

Sir, we are not against disinvestment in-toto. We are against the pick and choose of the issues on their own whims and fancies. If the Government say that they are following the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission, have they followed the other recommendations of the Commission too? They conveniently step into the shoes and saying that the Commission has recommended this issue.

We are not opposing this in a way it is. We are opposing the deliberate, non-transparent way of dealing with this issue. We only have serious concern of the loss of public money involved in this issue. Why is the Government disinvesting the profit-making industry?

18.00 hrs.

Is it in order to bridge the budgetary gap or to utilise the proceeds from this disinvestment for the social welfare activities or to revive or revitalise the existing public sector units? Sir, none of these objects have been fulfilled. Neither you are able to bridge the budgetary gap nor you are able to spend the proceeds for the social activities nor you are able to revive or revitalise the existing PSUs. Rather, the entire proceeds go to the Consolidated Fund of India and you keep saying that Rs. 72,000 crore have been spent for the maintenance of the existing public sector units.

18.02 hrs.

*[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]*

You conveniently forget the assets worth crores which have been developed by this sector and almost 40 lakh workers who are employed in these units. If you say that the fixing of target is not to bridge the budgetary gap, why is this Government, time and again, fix up a target of Rs. 10,000 crore? Even in the present Budget, it has been mentioned. It was mentioned in the last Budget also. Why is this target fixed when you say that you do not intend to bridge the budgetary gap? Therefore, you are designing something else. So, you have done it according to your whims and fancies.

Sir, as we see from the reports, the Government took the decision on a transparent basis because of the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission. Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the recommendation of the Disinvestment Commission which recommended that only 40 per cent shares to be sold. Then why did you suddenly jump to sell 51 per cent share? Is it in order to benefit the Sterlite Company? Why does the Chairman of the Commission jump into the phrase saying that 51 per cent has to be sold as against his earlier opinion for 40 per cent? This is one serious issue which the Government has to explain. Even if the Chairman has the reason, are you not supposed to apply your mind that 51 per cent share will give the dominant hold to this private industry?

Sir, they may have the reason that in order to attract the global bidding and in order to attract high price this has been recommended. If this is the argument, my point is that in this particular BALCO dealing, there are only two bidders who have competed and both of them are from our country. No global industry or a foreign entrepreneur has come forward. With regard to the price, have you fixed the required price?

Sir, this august House has to take into consideration many more aspects. BALCO has the assets worth Rs. 5000 crore and 51 per cent share is sold for Rs. 551 crore. The actual value of the asset is Rs. 5000 crore. It is having a cash reserve of nearly Rs. 400 crore in hand which alone is sufficient to modernise this industry. Apart from this, it has a power plant with a capacity of 270 megawatt. It has three major bauxite ore mines which are worth several hundred crores. This industry has developed a rolling mill worth Rs. 137 crore in 1999. So much abundant wealth is being thrown away at a throw away price. Is it not a

[Shri T.M. Selvaganpathi]

sell out? Is there any transparency? If the hon. Minister says that it is a growing concern, I would like to draw his attention to the newspaper report which says that Shri Aggarwal of Sterlite Company has said that he will take over the entire company in three years.

Is it the way the Government has to sell the precious wealth of the nation? You have paved the way for complete take-over of this industry. This is what has been going on in the entire country all these years. Tomorrow you are going to sell the precious pride of this nation, the Air India. Yesterday it was Salem Steel Plant worth Rs. 4000 crore which had been thrown away to private intreprenuers for a song, for a dead cheap price.

Has this company got any credential? We are agitating on this count also. You have sold it to a company which has no credential at all, as has been accepted by one of the hon. Members of the Treasury Benches, Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy.

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude. The time allotted to your Party is six minutes and you have taken more than ten minutes.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : I have just started, Sir. Please give me a few more munutes.

This is a company which has already been blacklisted by the Telecommunications Department. The rule says that if a company is blacklisted by the Government of India, it cannot be allowed to participate in the bidding. How did it lose sight of this issue? Even SEBI had severely indicted this company of having manipulated the share in the hands of the Group of Harshad Mehta in the stock-exchange scam. How did the Government lose sight of all these issues? There was also a litigation against this company in the High Court of Madras because this company had started a copper industry at Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu where the pollution problem was so severe that a PIL had to be filed and this particular company was indicted by the court. If this is the credential of this company and if this is the political clout this company can wield for the knock out of BALCO for a song, we doubt this deal.

Therefore, we are asking for a White Paper and a Joint Parliamentary Committee to probe this deal. If you say that everything has been done correctly, my question is whether the evaluator who has gone into the evaluation of the assets is a competent person for the job. There are reports that Shri Rao has no experience in the aluminium

company at all. He is primarily a surveyor-cum-loss assessor who cannot value assets worth thousands of crores of rupees. It is a shame on the part of the Department to say that it has been done transparently. Moreover, all this has been done within seven days; five days in one company and two days in another company. Within ten days they have filed the report also. Is it not scandalous? Do you say this is transparent? So also the mines worth crores of rupees have been under-valued. A Government of India company, that is the Indian Bureau of Mines, which has no experience in the valuation of mines was entrusted with the job of assessing the value of the mines.

MR. SPEAKER : Please wind up. You have already taken fifteen minutes, Sir.

The three bauxite ore mines connected with this industry are the largest mines in the entire country. There are nearly seven thousand workers in this industry, half of whom belong to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. There is a clear-cut instruction and ruling by the Supreme Court, the Apex court of this country, that the lands of the tribal people cannot be sold away to private entrepreneurs. How could the Government do this deal, then? How did they not take even this fact into account at all? When this issue was raised in the High Court of Delhi, the court had issued a direction that as and when there is a move which infringes upon the right of the workers, they have to move the court. Therefore, the Trade Unionists belonging to this industry first moved the management. But they were asked to clear out unceremoniously. They asked for ten-year job security, but they have been promised only one-year job security. Is it because half of the workers belong to the oppressed and suppressed side of the society?

Is it genuine? Is this deal really fair?

To wind up, I would only urge the Government to reconsider its view. The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh has announced that they are going to pass a unanimous resolution from their Assembly. The Government-sponsored resolution will be sent to the Chief Minister of Chattisgarh. I would only request the hon. Chief Minister there, through our learned Congress friends here, that there is no point in doing it. The same issue was brought up in Tamil Nadu Assembly. There was a unanimous resolution requesting the Government of India to stop taking over or giving it away or selling the Salem Steel industry to the private concern. It has not been done.

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude as voting is also there.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : The Chief Minister of the State has also promised to speak to the Government. It has not yet been done. Whereas there are a lot of inner contradictions among the allies of the NDA. Our good friend from Shiv Sena has come out on the issue categorically...*(Interruptions)* Our friends from Tamil Nadu are...\* sticking to the present Government for power sharing where the Salem Steel Plant has been sold away and people of this nation will certainly give a fitting reply.

On behalf of my party, we call soon the Government to institute a Joint Parliamentary Committee to probe into this issue.

*[Translation]*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is evident from the facts presented by the hon'ble learned Members here that when the disinvestment commission has asked them to make it upto 40 per cent, they simply asked the Chairman to write a letter and they were ready to raise it to 51 per cent. There is certainly something fishy here. The second thing is while reinstating global advisory they have not followed the norms. Again the rules have been flouted in the reinstatement of the persons responsible for evaluation. Its assets have been evaluated worth 3844.9 crore rupees whereas they are selling it for 550 crore rupees. Not only that, they have to give nearly 500 crore rupees and when it has been evaluated at four-five hundred crore rupees then certainly there is something wrong in the matter. I would like to ask the hon'ble Ministers, when all the members of the House want that there should be transparency, then what does it mean. Now, why are they running away from enquiry? Let the members of the House examine it. When you have not done any thing wrong and there has been no manipulation either then why are you running away from an enquiry? When you are right, why can't you face it. You must order an enquiry. If you are clean then why are you avoiding it. You fear that if questioned, you would be caught. In the name of enquiry they keep on giving various reasons and the same has been spread among the people...*(Interruptions)* The Government should not shy away from the enquiry. Lalooji had opposed CBI enquiry and therefore, he had to face it. Now they are also doing the same thing...*(Interruptions)* Whenever there is such a

\*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

problem and the Government tries to avoid it then it gets trapped. Therefore, a parliamentary committee comprising members from various political parties may be constituted to examine it. Transparency means not avoiding the enquiry. It is the question of workers. This decision has terrorised the workers. Even selling out of Hindustan cables is also talked about. Due to it there is heavy resentment among the workers there.

Therefore, if you look at the entire issue its worth is much-much higher and it appears there has been some irregularity...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, these people have been doing these things in Bihar for quite sometime now. Sometimes it is fodder scam and some other time it is something different...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, they see manipulation in each and everything...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it should be decided once and for all because all the Members of the House and their alliance partners want this and are of the opinion that transparency should be there and they should not avoid enquiry. But, their three ministers are members of Rajya Sabha Mr. Arun Shourie and Mr. Arun Jaitley were giving various justifications and the third gentleman is Mr. Pramod Mahajan the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. Their alliance partners were worried that if the Government would fall these three ministers would go back to Rajya Sabha and they would have to go back to their homes, if the Lok Sabha is dissolved. We are also to be blamed for this because the opposition is not united. If some alternative is formed then the allies would not tolerate them any more. Besides, the position of the allies is rather pitiable because they don't have any say. They go on threatening the government but it is useless and continue to support their wrong doings due to political considerations and they readily vote in favour of them as they are not prepared for the dissolution of Lok Sabha. Due to this political gimmick all this is happening. Therefore, we, the opposition parties are equally guilty for not maintaining the political balance because we do not present any alternative. If we form an alternative then the allied parties would immediately withdraw their support...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, they should not run away from Joint Parliamentary Committee probe Whatever reasons you give for it, it is not going to undermine the situation...*(Interruptions)* If you are right then why are you running away from the enquiry? Argument is not the solution. Many of the Members have read out

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

the facts from the books, so we have some doubts in this matter. Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh have alleged and it has appeared in the newspapers that there had been a deal, worth 100 crore rupees. When such allegation was levelled you should have defended yourself but there was no response from your side in this matter...  
(Interruptions)

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is strange that the pot is calling kettle back...  
(Interruptions) Have they left anything in Bihar...  
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Raghuvanshji, please conclude now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you please ask him about the number of scams they are involved in...  
(Interruptions) Now Mr. Raghuvansh is also speaking. If some one else speaks it is alright but now he is speaking...  
(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : \* After that this scam has come...  
(Interruptions) When I told to a group of journalists that they would get entrapped gentleman like Arun Shourie then the Journalists said... \* We do not know what they have been writing....  
(Interruptions) he might have been in the RSS party...  
(Interruptions) Therefore, we have doubts in this matter... \* I demand for constitution of Joint Parliamentary Committee to investigate in the matter and thereby it would be proved that they are not in favour of enquiry as they are apprehensive of being caught. Certainly, an amount of 200-300 crore rupees is involved in this scam. Therefore, I would say to set up an enquiry instead of avoiding it.

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA (Bilaur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is making an allegation on the honourable Prime Minister...  
(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I have not spoken anything wrong...  
(Interruptions) you are tempting me to speak....  
(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : The hon. Member has made a very grave allegation against the Prime Minister of India. Either he should substantiate it or I request you to please strike it off the record....  
(Interruptions)

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\*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : This is not how the proceedings are struck down from the records....  
(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I too have seen the Parliamentary system for thirty years...  
(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let me see the records. If it is objectionable, it would be expunged.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA : You cannot mislead the nation by speaking loudly....  
(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except the speech of Shri Prabhunath Singh.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister has already raised the point. Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let me see the records. Shri Prabhunath Singh.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What happened to you, Shri Bansal. Let me see the records.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Honourable Minister has raised the issue of allegation.

[English]

Let me see the records. If it is objectionable, it can be expunged.

(Interruptions)

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\*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : I already told you that the Minister has raised the point. Let me see the records. If it is objectionable, it can be expunged. Please understand.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let me see the records.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Only unparliamentary expressions can be expunged...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : How can you give a direction to the Chair? The Chair knows very well which is unparliamentary and which is not. You are not supposed to give directions to the Chair

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : We can plead with you. *(Interruptions)* We are giving our viewpoint. We are pleading with you....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have clearly told you that the Minister has raised an objection, let me see the records. If it is objectionable, it can be expunged.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : What the Minister said was that an allegation has been levelled against the hon. Prime Minister....*(Interruptions)* If they say that the allegation is false, let them set up a JPC to go into it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except the speech of Shri Prabhunath Singh.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have just started speaking and I am being interrupted. I have yet to speak. I do not know what will happen later on.

BALCO is a public sector undertaking. Discussion is going on in the House about the disinvestment of BALCO. However, discussion has already been held in this regard in the Rajya Sabha. Discussion is also going on through newspapers in this regard. Today, the Members of treasury as well as opposition benches have started expressing

their views about disinvestment of BALCO. I would also like to express myself on the issue in brief. The Government set up these public sector undertakings with a view to develop the village and remove backwardness of the people by utilising the profits earned by these undertakings, this might have been the intention of the Government while setting up these units.

But, despite so many years, the money collected in the form of various taxes from the villages by the centre, it has not been spent on the development of the villages. One reason for not spending this amount was these public sector undertakings. All the public sector undertakings were running in losses. The money collected from the villages was spent on the revival of these public sector undertakings, but, these public sector undertakings could not earn profit. In such a situation under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Government has decided to take the bold steps for the development of rural areas and welfare of rural population and as a sequel to this the process of disinvestment has been started. Although, the process of disinvestment was started 10 years back when Congress was in power in the country, this party started the process. I do not understand why they are making a hue and cry against it now. They are saying that there is no transparency in it. They are expressing doubt on the intention of the Government. What I feel is that they live in cities and are against the villages. When they know that development of villages is about to take place, roads are to be constructed and electricity is to be supplied they talk of development in villages from here in Delhi so that funds can't be transferred to the villages.

However, the process of disinvestment in BALCO has not started just now. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji was not the Prime Minister of the country in 1996. Shri H.D. Devegowda was the Prime Minister at that time. During that period Left Front supported the Government and had a say in the running of the Government. Akhilesh Singhji was speaking just now. Respected Mulayam Singhji was the Defence Minister at that time and Congress supported the Government from outside. The process of disinvestment in BALCO was started at that time and though four years have passed since then, still they say that disinvestment has been done in a hurry, what does it mean? The Government have taken the decision after a gap of four years. What is the justification for saying all this....*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Prabhunath Babu, the decision for 551 crore was not taken at that time.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Akhileshji, I would like to inform you that we have not gone for disinvestment in a hurry. The Members were discussing to increase or decrease the percentage share of disinvestment. The figure of Twenty six per cent was already there. But, on the recommendation of the Chairman Commission on Disinvestment Shri G.V. Krishnan, it was increased to 51 per cent. It is true that if we go for 51 per cent disinvestment the management of the company would go into the hands of private party. But, why are they worried about it. I would like to know the reason of their concern. What problem do they have if any public sector undertaking earns profit and the profit is utilized for the development of the villages. What is the cause of concern then...(Interruptions) Although discussion has been held in the House five times in the past on the subject times and 20-25 questions have also been raised and the Government have furnished written replies to them. I don't think there is any need to hold further discussion on this issue. But, the opposition is playing the tactics of misleading the people by going to the press on this issue, so that they can get carried away by their move.

But I would like to inform you that appropriate process has been adopted for disinvestment. They doubt the intention of the Government and say that the Rs. 551 crore accepted for disinvestment is too small amount as against its real value.

*[English]*

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE (Bhilwara) : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : What is your point of order and under which rule?

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE : Sir, a reference has been made to Rule 353 in the last speech made by Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh. He has made allegations against the Prime Minister.

MR. SPEAKER : That was an allegation and a ruling has already been given by the Chair in that regard.

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE : But nobody has made a point of order. I want to raise a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : That was an allegation. The Chair has already given the ruling. How can you raise a point of order on the same allegation. The ruling has already been given. Please take your seat.

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE : Has it been recorded?

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Badnore, ruling has already been given. There is no point of order. Now, please take your seat.

*[Translation]*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : What is wrong in it, truth always triumphs, you get it probed...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Raghuvanshji, it is not good, you are disturbing the proceedings of the House. Please take your seat.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, open tenders were invited in this regard. People were asked to invest money and only two parties responded to it. One made the offer of Rs. 275 crore while, the other valued the assets to Rs. 551.5 crore. What problem they are having if clearance was given to the second party.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Why only two parties were selected?

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : If there were other parties why did they not respond. Who stopped them from applying against the tender...(Interruptions)

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Prabhunath Singh, please address the Chair. You are unnecessarily wasting the time of the House.

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : The Government have taken a decision keeping in view the opinion of the Committee on Disinvestment and the experts, and no particular person has played any role in this process of Disinvestment. Cabinet Secretary, Government of India is the Chairman of the Committee on Disinvestment. Therefore, it is not proper to say that the deal is unfair. Earlier, it was for the Ministry of Finance to look into the matter. But the Government later on set up a separate Ministry for the purpose for proper monitoring and supervision of disinvestment process. The opposition have only one problem that, why this process was going on smoothly. Members of Congress Party also tried in this regard but could not succeed in it. Later on, the Government supported by them could also not succeed in this regard. Now when Government is successfully going for it these people are having problem. Statement of the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh has been published in the

newspaper in this regard. Some Members have mentioned about it in the House. They have a doubt that there has been irregularity in the deal and an amount of Rs. 100 crores is involved. A public interest litigation has also been filed in the High court in this regard. I am not aware of the Court verdict. We were listening to Shri Madhav Rao Scindiaji when he was expressing his views the other day during Zero-Hour on this issue. He had also expressed his doubts about the deal. I would like to know why you change your stand so quickly. If you take decisions, it is good and when another person does the same, you allege underhand involvement in the deal. I would like to know from the Members of Congress and Communist Party about the details of the allegations they are making. If you make the allegation that Rs. 100 crore were taken, disclose the names of the persons and the Government will conduct an enquiry.

SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA : What is the problem in constituting an enquiry committee? Is it the property of the nation. How far it is correct that three persons take away whatever they like...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Prabhunath Singhji, please address the Chair.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SAHIB SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, they have not been in power for quite some time. They think that some Members of their Party would be inducted in the committee...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, they want to constitute the committee to bargain the disinvestment deal and the Government would not allow them to bargain. The Government is firm in this regard...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, what is this 'SAUDEBAJI'?...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude now, there is no time. We have to go for voting also.

(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the government has...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Raghuvanshji this is not proper. you are disturbing the House time and again. You are speaking

but not giving others the opportunity to speak. What are you doing?

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, much concern has been expressed for the workers from the Members of both sides. The intention of the present government is not malafide. We believe that workers are the incarnation of Vishvakarma and the creative power of the creator Devas of the Universe enters into the workers. By their labour they raise everything, so the government is not in favour of ignoring their interest. Upto one year of the disinvestment no employee will be retrenched, such direction has been issued by the government. Employees have been offered the opportunity of voluntary retirement. On the advice of the labour Chief Board action will be taken as per the rules of the company and government has already made a provision for an equity share of five percent for the employees.

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : After one year where will they go?...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Bhuria, what is this? Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : There are public sector undertakings in the states as well and...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now you please conclude. There is no time, voting has to take place.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : I am concluding in two-three minutes.

MR. SPEAKER : You have already taken ten minutes.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : As time is short so after saying one thing I am concluding my speech. During the discussion Akhilesh Singhji and many other members have raised the issue and the issue of Swadeshi has also been discussed in the House. The people think that the foreigners are coming to rule this country. We would like to discuss the topic of Swadeshi. Those who have caught in the frenzy of 'swadeshi' and 'videshi' we would like to know this from Somnathji and when Raghuvanshji had become Minister, at that time...(Interruptions)



MR. SPEAKER : We are having discussion on BALCO.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Now we have stopped discussion on 'BALCO'. Now we want say one thing about 'Swadeshi' and 'Videshi'. When the Chief Minister of Somnathji was Jyotiji and the Chief Minister of Raghuvanshji was Lalu Yadav, at that time they were going abroad for inviting the foreigners, so we want to know as to when they went to call the foreigners, what was the mystery behind that? If there was no secret and if they had not gone to invite the foreigners then whether they had gone for the development of Bengal and Bihar or they had gone to hide their black money in foreign countries? They should tell this as to what is the reality.

*[English]*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West) : Sir, the status of BALCO is that it is the first aluminium producing PSU started in 1965 in Madhya Pradesh. Now, it is in Chhattisgarh. Today, the Motion disapproving its disinvestment is being discussed. Both in Treasury Benches and in the Opposition, there are political Parties which are firm believers of the principles of disinvestment. This is not the question whether it is in this case or in other case. But Trinamool Congress, on principle, without going into the details, is opposed to the idea of disinvestment. It firmly believes that the principle can be debated but it cannot be compromised. We are concerned because the Government has already taken the decision. As it appears from the last few days, it is not going to be changed. Since the concluding decision has already been taken by the Government, I would certainly appeal to the Minister to look into the conditions of the workers, the labourers as such.

I would make a few suggestions and proposals before you regarding how their conditions can be survived. First of all, I would request that within your 49 per cent share, 20 per cent share should be allotted to the employees of BALCO. I hope you will assure this in this House today. The workers, employees are very much anxious to know about their future. At this juncture, unemployment is at the sky-rocketed height. In addition to that, this disinvestment causes more unemployment problem. The image of the Government is compelled to be tarnished, and for which, we should all remain alert.

Sir, we want to be assured by the hon. Minister that there should be no retrenchment and no change in the service conditions, in their pay scales, perks and their welfare facilities. There would be a guarantee for social security of the employees similar to that of the employees of Government establishments. Once it is changed to private sector with a 51 per cent share, naturally the employees will feel insecure. They may face uncertainty in their job security. So, it is to be guaranteed. The security and the guarantee should be like that of the Government employees. There should be an agreement between their representatives and the recognised trade unions of BALCO also. I may kindly be clarified whether there was any meeting between the recognised trade unions and the Ministry. The employees should not feel isolated. The workers should not feel that they are being thrown into insecurity.

In the agreement, it may be said that the prospective buyer must also talk to the trade union and should explain how they are going to modify, how they are going in for further modernisation of this BALCO unit.

Some allegations have been made by the Opposition. So far as NDA Government is concerned, we must expect that the Minister should come out with replies to the allegations made against the Government. In a parliamentary democratic system, when, on the floor of the House, some allegations are made and those allegations have gone to the extent that Rs. 100 crore transaction has been made, I hope the Minister should come out whether these are wild allegations or there are any truths behind the allegations. We have our full confidence in the dignity, integrity and honesty of Shri Arun Shourie. We hope, in the interest of parliamentary debate and parliamentary democratic functioning, he should make all out efforts to clear the allegations raised by the Opposition.

Mr. Minister, I also want to be clarified one thing very categorically from you. If any better buyer approaches, are you prepared to roll back? Will you give some more time by which the Opposition Parties, which have made these allegations, can also remain out of fear? The Government can be more transparent by providing some more time.

We should not take any hasty decision. What Shri Priya Ranjan Dasgupta was telling was that in a gap of seven or ten days all the matter was over. If our Government is clear, if our Government is transparent, if we believe that it is so, then why should we be hesitant?

So, naturally you respond to the allegations made by the opposition and we firmly believe that if any better valuer really purchases we can agree to it. I am glad that you took up the challenge on the floor of the Rajya Sabha also. On the other day, the people jeered you, we could not hear you and there was a walk out. But today the whole country is waiting.

We are also concerned with a few of our public sector units in West Bengal. We were assured by the hon. Prime Minister that they would be looked into on a priority basis. We categorically assured our leader, Kumari Mamata Banerjee that so far as those seven public sector units were concerned, they were undergoing a revival process and we were looking into them. We urge upon you that in whatever manner any announcement you may make on the floor of this House, even by the Minister of Finance yesterday, this matter has to be looked into further and for that we make a categorical demand.

We want to hear from you, Shri Arun Shourie, about our points about the protection of the workers in the real sense. If these matters are made clear by you, we will certainly stand by your decision because the decision has already been taken and we stand by the Government.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Somnath Chatterjee. He is the last speaker.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am the last speaker.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are not the last Speaker today, but tomorrow.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, before I go into the subject under discussion, I wish to repudiate with all the emphasis at my command, to deny the most disgusting and filthy allegation, that was made by one of the hon. Members against the former Chief Minister of West Bengal. It is a senseless, baseless and grotesque allegation which only a distorted mind can make.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : That should be expunged.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I wish to raise not the details of the issue.

Is this not a matter of importance; is this a fundamental issue or not before the country as a whole, a very important one? Everybody demands, nobody says, it is just a flea-bite, it is one of the major public sector undertakings in the country still making profits. I am not going, at this stage, whether such a unit should at all be sold because probably that stage has gone so far this unit is concerned. But how are such units to be disposed of by the Government? I think the country is entitled to know that. No *ad hoc* decisions can be taken. From unit to unit the Government cannot take *ad hoc* decisions. The Government cannot lay down standards for the purpose of disposal of a particular unit.

Both the Houses are agitated. This is not a matter which is of no moment. The country is agitated. The Government has many friends in the media. The media has take it up very strongly. The other House had debated it for a long time. We have taken almost six hours now to debate the matter. Is it a matter which has no importance or no value?

We have a quasi-federal system in this country, may not be fully federal. While a Chief Minister has expressed his reservations, I am not going into his other allegations.

He has expressed strong reservations. The main unit is in his State. He feels that this is a matter which should be looked into properly. He is the Chief Minister of a duly constituted Government. He raises questions of importance, of principle. Should not the Central Government, in a set up like ours, consult the Chief Minister because there is an agitation of the working class, as Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay has rightly said? I appreciate what he has said, sometimes, ...

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : It is a left-handed compliment.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Not 'left-handed'. I said, 'I appreciate'. What is left-handed? If you do not want my compliment, it is all right. ... (Interruptions) I appreciate; I do not know other English. You can supply me with English words. ... (Interruptions)

Supposing, there is an agitation, who will face it? It is not Shri Arun Shourie who will face it. He will then blame the State Government for not maintaining law and order.

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

Sir, after all, this is not property of the Government, *per se*, far less of the BJP because Parties do not matter in these cases. This is a property of the people, the country. As the representatives of people in this House and in the other House, we are entitled to know how their assets are being dealt with. We are trying to find out whether there is a proper valuation or not. A number of doubts have been expressed by Members of Parliament. We are not asking the CBI to go into it. You cannot trust the Members of Parliament. You will be in majority in that Committee for obvious reasons. It will be a proportionate representation there. We want to look into certain things.

Sir, when the matter is to be discussed in the House, the hon. Prime Minister certifies that it is a good deal. This is the only country in the world, probably, where there is a Minister for Disinvestment. I thought there should be a Minister for Investment. He is a Minister for Disinvestment. ...*(Interruptions)* He said: 'No, shares will be affected'. The hon. Prime Minister in his benign attitude said it, although I find that he is getting angry these days. He said, 'No, the sale is very good.' I do not know how much he has gone into it.

Sir, unfortunately, important matters of principle in this country are being treated as purely partisan matters. As soon as you raise questions like this, well you must fight the Opposition, come what may. Shri Arun Shourie, you are not only losing your credibility but also the credibility of the country. We are not concerned with your credibility. This country is dealing with its own valuable property in a manner as if they are dirt and somehow we should get rid off, find out anybody, transparency or no transparency. It must be sold and in a jet speed of one week. All is done and everything is completed. You cannot do anything in seven days in this country. You complete every process and you require the intervention of a very articulate lawyer, Shri Arun Jaitley, who had to speak for one hour mainly to abuse the other side. This is another tactic. When you are in difficulties and on a stickily wicket, you abuse the other side. You do not know anything.

Sir, he referred to 'Great Eastern'. He does not know it. Nothing has been finalised, thanks to some objections. We have some hon. Politicians in West Bengal who in one place belong to one Party and at another place belong to another Party.

He is also a leader of a trade union. He is objecting everyday. It has not yet been finalised and he passed the

judgement. What I was trying to bring to the notice of this august House is, please do not treat this as a routine matter. The Government should not treat it as a routine matter. The very fact that you have allowed a discussion under Rule 184, shows the importance. Of course, what can we expect? We have a Government of motley combination where it has been expressly stated that ideology has no relevance, principles have no relevance. The only thing is to remain in power. I know the agony under which Shri Sharad Yadav passes his days. He is not happy. He is unhappy, but he wants to be near the power. How can Shri Nitish Kumar sit there? But you have learnt to look at there. There is no common programme, no ideology – this is another interesting point! It is a subject on which Telugu Desam Party, until the somersault, was objecting. In the other House, their leader openly objected. Shiv Sena people are very peaceful, but they all came here. Silently and peacefully, they came to the Well to object – you remember that. Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav of the Janata Dal (United) also objected. So many people objected. This objection was not in private; it was in Parliament itself. You can change colours, you can change your feathers, that is up to you. People will decide. But why I am referring to this is because they had serious reservations. Therefore, there is, what we call, a *prima facie* case. You give lectures on so many things. *Prima facie* means a case which calls for an answer. When you say there is a *prima facie* case, then a reply is needed. Shri Venugopalachari felt that a reply was needed until he was chastised by his leader. But there is this overpowering attraction of remaining along with the centre of power. I do not know what is decided by this Government in consultation with the allies, very very committed allies. There are two groups of Ministers. I do not know in which group of Ministers the allies find themselves. At least TDP is not there. They have to Ministers. They are keeping this Government alive. They have no voice in the governance, except Shri Yerrannaidu who is sometimes getting annoyed and goes, along with Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay to meet the Prime Minister. Some sweet words are there and they quietly come back and say that after the clarification by the Prime Minister, they are now satisfied.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Speaker, he has not spoken a word on the subject.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It is not so. Please be seated.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, how my friends in the BJP are concerned?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : He is not yielding. Please take your seat, Shri Kharabela Swain.

(Interruptions)

19.00 hrs.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Please do not dictate terms. It is not correct...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister is there to reply to all these things. Please take your seats.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I will take another three to four minutes only.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : If the Telugu Desam Party has no Minister, they have the hon. Speaker...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : It is the only saving grace for the TDP. Sir, not to please you but we have openly appreciated the way you have been conducting the proceedings of the House as the Speaker.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Everybody is appreciating it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : The only thing is that when this hon. Speaker has dissociated himself from Shri Yerrannaaidu, he is doing better. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : After he became the hon. Speaker, he has dissociated from the Party. He is the property of the House.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : It is because that he has dissociated himself from your Party, at least for the time-being. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I reiterate my complete faith in your wisdom. ...*(Interruptions)*

Therefore, I was saying on this issue...*(Interruptions)* Please do not disturb. I will finish in another two or three minutes.

I was saying that this country here, this Government is run by a Group of Ministers. This is a concept which has developed during the past. Hon. Minister Shri Manohar Joshi, is it not correct?...*(Interruptions)* In that, hardly anyone figures. Over and above that, there is a unique institution in this country – we really started it during the Congress period – which is called the PMO. Everything is done there. Therefore, why are you raising your hand in support all the time? You are entitled to get your doubts removed. Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay, you are entitled to it.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : I have asked it.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Yes, you have asked it. I appreciate it. It is a right-handed appreciation. ...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, Sir, as a House, as a Member of this House, when so many hon. Members are having doubts, I would have thought that any Government, which believes in transparency, believes in democratic functioning would have welcomed a JPC and said : 'Very well, let us go the hon. Speaker's room'. It would have been asserted in tow days' time.

Now, is there no question about the appointment of the valuer? So many questions have been raised. How did you suddenly select this valuer? Although you are trying to dispose it of in a manner of distress sale, why is it that there were only one-and-a-half bidders in such an important unit? I say it is one-and-a-half bid because one company gave Rs. 551 crore and another gave half of it, Rs. 275 crore. Obviously, that was a procured bid because single bids are not considered. Certainly this is the so-called second bid. What is done then? What is the tearing hurry so far as this Government is concerned? Why could you not issue another tender notice? What is the hurry? Nowadays you could do that through hon. Minister Shri Pramod Mahajan's Ministry, through Internet and Website and all that. You would have got better offers also. You might have got them.

When question marks are being put you are then trying to bulldoze even a discussion in this House. For two days we are discussing whether the discussion should be under Rule 184 or Rule 193. What is the approach of this Government?

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

Is there or is there not a question about the manner of appointment of the valuer? Is there or is there not a question about his competence? He could not value the entire assets. So, you go to another office, the Bureau of Mines for another valuation of the mines. Is this the way doing it?

Is there any question about the important question hon. Member Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay has already raised as he has anticipated it, namely about the workers and what is the assurance given to them?

Now, they will come and take over control. This is the company which has been blacklisted by one of the Ministries. Where is the friend of Shri Nitish Kumar, who is the leader of 'dhan shakti'? The Ministry of Communications, I am told – it is subject to correction – has blacklisted this company. Now, this is the company they have chosen. Where is Shri Prabhunath Singh? He has gone now. All of you were so ecstatic about it. What is the track record of M/s. Sterlite Industries? Can you not find out? Can you not tell us? Then, how did it become 51 per cent while the Disinvestment Commission had recommended 40 per cent? Without going back to the Commission, it has become 51 per cent. Why did you go back to the Commission? I would like to know why the Government made a reference to the Chairman of the Commission and how it became 51 per cent. What is the reason? Is it not disturbing your conscience? Suddenly, it becomes majority shareholding and if I ask about it, you say all sorts of things.

Sir, regarding management, I would like to know how many of the Government nominated Directors would be there. They will get 51 per cent. What control can you have over its management? Then, why are you selling only 51 per cent and not the whole company? Selling of 51 per cent share does not give you any protection except in Extraordinary General Meeting, Extraordinary Resolutions and Special Resolutions which require three-fourth or two-third majority. What is the benefit? Why did you retain 49 per cent? You want money and Shri Prabhunath Singh fondly hopes that all this money will go to his constituency for rural development. It is the joke of the year. This money will go to bridge the budgetary deficit. They will not spare any money for Bihar and for that matter, even for West Bengal.

Sir, therefore, I am requesting for the sake of functioning of Indian democracy. All of you *thapthapated*

during the Finance Minister's speech, but do not forget that there are still, according to his own admission, 26 per cent people living below the poverty line. There is tremendous crisis in the agricultural sector. Farmers are committing suicide including in the State of Shri K. Yerrannaidu.

Sir, in a country like this where there are problems very significantly, I do not know whether you noticed because all of them were shouting, the word unemployment did not appear in the Budget Speech at all and the word employment did not appear in the Budget Speech at all....(Interruptions)

Therefore, I am saying that our important public sector units which are being sold with a guarantee of the continuation of the jobs, will result in unemployment of the people because the concerns like Sterlite Industries, which has purchased it, are not concerned about workers. Therefore, Sir, these are not the private matters of the BJP or the private matters of the Government only; it is a public matter and public property. Public is interested and entitled to know and there is no better public institution than Parliament of India. We are demanding that you owe an obligation to tell people through Parliament and proper inquiry through JPC as to what is the real state of affairs.

Why is this anxiety? Why is this hurry? Why is this improper selection? Why did you not issue the second tender? Why is 51 per cent share being sold? What is the fate of workers? Sir, I strongly demand that if there is any sense of propriety in this Government, if there is any sense of commitment on the part of this Government, or if they believe in transparency and in proper functioning, then this Government should agree to a JPC. Otherwise, the people will draw their conclusions and people will realise that they have something to hide.

Who wants to hide? It is only those who have got something to hide. If you do not have something to hide, you will not try to hide; you will welcome an opportunity. Today, you have exposed yourself. Shri Shourie, I know what you will say. You will say that, 'everything is hunky-dory; this Government is the most transparent Government.' You have got the reluctant support of many of my friends here. They have come in good numbers, I find, to vote for you. You will have that satisfaction. You will win their votes but I am sure, you will not win the hearts of many of them, at least, not ours. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the Minister Shri Arun Shourie to reply.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, why do you not give an opportunity to Shri Shukla?

MR. SPEAKER : There is no time.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Please give him five minutes.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Shukla, please take only two minutes.

SHRI SHYAMACHARAN SHUKLA (Mahasamund) : Sir, please give me at least five minutes. I do not want to repeat what the other speakers have said.

Under the Constitution of India, the State Government is the sole proprietor of the minerals, the land, of this country. When BALCO was formed in 1965, the State Government gave 1,650 acres of land, which it took from the poor farmers, from the *Adivasis*, forest, river water from Hasdeo Project and also power were made available to it, in addition to the minerals. This was all done with the feeling that this is going to be a national institution, and for the benefit of the people and for the country's good. Now, after so many years, when you are giving it away, it is nothing but a breach of trust of the people of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. We had hoped when this Company, was formed in 1965, that all these resources would be used for the nation's good and for the benefit of the people.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, whichever Government is there in this country, and whichever enterprise is there, whether it is a private enterprise or whatever it is, it must make this as a principle that if the minerals or natural resources of this country are being used, then all the benefits must go to the people of this country. This must be the basic, fundamental principle, and be it iron-ore or bauxite, whatever minerals are being used, the benefit must go to the people of this country. We know that if it is passed on to the private hands, like Sterlite, they will go only for profiteering, and a large number of people will be retrenched.

Even in China, we know that this liberalisation and globalisation has resulted in unemployment of millions of people. I will just take a few seconds to quote what the *People's Daily* of China said:

"With the present reforms, China's once command economy will force the State firms to lay off 6.5 million workers a month this year. The workers who were laid off and kept on State Wage Fund Rolls would join the pool of 14 million, still jobless from the

reform process between 1995-2000. With 150 million surplus farm workers, 8 million new job seekers would enter the market this year, plus the three million workers who would be reclassified as unemployed."

This is the picture just emerging in China. The same picture will emerge in India, if you recklessly go ahead with reforms, liberalisation and globalisation. I will appeal to our friends like George Fernandes, Sharad Yadav, Mamata Banerjee and our friends in the Telugu Desam Party that their patriotism and commitment to the people of this country is at stake.

The Government will stand exposed before the people of this country.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to seek a small clarification from the hon. Member. If liberalisation and globalisation are harmful for the country, why did the Congress initiate economic reforms in 1991?

SHRI SHYAMACHARAN SHUKLA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I said earlier, even Madhya Pradesh Government can offer Rs. 500 crore and purchase the shares of 51 per cent in BALCO. Let the Government offer the shares to the Government of Madhya Pradesh and they would purchase them. We know that we will make it work in a much better way and give profits to the people of Chhattisgarh if not to the whole country in the form of excise and other duties. I can say that the people of Chhattisgarh are not going to tolerate this transaction with Sterlites or whatever company that comes forward to purchase these shares. They must be prepared to face thousands of people who would be standing like a wall before them if they try to enter the area. If at all the Government wants to sell the shares, let them sell those shares to the workers, let them sell those shares to Madhya Pradesh Government, let them sell those shares to the financial institutions or whatever Government agencies that are there. That would give them the money which they want to use it only to reduce the budgetary deficit. Our friend is grossly mistaken if he thinks that this disinvestment money is going to be spent on development in rural areas. The Budget itself says that Rs. 10,000 crore have to be taken from disinvestment to reduce the budgetary deficit.

I, therefore, appeal to the Members of the Bharatiya Janata Party, especially those coming from Madhya Pradesh, that they must vote against disinvestment. I say vote according of your conscience.

[Shri Shyamacharan Shukla]

[Translation]

Go by the voice of your conscience. If you will not vote in support of the government still it is not going to be defeated. It will make no difference for them but people will understand that even today there are patriots in the Bharatiya Janata Party. There are followers of 'swadeshi', followers of Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh.

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH (Ballia, Bihar) : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, now Somnath Babu is not present here, I respect him. He was saying that how Sharad Yadavji, Nitish Kumarji is sitting on that side. I would like to say with respect that both are sitting on the treasury benches in the same way as your party is sitting on the treasury benches in Bihar.

Today, when I was coming to the House one of my old colleagues who is not a Member of the House, today asked me, as I am a socialist. "Whether I will support the stand of the government." I said that first of all in 1996 when the government of National Front was formed at that time the leader of our party Janata Dal-Shri Deve Gowdaji became the Prime Minister. From Delhi to Davos he declared that they would firmly implement the already adopted policy of economic liberalisation. When Gujralji became the Prime Minister, he also declared that governments will change in the country but there will be no change in the economic policies. When there will be no change in the policy of liberalisation then how we will continue to be socialist.

Today the discussion which is going on, is not on the policy of disinvestment. Had it been discussed, it would have been on the basis of policy. It is being discussed that adequate time was not given for it's evaluation, transparency was not maintained, behind the scene settlement was done, there was a transaction of Rs. 100 crores, the interest of the Dalits and tribals was not kept in view. All the discussion was centred on these points.

I would like to submit that today politics is going on in a negative way in this country. There is a charm of allegations and counter allegations. At one time about Bofors, at another about Hawala and then about scam but the main purpose is character assassination which has put a question mark on the credibility of the political system of the whole country and it is appearing very difficult now to maintain respect in the public life. If democracy is to be saved then policies and facts

should be discussed instead of levelling allegations and counter allegations, so far as the question of disinvestment is concerned, Jaitley, Saheb has in detail presented the facts about that. I do not want to reiterate them... (Interruptions) But I would like to say that in 1951 when Public Enterprises were started in this country, then the matter of nationalisation had come. At that time our Samajwadi party was not in it's favour. Our party was opposed to privatisation also.

Our party was opposed to nationalisation. Our Party was in favour of socialism but our party was not so powerful at that time. Had there been socialism in this country, this would not have been the condition today. In 1951 only five units had been commissioned and an investment of Rs. 29 crores was made in them. By 31st March, 1999 gradually a total of 240 units came up and an investment of Rs. 2,30,140 crores has been made in them. What has been the result? I do not want to doubt the policy, intention, integrity of those who initiated that but whereto they took the country owing to which the policy of liberalisation was adopted in 1991. Today every government is following their policy. No one has the courage to oppose it. But today the conditions that have been created, the conditions in which disinvestment is being done, the conditions in which all these things are being done is well known. I want to say that they have raised the issue of corruption. At one side, they have full confidence in Shourie Sahib, in his character, honesty, efficiency and on the other side they say that money has changed hands in this deal. Both these things cannot go side by side. Therefore, I would like to say that if money had changed hands that should be investigated. But the policy adopted should be discussed. Follow the policy you adopted in 1991. When once you invoked the sun like Kunti and the sun of liberalisation arrived, then why are you criticising?... (Interruptions) Why this happened, we are not guilty for this, only the people sitting on the benches of Congress are guilty for this. Please make introspection.

With these words, I oppose the motion and support the stand of the government.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF

ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the seventh occasion on which this matter is being debated in the House....(Interruptions)

There has been a pattern in the last five occasions, that is, after good points have been made, I appreciate those points greatly and I answer them. Day before yesterday, in the Upper House, they staged a walk out. But here today, because they have asked for a vote, I hope, that they will stay till the end, at least to vote. I hope that they will let me speak without interruptions as all of them, wise people like Shri Shyamacharan Shukla and others spoke without interruptions.

Sir, apart from the seven debates in the last one and a quarter years, in the last two Sessions alone, more than 320 questions of Parliament were answered on disinvestment and disinvestment policy....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This kind of interruption is not good. You must have some patience also.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : Sir, today, people are surprised about the disinvestment of BALCO. They are saying that it was done suddenly in seven days or something. Sir, I could only look up the records, from November, 1999 only during this one year and a quarter, in 25 Written Answers, the specific fact of BALCO disinvestment and what is going on to be done, has been narrated. But suddenly, we are told that there is a suddenness in this.

But the unfortunate part is that all this shouting takes place when actually there is a consensus in practice. I believe, there is a consensus in practice on most economic policies, and the hon. Finance Minister has been building on them and taking us on a path which the country is following for the last 11 to 12 years. For this many persons deserve the credit not this Government only. But what happens is that each time, when somebody does something, others who are in the Opposition oppose it, and when those in the Opposition come to power, and do the same thing or build on the experience, others hold it back.

But in either case, the result is the same and that is that the country is held back. You just see the startling facts to which that the hon. Minister of Finance has, in many cases, tried to educate us in his Budget speech. My plea is, please consider this Policy in that way.

We have published a small booklet from which Shri Arun Jaitley was quoting. It would be available with all of you. It is called *Disinvestment in States*. We wrote to the State Governments and to institutions like the Institute of Public Enterprises in Hyderabad and asked them about disinvestment activity in the States. In one State after the other, whether it is Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka or Rajasthan, the same activity is going on. In fact, I compliment many Chief Ministers for taking a lead in this.

In the case of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Digvijay Singh is so committed to this Policy that because there would be some restructuring of the labour force and the Madhya Pradesh Government did not have the money for VRS, they took a loan of Rs. 100 crore from the Asian Development Bank to start the disinvestment process. That is the consensus in practice. I feel that the situation confronting all Governments and all enterprises is exactly the same. But still a great deal of noise is made about these things.

The next point is something that many hon. Members have raised. Shri Somnath Chatterjee was, with eloquence and force, pleading for transparency. Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay and Shri Anant Geete also spoke about it. I cannot imagine a more transparent Policy than this. I will come to the questions of evaluation and selection of valuers and so on in a minute. Can you show me any Legislature in any State that has discussed these things seven times in one and a quarter years? I cannot think of a single Assembly in which 300 Questions were answered in two Sessions on just this one topic. But they are all doing the same thing. More than that, I take some credit and this Government takes credit for instituting a procedure by which Parliament would be fully informed on each one of these matters. There has not been a single Government in 50 years that had instituted the procedure that this Government has on this particular Policy. ....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt now. If you want any clarification, you may ask for it after his reply is complete.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : In the last debate in December, I recounted for you the fact that I had personally written – with the permission of senior people in the Government – to the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India and he agreed to it. I read out the letter and brought it on record here as a commitment from the Government



[Shri Arun Shourie]

that the moment a transaction of disinvestment is complete every scrap of paper relating to it and every document would be passed over to the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India. He has departed from his normal practice and said that though it was not the normal practice, the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor-General would prepare a report on each and every transaction and submit it directly to Parliament and release it to the people of India. We are assisting you for an informed assessment of each of these transactions and you want further transparency. I would love to get specific suggestions on that and I would certainly act on them. That is a commitment for the Government itself.

I now come to one disappointing feature. I do not want to quarrel with anybody because as I mentioned to you I feel that there is a common policy on many matters but we are just raising the decibel level and holding the country back. But I was disappointed that some elementary facts that would have been in the knowledge or should have been in the knowledge of learned Members were just glossed over.

Kunwar Akhilesh Singh was saying that there was no international bidding. Actually, it is very surprising. You could have just asked me. There were five bidders; there were three international companies and two Indian companies. If in the bidding process, some international company had bought it, the charge would have been that we are selling the country's assets to foreigners. Now, some Indian company has won and you are saying that there were only two bidders. There were five bidders. Three of them were foreign companies. ALCOA was one which participated till the penultimate stage.

VAW of Germany was the second; and Syberisky of Russia was the third. Then there were two Indian bidders. They were HINDALCO and Sterlite. This is the simple fact. But it was just glossed over and it is said that there was no international competitive bidding.

Secondly, when they said that in the end there were two bidders alone who were left, that is itself not quite right. In the end, there were three bidders. At that stage, ALCOA informed the Government in a closed envelope that they would not be participating in this bid. The reason that our officers were given orally was that the BALCO plant was too obsolete, it was too small a plant; and they wanted another written assurance about subsequent events that might take place, which our Department

refused to give. They said, therefore, they were withdrawing from this bid....(Interruptions) Just wait for one second. Please let me speak now. I will treat your point later. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Did you inform ALCOA about this?...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : I will directly come to your point....(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : You did not give a report to ALCOA....(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : I will come directly to the point that Shri Dasmunsi made. He made a great plea that the bidders had not been told about the Sasubolumali and Pasangamali mines. It is very strange. He made such a great charge that would certainly be a charge that would merit the severest action against any one of us. He said that the mines were in the end given to one bidder as a special favour. He was quoting from M/s. Behre Dolbear International Ltd.'s document. There was a document issued prior to that, to all the five bidders. It is called the Information Memorandum. On Page 25 of this Memorandum, you will find a complete account of all this. On page 24, you will see that there is a prospective licence, which has been applied for, not now, but in 1992. He was quoting from the Disinvestment Commission's report, but he would also see from the report that they themselves said that one of the areas of concern about BALCO was its inadequacy of reserves the inadequate supply of ore: 50 per cent of the ore of BALCO comes from outside. They had four mines of which two got exhausted and are today closed down. Since 1980, BALCO has been applying for licences in Orissa mines. He now talks about the public sector. No one helped this public sector unit to get those mines in Orissa, because private parties had their eyes on those mines.

But the fact of the matter is this. Shri Dasmunsi made a very important point. The facts could have been easily verified from any one of us. They could have been verified by just looking into the information submitted to all the bidders. But a grave insinuation was made by ignoring this fact. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I charge this Government again. It was not done before the report was submitted. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, Shri Dasmunsi, he is not yielding.  
...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I say it with facts  
and authority in this House. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record. Nothing  
will go on record except the reply of the Minister.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except the  
reply.

*(Interruptions)\**

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I want to go on  
record.

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except  
the Minister's reply.

*(Interruptions)\**

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : Therefore, a grave conspiracy  
theory was put out that some extra mines were given to  
a bidder and others were not told. I would say that  
everybody was told about it. I want to draw your attention  
to that point. In fact, he has quoted Shri Patwa's letter. He  
did not quote it in full. He just referred to that letter. It is  
Shri Patwa who ensured something, which had not been  
thought of by anybody else. He wrote to the Chief Minister  
saying that he would be perfectly right in insisting,  
whosoever gets those mines, that it puts us an alumina  
plant in Orissa.

Now, a condition has been made while giving that  
lease, a condition that is going to fetch an investment of  
Rs. 4,600 crore for that region. It is going to provide  
employment to that extent. In Orissa it is going to give an  
investment of Rs. 4,600 crore. That is the condition on  
which the mine has been given. This was informed to  
everybody. Shri Somnath Chatterjee was asking, to why  
did you not consult the State Government. I certainly do  
not want to add to the acrimony that Shri Jogi's statements  
have led to. I will come to the question of allegations which  
were made. The fact of the matter is – I am not saying  
this today because a controversy has arisen – after the  
Cabinet met and took this decision, I had gone to the PIB  
room and held a press conference. If you see the recorded  
of that, one paper accused me that I used occasion to  
profusely thank Shri Digvijay Singh and Shri Jogi. I did not

\*Not recorded.

do it out of malice. I did it because the erstwhile Madhya  
Pradesh Government and Shri Jogi's Government have  
been very helpful in the whole process. We had meetings.  
At every stage, letters have been written to the Madhya  
Pradesh Government. Letters had been written from the  
Secretary (Disinvestment) to the Principal Secretary  
(Home). Letters were written to the Chief Secretary on 12th  
September, 27th October, 3rd November, 8th November  
and 15th November, 8 February, 21 February. A report of  
the Home Ministry was sent to the Chief Secretary. Letters  
came from there. Replies were sent. It is with their full  
cooperation that all this was done.

Then, Sir, strong statements have been made. Again,  
I do not want to quarrel. It was said that they will cancel  
the mining lease. But the fact of the matter is that under  
the Mines Act – Shri Somnath Chatterjee will tell us – the  
State Government does not have the power to cancel the  
mining lease. ...(Interruptions) That is for the land lease and  
not for the mining lease. I have also studied the Mines Act.  
It comes under Section 4(2).

*[Translation]*

Just now, Shuklaji or some other Member has said that  
thousand of people would flock the roads and Jogi Saheb  
has said that he would stop the water and electricity supply.  
We should not have grudge against the Chief Minister, but  
this is a continuous processing industry.

*[English]*

Any Engineer will tell us that if we shut off the power  
in the steel plant, the whole blast furnace lining cracks.  
Millions of dollars have to be spent to re-build the blast  
furnace. That is why those plants have captive power  
plants. Aluminium production is exactly in the same  
category it is a continuous process industry.

*[Translation]*

The Chief Minister has said that he would stop the  
water and electricity supply.

*[English]*

Doing so would lead to a national asset being finished  
just in four hours. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except  
the Minister's reply.

*(Interruptions)\**

\*Not recorded.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : I was specifically asked just now by such a senior leader that I must specifically respond to the allegations. I do not want to descend to that level. It was alleged that some officer in the Prime Minister's Office has made Rs. 100 crore. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I have not said this.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : Not you. Some other senior leader said this. You are a senior leader but you are not the only senior leader.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Prime Minister looks at me and abuses me; and he looks at me and abuses me. So, I have to change my seat.

You may allot me some other seat!

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : A charge has been made that a senior official of the Ministry of which I am in charge is a party to this move. The Chief Minister has gone on record to say that a senior official of the State ...*(Interruptions)*. What are we going to do to the civil services? He can name anybody. ...*(Interruptions)* I did one step better and immediately telephoned. Why wait for the JPC? I immediately issued a statement which was published as a lead story on the front page of all the papers, here as well as in Madhya Pradesh that let Shri Jogi name those officials and we will immediately take him to court so that he can provide the proof. ...*(Interruptions)* For disclosing the names, he should not take the shelter of a protected chamber like the legislature so that he cannot claim immunity, and he will see the consequence.'

I appeal to all the Members to subscribe to the sentiments, the strong words that the Leader of the Opposition in the Upper House, Dr. Manmohan Singh used when this very matter was taken up. This gentleman today has made a charge against the PMO and other officials. In 1996, on the question of leasing diamond mines in Madhya Pradesh, he had made a charge of Rs. 50 crore against the sitting Chief Minister, Shri Digvijay Singh of Congress. Shri Digvijay Singh was asked in a recorded interview, on tape:

*[Translation]*

You have filed defamation suits against other political leaders also against Patwa Sahab. He was told that Jogiji was saying that he had taken Rs. 50 crores. Whether he would file a defamation suit against him also? He replied in the negative because Patwaji belonged to him. If he was not he would have filed. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : You may answer to the point. Please do not try to hide the facts. I charge you. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Dasmunsi, you have already taken more than one hour.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : Shri Bandyopadhyay and other Members just now asked me to give an assurance that if a higher bidder comes, the whole process will be reopened. There is a law on the subject and there are a score of Supreme Court judgements. Once a process, of tendering for instance or any process, starts then any change in any condition during the process will vitiate the entire process. In spite of those judgements, I will tell you. If Shri Jogi, who says that the value of the mine is Rs. 5,000 crore, brings a buyer for Rs. 4,500 crore, we will pay Rs. 500 crore to Sterlite. ...*(Interruptions)* And, let him take the decision....*(Interruptions)* Sir, the distressing fact is, a half-truth was put out. Three lines were read from the Annual Report that this plant is making alloy for Defence production.

Now, Sir, it is a fact – our Defence Minister is sitting here – that today there is a fine integration of private sector and the Government in the defence of the country. It is a national effort. Today, our companies in the private sector make communication equipment for Defence Forces; they work in the field of space vehicles, they make optical lenses used in our satellites; they make alloys used in our tanks and guns; they produce parts for missiles including Agni, and for the Light Combat Aircraft which has been the pride of our scientists. So, the private sector and public sector work jointly. But suddenly a great *hauva* is created.

*[Translation]*

Look, they are making alloy, they did not see this matter from security consideration.

*[English]*

Similarly, a half-truth was put out about profit making units. I will come to the profits of BALCO. But I am on the principle. Sir, as Shri Arun Jaitley was telling us in the

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\*Not recorded.

morning, when the Disinvestment Commission was set up, 72 public sector firms were referred to the Disinvestment Commission. They were not referred for any purpose except disinvestment.

[Translation]

Otherwise what for it was referred to the Commission. It was referred for disinvestment.

[English]

Forty-seven firms were making profit. On 58 firms, the Disinvestment Commission gave its recommendations and 38 of them were making profit. But even more, I want to tell you that before the Disinvestment Commission was set up in 1996 – for which we are all grateful – in 41 firms, there was disinvestment of minority shares. Do you know how many of them were making losses? Out of those 41 firms, only three were making losses, and in all the other, profit were being made. Now that has been your policy, and suddenly you say, 'no'. This is a very serious matter. I am with you on the point that Parliament should discuss these issues. But the fact that these half-truths should be used to either mislead ourselves or to mislead the people in the country is really destructive of public discourse in the country.

Sir, I entirely agree on the central importance of valuation with Shri Somnath Chatterjee and with everybody else who has spoken about this. I am particularly in agreement with you on that because of the past experience on these matters.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Now somebody will have to divulge your activity...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : Sir, 20 per cent of the Maruti shares were sold in 1992. The shares having face value of Rs. 100 per share were sold for Rs. 269. At that time, the share of Hindustan Motors, a company with derelict technology, was selling in the market for Rs. 700. You did not demand any JPC on that.

Sir, secondly a point with which Shri Somnath Chatterjee will be very well acquainted is about webel. Have you read the C&AG's report of 1998-99 on West Bengal? It says that on selling four lakh shares of webel they incurred a loss of Rs. 29.5 lakhs in the disinvestment of that company, because of improper valuation. So, I am completely with you. We must have full transparency as valuations are very important.

Now, I will just give you four to five facts on the sequence of all this. As I mentioned, BALCO is referred to the Disinvestment Commission in 1996. Only part of the words are being read from the Disinvestment Commission. In their Report of April, 1997, the Disinvestment Commission says:

"...The Commission recommends that the Government may immediately disinvest..."

I will tell you why they said that. There is a very important reason as to why they used the word 'immediately'. You are saying that letters were procured. When that kind of statement is made about Shri G.V. Ramakrishna, it is an insult to those who make that kind of statement. It is because they do not know Shri G.V. Ramakrishna. He is the architect of so many things in India. He is the one who was alerting us to the implication of WTO, which in your rhetoric you are repeating today.

He is the person who is the architect of SEBI. You just with a wave of your hand, tarnish a man like him by saying that a letter can be procured from such a person. The commission asked the Government to disinvest immediately 40 per cent.

[Translation]

Raghunathji was also enquiring

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj) Sir, not Raghunathji, but Raghuvansh Prasadji.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : They are of the same decible!

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : How did this 40 per cent become 51 per cent? That 40 per cent was not the complete recommendation of the Disinvestment Commission. The commission said '40 per immediately, within two years bring down the rest of your equity to 26 per cent and then keep the industry under an on-going review and get out of this company completely' This is on Page-97. They clearly said 'bring down to 26 per cent and in the third step all of it'.

You keep saying 'profit making company'. How did the company which was making less than Rs. 1 crore or even less than Rs. 90 lakh in 1992 with all the huge investment that had been made in it increase its profit and suddenly touch Rs. 163 crore profit level in 1996? Then it starts

[Shri Arun Shourie]

falling. In 1996 its profit were Rs. 163 crore. Why not ask, why? The reason for that was that the aluminium price had risen in those two years. So, the Disinvestment Commission asked the Government to use that opportunity to immediately disinvest and get good return for the Government. But the Government missed the bus. That is why perhaps Shri Somnath Chatterjee said that nothing can be got done within seven days in India. That is precisely the misfortune. You missed the opportunity. Today the prices have fallen.

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE :** Now we are changing our view after seeing your performance.

**SHRI ARUN SHOURIE :** Very good. That was the reason why this has happened. A decision was taken four years ago. The work by all these Advisors has been going on systematically, diligently and with great effort for two continuous years, and suddenly this sold in 'one week' allegation comes in.

I will tell you how these valuers came in. All valuation books will tell you that there are three accepted methods of valuing a going concern, and of these the best method and the one appropriate method is the discounted cash flow method because that assesses the prospects of the future business of a company. I do not want to take too much of your time. If you want to read Shri G.V. Ramakrishna's exposition on this very matter—because Shri Rupchand Pal was quoting him last time when we were talking about the appropriate methods of valuation—I will just invite your attention to the proceedings of the Lok Sabha committee dated 8th September 2000. During the hearings on disinvestment Shri G.V. Ramakrishna was asked about valuation and he said how asset valuation is to be done only when the concern is being shut. You are shutting the factory. Then you ask how much this building will fetch you, how much this land will fetch you, how much this old machinery will fetch you and all that. But, for a going concern, all these things are embedded in the products which are made. You see the market share, you see the competition, you see the prospective changes in technology, you see the likely movement in prices and then you discount that by the opportunity cost of capital and you come to the present value of the firm. This exercise was done by the international advisors over a period of eight months. They came to a range of valuation by all these methods. But it was my insistence that, whether it

is relevant or not, we must also get the asset valuation done. In the case of asset valuation, because of the Behr Dolbear Report which had taken them one and a half years to prepare, every single item had been catalogued by the advisors and the condition of the plant and equipment had also been catalogued.

Such derisive words have been used about Mr. Rao. He is a retired Superintendent Engineer from the Military Engineering Service of the Ministry of Defence. We did not want to know the facts because it is convenient for us to tarnish somebody, and we make light of him. He said quite honestly that his speciality was land and buildings and that his associate in the firm so and so will be the person who will value plant and machinery. Then, Shri Rupchand asked me whether mines were valued or not. Yes, they were valued by the main organisation of mines in the very public sector that you love, that is, The Indian Bureau of Mines. It is by this protracted process that we arrived at a reserve price. But after the evaluations were done, the Evaluation Committee felt that the management will also go because in the letter of June, 1998, Shri G.V. Ramakrishna had said that prices were tumbling. This was the reason. You asked as to why they changed their recommendations and 40 per cent become 51 per cent. It is because aluminium prices were tumbling and he said that we will not get a strategic partner at 40 per cent. He also said that we should look for one at 51 per cent and transfer management control to that party. This is his letter and I can read it out to you.

Thus, the Evaluation Committee said that as management control was being transferred, we will charge a control premium. The international advisor was asked as to what was the premium to be charged. He said that the range was 10-15 per cent. But the officers decided in the Evaluation Committee that they would charge 25 per cent and not 10-15 per cent and then they arrived at a reserve price. This reserve price of Rs. 514 crore was not known to anybody except those officers. The bids were invited in an open way. All these people, including the bidders' representatives, were sitting there; envelopes were sealed and signed so that nobody can tamper with them. When the bids were opened, it transpired that one bid was well below the reserve price, it was of Rs. 275 crore. If one other bid had also been below the reserve price, we would have begun the process all over again but it was above the reserve price and it was twice this. .../Interrupt-

tions) I just cannot imagine what was the opportunity in all this, about which anybody can have a doubt. Maybe, Mr. Jogi is more imaginative than me and can imagine and those who repeat his allegations. We have devised the process in such a way that at no stage can anybody even expect any return from these decisions. At every stage, there is competitive bidding. At no stage, does an individual officer take decisions. Always groups of officers take decisions. Ministers do not come into it.

An allegation was made about the Prime Minister's Office. It is embarrassing for me to say this when the Prime Minister is sitting here. But the fact of the matter is, I can really tell you that at no stage, absolutely at no stage did anybody from the PMO ever rang me up or enquire from me or anything like that there was no occasion to do so. I did not enquire from my officers. Why should I enquire? They did not tell me about the two bids. They did not tell me the reserve price. Then the final recommendation was made by the Evaluation Committee to the Inter-Ministerial Group headed by Secretary (Mines) and from there, it went to the Committee of Secretaries headed by the Cabinet Secretary. All of them endorsed the same recommendations for those two reasons. Firstly, it was above the reserve price and secondly, one bid was double the other bid and so, they said, the awarded may be given to this bidder.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Why was it double?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : Please ask those two persons. I am not privy to what their assessments were. I will give you the reason. You have been giving one theory. Somebody we used the word 'cartelisation'. To justify the higher bid, a lower bid was submitted. That was the idea. There is the opposite theory which I had been given. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Is it to make it an acceptable bid? Otherwise, tenders are not accepted. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHYAMACHARAN SHUKLA : How the 25 per cent reserve price has been fixed?

20.00 hrs.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : You have asked about the reserve price, I am coming to that. You are saying that it is a crown jewel.

*[English]*

Actually speaking, it is very sad to say this. But by the neglect of successive Governments, it has become an obsolete plant. If it is not revived by an aggressive investor, which the Government cannot be, you will see who will benefit and on whose behalf much of what appears in the Press is appearing. ...*(Interruptions)*

I will tell you about the power cost per tonne of BALCO. ...*(Interruptions)* Shri Somnath Chatterjee, we do not expect this from the Best Parliamentarian of the Year!

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You say that you are constrained to disclose it. I say you disclose it. Why not?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : I am not Shri Jogi. The power cost of BALCO is Rs. 25,000 per tonne and that of the HINDALCO, the Birla company, is Rs. 13,400 per tonne. If you let the two plants continue like this, naturally the Birla plant gains. The production cost per tonne of BALCO is Rs. 63,000 and that of the HINDALCO, it is Rs. 38,686. The Profit after tax as a proportion of sales is 6.2 per cent in respect of BALCO and 27.5 per cent in respect of HINDALCO.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai) : What is it for NALCO?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : The Power cost per tonne is Rs. 25,000 in respect of BALCO and it is Rs. 16,700 in respect of NALCO. Why? It is because they have the latest technology in their smelter. It is known as the pre-baked anode technology.

SHRI SHYAMACHARAN SHUKLA : What about the power tariff?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : I will mention one thing. Two other points were made about-sterlite.

*[Translation]*

When I do not answer, you say that he does not answer. If I tell you the facts you say that I am advocating the company. I tell you the facts. These are the facts.

*[English]*

This company is a Rs. 3,500 crore company. It works the largest smelter in India of copper. It has 60 per cent of the capacity in copper. It is one of the main technology leaders in communication cables, especially in fibre optics.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Why was it blacklisted?

[Translation]

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : I am coming to that. But one very important point is about aluminium. I am coming to aluminium.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : What about the NALCO?

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj) : You tell about Birla.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : I am telling it.

[English]

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : There is a company in Mettur in Tamil Nadu called the MALCO. It was incorporated in the mid-60s. By the 80s, it had started going down hill. In 1991, it was declared to be a sick company and referred to the BIFR. In 1995, this very group acquired MALCO. At that time, it was a completely sick company. They invested Rs. 400 crore in three years and the result of that is that it is today a completely modern plant.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : What is the market share today?

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rupchand Pal, you have a right to reply.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : There is one very interesting thing. All friends have are so exercised about labour. Everybody who is so exercised about labour would like to know that in these four years, not one worker has been retrenched. In fact, the average emoluments of the workers in MALCO were Rs. 59,000 per year in 1995. Today, they are Rs. 1,60,000 per worker per year.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : But what will happen after one year?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Sir, what will happen to the labour after one year.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ramdas Athawale, please take your seat. What is this?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : Athawale, Saheb, I am telling about labour.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you need not reply.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : This is question of seven thousand labours.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat first.

*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You will sit or not?

[English]

This is too much, Shri Athawale. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

What are you doing in the House?

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : How are you behaving in the House. Are you not aware that you are disturbing the House time and again.

[English]

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the case of labour, the Government takes great credit for what it has ensured. We have ensured in the shareholders' agreement – the Recital says that both the parties envision is that all the employees of the company on the date hereof shall continue in the employment of the company.

Clause 7(e) says that the strategic buyer shall not retrench any part of the labour force of the company for a period of one year from the closing date of the transaction.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Why one year?

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Basudeb Acharia this is not proper.

[English]

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : Please listen. Do not jump. Clause 7.2(f) says, subject to clause (e) ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : If you address the Chair, you can avoid all these disturbances. Why are you addressing to the individual Members?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : I will do that, Sir.

It says that any restructuring of the labour force of the company shall be implemented in the manner recommended by the Board and in accordance with all applicable laws. If you have a law for reservation, Mayawatiiji, it would be applied there. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Acharia, you are not allowing the Minister to give reply. What is this? If you have any clarification to seek, you can ask the Minister only when the Minister completes his reply, not by disturbing the Minister. Every time, you are disturbing the speech of the Minister.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda) : If the Minister yields. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : I would just complete. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : He is not yielding.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : He disregarded the House. Once a company is privatised, there will not be any law for reservation at all. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : He is not yielding.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : The clause continues to say that the strategic partner in the event of any reduction of the strength of its employees shall ensure – this refers to the point of conditions of service raised by Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay – that the company offers its employees an option to voluntarily retire on terms that are not in any manner less favourable than the Voluntary Retirement Scheme offered by the company as on this day.

In clause 3.4, we have provided that the Government can at subsequent stage give up to 5 per cent of its shares to the employees – exactly as you wanted....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Five per cent is too less. You try to increase it to 10 to 15 per cent. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay, you have already spoken but again you are disturbing the Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : The question was raised about asset stripping. A person can come and just strip the company of its assets, it was said, and sell them off because they have been undervalued and then people will be out of job. We have provided in the shareholders' agreement, again after strenuous negotiations, a lock-in period of three years.

Secondly, we have provided again that a strategic partner cannot sell any assets exceeding 20 per cent of the net fixed assets, without the affirmative vote of the Government directors.

Thirdly, we have provided very severe penalties for asset stripping. If there is any proof of that, the strategic partner will have to sell back his shares to the Government at 50 per cent discount. All these things have been done precisely because all of us subscribe to the concerns that have been mentioned here.

Sir, I can go on with details of valuation and other things, but I do feel that I have covered most of the points. I would just make a plea in the end. I think, I would be just seconding what the hon. Finance Minister has said and I will just take minute on that.

Firstly, there is a consensus in practice, and it should be the endeavour of the House that we act on that rather than keep pulling each other back.

Secondly, while holding each other back, we are really giving ground for other countries to overtake us. In the case of China, all these decisions are being implemented within 10 days to three months. Here, when it is implemented after four years, we say that there is haste. As a result, China gets \$40 to \$45 billion of foreign direct investment every year and we are stuck at \$1.5 to \$2 billion. What is happening? It is not just a matter of China getting more. With that kind of resources, China is able to modernise one industry after the other. They have completely modernised their textile industry in these years, while we, by our retrograde policies – to undo which Shri Kashiram Rana is trying so hard to set right the textile industry – we have ruined our textile industry. You mark my words.



[Shri Arun Shourie]

two years from now, when the quota regime ends, just see how Chinese textiles will eat ours up in world markets. We get worried that Chinese goods are outdoing us in India. If we cannot compete with them in India, how will we compete with them in the rest of the world? This kind of retrograde public discourse and holding up of sensible, good and transparent decisions is really holding the country back. So, I do hope that this House will defeat this motion that has been put forward.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rupchand Pal, you can ask your clarifications now.

[Translation]

KUMARI MAYAWATI : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I will take just one minute.

MR. SPEAKER : Not before Shri Rupchand Pal. Rules do not permit.

[English]

Madam, he is the mover of the motion. He has to first seek clarifications.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Members who participated in the debate. ... (Interruptions) But the two hon. Ministers who spoke on behalf of the Government miserably failed – I emphasize, miserably failed – to respond to the issues from this side.

Sir, I will begin from the end. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is already 8.15 p.m. No provocation please.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, the hon. Minister is trying to mislead this House by saying that the private sector would listen to them, that job security would be ensured, that they would not be adversely affected in terms of pay scale, seniority etc. and that reservation for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes would be maintained. I did not expect this from a Minister like Shri Arun Shourie. The private sector will never listen to them. Are they listening to their words? Even yesterday, in the Budget Speech, the hon. Finance Minister had spoken clearly about the thinking of this Government, how they propose to change their labour laws and throw the workers of this country into the street. This is the first point that I want to make.

The Minister in-charge of Disinvestment. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Have some patience please.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He is the mover of the Motion, please understand.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : I will not sit until I am allowed to speak.

The hon. Minister has been saying about consensus in practice. Is there any consensus in the Government? I will just read out from an article. I seek your indulgence. Sir, and after that I will tell you from where I am quoting it says:

"Whichever way you look at it, BALCO is a dark deal, the price is wrong, the methodology is opaque, and unconvincing, the choice of the buyer is unfortunate and the terrible mistake needs to be quickly corrected or we will have a serious problem of credibility."

... (Interruptions) Is it from CPM document? Do they know who has written it? It is a public document and it is by Prithvi Nandy, who belongs to a party which is their partner in the NDA. Can they disown it? ... (Interruptions) Not only that, another partner in the NDA, Trinamool Congress wanted to be assured that there will be job security. There cannot be any job security in a company where 51 per cent share is controlled by private sector. They wanted to be assured that all the documents will be placed before the House and that there is transparency.

I have asked two-three questions, but they have avoided them. Can the Government place on the Table of the House the cost audit details of this aluminium company? The aluminium industry is subject to cost audit and the detailed cost audit will reveal the value of the land, value of the mines, value of the machinery and value of everything related with it, like hospitals, townships, etc. They have avoided it. I have demanded, let all the documents in relation to the cost audit be placed on the Table of the House.

Sir, he was very eloquent in saying that immediately after the transactions, they will referred them to the C&AG. Shri N.D. Tiwari is not here, but many of my colleagues are here, who are in the Public Accounts Committee. We had an occasion to face one peculiar situation. There was a Public Interest Litigation in the Supreme Court that the Government was not caring for the observations made by the C&AG. What can the PAC do? We sat for days together what to do about it and we associated with this Public Interest Litigation... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : I am also a Member of that Committee. The observation was not about this Government. That was about the preceeding Government....  
(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : I am speaking about the Government's response to C&AG's observations. We have examined this....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is a way of reply and not a way of seeking clarifications.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, after the transaction is over and even if the C&AG makes observations, they will not do anything. The C&AG has made scathing observations about Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme, VDIS. What have they done to that? Take the case of TRAI. They have taken TRAI out of the C&AG because they have made some steady observations. So, I would request the hon. Minister not to say that after the transactions are over these will be referred to C&AG. This is another way of misleading the House....(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : Sir, the hon. Member should address the Chair.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : I am addressing the Chair, but moving around so that the hon. Minister can also listen to my words....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Order please.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : There have been five bidders and they have become very patriotic. How can the multinationals be allowed? Alcoa has spoken over telephone giving reasons and asking for the documents to be given to him. Everything is on record.

Only the withdrawal of ALCOA is done orally over telephone. This is enough commentary. I need not go further because what happened behind all these things can be revealed only through a Joint Parliamentary probe. So, I reiterate my demand.

A very unfortunate comment has been made when I quoted the Annual Report of BALCO, where there has been a reference....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Is it a way of reply? You are mentioning the entire thing what you have spoken.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, it concerns the security of the country. I read out from the Annual Report that BALCO has been providing a very valuable ingredient for space, for aircraft, and for other defence needs. The hon. Minister has said that this is half-truth. What can be half-truth? This is on record. I read out from the Annual Report of BALCO. How can it be half-truth?

Sir, they say that it has not been a profit-making Unit. The Government Report says that it is a profit-making Unit. So, it has excellent treasures. It has performed...  
(Interruptions) I am reading it again. ....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rupchand Pal, please conclude.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : I have read out from the Annual Report of BALCO. I ask again reading it....  
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have already read out the Annual Report. Please conclude.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, they are disowning it. I can lay it on the Table of the House. This is the Annual Report for the year 1999-2000. This was the best achieved production in the last 13 years. Am I wrong? ...  
(Interruptions) I have read about the contribution to the exchequer. ...  
(Interruptions) What is half-truth? This is the Annual Report for the year 1999-2000. In addition, it supplies the aluminium and aluminium allied products in various forms to the State defence sector in India. Am I wrong? Sir, they are disowning their own Report. ...  
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rupchand Pal, please conclude.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, how can they disown their own Report? They are calling it half-truth. They have called their own Report half-truth. How can I help? ...  
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, I am concluding.  
...  
(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, if this is the manner, in the presence of the Prime Minister and everyone else, this House conducts itself, then, let there be no debate in future in this House. ...  
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Order please.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, about under pricing and under valuation, there have been cautions given by the Disinvestment Commission and even earlier as long back as 1993. The Government and the Minister may remember that there was a Committee called 'C. Rangarajan Committee'....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rupchand Pal, you are repeating the entire thing again. What is this?

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : The Rangarajan Committee recommended....*(Interruptions)* Why are you so agitated?  
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. What is this?

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : The Rangarajan Committee recommended that each company had to be judged with the help of the merchant banking firm taking into account factors such as value of assets.

I repeat, "value of assets, its market place, potential profit, and avoid any criticism of under-pricing."

This was said as long back as in 1993. Shri Rangarajan Committee has cautioned the world that if proper valuation is not undertaken, if there is wrong valuation, it can lead to loss of valuable assets of the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, what is this? What is going on?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : There are people and even the Minister, who have been speaking about the advantages of the private sector. I have repeatedly said, be it in the banking sector, be it rural development, be it anywhere, they do not bear any social responsibility. Shri Prabhunath Singh may have waxed eloquence. I am not answering him. ...*(Interruptions)* About the tribal land, if BALCO is a model, then it is going to create a lot of disturbances in different States. The tribal people are already agitated because their lands are ruined away in such a fashion. ...*(Interruptions)* They enjoy constitutional protection. How can this Government ruin their land? I am not satisfied at all with any of the points rebutting any of the process related to the valuation; why asset value was left out; why non-serious bidders were allowed; how a

cartelization was allowed; how a pre-determined and prejudiced right was offered in favour of a company whose track record is questionable? It will ultimately ruin this BALCO. It will be a great loss to the nation. I welcome this Motion. ...*(Interruptions)* So, they are so eager. I support my Motion thinking let the House give its own views to the Division.

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : The rule is very clear. Under rule 358(2), no Member shall be allowed to speak.

*[Translation]*

KUMARI MAYAWATI (Akbarpur) : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I want to speak for one minute, please listen me. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, you have to listen me for a minute. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You can speak only once on the motion.

KUMARI MAYAWATI : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I want to take just one minute. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : No, I am not allowing anybody.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put the motion moved by Shri Rupchand Pal to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That this House disapproves the proposed disinvestment of Bharat Aluminium Company Limited."

Those in favour will please say 'Aye'

SOME HON. MEMBERS: 'Ayes'

MR. SPEAKER : Those against will please say 'No'.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : 'No'.

MR. SPEAKER : I think the 'Noes' have it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : The 'Ayes' have it.

*(Interruptions)*

20.29 hrs.

*At this stage Kumari Mayawati and some other  
hon'ble Members came and stood on the  
floor near the table*

MR. SPEAKER : You want division. Let the Lobbies be cleared.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the Lobbies have been cleared.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not a debate, it is time for voting, please go to your seats.

20.35 hrs.

*At this stage Kumari Mayawati and some other  
Hon'ble Members went back to their seats*

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the Secretary-General.

Nothing goes on record, except the Secretary-General.

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Kind attention of the hon. Members is invited to the following points in the operation of the Automatic Vote Recording System:

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 that the voting system has been activated.
3. For voting, please press the following two buttons simultaneously immediately after sounding of the first gong, viz.,

\*Not recorded.

4. (I) One "Red" button in front of the hon. Member on the head phone plate and also
- (II) any one of the following buttons fixed on the top desk of seats :

Ayes – Green colour

Notes – Red colour

Abstention – Yellow colour

5. 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.

6. Please do not press the Amber button (P) during Division. ...*(Interruptions)*

7. 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 : Nothing will go on record except what Secretary-General says.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER : The Lobbies are already cleared.

Now the question is:

"That this House disapproves the proposed disinvestment of Bharat Aluminium Company Limited."

*The Lok Sabha divided.*

20.36 hrs.

Division No.1

**AYES**

Abdullakutty, Shri A.P.

Acharia, Shri Basu Deb

\*\*Ahmad, Shri Daud

\*Not recorded.

\*\*Corrected through slip.

Aiyar, Shri Mani Shankar  
Ajaya Kumar, Shri S.  
Alvi, Shri Rashid  
\*Ambareesha, Shri  
\*Ambedkar, Shri Prakash Yashwant  
Athawale, Shri Ramdas  
Baliram, Dr.  
Banatwalla, Shri G.M.  
\*Bangarappa, Shri S.  
Bansal, Shri Pawan Kumar  
Barman, Shri Ranen  
Basavaraj, Shri G.S.  
Basu, Shri Anil  
Bauri, Shrimati Sandhya  
Baxla, Shri Joachim  
Bhadana, Shri Avtar Singh  
Bhagora, Shri Tarachand  
Bhuria, Shri Kantilal  
\*Botcha, Shri Satyanarayana  
Brar, Shri J.S.  
Chakraborty, Shri Swadesh  
Chatterjee, Shri Somnath  
Chaturvedi, Shri Saytavrati  
Chaudhary, Shri Ram Raghunath  
\*Chauhan, Shri Bal Krishna  
Chennithala, Shri Ramesh  
Chinnasamy, Shri M.  
Choudhary, Shrimati Reena  
\*Choudhury, Shri A.B.A. Ghani Khan  
\*Choudhury, Shri Samar

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\*Corrected through slip.

Chowdhary, Shrimati Santosh  
Chowdhury, Shri Bikash  
Das, Shri Nepal Chandra  
Dasmunsi, Shri Priya Ranjan  
\*Deepak Kumar, Shri  
Dev, Shri Sontosh Mohan  
\*Dhinakaran, Shri T.T.V.  
Dome, Dr. Ram Chandra  
Dudi, Shri Rameshwar  
Eden, Shri George  
Elangovan, Shri P.D.  
Farook, Shri M.O.H.  
\*Galib, Shri G.S.  
\*Gamang, Shrimati Hema  
Gamlin, Shri Jarbom  
Gandhi, Shrimati Sonia  
Gavit, Shri Manikrao Hodlya  
Ghatowar, Shri Paban Singh  
Govindan, Shri T.  
Gowda, Shri G. Putta Swamy  
Hamid, Shri Abdul  
Handique, Shri Bijoy  
Hassan, Shri Moinul  
\*Jaiswal, Shri Shriprakash  
Jalappa, Shri R.L.  
Kaliappan, Shri K.K.  
Kamal Nath, Shri  
\*Kaur, Shrimati Preneet  
\*Khabri, Shri Brijlal  
Khan, Shri Abul Hasnat  
\*Khan, Shri Sunil

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\*Corrected through slip.

Krishnadas, Shri N.N.  
\*Kumarasamy, Shri P.  
Kurup, Shri Suresh  
Kyndiah, Shri P.R.  
Lepcha, Shri S.P.  
\*Mahale, Shri Haribhau Shankar  
Mahant, Dr. Charan Das  
\*Mahato, Shri Bir Singh  
Makwana, Shri Savshibhai  
Mandal, Shri Sanat Kumar  
Mayawati, Kumari  
Meena, Shri Bherulal  
Mohan, Shri P.  
Mollah, Shri Hannan  
Moorthy, Shri A.K.  
Muniyappa, Shri K.H.  
Muraleedharan, Shri K.  
Murmu, Shri Rupchand  
\*Murugesan, Shri S.  
Muttemwar, Shri Vilas  
Naik, Shri A. Venkatesh  
\*Ola, Shri Sis Ram  
Osmani, Shri A.F. Golam  
Pal, Shri Rupchand  
Pandiyan, Shri P.H.  
Patel, Shri Atmaram Bhai  
\*Patel, Shri Dahyabhai Vallabhbhai  
\*Patel, Shri Dharam Raj Singh  
Patil, Shri Amarsinh Vasantrao  
Patil, Shri Bhaskarrao  
\*Patil, Shri R.S.

\*Corrected through slip.

Patil, Shri Shivraj V.  
Patil, Shri Uttamrao  
\*Phoolan Devi, Shrimati  
\*Pilot, Smt. Rama  
\*Ponnuswamy, Shri E.  
Pramanik, Prof. R.R.  
Premajam, Prof. A.K.  
Puglia, Shri Naresh  
Radhakrishnan, Shri Varkala  
Rajendran, Shri P.  
Rajukhedi, Shri Gajendra Singh  
\*Ram Sajivan, Shri  
Ramulu, Shri H.G.  
Rashtrapal, Shri Pravin  
Rau, Shrimati Prabha  
Reddy, Shri N. Janardhana  
Reddy, Shri S. Jaipal  
Reddy, Shri Y.S. Vivekananda  
Riyan, Shri Baju Ban  
Roy Pradhan, Shri Amar  
Saiduzzama, Shri  
Sanadi, Prof. I.G.  
Sangtam, Shri K.A.  
Sar, Shri Nikhilananda  
Saradgi, Shri Iqbal Ahmed  
Saroja, Dr. V.  
Scindia, Shri Madhavrao  
Selvaganpathi, Shri T.M.  
Sen, Shrimati Minati  
Seth, Shri Lakshman  
Shanmugam, Shri N.T.

\*Corrected through slip.

Sharma, Capt. Satish  
Shinde, Shri Sushil Kumar  
\*Shukla, Shri Shyamacharan  
\*Singh Deo, Shri K.P.  
Singh, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad  
Singh, Sardar Buta  
Singh, Shri Balbir  
Singh, Shri Chandra Bhushan  
\*Singh, Shri Jai Bhadra  
Singh, Shri Khel Sai  
\*Singh, Shri Rajo  
Singh, Shri Tilakdhari Prasad  
\*Singh, Shrimati Shyama  
Sivakumar, Shri V.S.  
Sorake, Shri Vinay Kumar  
Subba, Shri M.K.  
Sudarsana Natchiappan, Shri E.M.  
Sudheeran, Shri V.M.  
\*Suman, Shri Ramji Lal  
Suresh, Shri Kodikunnil  
Tiwari, Shri Sunder Lal  
Verma, Shri Rajesh  
Verma, Shri Ravi Prakash  
\*Vyas, Dr. Girija  
Wangcha, Shri Rajkumar  
\*Yadav, Shri Akhilesh  
\*Yadav, Shri Balram Singh  
Zahedi, Shri Mahboob

**NOES**

\*A. Narendra, Shri  
Abdullah, Shri Omar

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\*Corrected through slip.

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.  
Baal, 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, Shrimati Jayashree  
\*Behera, Shri Padmanava  
\*Bhagat, Prof. Dukha  
Bhargava, Shri Girdhari Lal  
Bishnoi, Shri Jaswant Singh  
Biswas, Shri Ananda Mohan  
Brahmanaiah, Shri A.  
C. Suguna Kumari, Dr. (Shrimati)  
Chakravarty, Shrimati Bijoya  
Chandel, Shri Suresh  
Chaubey, Shri Lal Muni  
Chaudhary, Shri Haribhai  
Chaudhary, Shri Ram Tahal

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\*Corrected through slip.

Chaudhri, Shri Manibhai Ramjibhai	Jadhav, Shri Suresh Ramrao
Chauhan, Shri Nandkumar Singh	Jag Mohan, Shri
Chauhan, Shri Shriram	Jagannath, Dr. Manda
Chikhaliya, Shrimati Bhavnaben Devrajibhai	Jagathrakshakan, Dr. S.
Choudhary, Shri Nikhil Kumar	Jain, Shri Pusp
Choudhary, Shri Padam Sen	Jaiswal, Dr. M.P.
Chouhan, Shri Shivraj Singh	Jaiswal, Shri Shankar Prasad
D'Souza, Dr. (Shrimati) Beatrix	Jatiya, Dr. Satyanarayan
Dahal, Shri Bhim	Javiya, Shri G.J.
Dattatreya, Shri Bandaru	Jayaseelan, Dr. A.D.K.
Delkar, Shri Mohan S.	*Jha, Shri Raghunath
Deo, Shri Bikram Keshari	Jigajinagi, Shri Ramesh C.
Dhikale, Shri Uttamrao	Joshi, Dr. Murli Manohar
Diler, Shri Kishan Lal	Joshi, Shri Manohar
Diwathe, Shri Namdeo Harbaji	Kannappan, Shri M.
Fernandes, Shri George	Kanungo, Shri Trilochan
Gadde, Shri Ram Mohan	Kaswan, Shri Ram Singh
Gadhavi, Shri P.S.	Katara, Shri Babubhai K.
Gandhi, Shri Dilipkumar Mansukhlal	Kataria, Shri Rattan Lal
Gangwar, Shri Santosh Kumar	Kaushal, Shri Raghuvir Singh
Gautam, Shrimati Sheela	Khaire, Shri Chandrakant
Gavit, Shri Ramdas Rupala	Khan, Shri Hassan
Gawali, Kumari Bhavana Pundlikrao	Khandelwal, Shri Vijay Kumar
Geete, Shri Anant Gangaram	Khanduri, Maj. Gen. (Retd.) B.C.
Gehlot, Shri Thawar Chand	*Khunte, Shri P.R.
Goel, Shri Vijay	Khurana, Shri Madan Lal
Gohain, Shri Rajen	Kriplani, Shri Shrichand
Gudhe, Shri Anant	Krishnamraju, Shri
*Gupta, Prof. Chaman Lal	Krishnamurthy, Shri K. Balarama
*Hussain, Shri Syed Shah Nawaz	Krishnamurthy, Shri K.E.
Indora, Dr. Sushil Kumar	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  
Malhotra, Dr. Vijay Kumar  
Mallik, Shri Jagannath  
Mallikarjunappa, Shri G.  
\*Malyala, Shri Rajaiah  
Mane, Shri Shivaji  
Manjay Lal, Shri  
Manjhi, Shri Ramjee  
Mann, Shri Zora Singh  
Meena, Shrimati Jas Kaur  
Mehta, Shrimati Jayawanti  
Mishra, Shri Ram Nagina  
Mishra, Shri Shyam Bihari  
Mohale, Shri Punnu Lal  
Mookherjee, Shri S.B.  
Munda, Shri Kariya  
Muni Lal, Shri  
Murmu, Shri Salkhan  
Murthi, Shri M.V.V.S.  
Naik, Shri Ali Mohd.  
Naik, Shri Ram

Naik, Shri Shripad Yasso  
Nayak, Shri Ananta  
Nitish Kumar, Shri  
Oram, Shri Jual  
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 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  
\*Patwa, Shri Sundar Lal  
Pawaiya, Shri Jaibhan Singh  
Potai, Shri Sohan  
Prabhu, Shri Suresh  
Pradhan, Dr. Debendra

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\*Corrected through slip.

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\*Corrected through slip.

\*Pradhan, Shri Ashok  
\*Prasad, Shri Sreenivasa  
Radhakrishnan, Shri C.P.  
Radhakrishnan, Shri Pon  
Raja, 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. Vidya Sagar  
Rao, Shri D.V.G. Shankar  
Rao, Shri Ganta Sreenivasa  
Rao, Shri S.B.P.B.K. Satyanarayana  
\*Rao, Shri Y.V.  
Rathwa, Shri Ramsinh  
Ravi, Shri Sheesh Ram Singh  
Rawale, Shri Mohan  
Rawat, Prof. Rasa Singh  
Rawat, Shri Pradeep  
Reddy, Shri A.P. Jithender  
Reddy, Shri Chada Suresh  
\*Reddy, Shri Gutha Sukender  
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  
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  
Sharma, Vaidya Vishnu Datt  
Shashi Kumar, Shri  
\*Sikdar, Shri Tapan  
Singh Deo, Shrimati Sangeeta Kumari  
Singh, Capt. (Retd.) Inder  
Singh, Ch. Tejveer  
Singh, Dr. Ram Lakhan  
Singh, Shri Bahadur  
Singh, Shri Chandra Pratap  
Singh, Shri Chandra Vijay  
Singh, Shri Chhattapal  
\*Singh, Shri Digvijay  
Singh, Shri Prabhunath  
Singh, Shri Radha Mohan  
Singh, Shri Ramanand  
Singh, Shri Ramjivan  
Singh, Shri Rampal  
Singh, Shri Sahib  
Singh, Shri Th. Chaoba  
Sinha, Shri Manoj  
Sinha, Shri Yashwant  
Solanki, Shri Bhupendrasinh

Srikantappa, Shri D.C.

Srinivasulu, Shri Kalava

Swain, Shri Kharabela

Swami, Shri Chinmayanand

Swami, Shri I.D.

Thakkar, Shrimati Jayaben B.

\*Thakur, Dr. C.P.

Thakur, Shri Chunni Lal Bhai

Thirunavukarasu, Shri

Tiwari, Shri Lal Bihari

Tomar, Dr. Ramesh Chand

Tripathee, Shri Ram Naresh

Tripathy, Shri Prakash Mani

Tripathi, Shri Braja Kishore

Tur, Shri Tarlochan Singh

\*Uma Bharati, Kumari

Vajpayee, Shri Atal Bihari

Varma, Shri Ratilal Kalidas

Vasava, Shri Mansukhbhai D.

\*Veerappa, Shri Ramachandra

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

Wanaga, Shri Chintaman

Yadav, Dr. (Shrimati) Sudha

Yadav, Dr. Jaswant Singh

Yadav, Shri Devendra Prasad

Yadav, Shri Dinesh Chandra

Yadav, Shri Hukumdeo Narayan

Yadav, Shri Jagdambi Prasad

Yadav, Shri Sharad

Yerrannaidu, Shri K.

MR. SPEAKER : Subject to correction, the result of the  
Division is:

Ayes: 119\*

Noes: 239\*

*The motion was negatived.*

20.42 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of  
the Clock on Friday, March 2, 2001/  
Phalgun 11, 1922 (Saka)*

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\*The following members also recorded their votes through  
slip.

**AYES** : S/Shri Daud Ahmed, Ambareesha, Prakash  
Yashwant Ambedkar, S. Bangarappa, Satyanarayana  
Botcha, Bal Krishna Chauhan, A.B.A. Gani Khan Choudhury,  
Samar Choudhury, Deepak Kumar, T.T.V. Dhinakaran, G.S.  
Galib, Smt. Hema Gamang, Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal, Smt.  
Preneet Kaur, S/Shri Brijlal Khabri, Sunil Khan, P.  
Kumarasamy, Haribhau Shankar Mahale, Bir Singh  
Mahato, S. Murugesan, Sis Ram Ola, Dahyabhai Vallabhbbhai  
Patel, Dharm Raj Singh Patel, R.S. Patil, Smt. Phoolan  
Devi, Smt. Rama Pilot, S/Shri E. Ponnuswamy, Ram  
Sajivan, Shyamacharan Shukla, Smt. Shyama Singh, S/  
Shri K.P. Singh Deo, Jai Bhadra Singh, Rajo Singh, Ramji  
Lal Suman, Dr. Girija Vyas, Akhilesh Yadav. (119+36=155-  
1 (Sh. Raghunath Jha corrected from Ayes to Noes=154)

**NOES** : S/Shri A. Narendra, Yogi Aditya Nath, Kirti Jha  
Azad, Padmanava Behera, Prof. Dukha Bhagat, Prof.  
Chaman Lal Gupta, Syed Shahnawaz Hussain, Raghunath  
Jha, P.R. Kunte, Rajaiah Malyala, Dr. Ranjit Kumar Panja,  
S/Shri M.K. Annasaheb Patil, Jaysingrao Gaikwasd Patil,  
Sundar Lal Patwa, Ashok Pradhan, V. Sreenivasa Prasad,  
Y.V. Rao, Gutha Sukender Reddy, Tapan Sikdar, Digvijay  
Singh, Dr. C.P. Thakur, Kumari Uma Bharati, S/Shri  
Ramachandra Veerappa, Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu.  
(239+24=263)

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\*Corrected through slip.

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