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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, July 15, 1996/Asadha 24, 1918 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

PROF P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Home Minister has stated in Madras that the Congress was supporting the Government because there was no choice to it. (Interruptions).

MR SPEAKER Prof Kurien, this is not the time. This is Question Hour.

(Interruptions)

PROF P.J. KURIEN It is an insult to 140 Members supporting this Government. He should withdraw his statement and apologise. (Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Mumbai North East) Do not tolerate this incident. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) As you sow so shall you reap. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) They should withdraw the support. (Interruptions)

11.01 hrs.

INTRODUCTION OF SECRETARY-GENERAL

[English]

MR SPEAKER Hon Members I have great pleasure in introducing to the House the new Secretary-General Shri S. Gopalan

11.01½ hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Re-structuring of Coal India Limited

61 SHRI MOHAN RAWALE Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state

(a) whether the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices has recommended re-structuring of Coal India Limited,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the other recommendations made by the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices to improve the efficiency of the coal industry; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) (a) to (d) The following interim recommendations made by the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP) in 1992 related to restructuring of the Coal India Limited and to improve efficiency of the coal industry :-

- (i) Decontrol of prices of coking coal and A and B Grades of non-coking coal.
- (ii) Transfer commitment to be discharged at the related price and disparities in coal prices across companies should be over.
- (iii) Charging of 'efficiency price' in respect of coal from fully linked mines.
- (iv) Rationalisation of over-staffing in Coal India Limited.
- (v) Autonomy to Coal India Limited in choice of Coal Projects, and
- (vi) Subsidies on sale of soft coke should not be in CIL account.

The first three of the above recommendations have been implemented by Government. With regard to the fourth recommendation, it is an on-going process in Coal India Limited and action thereon is continuing. Regarding the fifth, Coal India Limited already enjoys autonomy regarding choice of coal projects, subject to observance of procedural formalities pertaining to investment decisions laid down by Government. The sixth recommendation has not been accepted by Government.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH Mr. Speaker, Sir, today I am speaking for the first time in the Lok Sabha. I would therefore, request all the hon. Members to extend their cooperation to me.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE Mr. Speaker, Sir, to make the coal industry viable, BICP, among other recommendations had called for re-organisation of Coal India. I want to know from the Minister why the BICP report has not been implemented so far? Regarding the loss of Rs. 2500 crore, where did this amount go? Will the CBI inquire into this?

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH What the hon. Member is asking, has already been implemented. The first notification was issued on 9.1.96, according to which the entire coal output from Ramagundam Open Cast Project-II, was supplied to N.T.P.C., it has been allowed additional coal at Rs. 216.78 per metric tonne. The second notification was issued on 22.4.96.

under which Rajmahal Open Cast project was allowed to charge Rs. 143 per metric tonne of coal from N.T.P.C.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the Minister as to who is responsible for the loss of Rs. 2500 crore. How many persons have been arrested. Why no C.B.I. inquiry is being conducted? China's production was equal to ours. But its output has increased fourfold. And we are lagging behind. There are scams every where in Bihar....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : I am drawing the attention of the Chair, Sir,

MR SPEAKER : No, you cannot do that all the time. It is the right of the Member to put his second supplementary.

(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER : After the Member has asked his second supplementary, you can ask a question.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : I want to know from the Minister, as to how many officials have been suspended so far? It was reported two days ago that 276 officials are facing corruption charges. Will the CBI conduct an inquiry into this or not? Where did Rs. 2500 crore go?

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the provisional profit of Coal India for 1995-96 is Rs. 501.43 crore. There has been no loss.
(Interruptions)

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, corruption is rampant in Coal India. I have said earlier also that the genuine consumers do not get coal from Coal India. Every month, 5 to 7 thousand tonnes of Coal are allotted to bogus consumers. They have no unit for allotment. I have full information on W.C.L. I had demanded a CBI inquiry into it. The genuine consumers do not get coal. We are importing coal whereas the total coal reserves in Vidharba region are sufficient to meet country's requirement for 50 years. In spite of that we spend so much foreign exchange on coal imports. Why do you import coal? Will the Government inquire into the all pervading corruption in Coal India? If not, why? What is the difficulty? There is corruption among the officials.
(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : The hon. Member's contention regarding the allotment of lakhs of tonnes of coal is that linkage of coal by Coal India is done only according to the recommendation of the State Governments.
(Interruptions)

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : This is wrong, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I seek your protection. States' role

in linkage comes later on. Prior linkage is done by Coal India. Reply to it. If you do not have the answer, then ask the question to be put again. Linkage is done before. The Industry Centre's role comes later on. After the grant of linkage from your side, it becomes binding on them. That has to be registered.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : We give only on the recommendations of the State Governments.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : You find it out from your officers. Linkage is done directly by Coal India. A heavy price is demanded for this. And linkage is given only thereafter. For your information, let me tell you this racket is going on there. You get it enquired; it is a full fledged racket there.

[English]

MR SPEAKER : This is a suggestion. The Minister may find out about it later on.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : It is very important. Corruption worth thousands of crores of rupees is involved in it.
(Interruptions) It is such a stupendous scam that it is unmatched. Do not take it lightly. I need your protection in the national interest. The way it is being side-tracked, is wrong.

[English]

MR SPEAKER : I am not treating it lightly. You have pointed out

(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER : Please, not like that. What I have said is that the hon. Member has pointed out the present practice of linkage.

(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER : You are not listening to me.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : The Minister does not come prepared.
(Interruptions)

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : She is misleading the entire House.

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : There are several coal mines in my constituency. What Purohitji is saying is correct. The Minister should have that information with her. The problem of linkage is there. There are vast coal deposits in the rural regions of Maharashtra specially in Matay Sangh of Nagpur in Ramtek. Whether all these recommendations have been implemented there or not? Corruption is rampant there. Thousands of people bring linkage from Calcutta and coal is taken by the bogus allottees. You should have it enquired. How? You may have departmental enquiry or get it done through the CBI.

The print media is reporting this corruption daily. We expect from you that you will fix responsibility in the coal scam. In the Umred mine in Ramtek, coal mines are on fire above ground. But mining has not started. Last time, the Umred mine at Ramtek had earned a profit of Rs. 84 crore. Mining work has come to a standstill in two-three mines there. Are you going to begin mining operation at the earliest or not? This year, the mines are going to earn a profit of Rs. 151 crore. I myself had gone there. I told the officials that they were not giving employment to the local people. Corruption is rampant there. Regarding these two or three things, you talk to the officials.

MR SPEAKER You ask your question?

SHRI DATTA MEGHE Mr Speaker, Sir, these recommendations have so far not been implemented in that region. Regarding the rampant corruption prevailing there, are you going to get it inquired? Are you going to give jobs to the local people there?

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH I have said that three of the recommendations/suggestions have been implemented. And the fourth recommendation, under which work is being given continuously.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR SPEAKER Please listen to the answer.

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE How can the Minister give a wrong reply? Our voters are aware and ask us questions. Reply to what I have asked. If you do not know, then say so.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH Mr Speaker, Sir, regarding the question raised by him, I am saying what I know which is based on what we have implemented. If the hon. Member is not satisfied, he can talk to me whenever he so desires. I am here for that.

[English]

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI Mr Speaker, Sir, the sixth recommendation of the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices indicated that subsidies on sale of soft coke should not be in CIL account. This recommendation has been rejected by the Government.

May I, therefore, know from the hon. Minister what are the causes inspiring the Government to reject outright the recommendation of the Expert Committee?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH Since soft coke is consumed by the people of the weaker sections, it was not accepted.

Indo-Pak Talks

*62. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Prime Minister of Pakistan made an unconditional offer recently for resumption of Indo-Pak talks

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

(c) whether the Government had proposed Foreign Secretary level talks with that country to solve various bilateral issues;

(d) if so, the details thereof, and the reaction of Pakistan thereto; and

(e) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken to resume bilateral talks with Pakistan?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) (a) to (e) In her message of felicitations to our Prime Minister on his assumption of office, the Prime Minister of Pakistan urged that India and Pakistan should sit across the table in a search for lasting peace. In his reply, dated June 8, 1996, PM suggested that the two countries undertake a wide-ranging and comprehensive dialogue and resume the Foreign Secretary level talks. PM underlined that bilateral approaches and agreements, which have been devised earlier, could guide future exchanges on all matters, including those on which the two countries might have differing perceptions. PM also emphasised that efforts should be directed towards pulling down the barriers which have made people-to-people interaction between the two countries difficult and to encourage the promotion of trade, economic and cultural contacts. Pakistan's response to PM's letter to the Prime Minister of Pakistan is awaited.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH Mr Speaker, Sir, this is for the first time that the Pakistan Government has proposed to resume talks with Indian Government. A mention about the election manifesto of the Janta Dal, which is an ally of the United Front, has been made in the greetings sent by the Pakistani Prime Minister, Shrimati Benazir Bhutto, to our Prime Minister. She has felt encouraged by it. She has said that her Government has been encouraged by the mention made by the Janta Dal in its election manifesto that talks over the issue of Kashmir would be resumed, keeping in view the feelings of the people of the state. In 1994, the secretary level talks were discontinued and Pakistan was held responsible for that because of its rigid stand. Pakistan was not

ready to agree at any point on any condition. It had laid down several conditions in which the main were that India should withdraw its forces from Kashmir, the alleged violation of human rights committed by India should be stopped. Besides, it was also said that international observers may be appointed in Kashmir and imprisoned terrorists may be released. Is it true that both the Governments would make efforts to resume bilateral talks keeping in mind the present political situation in both the countries? You have said in your reply that the reaction of the Pakistan Government to the letter sent by our Prime Minister to the Prime Minister of Pakistan is yet to be received. To what extent she is satisfied and encouraged by your answer?

MR SPEAKER : This is question hour. Please ask the question.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : This is a serious issue and is related to the safety, unity and integrity of India

MR SPEAKER : Of course, it is but you ask question

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Kashmir is the root cause of all our disputes with Pakistan. Therefore, atleast, something has to be mentioned about it. I would like to ask from the hon'ble Minister whether Pakistan has formally or informally, laid down any pre-conditions for resuming talks? The second part of my question is whether India would make it clear to the Pakistan that to resume dialogue in a cordial atmosphere, it has to ensure and clearly make efforts to stop providing moral, political and arms assistance to the terrorists? Even today, four foreign hostages are in their captivity. What will be the fate of those hostages?

[English]

MR SPEAKER : You have taken five minutes. Please ask your question.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Sir, I have put my supplementaries (a) and (b) to the Minister just now.

MR SPEAKER : You put (a) to (z) in one sentence please.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : No, Sir. I will ask my second supplementary as (c).

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Sir, if I have understood the question rightly my hon. friend wants to know whether Pakistan has suggested any pre-conditions for talks or not. My reply is that we are awaiting the reply. We have not received any communication as yet.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Sir, they have not received any communication as yet. Therefore they do not know as to whether Pakistan would lay any pre condition or not. But the stand of the Government of India should be clear as to whether it would resume

talks with some conditions or without any condition. My second supplementary question is that today, the hurdles coming in the way of Indo-Pak relations can be removed by streamlining the visa procedure and by exchanging trade and cultural agreements. For example, Pakistan is presently purchasing sugar from international market at exorbitant prices and India has plenty of sugar to sell to Pakistan at low rates. I would like to ask from the Government as to whether while holding talks with Pakistan, it would suggest to promote our cultural and trade relations and to simplify visa procedures to facilitate visits of people in both the countries.

[English]

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Sir, I think my hon. friend will agree that for us to try to foresee what we are going to say in the talks may not be advisable from our point of view.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has not given answer to my question. There is no point in asking a question. Benazir Bhutto is not responding to him and similarly he is not replying here.

[English]

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been the endeavour of all the Indian Governments to have good relations with Pakistan and many efforts have been made in the past in this regard. I would like to say that during Shri Narasimha Rao's period, he, as the Prime Minister of India, met the Prime Minister of Pakistan Shri Nawaz Sharif six times and later when Shrimati Bhutto was elected as the Prime Minister of Pakistan, I was sent as a special envoy of the Prime Minister of India to have talks with her. But unfortunately there is no forward movement in the relations between the two Governments. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has formulated any policy towards Pakistan. In this regard, I would also like to know whether he has talked to all the leaders of the Opposition to form a consensus and whether any measures has been offered or is likely to be offered to Pakistan by which Pakistan may be attracted to have talks with India.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Sir, my hon. friend, I appreciate, has been dealing with the subject. I appreciate the efforts that he has been making and Shri Narasimha Rao has been making in the past. I think fortunately in India's context some sort of a consensus exists among all the parties here on foreign policy and that is a welcome thing.

So far as questions like what line we shall pursue, how we shall proceed ahead are concerned, as I said very briefly a while ago, we have taken two initiatives. One is that we have responded to the letter. The second initiative is that a people-to-people

level we have taken several steps to relax the situation. This also is meant as a message. I think, at this stage, for me to say as to what type of discussions will go on will be a sort of foreseeing something which I should not do.

SHRI ROOPCHAND PAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, even as Pakistan's response to the Prime Minister's letter to the Prime Minister of Pakistan is awaited, I would like to know whether the Government of India has made any study as to the concrete steps that are urgently required to be taken in the meantime so that a new relationship can develop between the two countries.

In the light of the decision taken by the SAARC in respect of cultural contacts, I would like to know whether the Government feels that this may help pave the way for better cultural contacts preceding the promotion of trade and other economic relations.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Sir, I will take the second point first. So far as the trade relations are concerned, my hon. friend would recall that the SAARC has tried to set up an organisation called SAPTA. I think all the countries of this region have contributed for that. SAPTA has now been operationalised and we are fast moving towards it. I do hope that in that framework trade between India and Pakistan will also improve. It is, I think, not only in our interest but it is in the interest of everybody in the region. That is why we encouraged the idea and appreciated it.

Recently, the Commerce Minister of Pakistan said that he would like to segregate the political and economic relations which is by itself a good thing. I must also say that we have taken several steps unilaterally to try to create an atmosphere of amity and friendship. For instance, we have relaxed the visa considerably. We have also invited some journalists to India. We have also suggested that we can set up temporary visa camps in Karachi if we are so permitted and so on and so forth. We are also examining how to relax the restrictions, if any, about import of journals and books in this country.

We are doing all these things unilaterally. We are not bothering whether they would respond or not. Our effort continues to be - as we have said in the letter also - to see that any barriers that exist for people to people contact, for interaction, for travel are removed. We have requested the hon. Speaker to invite a Parliamentary delegation from Pakistan and I think the Speaker is inviting a Parliamentary delegation from Pakistan to establish relationship between our two Parliaments. We are extending these gestures in the hope and wish that India and Pakistan will live as good neighbours.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are news reports that the US Government is seeking mediation in the Indo-Pak dispute. At one point of time, Pakistan was also favourable to the

American mediation. I want to know whether the Pakistan Government is still in favour of American mediation or they want to settle the dispute bilaterally without any outside interference.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Sir, I think once for all the Shimla Agreement had moved both of us away from any third party intervention or mediation or whatever it is called. Whatever relations or whatever talks have to develop, have to be in the bilateral framework.

SHRI JAG MOHAN : Sir, my question is whether the hon. Minister of External Affairs is reading in between the lines the statement made by the American Ambassador in Pakistan while addressing the Command Unit there. He made certain observations. Reading in between those lines I want to know if he considers that there are certain forces and interests—foreign interests who are not very friendly to India. They are encouraging certain forces both in the Pakistan occupied Kashmir and Kashmir to prop up semi-independence or forces which want to create an independent Kashmir or a semi-independent Kashmir. By talking of maximum autonomy or autonomy short of azadi the Government of India wittingly or unwittingly is falling into there trap.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Sir, my hon. friend is a very knowledgeable person and he particularly specialised in reading between the lines which I do not. I go by the word of what is written. Whatever the American Ambassador may or may not have said in this context I do not think it conflicts with our bilateral approach. So I have not taken any notice of that. So far as the other issue of giving autonomy is concerned, that is an internal affair which we will decide in consultation with all the parties.

[Translation]

SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister of External Affairs has said that the Government of India would try to establish relations between the people of India and Pakistan. I would like to ask from the hon'ble Minister as to whether the Government would consider to reopen the closed consulate office in Karachi as a result of which it has become very difficult for the thousands of Muhajirs to visit India? My second question is that it has been assured to do a lot for the books which are being published there are also for cultural programmes taking place there. Sir, I have written many times to some famous writers and also for sending some books which are published there but they are facing a lot of difficulties in sending books to India. Whether the Government of India has made any concrete programme for allowing those persons to visit Pakistan who want to participate in the cultural activities of that country and similarly inviting Pakistani people here for the same purpose to establish cordial relations between the people of

both the countries? My third question is that when we discuss about the relations between India and Pakistan, we should keep in mind that these relations are of two countries, of two brothers and they are not our enemy...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR SPEAKER : Please ask the question; you are giving the suggestions.

[Translation]

SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : I would like to ask from the hon'ble Minister whether relations would be maintained on the basis of political considerations?

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : In reply to the question asked by my dear friend, as far as the question of opening of a consulate is concerned, I would like to tell that we will open that office only when they will allow us to do so. We cannot take any decision unilaterally in this regard. But we are certainly trying for that. You might have seen that we have relaxed visa formalities considerably for those who wish to visit India. As far as the matter regarding books is concerned, if there is any such rule which prevents their arrival into India, please bring it to my notice, we are ready to amend it suitably. Nothing has come to my notice as yet due to which there is some difficulty in bringing books or newspaper in India. However, we would try to ascertain whether there is any such rule and if it comes to my notice we would try to remove it. As far as the question of visitors is concerned, they are most welcome. Whosoever wants to come here, he can come without any restrictions. This country is open to all. We are quite liberal in such matters...*(Interruptions)* Whosoever wants to come here, we would welcome him...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Let there be liberalism to the hilt...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR SPEAKER : I have called the name of Dr Rongpi. You do not have to exchange like that.

DR JAYANTA RONGPI : Mr Speaker, Sir, after the break down of Indo-Pak talks in the recent past, it is indeed a very positive step that Pakistan has expressed its willingness for a mutual dialogue. Our Prime Minister also has emphasised people to people interactions and promotion of trade and cultural exchanges. It is indeed a positive step.

I want to know from the hon. Minister whether, in view of India's comparatively advantageous position and the strength of human resources—military or social composition—the Government of India would offer a 'No War Pact' to Pakistan to strengthen our friendship with them and to usher in an era of peace and brotherhood in the sub-continent.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : My hon. friend has asked me to spell out what I shall offer or what I shall not offer. I think, this is not the occasion for me to react to that. The Prime Minister of India has offered that we are willing to discuss every subject in the world. It includes what he is saying. Therefore, whenever the talks take place, we will also go with a great deal of hope and optimism into the talks.

Inter-state Water Dispute

+
*63. DR T SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI N. DENNIS :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are inter-state water disputes between Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka and various other States for the last so many years.

(b) if so, whether the Government have worked out any policy decision and common minimum programme for solving these disputes, and

(c) if so the details thereof?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir. At present there are two inter-state water disputes namely -

- 1 Cauvery Water Disputes and
- 2 Ravi-Beas Water Disputes

(b) and (c) : As per the existing practice, efforts are made to solve the water disputes through negotiations with the basin States. In case the efforts do not fructify and if any one of the basin States approaches the Central Government to set up a Tribunal, the same is set up under Inter State Water Disputes Act, 1956 to adjudicate. There is also a proposal for adopting National Policy Guidelines for water sharing.

[English]

DR T SUBBARAMI REDDY : Mr Speaker, Sir, the National Water Resources Council was set up in 1983 headed by the Prime Minister. Its Vice-Chairman was the Union Minister. The Chief Ministers of the respective States were its members. In 1990 also they set up a National Water Board to settle the disputes and to go through all the transactions of inter-State waters. But to my surprise, you have given clarification merely on Cauveri Water dispute and Ravi Beas Water dispute. Nothing else is there. It is not correct. You remember that even in those days Pandit Jawaharlal Nehruji said that irrigation projects were the modern temples. This National Water Resources Council was set up with the same inspiration only with the Prime Minister as its

Chairman. But now we do not find much activity in that Council. Every irrigation project is modern temple of Lord Rama. You must give top priority to it.

I want to seek one clarification. The people of Andhra Pradesh have a grave misinformation about Almatti Dam in Karnataka. They have raised the Dam 30 feet more than what it was fixed. If they raise the Dam more than Bachawat specification, there is going to be a disaster for the people of Andhra Pradesh. They say that 155 TMC of water only could be used for Almatti dam in Karnataka. But if the dam is raised beyond the specified limit fixed by Bachawat Award, 400 TMC will be used by Karnataka.

Therefore, in case the dam is raised and if 400 TMC of water is used, the people of Andhra Pradesh will be losing irrigation facilities for 34 lakhs acres with the result Krishna, West Godavari and Guntur districts also will not have any irrigation facilities. I would like to know whether it has come to your notice that the dam has been raised beyond the specified height fixed by the Bachawat award.

[Translation]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member has mentioned about National Water Commission and some other Commission. They have been constituted and their meetings are also held from time to time. Some Tribunals have given their award and some State Governments want to create a controversy on the basis of their verdicts, which is not good. They are categorising several multipurpose projects as controversial and not as disputed. Similarly, several State Governments have objected to the Almatti project. Government has nothing to say in it. We want that the respective State Governments should resolve this issue after holding discussions because the Tribunal has given its verdict in this regard.

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : My second question is this. The hon. Minister is taking it very lightly. But there is some dispute. Something is going on. It is not so easy.

[Translation]

I am speaking keeping in view the welfare of the people of Andhra Pradesh.

[English]

The people of Andhra Pradesh are, in fact, sentimentally, logically and politically agitated over this problem. Therefore, a few days back the Members of Parliament of Andhra Pradesh Congress Party met the hon. Prime Minister in a delegation and the hon. Prime Minister, of course, clarified that we need

not agitate and that the dam is not raised at all beyond a certain limit. But still the people of Andhra Pradesh are not satisfied.

My question to you is whether the Minister, as assured by the hon. Prime Minister, can arrange to send immediately a high-powered Committee consisting of the representatives of the Ministries concerned and also Members of Parliament of both the States to settle it immediately within fifteen days or one month or two months so that misunderstanding will not be there in the minds of the people of Andhra Pradesh and also it will not give any opportunity to the people of Andhra Pradesh to resort to any more agitations.

[Translation]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, when any new project involving water is started then panic grips some States. It has happened this time also. The people of the state depend upon river water for irrigation whether it is Krishan river or Godawari. People cry out and their emotions burst. As the hon'ble Member has said, the Central Government makes arrangements for holding discussions among the concerned states and if necessary, it sends an expert committee also. If dispute gets intensified and they do not reach at any settlement and the State Governments take rigid stand because it is a question of the welfare of the people of these states. However, the hon'ble Member has not asked question but he has given an advice that whether the Central Government would send a high powered committee including Members of Parliament on its behalf. Central Government cannot send a high-powered committee because the irrigation and water are the state's subject, therefore, it cannot be considered by high-powered committee. It can be resolved with the help of Panchayati power.

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Sir, I am sorry that the hon. Minister has not understood my problem at all. Whether it is a high-powered committee or medium powered committee or low-powered committee, it does not mean anything. What I am saying is this. It is a burning problem and the people of Andhra Pradesh are agitating for this...(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : We have had enough of it.

(Interruptions).

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : He has taken it very lightly...(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : I will come to you.

(Interruptions).

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I requested the hon. Minister to clear the doubts. But the Minister is not understanding the serious problem.

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the way to do it. He has replied to your question.

SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH : Sir, there are two issues involved in this problem. The first problem is the Cauvery water dispute and the second one is the Krishna water dispute. As regards the Cauvery water dispute, the former Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, while sorting out the issues on the directions of the Supreme Court, had promised to come out with or evolve a National Water Policy pending which he requested the State Government to release 5 tmcft of water. Following the request of the then Prime Minister, the Karnataka Government obliged to release 5 tmcft of water. Now, I would like to put a question to the Minister for Water Resources whether any steps have been taken to formulate or evolve a National Water Policy and if not whether the Prime Minister or the Government would take immediate steps to evolve a National Water Policy pending which the release of water to Tamil Nadu from Cauvery water basin could be phased out by mutual agreement and not by the interim orders of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal.

As regards the Almatti Dam, hon. Member Dr. Subbarami Reddy has raised some objections saying that the people of Andhra Pradesh have got apprehensions about the water being stored on the Karnataka side not being released to the riparian districts downstream. It has been made very clear by the Karnataka Government that the height of the Dam is raised to store the water as is allotted to Karnataka. We are not going to take any extra drop of water from that. There is the Bachawat Award according to which Karnataka has to get some share. We are utilising only that share and that to we must do it expeditiously before the year 2000 A.D.

MR. SPEAKER : Where is your question?

SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH : I would like to request the hon. Minister for Water Resources that there should not be any objection from either the Centre or the Government of Andhra Pradesh to raise the height of the Almatti Dam. Secondly, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Minister would evolve a National Water Policy very soon and see that the dispute is settled amicably.

MR. SPEAKER : He has already answered that question.

[Translation]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Central Government has not given clearance to the Almatti dam. It is only a proposal. As I said in the beginning, some states get panicky because it is a question of the drinking water and irrigation for the people of state. This panic sometimes creates various sorts of feelings. Clearance has not been given to it as yet. The project is under consideration but they have created these rumours before that, this is not a good thing.

The second thing, that the hon'ble Member has said is that the Tribunal has not yet given its interim judgement in regard to Cauvery-Water dispute. The people of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are passing through the situation which prevails between the time of interim and final decision.

This time, the assessment in regard to rainfall during the month of June shows that the reservoirs have received less quantity of water. Even then the Chief Minister of Karnataka has made an announcement to release water though the required quantity of water has not been released because of shortage of water. Hydrology law provides that any award should be based on ecological balance in nature. If the reservoirs have resumed less water then it becomes the problem of the people of both the states, the supplying state and the receiving state. Then the interest of both the states is to be taken note of. It is a fact that the Government of Tamilnadu has approached the Supreme Court but since the Chief Minister of Karnataka has decided to a release water, it appears that the matter has been settled for some days.

[English]

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Central Government has got any proposal to set up a statutory authority or a constitutional body to administer and monitor the decision given or to be given by the Tribunal or the court of law.

MR. SPEAKER : A question should be as short as this so that we get more time.

[Translation]

SHRI JANESWAR MISHRA : There could not be any statutory authority like this because I am of the view if the Central Government starts interfering much in the matters of the State Governments, then the framework of the constitution will get distorted.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Minister has mentioned in his last sentence of the reply that there is a proposal to form a National Policy and guidelines for distribution of water. I would like to know through you as to whether the United Front Government considers the river water as the National asset and whether this Government is of the view that the distribution of river water in different states should be on the basis of the requirement of the states and not on the basis of regional parochial claims? If so, the steps proposed to be taken by this Government to declare the river water as National asset?

SHRI JANESWAR MISHRA : The United Front Government has proposed to form a National Policy and guidelines regarding water distribution. We consider that water is a National asset. We also feel that arrangement should be made for irrigation in those areas where there is no river. The people of those areas, where rivers are flowing claim their

right on those rivers. We are also of the view that the feelings of the people of the areas where rivers flow are associated with them. Hence, there may be chances of conflict among states if we interfere in the matter unnecessarily. Therefore, in 1956 a law was enacted to constitute a Tribunal, under which we try to find a way out to ease the tension arising among the states.

[English]

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : My question is very clear. Once a Tribunal has given a decision in the case of Sardar Sarovar Dam on the Narmada, once the State of Gujarat is constructing the Dam according to the parameters given by the Tribunal, once the State of Gujarat has sent Rs. 55 crore for the Dam, the height of the Dam was also decided by the Tribunal. What is the stand of the United Front Government if out of four States, one State is trying to distort in one way or the other, in one name or another?

What will be the stand of the United Front Government about the reducing the height of the dam in spite of opposition of Gujarat? Will they see that the Tribunal's award which is final, will be implemented. Or, will they permit them to have 'cherchhar' according to the 'jazbaat' of different States? My question is very clear and I do not want to indulge in any 'jazbaat' and all sorts of things like that. The Tribunal had given a decision; 250 MW power station is ready but the country is still without power.

So, in this situation what will be the approach of the United Front Government? Let the hon. Minister reply on it very clearly.

[Translation]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Prime Minister had called a meeting of Chief Ministers of all the concerned four states a week ago. (Interruptions).

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : It is again going to be held today evening.

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : I have already discussed the matter in the meeting called a week ago and again a meeting of Chief Ministers of all the concerned four states is to be held today evening. Hon'ble Prime Minister is likely to discuss the matter with them. We hope that some solution will come out and all the states will mutually agree to follow the decision given in the award. (Interruptions).

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : This was not the question of Mr. Mehta. He had asked about the stand of the United Front Government to reduce the height of the Dam. (Interruptions) the award has been given. Since Narmada Project is the lifeline for Gujarat ... (Interruptions).

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Question No. 64. Mr. Ramakrishna Reddy.

(Interruptions).

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Mr. Speaker, Shri Mehta has asked a very specific question whether the Central Government is of the opinion to reduce the height of the dam. He has asked a very simple question. (Interruptions).

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, as to when he is going to appoint. (Interruptions).

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Sir, he has asked a very specific question. This Narmada Project is the lifeline of Gujarat. (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : We have already spent 22 minutes on this question.

(Interruptions).

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Sir, we want only five minutes. (Interruptions).

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Sir, the whole of Gujarat is agitated on this issue. Let the Minister reply on this. (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : Look here. There are a number of questions on the list. We would like to cover as many questions as possible. We cannot spend so much time on one question. This is an issue which has received the attention of the Central Government and all the State Governments. As has been rightly pointed out, the Chief Ministers are meeting today. There will be a discussion with the Prime Minister. Let us see how it goes. Let us see how the discussion among the States and the Central Government goes. If there is any necessity for discussing this, I would consider later on. But at this stage, it is enough.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : According to the Tribunal awards, no State can reduce the height of the dam. (Interruptions).

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that...

MR. SPEAKER : Are you asking question no. 64?

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : Sir, I am a new Member and I come from Thanjavur. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to when he is going to appoint the new Chairman of the Cauvery Water Tribunal.

MR. SPEAKER : No, no.

Now, the Minister has to reply question 64.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : But Sir, I want a reply on my question..

MR. SPEAKER : No, no. I have already passed on to the next question of Mr. Mehta. Please sit down. I have given an assurance that if necessary we will have.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Sir, I have not got the reply. (Interruptions).

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Sir, I demand Half-an-hour discussion on this question...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, have you anything more to say?

(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER : The hon. Minister is here. Please listen to the answer.

(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER : Please do not complicate. The hon. Minister is replying.

[Translation]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Member has raised here the issue of the height of the Dam. This issue is being raised in the meeting today. This issue has already been raised and discussed in the meeting of Chief Minister and Officers. In this connection I do not want to give any assurance but I must say that different interpretation of the decision is taken. Still I hope that we will come to a conclusion after having discussion with the Chief Ministers of all the concerned four states.

[English]

SHRI S S PALANIMANICKAM : What is the use of organising the orientation course for new Members? I am from the affected area of Thanjavur and I am not being allowed to put a supplementary question.

MR. SPEAKER : So many people are affected. I do understand that. But the next question is also very important. It is about universal education.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Okay last question. Shri Mishra, there is one more question for you.

SHRI S S PALANIMANICKAM : Regarding the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to when he is going to appoint a new Chairman to the Tribunal. Secondly

we have got the interim award two years back. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to when he is going to implement the interim award of the Tribunal and solve the problems of the farmers of Tamil Nadu, particularly the farmers of Thanjavur.

[Translation]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : The Chairman of the Tribunal has given his resignation due personal reasons. Our ministry has received the information of his resignation only a day or so before. It is to be referred to the Supreme Court through Ministry of Law and Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs with the request to appoint some other Hon'ble Justice in his place.

[English]

Pending Irrigation Projects in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan

+

65 SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI
SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state

(a) whether a number of major & medium irrigation projects in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan are pending with the Union Government for clearance.

(b) if so the details of such schemes alongwith reasons for non-clearance State-wise.

(c) whether the Union Government propose to lay down any time schedule for clearance of these schemes, and

(d) if so the details thereof?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b), Details of new Major and Medium irrigation projects of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan received for clearance by the Centre

S.No	Name of Project	Estimated cost (Rs. crores)	Ultimate Irrigation Potential (hectares)	Date of receipt in CWC	Status of Techno-economic appraisal
1	2	3	4	5	6

MADHYA PRADESH

(A) Techno-economic examination completed and found acceptable by the Advisory Committee subject to compliance of certain observations by the State Government

1	2	3	4	5	6
Major					
1	Bansagar Unit II	445.76	2,49,360	1/91	Found acceptable by the Advisory committee in 1/94. The State Govt. is required to obtain environmental clearance from Ministry of Environment & Forests.
2	Rajghat Canal	309.21	1,21,450	2/90	Found acceptable by the Advisory Committee in 8/93. The State Govt. is required to obtain forest clearance from the Ministry of Environment & Forests.
3	Sindh Phase II	510.94	1,62,100	12/90	Found acceptable by the Advisory Committee in 12/92. The State Govt. is required to obtain forest clearance from the Ministry of Environment & Forests and also concurrence of the State Finance Department.
4	Bargi Multipurpose	566.34	2,19,800	1/89	Found acceptable by the Advisory Committee in 9/89. The State Govt. is required to obtain clearance from environmental angle from Ministry of Environment & Forests and also the concurrence of State Finance Deptt.
5	Kolar	139.14	60,870	10/91	Found acceptable by the Advisory Committee in 4/92. The State Govt. is required to obtain concurrence of State Finance Department and formulate proposals for conjunctive use of surface and ground water.
6	Thanwar Tank	24.38	18,210	12/89	Found acceptable by the Advisory Committee in 3/91. The State Government is required to obtain environmental clearance from the Ministry of Environment & Forests and clearance on rehabilitation & resettlement aspects from the Ministry of Welfare.
7	Pench Diversion	184.04	96,520	8/88	Found acceptable by the Advisory Committee in 10/88. The State Govt. is required to assure provision of adequate resources for this project in VIII Plan.
8	Mahan	39.00	19,040	6/83	Found acceptable by the Advisory Committee in 6/83. The State Government is required to

1	2	3	4	5	6
					obtain environmental clearance from the Ministry of Environment & Forests & submit updated cost estimates.
9	Omkareshwar Multipurpose	1693.29	2,83,320/ 520 MW	11/92	Found acceptable by the Advisory Committee in 8/93. The State Govt. is required to obtain clearance from Narmada Control Authority, Central Electricity Authority and concurrence of the State Finance Department
	Medium				
	Nil.				
(B)	Consideration deferred by the Advisory Committee				
1	Mahandadi Reservoir	916.30	4,25,000	2/90	Consideration deferred by the Advisory Committee in 1/94. The State Govt. is required to obtain clearances from the Ministry of Environment & Forests and from Ministry of Welfare on rehabilitation and resettlement plans
(C)	The State Government is required to sort out various techno-economic issues				
	Major				
1	Keo Irrigation	92.45	34,560	5/88	The State Government is required to obtain clearance of Ministry of Coal regarding submergence of Coal Mines and from Ministry of Environment & Forests on environmental and forests angles. It is also required to sort out other technical aspects with Central Water Commission
	Medium				
1	Sutrapat	15.30	6,960	7/93	The updated cost estimate has been received recently in 7/93. The State Government is required to obtain clearance from Ministry of Welfare for rehabilitation and resettlement plans
2	Upper Bgda	89.17	13,360	9/92	The State is required to comply with the observations of the Central Water Commission
3	Urubagh	18.85	6,430	9/93	-do-

1	2	3	4	5	6
RAJASTHAN					
(A) Techno-economic examination completed and found acceptable by the Advisory Committee subject to compliance of certain observations.					
Major					
1.	Bisalpur Drinking Water cum Irrigation	309.07	49,890	11/91	Found acceptable by the Advisory Committee in 3/93. The State Government is required to obtain clearance from Ministry of Welfare from rehabilitation and resettlement aspects and from the Ministry of Environment & Forests from environmental and forest angles.
2.	Indira Gandhi Nahar Stage-I	86.39	5,25,000	3/93	Found acceptable by the Advisory Committee in 6/96. The State Govt. is required to obtain clearance from Ministry of Environment & Forests.
Medium					
1.	Bethali Irrigation	13.07	4,320	10/91	Found acceptable by the Advisory Committee in 12/92. The State Government is required to obtain clearance from Ministry of Welfare for rehabilitation and resettlement plans and furnish concurrence of the State Finance Department.
2.	Chauli Irrigation	28.87	8,960	2/92	Found acceptable by the Advisory Committee in 4/92. The project submitted to the Planning Commission for investment clearance.
(B) The State Government is required to sort out various issues					
Medium					
1.	Bandi Sandra	11.56	4,090	1/93	The State Government is required to comply with the observations of Central Water Commission on various techno-economic issues.
2.	Sukli Irrigation	15.41	4,220	1/93	The compliance received from State Govt. is under examination.
3.	Chakan Irrigation	7.98	3,360	9/92	The State Government is required to obtain forest clearance from Ministry of Environment and Forests and concurrence from the State Finance Department.
4.	Gararda Irrigation	36.50	9,220	7/95	The State Govt. has to obtain clearance from forest angle from Ministry of Environment &

1	2	3	4	5	6
					Forests and from Ministry of Welfare on rehabilitation and resettlement plans.
5	Piplad Irrigation	16.93	4,700	2/93	The State Govt. is required to update the estimate & obtain clearance Ministry of Welfare for Rehabilitation resettlement Plans.
6	Olwara Lift Irrigation	9.00	5,4100	12/93	The State Govt. is required to comply with the observations of the Central Water Commission

(c) and (d) Though the time limit for 'Techno-economic appraisal' is prescribed, the clearance of projects gets delayed due to delay by the State Government is complying with the observations of the Central appraisal agencies

SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI Mr Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Minister has said that irrigation projects of the states remain under consideration of the Government. Hon'ble Minister has ascribed the delay due to delay in appraisal by the states. I will like to ask hon'ble Minister as to whether the Government propose to give certain concessions in some intermediary irrigation projects of the State Governments?

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA The Central Government wants that the irrigation projects sent by the State Governments should be conducive, as our Ministry has to submit a report on its technical and economic aspects. Various State Governments send such projects in hurry, which are not found conducive in respect of their economic and technical aspects. They are asked to bring improvement in it as per the prescribed directives.

SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI My question was whether the Government propose to give concessions to State Government for intermediary irrigation projects besides CWC?

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA The question is about the pending projects. The State Government should be given concessions in it. But if they do something at their own, then it will be difficult. Therefore, guidelines have been formulated. If they are not followed, then it will be difficult.

SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI Mr Speaker, Sir, the work on Indira Gandhi Main Canal Project in Rajasthan is going on very slowly and the required amount of assistance by the Central Government has not been made available and only Rs. 224 crore have been made available on behalf of the Central Government whereas the Government of Rajasthan has spent Rs. 331 crore. Now the question is

whether the Government will speed up work on this scheme and whether the Central Government proposes to give approval to Rajasthan Government's Project costing two thousand crore rupees which has already been sent to the Centre by the State Government and is under consideration of the Central Government?

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA The Government do propose to give approval to these projects. The main point is that the Departments of the Environment and Forest comes in the way of it and as such, the projects have to be cleared by these departments as well. They cause delay in it and do not send reports. That is why their approval takes time.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Education for All

*64 SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY
SHRI L. RAMANA

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

- the illiteracy average in India State-wise;
- the target fixed under "Education for All- by 2000 AD" to impart education to different categories of illiterate persons;
- the target achieved so far category-wise and State-wise;
- the funds allocated by the Union Government for the scheme, State-wise, and
- special measures proposed to be taken for efficient implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. R. BOMMALI) (a) The literacy data in the country is collected through

decennial census operations. According to the 1991 Census the literacy rate in the country was 52.21%, a *statement* showing State-wise literacy rate is enclosed.

(b) The target fixed was to cover 345 districts during the Eighth Five-Year Plan and make 100 million people functionally literate. The target age-group under the literacy campaigns is 15-35 years. Children in 9-14 age-group are also covered wherever the scheme of Non-Formal Education is not operational or its coverage is inadequate

(c) Total Literacy Campaigns have been launched in 401 districts of 26 States/UTs. According to the reports received as of 31st March, 1996 about 53.19 million persons have been made literate of which an estimated 62% of the learners are women, 21% belong to SCs and 10% to STs

(d) An allocation of Rs. 1400 crores has been made for all literacy programmes during the Eighth Five-Year Plan. No State-wise allocations are made and funds are released on the basis of requirements of the State Governments and the proposals for TLCs/PLCs received from various districts

(e) The special measures which are being taken for the efficient implementation of the literacy programmes include the following :

- (i) Decentralisation and devolution of powers to State Literacy Mission Authorities (SLMAs). The SLMAs are being set up in all the States/UTs to implement the literacy programmes
- (ii) Involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions in the literacy programmes and sensitization of Panchayati Raj functionaries as well as elected representatives
- (iii) Launching of 'Operation Restoration' in those districts which have not been able to achieve desired objectives

STATEMENT

Literacy rate based on the 1991 Census

India/States or Union Territory		Literacy rate
1	2	3
	INDIA	52.21
	States	
1	Andhra Pradesh	44.09
2	Arunachal Pradesh	41.59
3	Assam	52.89
4	Bihar	38.48

1	2	3
5.	Delhi	75.29
6.	Goa	75.51
7.	Gujarat	61.29
8.	Haryana	55.85
9.	Himachal Pradesh	63.86
10.	Karnataka	56.04
11.	Kerala	89.81
12.	Madhya Pradesh	44.20
13.	Maharashtra	64.87
14.	Manipur	59.89
15.	Meghalaya	49.10
16.	Mizoram	82.27
17.	Nagaland	61.65
18.	Orissa	49.09
19.	Punjab	58.51
20.	Rajasthan	38.55
21.	Sikkim	56.94
22.	Tamil Nadu	62.66
23.	Tripura	60.44
24.	Uttar Pradesh	41.60
25.	West Bengal	57.70
UNION TERRITORIES		
1	A & N Islands	73.02
2	Chandigarh	77.81
3	D & N Haveli	40.71
4	Daman & Diu	71.20
5	Lakshadweep	81.78
6.	Pondicherry	74.74

Mid-Day Meal Scheme

*66. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the mid-day meal scheme launched in different States

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the steps taken to enhance Central assistance and to make improvements in the programme?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) and (b) : The National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education commonly known as the Mid-day Meal Scheme, was started very recently i.e. on 15th August, 1995 and therefore, no formal review of the programme has yet been undertaken. The implementation of the programme is, however, being monitored both by the State Governments and the Central Government

(c) With the expansion of the programme, Central assistance is projected to increase from Rs. 441.38 crores in 1995-96 to Rs. 1400 crores in 1996-97.

In keeping with the objectives of the programme, State Governments have been requested to provide hot cooked meals to primary school children at the earliest.

[Translation]

Closure of Coal Mines

*67. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether 72 coal mines are lying closed in Bihar after the nationalisation of coal mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Bihar for re-opening the closed mines in Bihar; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (d). In 1992, a Joint Inspection Team (JIT) was set up with the representatives of Government of Bihar and Coal India Limited to identify the closed mines in Bihar. The JIT identified 10 closed coal mines of Central Coalfields Limited and 5 closed coal mines of Eastern Coalfields Limited. The Government of Bihar had made a proposal that the Government of India should permit a lease to the Bihar State Mineral Development Corporation (BSMDC) to operate these mines. Of these 15 mines, only Jagaldaga satisfies the conditions of the Coal Mining Policy laid down by the Government of India on handing over coal mines to State Governments. Consultation is going on with the State Government regarding this case and no decision has been taken by Government. Regarding the other 14 mines too, consultation will be held with the State Government at the earliest to examine the prospect of handing over these mines to Bihar State Mineral Development Corporation.

National Policy of Water Management

*68 SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :
SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a national policy with regard to water sharing and water management,

(b) if so the details thereof, and

(c) the time by which such policy is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir. A national policy on water sharing and water management is being devised.

(b) A Statement is enclosed.

(c) The draft National Policy guidelines for sharing of inter-State river Waters and Irrigation Management Policy as finalised by the National Water Board were discussed in the third meeting of National Water Resources Council held on 6th February, 1996 at New Delhi. It was generally suggested that these draft policies should be reviewed and modified before further consideration and adoption by the National Water Resources Council. It is not possible to indicate a time by which the policy guidelines is likely to be announced since discussions on the subject are likely to be lengthy and time-consuming.

STATEMENT

(i) Main features of the draft National Policy Guidelines for allocation of waters of inter-State rivers amongst States are as under -

- * The river basin will be reckoned as a unit for inter-State water allocation.
- * All co-basin States and the Centre would be parties to the process of allocation
- * Allocation to consider the reasonable possibility of utilisation.
- * Allocation to be based on the principle of equitable apportionment
- * States will be free to utilise their share in any way without conflicting with the overriding national interest
- * Inter-State agreements between all the co-basin States are normally to be accommodated.
- * Existing pre-plan uses and approved plan uses are to be protected
- * Allocation to consider needs for environmental management, navigation in National waterways and pressing needs of non-co-basin state etc. as National interests
- * Setting up monitoring and implementing mechanism to oversee allocations as made
- * Water allocation normally to be reviewed after 40 years

(ii) Main features envisaged in the draft Irrigation Management Policy are as under

- * Water management should aim at maximising agricultural production in irrigated areas
- * Lower distribution system comprising

distributaries and minors be handed over to farmers' organisations for operation and maintenance in a phased manner.

- * Government's responsibility may be limited to upper distribution system comprising main and branch canals.
- * Farmers' organisations to be structured in tiers and their representatives to participate in deciding the operation plan of canal systems along with the Government agencies
- * Water could be sold in bulk at concessional rates to the farmers' organisations who in turn will retail it to individual farmers.
- * Basic structural changes and improvement in the Government agencies like irrigation departments to make them more inter-disciplinary and functionally oriented service
- * Allowing the farmers to grow any crop within the operational plan and available water without imposing on them a particular cropping pattern

[English]

Supply of High Grade Coal to Power Plants

*69 PROF AJIT KUMAR MEHTA Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have decided not to supply high grade coal to the power plants in the country

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(c) its impact on the coal based power plants in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) (a) No such decision has been taken by Government and power stations continue to be supplied the grades of coal which they have been getting in the past

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

[Translation]

Kendriya Vidyalayas

*70 DR G R SARODE
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) the number of new Kendriya Vidyalayas accorded sanction during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96. State-wise.

(b) the total number of Kendriya Vidyalayas opened so far. State-wise.

(c) whether several Kendriya Vidyalayas are running in tents, and

(d) If so, the number thereof and the steps being taken for making arrangements of building for them and to appoint regular teachers and employees?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S R BOMMAI) (A) State-wise year-wise Kendriya Vidyalayas opened during the year from 1993-94 to 1995-96

State	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	Total
Andhra Pradesh	01	02	01	04
Assam	01	-	02	03
Bihar	02	02	01	05
Gujarat	02	01	-	03
Haryana	01	01	02	04
Himachal Pradesh	01	01	-	02
Kerala	01	-	02	03
Karnataka	02	-	01	03
Madhya Pradesh	08	05	04	17
Maharashtra	01	-	-	01
Orissa	01	03	01	05
Rajasthan	01	03	01	05
Tripura	01	-	-	01
Uttar Pradesh	02	03	01	06
West Bengal	-	01	02	03
Delhi	01	01	-	02
Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	01	01
Nagaland	-	-	02	02
Tamilnadu	-	-	01	01
A&N Island	-	-	01	01
	26	23	23	72

(B) State-wise distribution of Kendriya Vidyalayas

S No	Name of States/UTs	No of Kendriya Vidyalayas
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	44
2	Assam	48
3	Bihar	57
4	Gujarat	41
5	Haryana	25
6	Himachal Pradesh	18
7	Jammu & Kashmir	26
8	Karnataka	28
9	Kerala	25
10	Madhya Pradesh	91

1	2	3
11.	Maharashtra	54
12.	Manipur	05
13.	Meghalaya	07
14.	Nagaland	06
15.	Orissa	30
16.	Punjab	36
17.	Rajasthan	52
18.	Sikkim	01
19.	Tamilnadu	29
20.	Tripura	05
21.	Uttar Pradesh	119
22.	West Bengal	48
23.	A&N Island, Port Blair	03
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	10
25.	Chandigarh	06
26.	Delhi	34
27.	Goa, Div & Daman	05
28.	Pondicherry	02
29.	Mizoram	01
	Total	856
<i>Out side India :</i>		
30.	Moscow	01
31.	Nepal (Kathamandu)	01
	Total	858

(c) and (d). Out of 858 Kendriya Vidyalayas sanctioned, only 12 are running in tents. Of these 12, construction of permanent building has been sanctioned in respect of 6 Vidyalayas. In 3 Vidyalayas, land transfer has been effected and work is at the stage of preparing drawing and/or estimates. Land has not been formally allotted/transferred by the sponsoring authorities in respect of 3 Vidyalayas. The matter has been taken up with sponsoring authorities.

Filling up of the vacant post in the Kendriya Vidyalayas is a continuous process and efforts are made to appoint regular teachers and other staff as expeditiously as possible in all Vidyalayas.

[English]

Delhi Rent Control Act, 1995

*71 SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS and EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have examined the Delhi Rent Control Act, 1995 for implementation;

(b) whether the Government have received memoranda against the implementation of the Act;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to make any further amendments in the said Act; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Memoranda have been received by the Government suggesting amendments to certain provisions of the Act.

(c) The suggestions are being examined by the Government.

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

[Translation]

Narmada Sagar Project

*72. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the progress and the expenditure incurred out of total plan-expenditure sanctioned for Narmada Sagar Project in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) the time by which the target of construction of Narmada Sagar Project is likely to be achieved.

(c) whether any proposal for giving this project status of a national project was received and if so the decision taken in this regard; and

(d) the quantum of water utilized by each State under Narmada River Water Sharing Agreement and the validity period of this award?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) A statement-I is enclosed

(b) The construction of Narmada Sagar Project is targetted to be completed by 2010 A.D.

(c) Yes, Sir. However, no project in irrigation sector has been declared as National Project

(d) A statement-II is enclosed.

STATEMENT-I

Progress in construction of Narmada Sagar Project as on 31.3.1996

1. Physical Progress

The concreting work on the dam is in progress. As regards power house complex, the concreting of Intake structure and erection of penstocks are in

progress. The progress of earth work on main canal in the first 19 km reach is almost complete.

2. Financial Progress

Years	Outlays (Rs. in crore)	Expenditure (Rs. in crore)
1993-94	161.24	426.73 (Cumulative up to March, 1994)
1994-95	153.31	126.33
1995-96	129.11	96.78

STATEMENT-II

As per Narmada Water Dispute Tribunal Award, the allocation of Narmada Water among the party States is as under :-

Madhya Pradesh	18.25 Million Acre Feet
Gujarat	9.00 Million Acre Feet
Rajasthan	0.50 Million Acre Feet
Maharashtra	0.25 Million Acre Feet
Total	28.00 Million Acre Feet

The validity period of the Award is upto 2024 A D (45 years after Gazette Notification in 1979).

Urban Land Ceiling Act, 1976

*73 SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :-

(a) whether any suggestion for amending the Urban Land Ceiling Act, 1976 are pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The thrust of the suggestions from various States, organisations and the National Commission on Urbanisation relates to streamlining and simplification of procedures with a focus on guided development and added availability of land for shelter provision for the weaker sections.

(c) It would be difficult to give a definite time frame because as per the Constitutional requirements, after the approval by the Government,

the Legislatures of at least two States where the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976 is applicable have to concur and pass resolution under Article 252(2) of the Constitution to enable the introduction of the bill on the floor of Parliament

[English]

Relations Among SAARC Countries

*74. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

(a) the steps proposed to be taken to strengthen the relations among the SAARC countries; and

(b) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to promote SAPTA into South Asian Free Trade Area (SAPTA)?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b) The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) has emerged as the primary vehicle for facilitating mutually rewarding interaction among SAARC Member States on a wide range of issues of common interest to member countries in the economic, technical and social areas. India currently holds chairmanship of SAARC and is committed to playing an active role in advancing the areas of cooperation among Member States. Under India's chairmanship, SAARC Member States have already adopted the decision to strive to attain a South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) preferably by the year 2000 but before the year 2005. The first meeting of SAARC Ministers of Commerce and the first SAARC Trade Fair were also held in New Delhi. A wide ranging programme of observing the 10th Anniversary of SAARC has been agreed upon by Member States at the last council of Ministers meeting in New Delhi. Meetings of the Standing Committee of Foreign Secretaries and of the Committee of Economic Cooperation of Commerce Secretaries, which advanced cooperation, have also been held. These Committees and the Council of Ministers are meeting again later in the year. It will be India's endeavour to enlarge the canvas of cooperation in these meetings as well as through other initiatives, some of which have been discussed with the Secretary General of SAARC, who visited India in June 95 as a guest of the Government of India and called on Prime Minister, Minister of External Affairs and Finance Minister, apart from senior officials. India attaches the highest importance to realising the full potential of SAARC in enhancing mutually beneficial cooperation within the region.

2. The agreement on the SAARC Preferential Trade Arrangement (SAFTA) became operational with effect from December 7, 1995. The first round of tariff reductions covering 226 products has already

taken place and the second round is now in progress. India will work actively with other Member States towards widening and deepening of tariff reductions and giving attention to non-tariff barriers, in the context of the goal of SAFTA at the turn of the century.

Standard of education in Kendriya and Navodaya Vidyalayas

*75 SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of any complaints regarding deteriorating standard of education in Central and Navodaya Vidyalayas and

(b) if so, the nature of complaints and the steps taken/to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMALI) (a) and (b) Occasional complaints have been received regarding the level of academic performance. Continuous efforts are on to improve the quality of education in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti through better supervision of academic activities, streamlining of recruitment procedure of teachers, establishment of Zonal Training Institutes for systematic in-service training of teachers and Principals and encouragement of co-curricular activities.

Drop-out rate of Girl Students

*76. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the drop-out rate of girl students in the primary as well as in upper primary stages are higher than those of boys; and

(b) if so, the corrective steps taken/being taken to arrest this trend?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMALI) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Policy on Education, 1986 lays special emphasis on the removal of gender disparities in education. According to the Policy, the removal of women's illiteracy and obstacles inhibiting their access to and retention in elementary education will receive overriding priority.

All States have exempted girls from payment of tuition fees upto Class-VIII. Other measures for promotion of girls education include provision of scholarships, free text-books, uniforms, attendance incentives, separate girls schools, construction of

toilets for girls and appointment of women teachers in primary schools. Under the centrally sponsored scheme of Non-Formal Education, Central assistance provided for girls' centres is 90% as compared to 60% for co-education centres. The proportion of girls' centres has been increased from 25% to 40% in the Eighth Plan.

The introduction of Mid-day meal Scheme in 1995-96 is also expected to have a positive effect on enrolment and retention of girls in primary schools.

Internationally assisted projects for Universalisation of elementary education have specific components for promotion of girls education.

The efforts made in this direction have resulted in narrowing of the gender gap in drop-out rates in Class I-V.

[Translation]

Shortage of Coal in Delhi

*77. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state

(a) whether there is acute shortage of coal in Delhi,

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to meet the shortage,

(c) the annual demand of coal for domestic and industrial use in Delhi; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government for supply of coal to meet the demand of Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) (a) to (d) The total quantity of coal supplied to industrial and other consumers, excluding power plants in Delhi during the year 1995-96 was 5.22 lakh tonnes as against a supply of 1.68 lakh tonnes in 1994-95. Availability having, thus, increased substantially, it is expected that any shortages would have eased.

The requirements of coal for various customers are assessed industry/sector-wise for the whole country and are not assessed Statewise. This assessment is made by joint consultation among the various Ministries and the Planning Commission. The demand for the industrial and other consuming sectors for the country as a whole was assessed at 44.20 Million Tonnes in 1995-96 and the supplies made were 41.21 Million Tonnes. There is a gap between demand and supply and the Government is endeavouring to increase production of coal in order to meet the demands of all consumers including those in Delhi.

[English]

Employment to Urban Poor

*78 SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any plan for eradicating unemployment in the urban sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of employment opportunities created in the Urban Sector during the past three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR U VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b). Two Centrally sponsored programmes viz., Nehru Rozgar Yojana and Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme are presently being implemented in the country :-

(i) The Nehru Rozgar Yojana was launched in October, 1989 and has been designed to generate employment to the unemployed and under employed urban poor living below the poverty line. Within this broad category, the SCs/STs and Women constitute special target groups. This employment is of two types. One relates to the setting up of self-employment ventures and another relates to the provision of wage employment through creation of public assets in the low income neighbourhoods of urban local bodies and also through housing and shelter upgradation

(ii) The Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme has been launched in November, 1995 with the objective of attacking the several root causes of urban poverty simultaneously. Besides employment generation and skill development, the PMI UPEP also aims at effective achievement of social sector goals, community empowerment, convergence through sustainable support systems, environmental improvement of urban slums and shelter upgradation. The benefits can be availed by the urban poor living below the poverty line who have got education upto 9th standard or less. Special attention/emphasis is given to women and persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and disabled persons. The programme is applicable to all Class II urban agglomerations with relaxation to the district towns in the hilly States and regions

(c) The details of employment opportunities created under Nehru Rozgar Yojana during the last three years are as under -

Year	SUME No. of beneficiaries assisted	SUWE No. of Mandays of work generated
1993-94	1.52 lakhs	72.17 lakhs
1994-95	1.25 lakhs	50.85 lakhs
1995-96	1.25 lakhs	54.64 lakhs

The Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme has been launched only recently and is still in the preparatory stage.

World Bank Assistance to Coal India Limited

*79. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has announced a 43.5 million SDR (\$ 63 million) International Development Association credit to Coal India Limited for providing technical assistance for Coal India environmental and social projects recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the projects which are likely to be benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (c). The World Bank has approved an IDA Credit of 43.3 million SDR (US \$ 63 million) for "Coal Sector Environment and Social Mitigation Project" of Coal India Ltd. The project inter-alia envisages carrying out Environment Action Plans, Rehabilitation Action Plans etc. at 25 identified coal projects of CIL. The list of these projects is given below :-

CCL	MCL	NCL	SECL	WCL
K.D. Hasalng	Ananta	Bina	Bisrampur	Durgapur
Parej East	Belpahar	Duhichua	Dhanpuri	Nijai
Rajrappa	Bharatpur	Jayanti	Dipka	Padampur
	Jagannath	Jhingurdah	Gevra	Sasti
	Lakhanpur	Nigahi	Kumunda	Ummer
	Samleswari		Manikpur	

Relations with Sri Lanka

*80. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) the steps proposed to be taken to strengthen further the relations with Sri Lanka;

(b) whether the foreign Minister of Sri Lanka visited India recently; and

(c) if so, the bilateral issues figured in his talks with Indian leaders and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) The Government is committed to further enhance bilateral relations and cooperation with Sri Lanka. A meeting of the Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Commission chaired by External Affairs Minister and the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister is proposed to be held in Colombo later this year. Prior to the Joint Commission, it is proposed to convene meetings of the Sub-commissions on Science & Technology and Social, Cultural and Educational Matters in Colombo. The Joint Commission would review the progress made in various spheres of bilateral cooperation and would also identify new areas of cooperation.

(b) Yes Sir, the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister paid a two days goodwill visit to India on June 20 and 21, 1996.

(c) In the discussions held with the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister, both India and Sri Lanka emphasised the high priority given to maintenance of close and cordial bilateral relations. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the present state of bilateral cooperation and agreed that there were possibilities for further enhancing ties. It was agreed that Sri Lanka would host the third session of the Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Commission later this year which would plan improvement of relations in all fields. Discussions were held on improving ties in the economic field. The question of fisheries and problems faced by fishermen of the two countries was also discussed and the two sides agreed to hold consultations to resolve these problems expeditiously.

Sea Erosion

433 SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment of or received any Reports from the Government of Kerala regarding the extent of sea erosion caused by the recent squalls along the west coast,

(b) if so, the details of findings/report, and

(c) the details of relief granted by the Union Government to the State of Kerala in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) (a) No, Sir

(b) and (c) Does not arise

[Translation]

Opening of Schools in Rural Areas

434 SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have conducted any country-wide survey to find out the number of rural

and backward areas where there are no primary schools and the distance the children of the area have to cover to attend school for education;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide schools in those areas on priority basis;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to provide financial assistance to the families living below the poverty line for spread of education in such areas; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) Yes, Sir. All India Educational Surveys are conducted periodically by States under the aegis of National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) to assess the availability of existing schooling facilities at different stages of education. The 6th All India Survey, which has been conducted recently, has ascertained the number of rural habitations without primary schools and the distance-wise availability of primary schools.

(b) and (c). According to available information, 94% of the country's rural population has access to a primary school within one km. of walking distance. The responsibility for establishing primary schools in the unserved and under-served areas lies with the respective State Governments which have evolved their own norms for the purpose in accordance with broad national guidelines

(d) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Ministry.

(e) Does not arise

Pension to Soldiers of Second World War

435 SHRI R.B. RAI Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state

(a) whether pension scheme has been introduced for the ex-soldiers who were demobilized after second World War, and

(b) If so, the amount given to them per mensem and the procedures thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) (a) No, Sir

(b) Question does not arise

[English]

Irrigation Project

436 SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state

(a) whether any proposal to modernise certain

irrigation projects in Karnataka has been received by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether the Union Government have provided any assistance for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) No proposal for modernisation of irrigation projects in Karnataka is pending at the Centre.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Ex-Servicemen

437 SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state

(a) the number of ex-servicemen in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) the total amount provided so far to ex-servicemen who have retired prematurely without pension as their battalions have been disbanded, and

(c) the amount given as scholarship to the wards of the ex-servicemen by the Ex-servicemen Boards during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) To collect reliable data regarding the number of ex-servicemen in the country, a scheme of registration and issue of identity cards was introduced in 1992. Under the Scheme, all ex-servicemen and their widows are required to register themselves with the Zila Sainik Boards. The State-wise details of ex-servicemen registered with various Zila Sainik Boards in the country as on 31.3.1996 are given in the Statement enclosed

(b) There has been no disbandment of any Army battalion in the recent past

(c) Kendriya Sainik Board is not giving any scholarship to the wards of ex-servicemen. However, as per policy of the Central Government, children of the defence personnel killed or permanently disabled in action, who are studying in the Government run educational institutions are granted complete exemption from tuition fee and other fees levied by the institution. Children studying in boarding schools and colleges are also provided grants to meet hostel charges, in full. Besides, some of the State Governments are providing scholarship/stipends to the wards of war widows/ex-servicemen disabled in action, at different rates. The details of the amount paid by the State Governments are not monitored at the Centre.

STATEMENT

Registered Ex-servicemen population

RSB	Total number of	
	ESM	WID
1. Andhra Pradesh	50083	9195
2. Arunachal Pradesh	163	2
2 Assam	13168	994
4. Bihar	49196	4029
5 Goa	1281	93
6 Gujarat	9376	1042
7 Himachal Pradesh	69604	16430
8 Haryana	130957	23329
9 Jammu & Kashmir	39092	8661
10 Kerala	111793	17883
11 Karnataka	38025	7324
12 Maharashtra	113712	20016
13 Meghalaya	1588	383
14 Mizoram	3708	821
15 Manipur	2779	271
16 Madhya Pradesh	23567	3395
17 Nagaland	1767	322
18 Orissa	11426	893
19 Punjab	160877	27545
20 Rajasthan	82314	15297
21 Sikkim	1369	369
22 Tamil Nadu	92287	25449
23 Tripura	1268	293
24 Uttar Pradesh	229688	39446
25 West Bengal	28152	2499
26 A&N Islands	370	28
27 Chandigarh	4879	611
28 Delhi	27059	2871
29 Pondicherry	1047	193
Total	1298615	229684

Note - ESM = Ex-servicemen

WID = Widows

Assistance By ODA

438 SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Andhra Pradesh for sanctioning funds by the Overseas Development Authority for improving slums, roads, houses for poor and drainage facilities in the State.

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir, the Andhra Pradesh Urban Poverty Alleviation Project was submitted by the State Government with a view to bring about more effective urban poverty reduction in 32 Class-I towns in the State through the convergence and development poverty alleviation programmes in three programme areas - economic, environmental and social. The project will adopt a town-wise approach, targeting the poor irrespective of spatial criterion.

(c) The Union Govt had submitted a project proposal to Overseas Development Administration (U.K.) for their consideration. The approval to implement this project from ODA (U.K.) is still awaited

[Translation]

Technical Institution in Badaun, Uttar Pradesh

439 SHRI D.P. YADAV Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to open a technical institute in Badaun, Uttar Pradesh,

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (c). There is no proposal with the All India Council for Technical Education for opening a technical institute in Badaun, Uttar Pradesh

Irrigation Projects

440 SHRI LALIT ORAON Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state

(a) the details of the major, medium and minor

irrigation projects of Bihar pending with the Central Government for the last three years:

(b) the details of such projects being evaluated from technical and financial points of view by the Central Water Commission;

(c) the details of such projects in respect of which the State Governments have to comply with the recommendations of various Central Evaluation agencies, and

(d) the action being taken by the Union Government in regard to projects in respect of which the State Governments have complied with the recommendations of Central evaluation agencies?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) (a) The following major/medium irrigation projects of Bihar are pending for clearance

Major Projects

(i) Sone Canal Modernisation Project (Phase-I)

(ii) Punassi Reservoir Project

(iii) Subernarekha Multipurpose Project

(iv) Punpun Morhar Dardha Irrigation Project

Medium Projects

(v) Kundghat Reservoir Project

Detailed proposals for Minor Projects are not received in Central Government. State Government is competent to plan, finance and implement them

(b) and (c) The details of the above projects have been given in the enclosed *statement*

(d) After the comments of Central Evaluation Agencies are satisfactorily complied with by the State Government, a comprehensive note on the project proposal is prepared and put up to the Advisory Committee on Irrigation and Multipurpose Projects for consideration and approval

STATEMENT

S No	Name of the Project	Estimated Cost (Rs in crores)	Irrigation benefits (in th ha)	Present Status
1	2	3	4	5
Major Projects				
1	Sone Canal Modernisation Project(Phase-I)	235.93	300	The Project has been considered and accepted by the Advisory Committee in its 56th meeting held in November, 93 subject to

1	2	3	4	5
4				investment clearance by State Government and clearance from Ministry of Environment & Forests. Based upon information received from Government of Bihar, Planning Commission has been requested to accord investment clearance.
2	Punassi Reservoir Project	173.04	20.8	Modified estimate examined by CWC and comments pending with Government of Bihar for compliance.
3	Subernarekha Multipurpose Project	1428.82	154.8	Considered and accepted by the Advisory Committee in December '92 for Rs. 1428.82 crore subject to environmental clearance and clearance of rehabilitation & resettlement plans by the Ministry of Welfare and concurrence of the State Finance Department. Concurrence of the State Finance Department has been obtained and sent to Planning Commission. Other observations are pending with Government of Bihar.
4	Punpun Morhar Dardha Irrigation Project	68.92	57.68	The Project report was sent back to the State Government in Feb. '92 as the same was not processed as per CWC guidelines. Supplementary report was received in Dec. '93. State compliances of comments of CWC on various aspects sent during 3/94 to 4/94 has been received. Environmental clearance has to be obtained by the State Govt.
Medium Projects				
5	Kundghat Reservoir Project	5.61	1.80	Accepted by Advisory Committee for Rs. 5.61 crore in 8.88 subject to observations.

Sewage and Rainy Water

442 SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKER RAWAT Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are aware that the drain which carries the sewage and rainy water from Tajganj area adjoining Taj Mahal causes environmental pollution and at the same time it has damaged the foundation of Taj Mahal due to heavy rains in Agra during the current year.

(b) if so, the steps propose to be taken to check its recurrence in future, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Special Grants for Brahmaputra Board

443 SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have decided to give

special grants to Assam for expediting completion of the work of Brahmaputra Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (c). The Brahmaputra Board set up during December, 1981 under a Statutory Act, under the Ministry of Water Resources is provided 100% grant-in-aid for carrying out its activities such as survey, investigation and preparation of master plans for the Brahmaputra and Barak river systems. So far an amount of Rs. 99.79 crore has been released to the Brahmaputra Board for its various activities.

However, even though the implementation of flood management schemes in Assam is the responsibility of the State Government, considering the complexity and magnitude of flood problem in the Brahmaputra valley, the Central Government has been providing Central loan assistance to the State of Assam, since 1974-75, to undertake priority flood control schemes. Till 1995-96, an amount of Rs. 340.00 crore has been released to the State. During the year 1996-97, it is proposed to provide to the Govt. of Assam Rs. 25 crore, on reimbursement basis, as grant for flood control works.

Indo-Nepal Talks

444. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that high level talks took place between India and Nepal at Kathmandu on January 28, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the issues discussed in these talks; and

(c) the agreements reached as a result of the talks?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (c). Shri Pranab Mukherjee, then External Affairs Minister, paid an official visit to Nepal from 26-29 January, 1996 at the head of a delegation which included Foreign Secretary, Secretary, Ministry of Power and Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources. He held discussions with his counterpart as well as other Nepalese dignitaries on a variety of subjects of mutual interest including cooperation in spheres of trade, commerce, water resources, tourism and infrastructural development in Nepal. He also called on His Majesty the King of Nepal and the Prime Minister of Nepal.

The two sides initiated a "Treaty concerning the Integrated Development of the Mahakali River

including Sarada Barrage, Tanakpur Barrage and Pancheshwar Project."

National Annual Award on Women's Day

445. SHRI PINAKI MISRA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether in order to provide due status to women, especially that in their role of mother and a house-wife Government have considered the desirability of introducing a National Annual Award on Women's Day every year, to be named in a suitable manner such as 'The Mother of the Year Award' to be awarded to the woman who plays the role of a mother best;

(b) if so, the decision taken in the matter;

(c) whether similar awards are also proposed to be introduced at the State and district levels, and

(d) the steps taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMALI) : (a) No, Sir

(b) to (d). Does not arise.

[Translation]

Deployment of M-11 Missiles

446. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :
DR. MURLI MANDOAR JOSHI :
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have seen reports in the US press about the deployment of nuclear-capable M-11 missiles by Pakistan acquired from China,

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

(c) whether this has posed a serious threat to our security, and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b). Government have seen press reports regarding the deployment of nuclear capable M-11 missiles by Pakistan. Government have been aware of the acquisition of these missiles and consider it a matter of great concern

(c) and (d). Government of India is committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard its security and national interest in accordance with its own threat perceptions.

CBSE Schools in U.P.

447. SHRI MUNAWWAR HASSAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open new C.B.S.E. standard schools in Uttar Pradesh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) and (b). The Department of Education in the Ministry of Human Resource Development is concerned with the opening of Navodaya Vidyalayas and Kendriya Vidyalayas which are affiliated to the CBSE. The Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) is keen to open Navodaya Vidyalayas in 17 districts of Uttar Pradesh as per list shown in the enclosed Statement depending upon suitable land with sufficient infrastructure and other requisite facilities being made available by the State Govt. During 1996-97, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) has sanctioned two Kendriya Vidyalayas to be opened at Lucknow as Barabanki in Uttar Pradesh.

STATEMENT

List of districts of Uttar Pradesh, where Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti is keen to open Navodaya Vidyalayas Affiliated to the CBSE.

1. Saharanpur
2. Pilibhit
3. Shahjahnpur
4. Kheri
5. Lucknow
6. Kanpur Dehat
7. Fatehpur

8. Pithoragarh
9. Garhwal
10. Rampur
11. Jalaun
12. Banda
13. Pratapgarh
14. Maharajganj
15. Sonbhadra
16. Dehradun
17. Moradabad.

[English]

Accommodation to Political Parties

448. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any guidelines have been fixed for allotment of general pool accommodation to political parties;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of political parties that have been allotted accommodation including accommodation to staff with details thereof including dates of allotment of such accommodation; and

(d) the rationale behind providing accommodation to political parties and their staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Only such of the political parties or groups as have been recognised as such by the Speaker are being given accommodation.

(c) A Statement is enclosed.

(d) General Pool accommodation is being made available to the political parties, as stated in (a) & (b) above, for office purposes and for residential use of their staff in Parliament, with the approval of the competent authority.

STATEMENT

S.No.	Name of Political Parties	Accommodation No.	Date of Allotment
1	2	3	4
1.	A.I.C.C. (I)	24, Akbar Road	7.8.92 (Regularised w.e.f. 18.7.90)
2.	A.I.C.C. (I)	26, Akbar Road	8.3.94
3.	Samajwadi Party	18, Copernicus Lane	3.5.94
4.	Samajwadi Janta Party	16, R.P. Road	20.11.90

1	2	3	4
5.	Congress (I)	5, Raisina Road	5.7.76
6	D.P.C.C. (I)	2, Talkatora Road	24.3.84
7.	B J P	11, Ashoka Road	21.3.85
8.	Lok Dal (A)	15, Windsor Place	29.11.79
9.	Lok Dal (B)	3, Pt. Pant Marg	1.5.88
10.	Janta Party	5, Pt. Pant Marg	1.7.88
11	Bahujan Samaj Party	12, G.R.G. Road	5.3.91
12.	CPI(M)	8, V.P. House	25.10.83
13.	CPI(M)	14, V.P. House	23.7.71
14	B.J.P.	24, V.P. House	14.6.82
15	B.J.P.	523, V.P. House	26.9.83
16	C.P.I.	119, V.P. House	30.10.70
17	C.P.I.	201-A, V.P. House	19.11.70
18.	C.P.I.	309, V.P. House	6.5.70
19	Janta Dal	17, V.P. House	15.6.90
20.	Janta Party	418, V.P. House	17.4.78
21.	Janta Party	115, V.P. House	30.1.87
22	Janta Party	416, V.P. House	30.1.87
23	AIADMK	16, V.P. House	26.6.92
24.	AIADMK	310, V.P. House	26.6.92
25.	Samajwadi Janta Party	13, Windsor Place	16.4.91
26	General Secretary Congress I in Parliament	C 401, C 402 Albert Square	11.7.79
27	- Do -	781, L B Nagar	8.9.88
28	Congress (I)	SIV/181, R K Puram	17.10.67
29	Congress (I)	SIV/209, R K Puram	30.12.77
30	Congress (I)	SIV/892, R K Puram	7.9.67
31	Congress (I)	896 B K S Marg	17.7.80
32.	Congress (I)	80 H SIV/DIZ	21.9.82
33	Congress (I)	87 T SIV/DIZ	20.12.91
34	Congress (I)	J-556 Mandir Marg	17.7.80
35	AICC (I)	DI/109, Chankyapuri	7.8.91
36	Samta Party	220, VP House	15.2.95
37	Congress (I)	45 A/SIV/DIZ	26.10.93

BBC's Map on Jammu & Kashmir

449 SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether attention of the government has been drawn to the alleged showing of a map by the BBC in its news bulletins indicating Jammu and Kashmir with a dot of different colour than the one indicating rest of India as reported in "The Hindustan Times" dated May 1, 1996

(b) if so details thereof.

(c) whether the Government have taken the matter with BBC and

(d) if so, the reaction of the BBC thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The BBC news bulletin referred to the Lahore bomb blast and carried a map in the background showing Jammu & Kashmir with a dot of different colour than the one indicating the rest of India

(c) Yes, Sir The Government took up the matter with BBC

(d) The BBC clarified that there had been no change to the design for the Kashmir map used by the BBC World—which had been used for the last 18 months. It said that the two colours they use to highlight the region are closely related to the respective map colours used for Pakistan and India

This is the normal television graphics technique when discussing any region in the world. BBC stated that it was their normal practice to avoid highlighting the region on the map when Kashmir was not at the centre of the days story. In this case, the story was about the Lahore bomb blast. It was further stated that where the map showed Pakistan and India, a line on the map shows the Line of Control and the borders of Kashmir.

Membership of GSETT

450 SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) since when India has been a part of an independent multilateral initiative called "Group of Scientific Experts Technology Testing" which monitors the seismic technologies of the Committee on Disarmament,

(b) the effect it is likely to have on GSETT membership due to non-endorsement of CTBT by India,

(c) whether according to any treaty all the GSETT members become automatic partners of the International Monitoring System and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps the Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) (a) India has participated in the Group of Scientific Experts' Technology Testing (GSETT) since 1976.

(b) The GSETT is a preparatory multilateral initiative launched by member states of the Conference on Disarmament to prepare the ground for verifying a CTBT.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Pak's Armaments

451 DR MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which Pakistan has strengthened and increased its armaments and striking power in the last three years and

(b) the measures that have been taken/proposed to be taken to counter the same?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) (a) Government are aware of Pakistan's acquisition of sophisticated arms and technology from various sources. Pakistan's acquisition of such weapons, far beyond its legitimate needs, is not conducive to peace and security in the region.

(b) Government constantly monitors all developments having a bearing on India's security and take necessary measures to safeguard it.

[Translation]

Royalty on Coal

452 SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any amount of royalty on coal payable to Bihar stands outstanding against the Union Government,

(b) if so, the amount thereof, till date;

(c) the efforts being made by the Union Government for its payment, and

(d) the difficulties being faced by the Government in its payment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) (a) to (d) No payment of royalty on coal to the Government of Bihar is outstanding as on 31.3.1996. The royalty is levied on coal consumers in the coal sale bills and the money is remitted to the State Government on receipt of payment. For coal supplies from April to May 1996, the royalty amounting to Rs. 7.69 crores is to be remitted to the State Government by the concerned coal companies and will be done in the normal course. There is no difficulty in the coal companies making payments to the State Government and the amounts are remitted by the coal companies regularly.

[English]

Damodar Flood Control Scheme

453 SHRI ANIL BASU Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether revised lower Damodar Flood Control Scheme submitted by Government of West Bengal has been approved, and

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) (a) and (b) The Union Govt. have not received any scheme titled "Lower Damodar Flood Control Scheme (revised)" from Govt. of West Bengal. However, a scheme, namely "Lower Damodar drainage scheme" costing Rs. 1440.00 lakh, was approved by the Union Govt. during June 1989. The scheme after implementation will mitigate the problems of floods & drainage in the districts of Hooghly, Howrah & Burdwan.

D.D.A Housing Scheme

454. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the major housing schemes under implementation by DDA;

(b) whether any targets have been set up to provide housing to the needy by DDA;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the working of the DDA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (c) DDA has reported that the following two Schemes are under implementation at present :-

(i) New Pattern Registration Scheme, 1979.

(ii) Ambedkar Awas Yojana, 1989.

No target have been fixed. However, a backlog of 31204 under the NPRS, 1979 (out of a total of 117272 registrants) and 12190 under Ambedkar Awas Yojana (out of a total of 20000 registrants) is required to be cleared by Delhi Development Authority

(d) Functioning of Delhi Development Authority is monitored regularly by the Government. Delhi Development Authority is, however, dependent on other agencies for provision of infrastructural facilities, besides coping with the constraints of availability of land and increasing litigation. Despite this, Delhi Development Authority has planned to allot the flats to all the wait-listed registrants under both the schemes in a period of about two years.

Non-Payment of Salary to Staff of Schools in U.P.

455 SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA . Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether the Staff (teachers and staff) of 225 schools in Uttar Pradesh have not received the salaries for the months of April and May, 1996, and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government for immediate payment of their salaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha

Hiatus between UGC and AICTE

456. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a hiatus between the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) over the decision of the AICTE to constitute a separate Pay Committee for technical institutions;

(b) whether the Government have received any 'protest paper' from the UGC;

(c) if so, the main features thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government have taken any step to ensure an uniform and equitable pay structure for technical, medical and other professional personnel, and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) (a) to (e) The present Pay Review Committees to University Grants Commission (UGC) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) have been constituted as per the provisions of their relevant Acts. There have always been separate Pay Review Committees for both UGC and AICTE. UGC's reference to the Government on the issue has brought out that there is already a UGC Pay Review Committee for Universities which must be seen as a total integrated system, including technical education and it may be difficult to reconcile differences in the recommendations of two separate Committees. The Government is keen to ensure that there should be harmonisation of the recommendations made by the aforesaid Committees on service conditions of teachers

[Translation]

Irrigation Capacity

457 JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA .
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a gap between the installed irrigation capacity and its utilisation in the country,

(b) if so, the total installed irrigation capacity and the utilisation thereof; and

(c) the total number of irrigation projects under construction and the total estimated irrigation capacity likely to be generated therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The total irrigation capacity installed and the utilisation thereof as on March 1996 are approximately 89.42 million hectares and 79.94 million hectares respectively

(c) 172 Major, 276 Medium and 119 Extension/Renovation/Modernisation projects are on-going in Eighth Plan. The total estimated irrigation capacity likely to be generated from these projects is 25.4 million hectares

[English]

Theft of Coal from Collieries

458 SHRI SUNIL KHAN Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state

(a) whether maximum quantity of coal are being stolen from unauthorised and authorised collieries situated at PS Saltora and PS Mija in District Bankura West Bengal, and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) (a) and (b) As per information furnished by Coal India Limited sporadic cases of coal theft have been reported from certain localities of Saltora and Mija of Bakura District in West Bengal. The possible reason therefor, seems to be the prevailing socio-economic conditions in the area

Rashtriya Mahila Kosh

459 SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that Credit limits of over Rs. 14 crore have been sanctioned by Rashtriya Mahila Kosh with a view to benefiting more than 82 000 poor women,

(b) if so, the details regarding organisations including non-Government organisations assisting the women in the country,

(c) the ratio proportion for distributing the amount between the poor women, and

(d) the criteria followed in this regard alongwith the categories of poor women being assisted?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S R BOMMALI) (a) Yes Sir Credit limits of Rs. 1978.44 lakhs have been sanctioned by Rashtriya Mahila Kosh with a view to benefiting 109491 poor women borrowers

(b) 111 Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) and Andhra Pradesh Women's Finance Corporation

Ltd. are assisting women through Rashtriya Mahila Kosh. Out of them, 38 NGOs have got sanctions more than once. Thus, 112 organisations have been sanctioned Rs. 1978.44 lakh to benefit 109491 women.

(c) Loans for short-term purposes, upto Rs. 2500/-, and for medium-term purposes upto Rs. 5000/-, per woman are given

(d) Loan is extended to women borrowers living below the poverty line

National Water Policy

460 SHRI K P SINGH DEO Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have formulated a National Water Policy,

(b) if so, the main features thereof,

(c) the manner in which the above policy has been implemented during the last five years,

(d) whether any hurdles have been faced in the implementation, and

(e) if so, the details of the same and steps taken to tackle those hurdles?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) (a) Yes, Sir. The National Water Policy was adopted in September 1987

(b) The salient features of the National Water Policy are -

(i) reckoning a drainage basin or sub-basin as a unit of Planning

(ii) adoption of integrated and multi-disciplinary approach to planning and formulation of projects

(iii) integrated and conjunctive development of surface and ground water

(iv) special attention in planning projects for benefiting disadvantaged groups of the society

(v) water transfer to needy areas based on a national perspective

(vi) prioritising water use and provision of drinking water while planning multi-purpose project

(vii) integration of land and water use policies

(viii) Maximising availability of water

(ix) Water Management including maintenance and modernisation

(x) Ground Water Development

(xi) Rationalisation of water rates to convey the scarcity value

(xii) Participation of farmers and voluntary agencies

- (xiii) Flood Control and Management.
- (xiv) Drought Management.
- (xv) Intensifying research efforts in various areas relating to water management; and
- (xvi) Training aspects in water resources development.

(c) The State Governments are implementing the National Water Policy based on the directions issued by the Central Government in this regard. For operationalisation of the National Water Policy, the National Water Board was constituted in September, 1990 which has held seven meetings and one special meeting so far and reviewed progress made on implementation of National Water Policy.

(d) and (e). A few hurdles due to inter-State water disputes and financial constraints are faced in implementation of policy in all details. Steps are being taken to resolve inter-State water disputes through negotiations and Tribunals.

Unused Coal at Pit-heads of Coal Mines

461. PROF PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

- (a) whether large quantities of coal are lying unused at pit-heads of coal mines in the country;
- (b) if so, the minimum and maximum quantities of such coal during the year 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96;
- (c) the total quantity of coal produced during the above period, year-wise;
- (d) whether any institutional policy has been evolved for the storage of coal at the pit-heads of coal mines; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (c) The minimum and maximum quantities of coal lying unused i.e. stock of coal at the pit-heads of coal mines of Coal India Limited and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) alongwith the quantities of coal produced during 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 are as under :

Year	(Million Tonnes)		Coal Production
	Stock at the Pit-heads (Saleable)		
	Minimum	Maximum	
1993-94	27.60	43.06	241.30
1994-95	27.64	40.84	248.72
1995-96	18.95	33.29	264.05

(d) to (e). The guidelines laid down on coal stocking are :

- (i) At each colliery the pit-head stock should not exceed three months production and total stock for the coal company as a whole not to exceed one month's production >
- (ii) Colliery should always carry sufficient stock to enable them to load the railway wagons within the specified time schedule.

[Translation]

Losses to C.C.L.

462. SHRI R.L.P VERMA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Central Coalfields Limited, a subsidiary of the Coal India Limited has incurred a loss of Rs 52 crore during 1995-96
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor,
- (c) whether the annual production of coal in 1995-96 has declined to 307.50 lakh tonnes as compared to the 350 lakh tonnes of coal production in 1994-95
- (d) if so, whether any action plan has been formulated by the Chairman-cum-Managing Director of C.C.L. to convert this loss into a profit of Rs 112 crores;
- (e) if so, the details thereof,
- (f) whether any responsibility has been fixed against the erring officials of the loss-making projects, and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Annual Accounts of Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) for the year 1995-96 is under audit. Profit and loss position of the company for the year 1995-96 will be known only after the annual accounts of the company is finalised, audited and adopted at the Annual General Meeting of the company. The Company Law stipulates that this must be done by 30th September, 1996

(c) During the year 1995-96, production of coal from the collieries of CCL was 30.75 MT, as compared to 31.20 MT of coal produced by the company in 1994-95. This shows a decline of 0.45 MT, in coal production during the year 1995-96

(d) and (e). In view of the decline in production, an action plan for 1996-97 has been finalised by CCL with CIL. Based on such action plan, a revenue budget has been formulated for the year 1996-97 with a production target of 35.2 MT against the actual

of 30.75 MT. during 1995-96. Also as per the annual action plan the expected profit during the year 1996-97 is Rs 113 Crores

(f) and (g). The shortfall in production has been mainly due to non-availability of forest land and other lands which affected starting of various projects and therefore no responsibility needs to be fixed on any official

Coal Mine Accidents

463 SHRI SOHAN BEER
SHRI LALIT ORAON

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state

(a) the details of accidents in coal mines occurred during the years 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97, so far, year-wise and location-wise.

(b) the total number of workers killed/injured in such accidents.

(c) the total amount paid as compensation to the affected families, and

(d) the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) As per data furnished by Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), year-wise and company-wise details of accidents which occurred in coal mines of the country together with number of persons killed and injured in each case during the years 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 (till date) are given in the statement enclosed

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

(d) Preventive steps as laid down in detail in the Coal Mines Regulations 1957, directives of DGMS, Expert Committee recommendations as also in the recommendations of various Courts of Inquiry, Safety Conferences, etc are adopted by the mine managements. For better observance of these steps, Government is promoting self-regulation by coal companies through internal safety audits, workers participation in safety management, tripartite bipartite reviews at various levels, training and re-training of work persons, observance of safety weeks and safety campaigns and national safety awards

STATEMENT

Company	Belowground				Opencast				Aboveground			
	No. of Accident		No. of Persons		No. of Accident		No. of Persons		No. of Accident		No. of Persons	
	Fatal	Serious	Killed	Injured	Fatal	Serious	Killed	Injured	Fatal	Serious	Killed	Injured
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1993-94												
BCCL	18	81	19	83	2	2	2	6	9	26	9	26
CCL	5	28	5	34	4	6	4	6	3	9	4	9
ECL	19	136	74	142	2	6	2	6	3	37	3	38
MCL	-	16	-	17	2	3	2	3	3	2	3	2
NCL	-	-	-	-	4	4	5	4	1	3	1	3
MFC	1	-	9	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	1
SECL	12	41	19	49	5	6	5	7	5	7	5	7
WCL	13	79	13	88	3	12	3	17	1	23	1	23
GMDC	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	2	-	2
HISCO	1	7	1	7	-	2	-	2	1	2	1	2
J & K	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NLC	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	2	-	-	-	-
BCCL	27	208	35	228	4	6	4	6	2	35	2	37
TISCO	6	9	6	9	-	-	-	-	2	3	2	3
ALL INDIA	102	606	181	658	29	50	30	55	30	150	31	153

\$ Includes 55 deaths in New Kenda Colliery

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1994-95												
BCCL	18	80	25	94	8	11	9	11	4	24	4	24
CCL	6	27	7	27	10	9	12	10	5	6	5	24
ECL	11	143	11	144	2	4	2	4	4	21	4	24
MCL	1	16	1	16	2	4	2	4	-	3	-	3
NCL	-	-	-	-	2	4	3	4	1	5	1	5
SECL	9	32	12	38	3	4	3	4	3	5	3	5
WCL	13	108	15	113	2	12	2	12	-	26	-	26
GMDC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3
IISCO	2	4	2	6	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
NLC	-	-	-	-	2	1	2	2	-	-	-	-
SCCL	23	212	32	238	2	8	2	9	2	23	2	23
TISCO	2	11	2	12	-	3	-	3	3	1	3	1
ALL INDIA	85	633	107	688	33	60	37	63	22	117	22	119
1995-96												
BCCL	27	54	105*	65	4	9	4	9	8	23	8	25
CCL	9	17	10	18	5	6	5	7	5	9	5	14
ECL	16	133	17	144	2	5	2	5	3	18	3	19
MCL	3	8	3	8	3	8	3	9	4	6	4	7
NCL	-	-	-	-	3	8	3	9	2	4	2	4
MEC	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
SECL	13	35	14	46	3	3	3	3	1	7	1	7
WCL	10	142	10	146	3	26	3	27	1	43	1	43
GMDC	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
IISCO	-	2	-	2	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	1
J & K	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
NLC	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	1	-	1	-
SCCL	14	89	16	96	5	8	5	8	3	29	3	29
TISCO	3	17	3	17	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	1
ALL INDIA	95	497	178	542	33	75	33	79	28	142	28	151
* Includes 64 deaths in Gasitand Colliery												
1996-97 (Till date)												
BCCL	7	10	7	9	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
CCL	4	3	5	7	-	2	-	3	2	-	2	-
ECL	6	15	6	19	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
MCL	-	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	2	-	2	-
NCL	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
SECL	-	4	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
WCL	-	20	-	20	3	2	3	2	1	6	1	6
SCCL	2	12	2	12	1	3	1	3	3	2	3	2
TISCO	-	5	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
ALL INDIA	19	70	20	77	6	9	6	10	9	13	9	13

Note: Figures for the years 1995 & 1996 are provisional

Abbreviations

BCCL	Bharat Coking Coal Limited
CCL	Central Coalfields Limited
ECL	Eastern Coalfields Limited
MCL	Mahanadi Coalfields Limited
NCL	Northern Coalfields Limited
MEC	Mineral Exploration Corporation
SECL	South Eastern Coalfields Limited
WCL	Western Coalfields Limited
GMDC	Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation
IISCO	Indian Iron and Steel Company
J & K	Jammu and Kashmir
NLC	Nayveli Lignite Corporation
SCCL	Singareni Collieries Company Limited
TISCO	Tata Iron and Steel Company

Passport Office, Ahmedabad

464. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANDOLA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) the number of applications pending with Ahmedabad passport Office for the issue of Passport for the period April, 1995 to April, 1996;

(b) the number of applications pending with this office even after the receipt of police verification;

(c) the reasons for delay and the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether middlemen have got their dominance in the passport office; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) The total number of applications pending with Ahmedabad Passport Office for the issue of passport for the period April 95 to April 96 is 10,630

(b) The number of applications pending with this office even after the receipt of police verification is 2,300

(c) The reasons for delay are two fold: (a) receipt of adverse police reports, and (b) non compliance by applicants of procedural requirements pointed out by the Passport Issuing Authority. After receipt of adverse reports, the Passport Office advises the applicants to approach the concerned DCP/DSP with original documents/court order to get clear reports from them on the basis of which passports are then issued

(d) No, Sir. The Passport Office, Ahmedabad accepts passport applications from applicants and authorised agents only. Moreover, enquiries from applicants with regard to the status of their applications for passport and other services are also entertained by the officers from the applicants directly thus eliminating the role of middlemen

(e) Does not arise.

Irregularities in Navodaya Vidyalayas

465. SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY
KUMARI UMA BHARTI

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether there has been rapid increase in the incidents of financial irregularities in Navodaya Vidyalayas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof, and

(e) the action taken against the persons found guilty therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) No, Sir

(b) to (e) Do not arise

[English]

Central Assistance for Irrigation Projects

466. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state

(a) whether the Rajasthan Government had sought additional Central assistance for some important irrigation projects.

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government to allocate fund in 1996-97 for those irrigation projects?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) No request for additional Central assistance for the irrigation project has been received from the Government of Rajasthan during the year 1996-97

(b) and (c) Do not arise

Depletion of Underground Water

467. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that as a result of depletion of underground water in some parts of Karnataka in recent years the availability of drinking water has been adversely affected.

(b) if so, steps taken/proposed to be taken to provide financial and technical assistance to the State Government for the purpose, and

(c) achievements thereby?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) A long term analysis of ground water level for the years 1985 to 1995 indicates decline of ground water levels by more than 4 metres in some parts of the State affecting the availability of drinking water

(b) On receipt of a proposal from Government of Karnataka, Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment released a sum of Rs. 10 crores in the year 1995

96. The Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment had also launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme" to provide drinking water facilities in urban areas.

Besides, the Central Ground Water Board, in association with the State Government, has undertaken a Central Sector Scheme for Artificial Recharge of Ground Water in Kolar District. A Model Bill has been prepared and circulated by the Ministry of Water Resources to all the State Governments/ Union Territories, for enacting suitable legislation on the lines of the Bill to regulate and control the development of ground water. A Manual on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water has also been prepared and circulated to all the State Governments/ Union Territories including Karnataka for their guidance.

(c) Under the scheme of Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment to provide safe drinking water facilities, 8135 habitations have been covered during 1995-96 against the target of 10414 habitations.

Ancient Monuments

468. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI . Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have taken steps for conservation of the ancient monuments in the country,

(b) if so, the names of ancient temples and other monuments in Orissa which are being identified as Centrally sponsored monuments, and

(c) the amount spent thereon project-wise during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAL) (a) Yes Sir

(b) A list of Centrally protected monuments in the State of Orissa is as per statement-I attached

(c) The amount spent on special repair works with their maintenance monument-wise is as per statement-II attached

STATEMENT-I

S.No.	Locality	Name of monument/site
1	2	3
Bolangir District		
1	Jharial	Chausatti Jogini temple together with three minor shrines
Cuttack District		
2	Agrahat, Bandais, Chaudar, Chhatisa, Govind Jew Patna, Jaj Bhairab, Kapaleswar, Mundmal Kedaraswar,	Ruined fortress
3	Bandaeswar	Ruins of the Buddhist temples and images
4	Bhabanipur (Balia Taluk)	Bhubaneswar Mahadev temple
5	Chandia	Hill containing many valuable sculptures, images and inscriptions, etc. of Buddhistic age. On the top, there is a Math and a small temple of Mahakal
6	Cuttack	Ancient monuments of Barabati Fortress and the ruins and remains of all ancient edifices, gateways, etc., save the mosque
7	Dadhapatna	Churangarh Fort locally known as Sarangarh, excluding the area acquired by the State Government
8	Jajpur	Four colossal images in the compound of the subdivisional Officers Quarters namely :- 1 Chamunda 2 Indrani 3 Kalijuga 4 Varahi

1	2	3
9	Jaipur	Three Buddhist images
10	Naltigiri *(Lalitagiri)	Ruins of Buddhist temples and images
11	Matangiri	Hill containing many valuable sculptures, and images
12	Siriapur	Mahratta bridge locally known as the Atharnulla (eighteen arches bridge) and also as Tentulimal bridge
13	-do-	Monolith called Chandeswar pillar
14	Simhanatha Pitah, Mauza Gopinathpur	Simhanatha Mahadeva temple
15	Magura Dhanmandal	Pancha Pandeva temple
16	Rameswar	Durga temple
17	Padamal Pattana	Ancient site at Baneswaranasi
18	Bhibimpur Biln	Bhubaneswar Mahadeva temple
Dhenkanal District		
19	Bajrakot	Bhingesvara Mahadeva temple
20	Rasol	Rock-cut Vishnu
Ganjam District		
21	Kottakolla	Gangadharaswami temple
22	-do-	Jagdiswaraswami temple
23	Mahendragiri	Bhima temple
24	-do-	Kunti temple
25	-do-	Yudhistra temple
26	Pandya	Ashoka rock inscription at Jaugada
Mayurbhanj District		
27	Baidyapur	Prehistoric sites
28	Haripur	Prehistoric sites
29	Kuchai	Prehistoric sites
30	Kulrana	-do-
Keonjhar District		
31	Sitabhinji	Paintings on the rock locally known as Ravana Chhaya and other ancient monuments and remains
Kalahandi District		
32	Asuragarh	Ancient site of Asurgarh Fort
Phulbani District		
33	Gandharadhi	Temple of Nilamadhava and Sidheswara
34	Baudh Town	Paschima Somanatha, Bhubaneswara and Kapilesvara temples
Puri District		
35	Baragarh	Bhaskareswar temple
36	-do-	Brahmeswar temple with its minor shrines in the compound
37	-do-	Nabakeswar Temples
38	-do-	Rameswar Temple
39	Besuaghai	Magheswar Temple with its minor shrine
40	Bhubaneswar	Ananta Basudeva Temple
41	-do-	Bakeswar Temple
42	-do-	Boital Temple
43	-do-	Chitrakarni Temple

1	2	3
44	Bhubaneswar	Jameswar Temple with its minor shrine
45	-do-	Lord Lingraj temple with all the minor temples in the compound namely : 1. Amania well 2. Astmurti 3. Chandeswar Deb 4. Gopaluni Temple 5. Ladukeswar Temple 6. Parbati Temple 7. Sabitri Devi Temple 8. Sakreswar Temple 9. Sathidosi Temple
46	-do-	Maitreswar Temple with all the minor temples in the compound
47	-do-	Makareswar Temples with its minor shrines
48	-do-	Markandeswar Temple
49	-do-	Mukteswar Temple with its minor shrines but excluding the Murich Kunda
50	-do-	Paramguru Temples
51	-do-	Papnasini Tank
52	-do-	Parsurameswar Temple
53	-do-	Raja Rani Temple
54	-do-	Sahasralinga Tank
55	-do-	Sari Temple No 1
56	-do-	Sidheswar Temple
57	-do-	Sisiresvara Temple
58	Chourasi	Varahi Temple
59	Churanga Krishnanagar	Churangarh Fort, excluding the area acquired by the State Government
60	Dhauri	Rock inscription of the edicts of Asoka and the sculpture of elephant
61	-do-	Small rock cut cell with a niche and an inscription of Santikara
62	Hirapur	Chausath Yogini Temple known as Mahamaya Temple
63	Jagmara	All ancient caves, structures and other monuments or remains situated on the Udaygiri and the Khandagiri hills except the temple of Parasnath on the top of the Khandagiri hill and also the temple in front of the Barabhuji and the Trisula Caves
64	Konarak	Ancient monuments of the Block Pagoda and the ruins and remains of all ancient edifices, images, structures, basements, pillars, carvings, walls, gateways etc.
65	Puri	Bridge of eighteen openings over the Madhupur stream known as Athara Nala Bridge
66	-do-	Shri Jagannath Temple and subsidiary shrines
67	Raghunathpur	Daksha Prajapati Temple
68	Sisupalgarh	Ancient remains inside and outside the rampart
Sambalpur District		
69	Vikramkhol	Vikramkhol rock inscriptions
Cuttack District		
70	Mahimamani Temple	Ragadi
Jajpur District		
71	Varahanath temple	Jajpur
72	Trilochaneswar Temple	

STATEMENT-II

S.No.	Name of the centrally protected monuments in Orissa	Expenditure during the last three years under Special Repairs & Maintenance		
		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
(Rupees in Lakhs)				
1.	Lord Jagannath Temple, Puri	1,19,85,828/-	31,18,640/-	60,60,997/-
2	Sun Temple, Konark	10,23,491/-	4,40,162/-	6,15,683/-
3	Excavated Monastray, Udayagiri	1,52,707/-	2,78,762/-	1,21,942/-
4	Excavated Monastery, Ratangiri	39,929/-	53,371/-	1,08,217/-
5	Excavated site Barabati Fort, Cuttack	1,71,413/-	87,182/-	1,81,827/-
6	Lord Lingaraj temple, Bhubaneswar	2,10,372/-	4,81,196/-	3,77,463/-
7	Khandagiri, Udayagiri caves, Jagmara	1,33,133/-	4,14,586/-	5,72,208/-
8	Ancient site, Haripurgarh	76,334/-	79,129/-	1,75,926/-
9	Excavated site, Lalitgiri	1,023/-	2,45,377/-	6,026/-
10	Singhanath temple, Gopinathpur	8,162/-	86,727/-	1,07,117/-
11	Group of temple Mahendragiri	-	59,773/-	69,910/-
12	Rock painting Sitabhanji	19,461/-	36,225/-	69,356/-
13	Group of temple, Jajpur	36,884/-	82,991/-	1,66,153/-
14	Bhaskareswar temple, Bhubaneswar	29,988/-	1,22,569/-	18,947/-
15	Mukteswara temple, Bhubaneswar	19,856/-	35,096/-	21,900/-
16	Rameswar temple, Bhubaneswar	22,857/-	55,434/-	33,490/-
17	Raja Rani Temple, Bhubaneswar	49,515/-	62,435/-	53,728/-

► [Translation]

Jhuggies in Gole Market, New Delhi

470 DR BALIRAM Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state

(a) the total numbers of Jhuggies situated in DIZ area Gole Market

(b) whether the Government propose to remove these jhuggies

(c) if so whether the Government have made alternate arrangements for the people living in these jhuggies

(d) if so the details of the sites

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and

(f) the time by which these jhuggies are likely to be removed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR U VENKATESWARLU) (a) The number of jhuggies in DIZ area is around 2700

Purchase of Fighter Planes by Pakistan

460 SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether Pakistan has purchased 40 Mirage fighter planes recently from France,

(b) if so, the details thereof and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government keeping in view the imbalance arising out of the purchase of Mirage fighter planes by Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I K GUJRAL) (a) and (b) It has been reported in the Pakistani press that Pakistan has bought 40 second-hand Mirage-III aircraft at a cost of \$ 120 million from the French company SAGEM, which will also overhaul and refurbish them

(c) Government monitors developments having a bearing on national security and take necessary steps to safeguard it

(b) to (f). Various possibilities w.r.t utilisation of land as per the land-use assigned to the plots in the Zonal Plan are being explored. In the process of redevelopment, eligible squatters will also be rehabilitated at the designated sites meant for such rehabilitation

[English]

Subsidiaries of South Eastern Coalfields Limited

471 SHRI K PRADHANI Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state

(a) the number of industries in Bilaspur division which have been accorded the status of the subsidiaries for supply of material to South Eastern Coalfields Limited alongwith the number out of them, in production at present,

(b) the amount spent annually by South Eastern Coalfields Limited for making purchases alongwith the value of order out of the same placed with the subsidiaries in Bilaspur.

(c) whether the South Eastern Coalfields Limited is making full use of the capacity of subsidiaries situated in Bilaspur, and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) (a) 93 Nos of industrial units of Bilaspur Division have been accorded ancillary status by South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. Out of them, 49 units are in active production at present

(b) The value of purchase by SECL during the year 1995-96 was around Rs 364 crores (Provisional) Out of this the value of orders placed on the ancillary industries was Rs 12.85 crores

(c) Yes, Sir

(d) (i) SECL has endeavoured that full capacity of its ancillary units are gainfully utilised. Ancillary units are also being encouraged to develop additional items so that they can be considered for granting ancillary status for these items which will enhance utilisation of their rated capacity

(ii) For making full use of the capacity of the ancillary units, various seminars, exhibitions and plant level Advisory Committee meetings are regularly organised which provide a forum for discussions of various problems and sorting them out

(iii) Entrepreneurs are also encouraged to develop one or more products for which SECL is providing them drawings, material composition and other technical service back up alongwith assured market

Lodging Arrangement for Haj Pilgrims

472. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether expenditure on lodging and boarding arrangement for Haj pilgrims in the country as well as in Makkah is borne by the Government,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of officials/non officials who are entitled to occupy such arrangement on the Government expenses,

(d) whether there is ceiling on such number

(e) if so, the details thereof, and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) (a) and (b) No Sir Government of India does not incur any expenditure for boarding or lodging of Haj Pilgrims in Makkah. According to Saudi Government regulations, all the Haj pilgrims are required to have their accommodation arranged prior to their arrival under the Reserved Accommodation Scheme (RAS) With the assistance of CGI, Jeddah, the Central Haj Committee (CHC) undertakes booking of accommodation units in Makkah and Madina for the Indian pilgrims who go for Haj under the arrangements made by the CHC. The pilgrims pay for their accommodation and also spend on boarding from their own resources

While in transit at the embarkation points in India before going on Haj, many pilgrims avail of the transit facilities organised by individuals and the State Haj Committee

(c) to (f) Government of India does not sponsor any official/non-official for Haj at its expenses. However, for the assistance of the Indian pilgrims in Saudi Arabia, the Government sends administrative and medical staff on short duration temporary duty. For Haj-1996, when more than 30,000 pilgrims proceeded for Haj under the arrangements made through the Haj Committee, an administrative contingent of 100 Haj Assistants and Assistant Haj Officers, 100 doctors and 100 para-medics was deputed to Saudi Arabia. While there is no ceiling on the number of the administrative/medical staff, the strength of the contingent is decided by the Government on the basis of perceived needs and requirements. The administrative and medical staff are provided air passage, camp-like lodging in Saudi Arabia and are paid foreign allowance as admissible

In addition, a Haj Goodwill Delegation consisting of Eminent persons from different walks of life is

sent of Saudi Arabia, in order to interact with Saudi officials, and similar delegations from other countries. The Delegation observes the arrangements for the pilgrims and submits an independent report to Government on its return. The Goodwill Delegation for Hajj 1996 consisted of 14 members and was led by the Ambassador of India in Riyadh. The members of the delegation are provided air passage, hotel accommodation, local transport and daily allowance as admissible.

Child Malnutrition

473. SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that child malnutrition is highest in India;

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

(c) the proportion of the malnutrition of child in India aged below five years on percentage basis comparing the same with other developing countries particularly in Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Ceylon and Pakistan; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to reduce and ultimately eliminate cases of malnutrition in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S R BOMMAI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware that the child malnutrition is still quite high in India but not the highest. There has, however, been a significant decline in moderate and severe malnutrition among children during the last two decades.

(b) The severe (Grade III) malnutrition has declined from 15% to 8.7% and moderate (Grade II) malnutrition from 47.5% to 43.8% during the period 1975 to 1990. Further, using mean -2 SD (Standard Deviation) NCHS (National Centre for Health Statistics) standard as the cut-off level, the percentage of underweight (weight/age) children has declined from 68.6% in 1988-90 to 53.4% in 1992-93.

Malnutrition is an outcome of complex and inter-related set of factors. The major determinants of malnutrition are low purchasing power leading to poor dietary intakes, ignorance due to low literacy particularly among females leading to poor feeding practices, poor personal hygiene and unhealthy environments leading to high prevalence of childhood infections like diarrhoea, gastroenteritis which aggravate the already malnourished state of child by interfering with nutrients absorption and their retention.

(c) According to the UNICEF publication 'The Progress of Nations, 1996', the percentage of children below five years suffering from malnutrition in India and other developing countries is as under :

India	53%
Nepal	49%
Bhutan	38%
Bangladesh	67%
Ceylon (Sri Lanka)	38%
Pakistan	40%

(d) The Government is seized of the problem and has been implementing a number of nutrition and nutrition related interventions through its different sectors with a view to ensure that the people, particularly the children and women do not suffer from malnutrition. The notable interventions include the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Nutrition Education Activities, Child Survival and Safe Motherhood (CSSM) Programme etc. The adoption of the National Nutrition Policy in 1993 and implementation of the multi-sectoral strategy utilising the framework of the National Plan of Action of Nutrition, 1995 is another major step in this direction.

Hindi and Urdu Universities

474. SHRI T. GOPALKRISHNA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Hindi and Urdu universities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these universities are likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main objectives of Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya would be the promotion and development of Hindi language and literature, through teaching and research, with a view to enabling Hindi to achieve greater functional efficiency and recognition as a major international language. It is proposed to be set up at Wardha. The Maulana Azad National Urdu University is proposed to be set up at Hyderabad mainly to promote and develop Urdu language and to impart vocational and technical education in Urdu medium through conventional teaching and distance education system.

(c) Two Bills to establish and incorporate these Universities have already been introduced in the Rajya Sabha on August 24, 1995.

[Translation]

Safety Equipments in Coal Mines of Bihar

475. SHRI RADHAMOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether safety equipments are installed in all coal mines of Bihar to help the workers at the time of any accident;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of coal mines where safety equipments have not been installed, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b). Safety equipment such as main mechanical ventilator, winders in shafts fitted with protective devices, flame proof/intrinsically safe electricals etc., as required under the Coal Mines Regulations, 1957 have been installed in all the working coal mines of Coal India Limited (CIL) in Bihar.

(c) Does not arise.

Permanent Membership of UN Security Council

476 PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India had made efforts at different levels to get a permanent seat in the UN Security Council.

(b) if so, the details thereof and the outcome therefrom; and

(c) the future role of India in regard to the expansion of UN Security Council's permanent membership being a major non-aligned country?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b). India had expressed her willingness to serve as a permanent member of the UN Security Council in the 49th Session of UN General Assembly in 1994. This was reiterated in the 50th Session of UN General Assembly in 1995. Sustained efforts to promote India's candidature have been made bilaterally and in multilateral meetings. These efforts continue. However, there is

as yet no consensus at the UN on the expansion of the Security Council.

(c) The Non-Aligned Movement Summit held at Cartagena, Colombia in October 1995 adopted a declaration that the Non-Aligned countries should work towards increasing the representation of developing countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean in the Security Council. India has also adopted this approach in the discussions in the Open Ended Working Group of the UN General Assembly on the "Question of Equitable Representation on and increase in the Membership of Security Council".

Pending Irrigation Schemes

477. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR :
SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :
SHRI VEERENDRA KUMAR SINGH :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of irrigation projects/schemes in the country are pending with the Union Government for clearance;

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

(c) the steps taken by Government to expedite clearance of these pending irrigation projects/schemes; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be cleared particularly in Bihar and Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b). A *Statement* giving State-wise details of new Major and Medium Irrigation Projects pending clearance is enclosed.

(c) The Central Water Commission is holding quarterly review meetings with State Government Officials for early clearance of projects. It has also set up Field Units at different places in the country for assisting the States in expeditious appraisal of the projects.

(d) Though there is prescribed limit for appraisal of the projects, the clearance is delayed due to the delay by the State Governments in complying with the observations of various Central Appraising Agencies.

STATEMENT

Details of New Major & Medium Irrigation Projects Pending Clearance :

		<i>Status of Appraisal</i>							
S.No.	State/ Union Territory	Projects with the Planning Commission for Investment Clearance (Nos.)		Projects found acceptable by the Advisory Committee subject to certain observations such as obtaining environmental & forest clearance etc (Nos.)		Projects techno- economically examined by the Central Water Commission and compliance of deferred by Advisory Committee due to non-resolution of inter-State issues or non-clearance from environmental/ Forest angles etc (Nos.)		Projects on which State Government are required to sort out various techno- economic issues. consideration (Nos.)	
		Major	Medium	Major	Medium	Major	Medium	Major	Medium
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	-	6	2	-	-	1	-
2	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	Assam	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
4	Bihar	-	-	2	1	-	-	2	-
5	Gujarat	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	9
6	Haryana	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
7	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
8	Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	4
9	Karnataka	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
10	Kerala	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
11.	Madhya Pradesh	-	-	9	-	1	-	1	3
12	Maharashtra	-	-	9	13	1	-	4	8
13	Manipur	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
14	Orissa	-	-	1	2	-	-	2	1
15	Punjab	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	1
16	Rajasthan	-	1	2	3	-	-	-	4
17	Tamil Nadu	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
18	Uttar Pradesh	-	-	7	-	-	-	4	-
19	West Bengal	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
20	Nagaland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total		-	1	44	23	2	-	23	34

[English]

Expansion of Vishwabharti

478 SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether Vishwabharti (Shanti Niketan) has submitted any proposal for its expansion,

development and other programmes in recent past (1990 to 1995); and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) and (b). Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan has submitted a proposal for establishment of

'VISVASIA', a Centre for the study of Asian Civilisations during January, 1996. As the proposal, as such, has not spelt out the financial implications, Visva-Bharati has been advised to obtain services of some outside agency for preparation of the project report and to work out financial implications involved to enable the Government to take further action in the matter.

Mess in C.C.B.

479. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA :

SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M KANODIA

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the mess in the Cricket Control Board of India regarding the ongoing bickering in the Indian Cricket Team currently on tour to England and resulting to humiliation of certain players.

(b) if so, the steps being taken to avoid future humiliation of the players.

(c) whether the Government propose to take any action against the concerned officials/persons involved in the matter; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN R) : (a) to (d) There is no mess in the Board of Control for Cricket in India nor is there any bickering in the Indian Cricket Team on its tour to England. The matter of retirement of Shri Navjot Singh Sidhu and his return mid-way from the England tour is proposed to be enquired into by the Board of Control for Cricket in India after the Indian Cricket team returns from their current tour to UK and Holland.

Voting Right for Indians in Indian Enclaves in Bangladesh

480. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether the matter in respect of allowing Indian citizens, living in Indian Enclaves in Bangladesh to cast their votes is pending with the Government

(b) if so since when and the details thereof.

(c) whether the Government have taken/propose to take any decision in this regard.

(d) if so the details thereof and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (e). There are 119 exchangeable enclaves in Bangladesh and 72 Bangladesh enclaves in India. As stipulated under the Indo-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement, 1974, the enclaves are to be exchanged between India and Bangladesh, without and claim of compensation. Neither side has been able to exercise control over its enclaves which are located in the other country. Exchange of enclaves has legal and constitutional implication which is linked with other outstanding issues pertaining to the 1974 Agreement such as transfer of adverse possessions, demarcation of boundary and ratification of the Agreement. This is under consideration of the relevant departments of Government of India. The related issue of citizenship of the inhabitants of the enclaves has also to be decided. According to legal advice available to Government the first step which has to be taken is completion of the demarcation of the boundary and this has to be done with cooperation of State Governments concerned. The fact is that Government have no administrative control or access to these enclaves lying within Bangladesh and hence extension of voting rights to the inhabitants has not been possible. Government have also no reliable figures of population in these enclaves.

[Translation]

Female Mortality Rate

481. KUMARI UMA BHARTI
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether female mortality rate in the country is much higher as compared with male mortality rate.

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted in this regard.

(c) if so, the outcome thereof.

(d) the comparative figures of male and female mortality rate in the country, and

(e) the measures being taken to minimise the mortality rate and the comparative gap?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S R BOMMALI) : (a) No. Sir

(b) and (c) Do not arise

(d) According to Sample Registration System (SRS) estimates, (Registrar General of India) 1993 female mortality rate (annual per thousand population) in the country is 9.1 as compared to male mortality rate which is 9.5

(e) Government of India has taken a number of steps to improve health status of women. Primary

Health Centres and sub-centres have been expanded through-out the country. In order to reduce the maternal, infant and child mortality rates, the Child Survival and Safe Motherhood (CSSM) scheme was launched during the year 1992-93. Immunization Programme has been universalized in a phased manner. Integrated Child Development Programme launched during the year 1975-76 has also been universalised.

Construction of Dam Kharakpurna

482 SHRI G.M. KUNTURKAR. Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that a dam Kharakpurna by name is being constructed in Nanded district of Maharashtra

(b) whether the Government are also aware of the fact that a dam named "Purna" had been constructed beneath this new dam 20 years ago and Purna dam will lose its utility with the construction of new dam, and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to preserve the utility of the old dam Purna by withholding the construction of the new dam Kharakpurna?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) (a) It has been noted that the Government of Maharashtra (GOM) in their Annual Plan for 1995-96 had indicated an anticipated expenditure of Rs. 200 crores on Khadakpurna Project during 1994-95 even though the Working Group of the Planning Commission (WG) had not recommended any outlay for the project for 1994-95. An outlay of Rs. 200 crores was again proposed by GOM for the project for 1995-96, but the WG had not recommended any outlay for the project during the year. Annual Plan for 1996-97 has not been finalised.

(b) This Ministry is aware of the fact that Purna Project was completed in IV Plan. Detailed Project Report of Khadakpurna Project has not been received at the Centre and in its absence it is not possible to state whether it will have any adverse effect on existing Purna Project.

(c) The Central Water Commission while examining the proposal of a new project ensures that there are no adverse effects on existing projects.

Erosion by Ganga

483 SHRI SHATRUGHNA PRASAD SINGH. Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state

(a) whether the important Government undertakings like Barauni Oil Refinery, Fertilizer

Plant, Barauni and Barauni Junction are getting endangered because of large scale erosion caused by the Ganga water in the Madhurapur village of Begusarai district in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the prompt action proposed to be taken by the Government to check the erosion to protect those Government undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) (a) and (b) The erosion problem along left bank of Ganga at Madhurapur in Begusarai District in Bihar has been assessed by the State Government. After the floods of 1995, the State Government prepared a scheme for flood protection of Barauni-Begusarai Industrial Complex. This scheme was examined and approved by Ganga Flood Control Commission and the Technical Advisory Committee on Irrigation, Flood control and Multipurpose projects of Ministry of Water Resources for an amount of Rs. 623.96 lakh in January, 1996. Since planning, investigation and execution of flood control anti-erosion works is primarily the responsibility of the State Government, the Government of Bihar requested Planning Commission for release of additional Central plan assistance to implement the scheme. The Planning Commission has released an additional Central Plan assistance of Rs. 127.67 lakhs to the State Government in March, 1996 for taking up priority works in the area.

[English]

Promotion of Yoga

484 SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT. Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) the details of the centrally sponsored schemes for promotion of Yoga in the country and the financial assistance provided under them to various NGOs in the country particularly in Maharashtra during the last three years institution-wise

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure the proper utilisation of the financial assistance provided to them, and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the guilty indulged in various types of irregularities at Kayvalya Dham Yoga Research Institute at Lonavala Distt. of Pune?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) (a) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Introduction of Yoga in Schools' was launched in April, 1989. Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided to the States/UTs as well as Yoga

Institutes of repute for training of teachers in Yoga including TA/DA to teacher trainees, upgradation of library facilities and construction/ expansion of hostels for teacher trainees. In addition Yoga institutions of All India Character are also eligible for financial assistance for maintenance as well as development expenditure for promotion of basic research and/ or for teacher training programmes in various aspects of Yoga other than the therapeutical aspects. Details regarding financial assistance provided under this scheme to various NGOs including those in Maharashtra during the last three years, Institution-wise, is given in the *Statement* enclosed.

(b) A proposal from any NGO is entertained only if it is duly recommended by the State Government and the necessary commitment, to depute teachers for the training programmes proposed to be conducted by the NGO, is given by the State Government. A second grant to the same Institution is sanctioned only after receipt of proper Utilisation Certificate in respect of the previous grant.

(c) To look into the functioning of the Institute a joint assessment team of the Central and the State Government of Maharashtra, visited the Institute on 26-27 April, 1996. The administrative discrepancies and procedural lapses noticed have been brought to the notice of the Institute for rectification in a time-bound manner.

STATEMENT

S.No.	Name of the institution	Rs. in lakhs PLAN		
		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1.	The Yoga Institute, Santacruz, Bombay Maharashtra	7.66	-	-
2.	Shree Hanuman Vyayam Prasarak Mandal, Amravati, Maharashtra	-	3.70	-
3.	Arogaya Sewa Mandal Mukhed, Nanded, Maharashtra	-	0.98	-
4.	Yoga Vidyadham, Dhule, Maharashtra	-	3.70	2.50
5.	Kaivalyadhama SMYM Samiti, Lonavla, Pune, Maharashtra	29.08 (NP) 5.00	32.67 (NP) 5.00	20.00 (NP)
6.	Yoga Shiksha Sansthan, Orail, Uttar Pradesh	3.70	-	-
7.	Ramakrishna Institute of Moral and Spiritual Education, Mysore	1.41	1.50	0.79
8.	Bapu Nature Cure Hospital and Yogashram, Delhi	5.90	2.50	-
9.	Yoga Training Institute, Lakhisarai, Mungher, Bihar	-	1.08	-
10.	Swami Sahajanand Samajik Vikas Avam Sodh Sansthan, Patna	-	1.08	-
11.	India Rehabilitation Association, Rajender Nagar, Patna	-	1.08	-
12.	Ramesh Prasad Yadav Yoga Sansthan, Hazaribagh, Patna	-	1.08	-
13.	Baudh Samaj, Nechua Jalalpur, Gopalganj, Bihar	-	0.90	-
14.	Mod Galyayan Yoga Institute, Patna	-	0.95	-
15.	Indian Institute of Yoga, Patna, Bihar	-	-	2.76
16.	Hanumat Inter College, Dhammour, Sultanpur, Uttar Pradesh.	-	-	3.00

** (NP) - Non-Plan

Indians in Pak Jails

485. SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Indians imprisoned in Pakistani jails;

(b) the number out of them who have been convicted of some offences and the number of them who are languishing there without any trial for more than a year; and

(c) the steps taken to secure due trial and justice to them?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) According to available information, at present there are 1249 Indian civilian prisoners, fishermen and crew members of cargo vessels in the custody of Pakistan.

(b) Pakistan does not provide information regarding these matters.

(c) The question of the early release and repatriation of all Indian prisoners under detention in Pakistan has been repeatedly taken up with the Government of Pakistan. These efforts continue.

[Translation]

Scheme to Link Rivers

486. SHRI KACHRU BHAU RAUT:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme to link the rivers of the country with each other so that the country may not have to face floods, droughts, loss of lives and property, is still under consideration of the Government; and

(b) if so, the time by which the Government propose to implement the said scheme and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir. National Perspective for Water Resources Development has been prepared by Government which envisages inter linkages between various peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers separately for transfer of water from water surplus basins to water starved basins for optimum utilisation of water Resources. Government has established National Water Development Agency (N.W.D.A.) in 1982 to prepare feasibility reports for the water transfer links. 36 water transfer links, 17 under Peninsular Component and 19 under Himalayan Component have been proposed.

(b) The studies carried out by the Agency for various water transfer links are sent to the concerned states, for their comments/ suggestions. These comments/ suggestions alongwith the clarifications thereon by the Agency are discussed in the Technical Advisory Committee of the National Water Development Agency. The link projects can be considered for implementation after necessary agreements are reached amongst concerned States and therefore no time limit can be given.

Drainage System

487. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the drainage system of Fatehpur, Banda, Allahabad district of Uttar Pradesh has been technically cleared by the Chief Engineer of Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam and Jal Sansthan;

(b) if so, the total funds spent on the said work so far and the time by which the work is likely to be completed;

(c) the funds made available during current financial year;

(d) whether the Government are considering to conduct an enquiry into the works done by the Superintending Engineer; and

(e) if so, the time by which the enquiry is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) No drainage system of Fatehpur, Banda and Allahabad District has been technically approved by Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam. Also Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam does not prepare & technically approve the drainage system schemes for the Districts.

(b) to (e). Do not arise.

[English]

National Library

488. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any projects for the expansion of National Library in Calcutta are pending with the Government; and

(b) if so, the time by which those will be cleared and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Pakistan Sponsored Terrorism

489. SHRI JAG MOHAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether leaders of the Group of Seven and Russia have approved in the last week of June, 1996 a 40-point Plan to fight crime and terrorism;

(b) whether Government propose to invite the attention of these leaders to Pakistan-sponsored terrorism in the State of Jammu and Kashmir and suggest to them to put pressure on Pakistan to end its sponsorship of terrorism in Kashmir; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The attention of the Leaders of Group of Seven and Russia has been drawn at various levels during bilateral talks as well as at international fora, to Pakistan sponsored terrorism in the State of Jammu & Kashmir. This is an issue which is regularly discussed with the G-7 Governments in the course of diplomatic interaction.

Visa to Pak Nationals

490. DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to issue maximum number of visas to Pak nationals to visit India;

- (b) whether this is to be on reciprocal basis;
 (c) if so, the details thereof; and
 (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (d). In pursuance of our policy of encouraging people-to-people contact between India and Pakistan Government have decided, notwithstanding the constraints imposed by limitations of staff at our Mission in Islamabad, to substantially increase the number of visas issued to Pakistani nationals desiring to visit India.

Enhanced people-to-people contact would promote understanding between the two countries.

Report on World Population and Women in India

491. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has since been drawn to the recent UN report on the world population and UNICEF report on the women in India;

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

(c) the steps taken to ameliorate the deplorable conditions of the Indian women?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) Government is aware of the Report on "The State of World Population", 1996 brought out by United Nations Population Fund.

(b) and (c). Government has taken note of the Report which gives a global overview of the rise in population particularly in urban areas, difficulties in providing adequate infrastructure, urban poverty, development of women, investment in health and education etc.

The Government is implementing a large number of women-specific programmes for their advancement which, inter-alia, focus on better opportunities for their education and health-care as well as on greater opportunities for economic empowerment through formation of self-help groups of women and through convergence of various state-sponsored schemes and programmes at the grass-root level.

Sainik Schools

492. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item published in the 'Pioneer'

dated June 29, 1996 under the caption "Sainik Schools hold no hope for soldiers"; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

STATEMENT

The caption "Sainik Schools hold no hope for soldiers" given to the news item published in "The Pioneer" dated June 29, 1996, is misleading. There is no proposal to abandon the Sainik Schools by the Government.

2. The scheme to establish Sainik Schools was introduced in 1961. The aim of the Sainik Schools is to prepare boys academically, physically and mentally for entry into the National Defence Academy. The other objectives include removal of regional and social imbalances in the officers cadre of Armed Forces and bringing Public School education within the reach of common man.

3. 4720 cadets from the 18 Sainik Schools established between 1961 to 1978 in 18 major States of the country have joined the National Defence Academy upto 1995. All students including those from Sainik Schools who have qualified 10+2 or equivalent examination are eligible for appearing for written examination for National Defence Academy conducted by UPSC. The average intake into NDA of Sainik Schools students out of a total of 660 admitted annually, for the last six years has been 63. The details of performance of Sainik Schools students in UPSC, NDA entrance examination, and at Services Selection Board vis-a-vis other eligible students is as under :-

	Sainik Schools	All other Schools
(a) Average pass percentage at UPSC, NDA Entrance Examination	36	09
(b) SSB Qualifiers at first attempt	08	02

These figures will show that Sainik Schools are providing their share of cadets to NDA

4. A proposal has been made for transfer of Sainik Schools to Ministry of Human Resource Development which in conformity with the recommendation of the Standing Committee of Parliament on Defence (1994-95), 10th Lok Sabha, that education is not an essential activity for the

Ministry of Defence and the Sainik Schools can be appropriately looked after by the MHRD. No list of problems has been forwarded to this ministry by Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Sardar Sarovar Project

493. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any meeting of the Chief Ministers of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan was held during the recent past to resolve the deadlock on the Sardar Sarovar Project,

(b) if so, the details of matters discussed therein, and

(c) the outcome of the above meeting?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. A meeting of the Chief Ministers of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of Water Resources was held on 5.7.1996 at New Delhi wherein the issues relating to the height of Sardar Sarovar Dam, Construction programme for 1996-97 and procurement of Turbo-Generator sets from Japan were discussed. As decided, a special meeting of Review Committee for Narmada Control Authority under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of Water Resources has been convened on 15-7-1996 followed by a meeting with the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

C.T.B.T.

494. SHRI G G SWELL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Conference on Disarmament centering round negotiations on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) was ended or adjourned,

(b) whether consensus on the draft was reached by nuclear weapon States and a majority of other countries;

(c) if so, the salient points of the draft;

(d) whether the USA has said that unless nuclear weapon threshold States like India sign the Treaty there might as well be no treaty at all, and

(e) whether the President of the US has written to our Government on the subject;

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) The Conference on Disarmament adjourned on 28 June and will resume its meetings on 29 July

(b) The Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee on CTBT negotiations presented a draft treaty text on

28 June and requested that the participating countries give their views when the session resumes on 29 July.

(c) A statement is enclosed.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Yes, Sir.

STATEMENT

The Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee on CTBT negotiations introduced a draft Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty in the Conference on Disarmament on June 28, 1996, the last day of the adjourned session. The CD is scheduled to resume on 29 July, 1996

The draft Text can be divided into four parts

- Part 1 covers Preamble, Basic Obligations, the Organisation, Technical Secretariat and National Implementation Measures (Articles I, II & III)
- Part 2 contains Treaty Language on Verification (Article IV).
- Part 3 covers Measures to Redress a Situation and to Ensure Compliance, including Sanctions, Settlement of Disputes, Signature, Ratification, Accession, Depositary, Status of the Protocol (s) and Annex (es), Authentic Texts and Amendments (Article V to XVII).
- Part 4 contains a Protocol describing the International Monitoring System

2 *Preamble* : The Preamble of the Treaty sets out the objectives and the context. At present, there are paragraphs in the Preamble relating to nuclear disarmament. However, there is no clear linkage with the objective of elimination of all nuclear weapons in a time bound framework

3 *Scope* : This Article defines the activities prohibited under the CTBT.

Each State Party undertakes not to carry out any Nuclear Weapon Test Explosion or any other Nuclear Explosion, and to prohibit and prevent any such Nuclear Explosion at any place under its jurisdiction or control.

Each State Party undertakes, further more to refrain from causing, encouraging, or in any way participating in the carrying out of any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion

We consider this scope to be inadequate as it leaves open the possibility of using non-explosive techniques for development and refinement of nuclear weapons.

4 *Organisation* : The CTBT Organisation will be established to achieve the objectives and purposes of the Treaty and ensure its effective implementation

The CTBTO will consist of a conference of States Parties which will meet on an annual basis; a 51 member Executive Council to monitor day to day implementation; and a Technical Secretariat to assist in the verification activity including the operation of the International Data Centre and the International Monitoring System. The CTBTO will be located in Vienna (Austria).

5. *Entry into force* : This provision states that the treaty shall enter into force 180 days after the date of deposit of instruments of ratification by all states listed in Annex 2 to this treaty, but in no case earlier than two years after its opening for signature. This provision also states that if the treaty has not entered into force three years after the date from the time the treaty opened for signature, there is a provision for a conference of the States Parties of those who have already deposited their instruments of ratification, to take place to decide by consensus what measures consistent with international law may be undertaken to accelerate the ratification process in order to facilitate the early entry into force of this treaty. Annex 2 is a list of 44 countries, including India. We have made it clear we are not bound by this provision.

6. *Withdrawal* : The CTBT provides for withdrawal by a State Party in exercise of supreme national interest.

7. *Review* : The Treaty provides for a review by the States Parties at a periodic interval of ten years. The Review Conference is expected to decide on the conduct of underground PNE's on the basis of consensus.

8. *Verification* : The verification regime will consist of an International Monitoring System based upon four international technology networks - seismic, Radionuclide, Hydroacoustic and Infrasonic monitoring networks. Monitoring stations are distributed globally to provide for requisite degree of assurance that the treaty is being observed and any violations can be detected. In addition, provisions for On site inspection have also been included in the Treaty

[Translation]

Arjuna Award

495 SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of players selected by the Government for giving the Arjun awards in 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(b) the number out of them awarded with the award, and

(c) the reasons for not giving the award to all the selected players?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN R.) : (a) Arjuna Award was given to 10 persons in 1993 and to 8 persons in 1994. For 1995 the awards have not been finalised.

(b) All the selected players were awarded.

(c) Does not arise.

Irrigation Potential

496. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the total irrigation water available in the country and the extent to which it is being utilized as on March 1996; and

(b) the details of increase in the irrigation potential during the last five years in Madhya Pradesh and the amount spent on it?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) The total utilisable water available in the country is about 1142 billion cubic metres. Out of this, 606 billion cubic metres of water is being utilised. Out of the available water for utilisation, irrigation potential of approximately 89.42 million hectares has been anticipated to be created in the country as on March 1996 and approximately 79.84 million hectares has been anticipated to be utilised

(b) Increase in irrigation potential and amount spent on it in the last five years in Madhya Pradesh are as follows :

Year	Increase in Irrigation Potential (Million hectares)	Amount spent (Rupees crores)
1991-92	0.132	392.36
1992-93	0.111	440.58
1993-94	0.086	449.98
1994-95	0.092	345.33
1995-96	0.104 (Target)	428.74 (Revised Estimate) (Outlay)

[English]

Passport Office in Cannanore

497. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any representation has been received for setting up a passport office in Cannanore district of Kerala;

(b) whether any study has been made to determine the number of application for passports and renewals from Cannanore, Kasaragod and Wayanad area of Kerala; and

(c) if so, the details of findings?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c). Yes Sir A study was conducted in 1994 to determine the district-wise distribution of passport applications from all states including the state of Kerala. The study did not reveal any imbalance in the location of the existing Passport Offices, Passport Offices are generally located in areas/ cities with maximum input of applications.

Water Supply Schemes in States

498 SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether his Ministry has been funding any water supply scheme in some States

(b) if so, the details of those centrally funded schemes.

(c) whether any such scheme is being implemented in Karnataka since Eighth Plan.

(d) if so, the funds sanctioned to Karnataka under those schemes in different years in the Eighth Plan, and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) (i) A Centrally sponsored Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) launched in 1993-94 provides for safe and adequate water supply facilities in towns having population less than 20,000 (as per 1991 census). It is funded by the Central and State Governments in the ratio of 50:50.

(ii) Mega City scheme provides for the central assistance for the development of infrastructure to large 5 metropolitan cities. The funding pattern under the scheme is 25% Central Government, 25% State Government and 50% institutional finance.

(c) to (e). Under AUWSP, 7 water supply schemes have been sanctioned during the Eighth Plan at a total cost of Rs. 438.90 lakhs and a total amount of Rs. 190.27 lakhs have been released towards central share. The towns covered under this scheme are Belur, Saligrama, Chittaguppa, Kuttur, Kerur, Mundargi and Sadalga.

Under the Mega City scheme, water supply projects amounting to Rs. 44.19 crores have been

approved by the State Level Sanctioning Committee in the year 1995-96 for Bangalore City. An amount of Rs. 35.28 crores has been released as Central share for all projects qualifying assistance under the Mega City Programme which includes water supply components.

Assistance to Writers & Artists

499. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are provisions for giving pension/financial assistance to celebrated but old and financially helpless writers and artists;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Under the Scheme of Financial Assistance to persons distinguished in letters, arts and such other walks of life who are in indigent circumstances, and their dependents are eligible for pension/financial assistance subject to the condition that the personal income of the applicant (including income of the spouse) must exceed Rs. 1,000/- per month and that the applicant should not be less than 58 years of age. (The age limit does not apply in case of dependents apart from other conditions of eligibility)

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Unauthorised Buildings in Cantonment Area

500 SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Directorate of Defence Estates under the Central Command have taken steps to demolish the unauthorised buildings constructed in 'A' Class cantonment area;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some officials of these cantonments under the said command are violating the Cantonment Act, 1924 in the process of demolishing such unauthorised buildings; and

(d) if so, the action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) and (b) There is no classification as 'A' Class Cantonments. The Central Command has 18 Class I Cantonments. In all these Cantonments steps to demolish unauthorised constructions are taken by the concerned statutory authorities in accordance with

Cantonment Acts & Rules. The Cantonment-wise details as on 30.9.95 are given in enclosed statement.

(c) No such instance of violation has come to the notice of the Government.

(d) In view of above, question does not arise.

STATEMENT

Removal of Unauthorised Constructions by Class-I Cantonment Boards in Central Command (30.9.95)

Cantonment Name	U/A Upto 30.9.95	Prosec 184	Notice 185	Notice 256	Appeal 274 CB	Appeal DDE	Court Case	Demolition Upto
Agra	2752	242	2752	2484	296	97	102	8
Allahabad	544	17	544	298	1	0	9	4
Babina	570	130	154	51	0	10	23	0
Bareilly	112	17	93	36	15	2	11	7
Danapur	183	58	93	14	5	11	48	10
Dehradun	207	205	207	75	0	2	4	0
Jabalpur	458	92	455	201	6	3	83	1
Jhansi	471	53	60	5	35	47	3	0
Kanpur	1984	1984	1984	1984	0	1	53	0
Lucknow	795	486	759	127	175	7	31	0
Meerut	4756	64	84	5	1155	214	155	0
Mhow	905	140	889	214	193	1	134	0
Morar	1359	635	1338	1338	0	0	621	40
Ramgarh	788	244	752	752	0	1	0	0
Ranikhet	45	7	45	15	2	1	0	0
Saugor	308	23	308	308	1	0	89	0
Shahjahanpur	30	10	30	5	0	0	8	0
Varanasi	188	46	188	93	29	17	13	0
Total	16455	4453	10735	7998	1913	414	1387	70

Erosion of Yamuna River Banks

501 SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the constant erosion on the banks of river Yamuna in Delhi for the last three years;

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check the erosion;

(c) whether financial assistance has been provided to Delhi Government to check the erosion on the banks of Yamuna during the said period;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the manner in which the said amount has been spent by the Delhi Government and the achievements made so far?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has taken up suitable anti-erosion works to check erosion of river embankment at appropriate locations.

(c) Flood control projects are formulated, executed and funded through the State Plans. Central assistance is provided to the States/Union Territories in the form of block loan and block grants and not tied to any specific project/programme or region.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Under the over-all Plan allocation made to Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, anti-erosion schemes amounting to Rupees 99.14 lakhs were implemented by the Delhi Government during the last three years.

During this period, anti-erosion works like construction of new studs, ballies screen, bed-bars and other restoration works were taken up.

Construction of Barrage

502. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has sent any proposal for construction of "Barrage" over river Yamuna at Agra for clearance; and

(b) if so, the time by which the construction work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b) The Project report on Agra Barrage Project was received in Central Water Commission from Uttar Pradesh State Irrigation Department in May, 1991 for examination of hydrological aspects in the first instance. The latest revised Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Agra Barrage Project (Uttar Pradesh) including updated cost estimate was received in Central Water Commission on 8.4.96. The Central Water Commission has further sent comments to the State Government for promptness with which State Government complies with the observations of Central Water Commission

Loss to Subsidiaries of Coal India Limited

503 SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI
PROF PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether many subsidiaries of Coal India Limited are continuously incurring loss for the past few years.

(b) if so, the names of those subsidiaries and the net loss incurred by each of the companies alongwith the total individual capital investment made by them by the end of March, 1996;

(c) the amount of debt out of the said total capital investment alongwith the interest being paid thereon;

(d) the measures being taken by the Government to prevent such loss;

(e) whether the Head Office of Coal India Limited is located in Calcutta whereas the maximum quantum of coal is available in Bihar;

(f) if so, whether the Government propose to shift the said Head Office from Calcutta to Bihar; and

(g) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b). Out of eight subsidiaries of Coal India Limited (CIL), only two subsidiaries namely Eastern Coalfields Limited

(ECL) and Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) have been continuously incurring losses for the past few years. Accumulated losses and capital investment of ECL and BCCL upto 31.3.1995 are given below :-

(Rs. in Crores)		
	ECL	BCCL
Accumulated loss upto 31.3.1995	1000.24	1293.03
Investment upto 31.3.1995	3010.88	3184.17

Accounts for the year 1995-96 is under audit.

(c) The amount of debt in the total investment of ECL and BCCL as on 31.3.1995 are Rs. 1962.37 crores and Rs. 2059.80 crores respectively. Interest charged for the year 1994-95 are Rs. 120.95 crores and Rs. 144.21 crores for ECL and BCCL respectively.

(d) Measures undertaken to prevent losses of ECL and BCCL are as follows :-

(i) Increase man-productivity and rationalisation of manpower.

(ii) Increase capacity utilisation.

(iii) Realisation of coal sales dues

(iv) Implementation of cash and carry system

(v) Capital restructuring.

(vi) Deregulation of coking coal and A,B,C grades of non-coking coal.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) and (g). There is no proposal to shift the Headquarters of CIL.

[English]

Handing over of Defence Lands in Mumbai to State Government

505. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have agreed to hand over the defence lands in Mumbai to the Government of Maharashtra on outright sale basis at the current market price of land;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Maharashtra has requested his Ministry several times during the last one year for issue of orders for transfer of defence land required for construction of the road, over-bridge etc. and;

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Defence have agreed in principle and offered 4 pieces of vacant lands admeasuring 0.0691 acres near the proposed over-bridge, 0.7461 acres falling under the same, 1.5 acres in the north of over-bridge and 2.33 acres located east of the railway line on payment of current market value. The State Government also accepted the offer of the land. But the State Government later on expressed their inability to adhere to conditions of the offer and has requested to transfer the lands as per changed alignment marked in the plan forwarded by them. This request has not been accepted on security grounds and the State Government has again been requested to convey the acceptance of offer of the land as per earlier agreed alignment for issue of Government sanction for transfer of the land.

[Translation]

Foreign Universities

506. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal to allow foreign universities to function in India is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (c). At present, there is no policy to regulate the functioning of foreign universities in the country. However, necessary guidelines for regulation or foreign educational institutions are being framed.

[English]

Nuclear Programme of Pakistan

507. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI PINAKI MISRA :

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA :

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :

SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to US Press reports during the first week

of April, 1996 regarding acquisition of materials and blue prints for building nuclear bombs by Pakistan from foreign sources;

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

(c) whether China is extending its help to Pakistan in the development of latter's nuclear programme;

(d) if so, whether Pakistan is carrying on its nuclear programme for the development of sophisticated nuclear weapons;

(e) if so, whether the Government have urged upon the Chinese Government to refrain themselves from such activities;

(f) if so, when and the reaction of Chinese Government thereto; and

(g) the steps the Government propose to take to defend the country?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir Government have been following reports on Pakistan's acquisition of 5,000 specialised ring magnets from China for use in gas centrifuges to enrich uranium for nuclear weapons. Government remains concerned about the clandestine nuclear weapons programme of Pakistan. Our views regarding supplies of critical nuclear technologies to Pakistan have also been conveyed to the concerned countries.

(f) The Chinese Government claims that such transfer amount only to legitimate "peaceful nuclear cooperation".

(g) Government of India is committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard its security and national interest in accordance with its own threat perceptions

[Translation]

Coal Permits

508. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the persons to whom coal permits were issued during the last three years alongwith the quantity and quality of the coal, State-wise;

(b) the details of rates of permit issued according to the quality of coal; and

(c) the rules laid-down to issue these permits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (c). There is no system of issue of coal permits and no such

permits have been issued during the last 3 years. There is also no VIP quotas for supply of coal.

For the grades for which the prices are notified by the Government of India, the sale by the coal companies is as per this notified price only. In other grades of coal the sales are in accordance with the prices as fixed by the coal companies themselves. Some sale of coal is also made under the Liberalised Sales Scheme as well for obtaining test bid prices by the coal companies by inviting open tenders.

Distribution of coal is done in accordance with the provisions of the Colliery Control Order for the grades which continue to be governed by it. The distribution of A,B,C, grades of non-coking coal and coking coal is being made in accordance with linkages established by the coal companies and also sponsorships given to the consumers by various Central and State sponsoring authorities.

The consumer-wise details of coal supplies during the last three years are not kept centrally at Coal India Limited and the collection of this data from a large number of collieries and the areas will take considerable time. It is felt that the time and effort required in collection and compilation of these details may not be commensurate with the purpose sought to be achieved.

Coal Mines in Meghalaya

509. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state

(a) whether coal mines are being mined in Meghalaya from which about 60 lakh tonnes of coal is being exported to Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the total revenue earnings therefrom;

(c) whether safety measures are being followed in these mines; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (d) In Meghalaya most of the coal mining is being done traditionally by tribals without observance of any provisions of mining laws. Coal India Ltd. is developing one mining in Simsong and all stipulations of mining laws and safety measures are being strictly observed. The coal produced in Meghalaya is to some extent consumed by the local people and the balance is either exported to Bangladesh or sold to up country consumers. Since the export of coal from Meghalaya is now decanalised, no details regarding the quantity of coal exported to Bangladesh or the revenue earnings therefrom, are available in the Ministry of Coal.

Production of Indigenous Defence Equipments

510. SHRI SOHAN BEER : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air Chief Marshall has emphasized recently, on the need to draw the attention of the Government and public towards the production of indigenous defence equipments, so that dependence on imported defence equipments could be reduced; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N. V. N. SOMU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A national mission has already been launched for enhancing self-reliance in Defence systems with a goal of increasing acquisition of weapons and defence systems of indigenous origin to the level of 70% of total annual defence acquisition by the year 2005.

Incidents of Firing on Borders

511. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT
SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state

(a) whether Pakistan has intensified military pressure on the Indian borders and increased incidents of firing on the Indian territory continuously;

(b) if so, the number of times Pakistani army resorted to firing on border areas and the loss of life and property caused therein during the last three years;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to give a befitting reply to the provocative actions of Pakistan;

(d) the number of soldiers killed in Jammu and Kashmir region while discharging their duties during the last three years; and

(e) the action taken by Government for the welfare of the families of the deceased soldiers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N. V. N. SOMU) : (a) Unprovoked firing across the Line of Control and International Border in J & K by Pakistani troops has been a recurring phenomenon over the years. However, during the current year there has been a marginal increase in firings by Pakistani troops.

(b) During the last three and half years (i.e. from 1993 upto June 96), Pakistani troops resorted to unprovoked firing across International Border/LOC in J&K on 8667 occasions in which our troops and civilians suffered some casualties.

(c) A befitting reply is given by Indian troops in all incidents of firing. However, our response is always specific, for effect and in a graduated manner to ensure that incidents remain localised and there is no escalation.

(d) 48 Army soldiers were killed while discharging their duties on LOC/International Border in J&K.

STATEMENT

Benefits provided to the next of kin/victims of Army/BSF personnel killed/injured in the incidents of firing on Indo-Pak border as also counter insurgency operations are as under :-

Army

The victims/next of kin of those Army personnel injured/killed due to firing at the border or in counter insurgency operations are entitled to liberalised pensionary award as also various other benefits including claims under Army Group Insurance Scheme, compassionate employment etc. Some State Governments also extend some benefits to the next of kin of those killed in operations.

BSF

In the case of BSF personnel killed on border due to firing from Pakistan, apart from ex-gratia payment of Rs. 2,00,000/- from the Central Government, certain other benefits are also extended to the next of kin of those killed in action.

[English]

Rain Water Management

512. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rain water in the country is getting wasted and the Government have not any technology to store it;

(b) if so, whether there is imperative need for better rain water management and development of new technology; and

(c) if so, the plans of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Full utilisation of rain water is not possible due to evaporation and vegetative (transpiration) losses and due to allowing certain amount of water to flow in the river for maintaining the river regime. However, through large and small dams and reservoirs, storage can be

created on the river systems to store a limited quantity of rain water. Out of a total available utilisable water of 1142 billion cubic metres in the country, the present (1994) utilisation of water (surface and ground) is about 606 billion cubic metres i.e. 53% leaving 536 billion cubic metres of utilisable water as unutilised.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In the Five Year Plans emphasis was placed on creation of storages across rivers in order to utilise the rain water for irrigation and other purposes, as a result of which the total live storage capacity of the country is at present about 193.2 billion cubic metres. Dams to create additional live storage capacity of 77 billion cubic metres are under various stages of construction. In addition, about 130 billion cubic metres storage is likely to be added through major and medium schemes under consideration.

The National Water Development Agency is carrying out studies on the National Perspective Plan for water resources development which, inter-alia, envisages transferring water from surplus to water-short basins by inter-linking of rivers and constructing reservoirs at potential sites. It is estimated that another 220 billion cubic metres of water will be available under National Perspective Plan for use through inter-basin transfers.

[Translation]

Counter Magnet City Scheme

513. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount earmarked by the Government during Eighth Plan period under Counter Magnet City Scheme and the manner in which it will be implemented; and

(b) the amount allocated to various selected cities separately in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) In the context of the National Capital Region, an amount of Rs. 100 crores has been allocated for the development of Counter Magnet towns around Delhi during the VIII Plan period. As per policy guidelines for the Scheme, the Project Sanctioning and Monitoring Group of the National Capital Region Planning Board considers release of matching assistance based on proposals from the State Governments of Haryana (Hissar), Punjab (Patiala), Madhya Pradesh (Gwalior), Rajasthan (Kota) and

Uttar Pradesh (Bareilly). The State Government are required to take the following actions before seeking central assistance :

- (a) Finalisation of the development plan for Counter Magnet town;
- (b) Constitution of Project Sanctioning Committee at the town level;
- (c) Preparation of Annual Action Plan; and
- (d) Allocation by the State Govt. of its matching share in the Development Fund for the Counter-Magnet area.

(b) : Each of the selected Counter-Magnet cities (Hissar, Patiala, Gwalior, Kota and Bareilly) has been allocated a sum of Rs. 20 crores during the 8th Plan.

[English]

Special Dispensation Admissions in KVs

514. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether special dispensation admissions in Kendriya Vidyalayas have now been discontinued; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) and (b). On a writ petition filed in the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi, the Court has directed that no Special Dispensation admissions shall be made until the matter is finally disposed off.

DPEP in Assam

515 DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) the names of the districts in Assam where District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) has been in operation;

(b) whether the Government propose to include the other districts, of the State in that programme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (c). Presently, four districts of Assam, namely, Darrang, Dhubri, Morigaon and Karbi Anglong are covered under the District Primary Education Programme (DPEP). The Government of Assam has proposed expansion of DPEP to give additional districts, namely, Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Goelpara, Kokrajhar and Sonitpur.

Short Supply of Coal

516. SHRI KASHI RAM RANA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is short supply of coal to SSI units and other industrial units of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Coal India Limited for privatisation of transportation of coal by road in view of the shortage of railway wagons;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the decision taken by the union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b). According to the information received from Coal India Limited, they have not received any specific information about coal shortage from the SSI industrial Units in Gujarat.

However, as a result of a higher priority given for supply of coal to the power sector, and as a result of a sharp increase in the demand of coal from this sector, supplies of coal to the industrial consumers has been affected. The total supplies to consumers other than the power sector, including industrial and SSI units in Gujarat was 32.16 lakh tonnes in 1994-95 which has gone down to 25.76 lakh tonnes in 1995-96. The total despatch to all the consumers including that of the power sector in Gujarat has, however, increased to 151.60 lakh tonnes as against the despatches of 151.04 lakh tonnes in 1994-95.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Coal Stock-Yards in Orissa

517. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the locations in Orissa where coal stock-yards have been established;

(b) the criteria fixed for establishing coal stock-yards; and

(c) the details of new stock-yards proposed to be opened in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) According to Coal India Limited (CIL), they are not presently operating any stockyard in Orissa. Earlier, they had operated stockyards at Rourkela, Sambalpur, Jagatpur and Bhadrak. While no fresh input of coal is being given, residual stock at Jagatpur and Bhadrak is being liquidated.

(b) and (c). Under the current stockyard policy, the responsibility for setting up an managing new stockyards rests with the respective State Governments. Coal Companies will offer coal for despatch to these stockyards in accordance with the sponsorships provided by the State Governments. It is for the State Governments to assess the need for coal stockyards, set them up and sponsor movement of coal.

Operation Black Board Scheme

518. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :
SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA :
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :
SHRI LALIT ORAON :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) the funds sanctioned and allocated during the Eighth Plan under the centrally sponsored 'Operation Black Board' programme, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have reviewed the implementation of this centrally sponsored programme;

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

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to make the scheme more effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) A statement giving details of funds released to State Govts/UT Admns. under Operation Black Board Scheme during 8th Five Year Plan is enclosed

(b) and (c) The implementation of the programme is reviewed at different levels both in the Govt of India and the State Governments. In addition, the programme has been evaluated by external agencies which include National Council for Education Research & Training, National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad, and G B. Pant Social Science Institute, Allahabad. These evaluations have been carried out in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Tamilnadu and Uttar Pradesh. According to the evaluation reports, the implementation of the Operation Black Board Scheme has been satisfactory. However the pace of construction of school buildings and utilisation of teaching learning material in some States needs improvement.

(d) The Government has taken steps to improve effectiveness of the programme which include decentralisation of system of purchase of teaching learning equipment, grant of flexibility to States in selection of appropriate teaching learning materials

and special training of primary school teachers to ensure optimum utilisation of teaching learning materials purchased under the scheme.

STATEMENT

Details of the funds released to State Govts/UT Admns. During 8th Plan (As on 12.7.1996) under Operation Black Board Scheme

(Rs. in lakhs)

SNo.	State	Funds Released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7265.95
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	315.07
3.	Assam	6937.14
4.	Bihar	11625.62
5.	Goa	131.79
6.	Gujarat	2928.51
7.	Haryana	193.22
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1689.67
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2678.89
10.	Karnataka	9176.49
11.	Kerala	767.43
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1785.27
13.	Maharashtra	18701.26
14.	Manipur	34.81
15.	Meghalaya	1699.97
16.	Mizoram	82.52
17.	Nagaland	5293.22
18.	Orissa	9008.29
19.	Punjab	541.20
20.	Rajasthan	6957.73
21.	Sikkim	-
22.	Tamilnadu	645.61
23.	Tripura	93.45
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1864.35
25.	West Bengal	3241.30
26.	A&N Islands	-
27.	Chandigarh	-
28.	D&N Haveli	3.66
29.	Daman & Diu	-
30.	Delhi	76.44
31.	Lakshadweep	-
32.	Pondicherry	24.90

Use of Computer in Indian Languages

519. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY . Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the projects being prepared by language institutions for possible use of computer in Indian languages; and

(b) the places where research work is being undertaken on Language, Science and Technical subjects by linguists and computer experts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) and (b). Information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

**Coal available with Central India
Coal Mines**

520 SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state

(a) the various grades of coal available with the Central India Coal Mines of the Western Coal Fields Limited,

(b) the rates thereof,

(c) the grades of coal which are preferred by coal based power plants, and

(d) the availability position of these grades of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) (a) and (b) As per information furnished by Coal India Limited, details of different categories of coal available in Western Coalfields Limited and their present selling price are as under :

Grade of coal	Present Selling price of ROM coal including levies & taxes (Rs /T)
Medium Coking	785 00
➤ Non-Coking	
A	1016 00 (Steam)
B	940 00
C	855 00
D	644 00
E	486 00
F	405 00

(c) Power plants generally consume lower grades of coal suiting to the combustion technology of their boilers

(d) The projected availability of the 'D', 'E' & 'F' grades of coal for the year 1996-97 are as under :

Grade	Production Programme 1996-97 (M T)
D	13.69
E	4.54
F	1.15

**Command Area Development
Programme**

521. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO
DR KRUPASINDHU BHOI :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the features of the Centrally sponsored Command Area Development Programme,

(b) the details of irrigation projects taken up under the programme and the estimate of irrigation potential expected to be developed out of them and

(c) the progress achieved under these programmes during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) (a) The Command Area Development Programme was initiated in 1974-75 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with the objective of ensuring efficient utilisation of created irrigation potential for optimum agricultural production from irrigated lands. The activities covered under the CAD Programme are

(1) On-farm development works

(a) Development of field channels and field drains within the command of each outlet

(b) Land levelling, on an outlet command basis

(c) Realignment of field boundaries wherever necessary (where possible consolidation of holdings should also be combined)

(d) Enforcement of a proper system of "Warabandi" and fair distribution of water to individual fields

(e) Supply of all inputs and services including credit, and

(f) Strengthening of extension services

(2) Selection and introduction of suitable cropping patterns

(3) Development of ground water to supplement surface irrigation

(4) Development and maintenance of the main and intermediate drainage system

(5) Modernisation, maintenance and efficient operation of the irrigation system upto the outlet of one cusec capacity

(b) At present, the programme includes 197 projects with Culturable Command Area (CCA) of

21.57 million hectare and Ultimate Irrigation Potential (UIP) of 21.08 million hectare spread over 22 States and 2 Union Territories. A statement indicating details of the projects covered under the programme and showing the Ultimate Irrigation Potential expected to be developed out of each project is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) The physical progress achieved during the last five years, 1990-91 to 1994-95 for the On-farm development activities under the Command Area

Development Programme are as follows :-

Activity	Achievement During 1990-91 to 1994-95
	(in Lakh Ha)
Construction of Field Channels	20.68
Land Levelling & Land Shaping	1.49
Warabandi (Rotational Water Supply)	28.15
Construction of Field Drains	2.90

STATEMENT

State	State/Projects	Name of River	Br of inclusion	C.U.A. 000 ha.	U.I.P. 000 ha
1	2	3	4	5	6
I. Andhra Pradesh	1. a-Nagarjunasagar Left Bank Canal	Krishna	1974-75	420.00	420.00
	2. Talliperu	Taliperu	1985-86	9.80	15.00
	3. Peddavagu	Peddavagu	1983-84	6.40	6.40
	1. b-Nagarjunasagar Right Bank Canal	Krishna	1974-75	475.00	475.00
	4. Gandhipalam	Pillaperu	1985-86	6.48	6.48
	5. Sriramsagar	Godavari	1974-75	411.00	411.00
	6. Satnala	Sathnala	1985-86	7.70	7.70
	7. Swarna	Swarna	1983-84	3.62	3.62
	8. Srisaillam RBC	Krishna	1995-96	76.89	76.89
	Total			1446.89	1422.09
II. Arunachal Pradesh	9. Chowkham Minor Irrgn. project	Local Stream	1993-94	0.95	0.95
		Total		0.95	0.95
III. Assam	10. Jamuna	Jamuna	1974-75	25.40	28.50
	11. Kaliabor	Kaliabor	1983-84	9.70	13.76
	12. Sukla	Sukla	1983-84	17.20	23.64
	13. Kaldiya	Kaldiya	1992-93	9.83	16.50
	14. Dakadong	Dakadong	1992-93	4.94	6.05
	15. Birdi Karai	Birdi Karai	1992-93	16.99	25.53
	16. Kallong and Sonai River Basin		1995-96	21.45	21.45
		Total		105.51	135.43
IV Bihar	17. Gandak	Gandak	1974-75	960.00	1151.00
	18. Badua	Badua	1974-75	42.44	42.51
	19. Chandan	Chandan	1974-75	63.94	62.75
	20. Kiul	Kiul	1974-75	22.26	22.26
	21. Kosi	Kosi	1974-75	440.00	434.00
	22. Sone	Sone	1974-75	865.00	583.40
	23. North Koel	North Koel	1991-92	123.00	129.00
		Total		2516.64	2424.92

1	2	3	4	5	6	
V. G O A	24.	Salauli	Sanguem	1979-80	14.37	21.24
	25.	Anjunam	Gululeli Nala	1985-86	2.0	4.63
	Total				18.47	25.87
VI. Gujarat	26.	Mahi-Kadana	Mahi	1974-75	200.00	274.49
	27.	Panam	Panam	1983-84	41.12	49.37
	28.	Karad RBC	Goma	1985-86	6.19	4.54
	29.	Jojwa-Madhwana	Orsang	1985-86	8.80	8.80
	30.	Patadungri		1985-86	5.87	4.56
	31.	Heran	Heran	1985-86	3.41	3.41
	32.	Wankleshwar	Trib of Panam	1985-86	2.26	1.70
	33.	Umaria	Trib of Panam	1985-86	2.08	2.38
	34.	Deo	Deo	1985-86	7.20	10.16
	35.	Ukai Kakrapar	Tapi	1974-75	348.00	380.91
	36.	Daman Ganga	Daman Ganga	1983-84	44.38	56.23
	37.	Karjan	Karjan	1985-86	56.20	77.85
	38.	Shetrunji	Shetrunji	1974-75	29.70	34.80
	39.	Bhadar	Bhadar	1983-84	26.59	17.17
	40.	Machhu-I	Machhu	1983-84	10.41	7.70
	41.	Madhuvanti	Madhuvanti	1990-91	2.51	2.19
	42.	Sorthi	Sorthi	1990-91	3.06	2.40
	43.	Fulzar	Fulzar	1990-91	2.03	1.56
	44.	Vartu	Vartu	1990-91	3.07	N.A
	45.	Khediar	Shetrunji	1990-91	9.87	7.69
	46.	Dhatarwadi	Dhatarwadi	1990-91	3.11	2.48
	47.	Rojki	Rojki	1990-91	2.52	1.54
	48.	Phophal	Phophal	1990-91	4.67	4.06
	49.	Limdi Bhogawo	Limdi Bhogawo	1990-91	4.21	3.20
	50.	Dharoi	Sabarmati	1983-84	57.91	56.68
	51.	Dhantiwada	Banas	1983-84	54.60	44.52
	52.	Hathmati	Hathmati	1983-84	27.20	27.22
	53.	Meshwo	Meshwo	1983-84	17.20	17.21
	54.	Mathal	Dhadodh	1985-86	2.21	2.20
	55.	Mitti	Mitti	1985-86	2.36	2.02
	56.	Nara	Nara	1990-91	2.31	1.73
	57.	Suvi	Suvi	1990-91	3.19	0.98
58.	Niruna	Bharud	1990-91	3.04	2.43	
59.	Kaila	Kaila	1990-91	3.24	0.88	
60.	Harnay	Harnay	1990-91	2.67	1.92	
61.	Pigut	Trib of Tokri	1993-94	1.41	1.41	
62.	Baldeva	Tokrikhadi	1993-94	2.24	2.24	
Total				1006.84	1120.63	
VII. Haryana	63.	Gurgao Canal	Yamuna	1974-75	131.00	81.00
	64.	JLN Lift Irr	Water of Ravi, Beas through WYC	1974-75	250.00	155.00
	65.	Jui Lift Irr.	-do-	1974-75	30.00	19.00
	66.	Rewari Lift Irr	-do-	1974-75	32.37	20.00
	67.	Hansi Area	-do-	1990-91	12.14	2.43

1	2	3	4	5	6		
	68.	Dulehra Disty.	Yamuna	1990-91	27.21	1.10	
	69.	Bhiwani Area	Yamuna	1990-91	5.93	2.33	
	70.	Agra Canal	Yamuna	1992-93	20.84	35.40	
	71.	Western Jamuna Canal	Yamuna	1993-94	117.00	91.26	
			Total		626.49	407.52	
VIII	Himachal Pradesh	72.	Giri	Giri	1983-84	5.76	8.05
		73.	Balh	Satluj-Beas Link Canal	1985-86	2.41	3.04
		74.	Bhabour Sabib Stage-I	Water from Nangal Dam Reservoir	1987-88	0.92	1.30
		75.	Bhabour Sahib Stage-II	-do-	1995-96	2.64	2.64
		76.	Cluster of 32 MI Projects in Bhattiyat Tehsil, Chambal District		1996-97	1.58	2.05
			Total		13.31	15.78	
IX.	Jammu and Kashmir	77.	Ravi Canal	Ravi	1979-80	31.80	47.80
		78.	Tawi Lift Irr.	Tawi	1974-75	12.88	17.98
		79.	Ranjan	Chenab	1991-92	2.02	2.63
		80.	Rajal	Naushara	1991-92	1.70	2.50
		81.	Banimulla Manulzewoora		1983-84	2.11	3.10
		82.	Lethapura		1983-84	2.00	3.20
		83.	Marval		1983-84	6.48	11.28
		84.	Nui Karewa Yusmarg	Munshi	1983-84	3.59	5.51
		85.	Koil Lift Irr.		1991-92	2.02	2.50
		86.	Ego-Phey Canal		1987-88	3.00	4.56
			Total		67.60	101.06	
X	Karnataka	87.	Cauvery Basin	Cauvery	1974-75	434.75	434.47
		88.	Ghataprabha	Ghataprabha	1974-75	317.43	317.43
		89.	Malaprabha	Malaprabha	1974-75	214.98	214.98
		90.	Tungabhadra	Tungabhadra	1974-75	529.00	349.10
		91.	Upper Krishna	Krishna	1974-75	424.91	424.91
		92.	Kanva	Kanva	1993-94	2.90	2.58
		93.	Byramangala	Vrishabbabati	1993-94	2.45	2.23
		94.	Morconahally		1993-94	7.20	5.94
		95.	Manchanabola	Arkavathy	1993-94	4.23	3.84
		96.	Taraka	Taraka	1993-94	8.90	7.04
		97.	Votehole	Votehole	1993-94	8.24	7.49
		98.	Gundal	Gundal	1993-94	4.45	4.05
		99.	Bhadra Resvr	Bhadra	1996-97	105.57	105.57
		100.	Tunga Anicut	Tunga	1996-97	8.70	8.70
		101.	Gondi Anicut		1996-97	4.46	4.46
			Total		2077.89	1892.79	

1	2	3	4	5	6	
XI. Kerala	102.	Chalakuḍi	Chalakuḍi	1974-75	19.70	19.70
	103.	Cheerakuzhi	Cheerakuzhi	1979-80	1.62	1.62
	104.	Gayathri	i. Chulliar ii. Meenkara	1979-80	5.47	5.47
	105.	Malampuzha	Malampuzha	1974-75	21.04	21.04
	106.	Manglam	Manglam	1979-80	3.44	3.64
	107.	Neyyar	Neyyar	1979-80	11.14	11.64
	108.	Peechi	Manali	1974-75	17.56	10.53
	109.	Pethundi	Meenchady, Puzha and Padipuzha	1979-80	5.47	5.47
	110.	Vazhani	Wadakkancherry	1979-80	3.56	5.18
	111.	Walayar	Walayar	1979-80	3.24	3.64
	112.	Chitturpuzha	Chitturpuzha	1992-93	15.70	31.40
	113.	Pamba	Kakkad	1992-93	21.14	49.45
	114.	Pariyar Valley	Pariyar	1992-93	32.80	85.60
	115.	Kuttiadi	Kuttiadi	1992-93	14.57	36.42
			Total		176.45	290.80
XII. Madhya Pradesh	116.	Tawa	Tawa	1974-75	247.00	333.00
	117.	Chambal	Chambal	1974-75	220.00	273.00
	118.	Aodha	Seep	1985-86	4.86	4.86
	119.	Parna	Parna	1974-75	55.00	60.70
	120.	Halaji	Halaji	1974-75	25.00	37.20
	121.	Kolar	Kolar	1985-86	45.00	60.86
	122.	Naren	Naren	1985-86	3.20	2.80
	123.	Kethan	Kethan	1985-86	3.20	2.50
	124.	Hasdeo	Hasdeo	1974-75	57.00	42.00
	125.	Kharung		1974-75	47.77	48.58
	126.	Maniyari		1974-75	55.06	50.20
	127.	Ghenga		1985-86	8.10	7.70
	128.	Mahanadi	Mahanadi	1983-84	389.00	340.00
	129.	Paary	Paary	1983-84	43.00	73.00
	130.	Tandula		1985-86	68.20	68.20
	131.	Jonk		1985-86	15.51	14.00
	132.	Palar	Ballarnala	1985-86	6.55	5.57
	133.	Kodar		1985-86	21.75	23.47
134.	Upper Wainganga	Wainganga	1985-86	93.00	113.93	
135.	Bagh		1985-86	16.60	14.79	
136.	Harsi	Parwati	1985-86	68.42	53.16	
137.	Pampur Makroda		1985-86	7.53	8.08	
138.	Pani Avanti Bai (Bargi)	Narmada	1990-91	157.00	157.00	
		Total		1657.75	1794.58	

1	2	3	4	5	6	
XIII. Maharashtra	139.	Khadakwasla	Matha	1983-84	77.68	62.15
	140.	Krishna	Krishna	1974-75	74.00	111.72
	141.	Warna	Warna	1979-80	87.00	113.92
	142.	Jayakwadi Stage I and II	Godaveri	1974-75	227.20	227.21
	143.	Kukadi	Kukadi	1979-80	132.00	129.50
	144.	Mula	Godaveri	1979-80	97.90	85.66
	145.	Girna	Girna	1974-75	57.20	59.00
	146.	Upper Tapi	Tapi	1974-75	37.70	59.28
	147.	Upper Godaveri	Godaveri	1983-84	83.97	64.83
	148.	Panzan		1979-80	12.10	12.14
	149.	Penoh	Penoh	1979-80	62.02	94.47
	150.	Phima	Phima	1974-75	126.00	164.05
	151.	Purna	Purna	1974-75	61.50	57.30
	152.	Upper Penganga	Penganga	1974-75	104.00	104.00
	153.	Manjara	Manjara	1983-84	24.29	23.69
154.	Surya	Surya	1983-84	14.70	27.20	
		Total		1279.26	1396.12	
XIV. Manipur	155.	Loktak Lift Irr.	Loktak Lake	1974-75	24.00	40.00
	156.	Sakmai Pannage	Sakmni	1983-84	5.00	8.50
	157.	Imphal Barrage	Imphal	1993-94	4.00	6.40
	158.	Thoubal Mujipurpose		1995-96	4.00	4.00
		Total		37.00	58.90	
VI. Meghalaya	159.	Lokrok Kyrdoh Kawarg Anojong Marakhapara Pebelapara	Small Streams	1987-88	0.90	0.90
		Total		0.90	0.90	
XVI. Nagaland	160.	Alachita Minor Irr. Project	Small Streams	1993-94	1.50	1.00
		Total		0.50	1.00	
XVII. Orissa	161.	Hirakud	Hirakud	1974-75	153.24	251.15
	162.	a-Mahanadi Delta (Old)		1974-75	179.41	300.10
		b-Mahanadi Delta (New)	Mahanadi		156.89	262.44
	163.	Salandi	Salandi	1974-75	41.96	60.14
	164.	Potteru		1985-86	70.10	70.10
	165.	Salki		1994-95	19.89	21.91
	166.	Pitamahal	Pitamahal	1994-95	2.63	3.87
	167.	Talsara		1994-95	3.03	4.86
	168.	Salia	Salia	1994-95	8.97	12.20
	169.	Raskulya	Raskulya	1994-95	61.23	67.23
170.	Salandi Right Bank Canal	Salandi	1994-95	40.18	53.44	
		Total		737.53	1047.50	

1	2	3	4	5	6	
XVIII. Rajasthan	171.	Chambal	Chambal	1974-75	229.00	219.00
	172.	I.G.N.P. St I	Water of Ravi,	1974-75	540.00	540.00
	173.	I.G.N.P. St II	Beas and Satluj	1987-88	123.74	123.74
	174.	Mahi Bajajsagar	Mahi Bajaj	1983-84	80.00	80.00
	Total				972.74	962.74
XIX. Tamilnadu	175.	Gauveri System	Gauvery	1974-75	378.00	522.00
	176.	Lower Bhawani	Bhawani, Moyar	1974-75	105.22	83.97
	177.	Periyar Vagai	Periyar, Vagai	1974-75	63.00	85.32
	178.	Sathanur	Ponniar	1983-84	16.81	16.81
	179.	Parambikulam Aliyar	Parambikulam Aliyar	1983-84	101.48	101.25
	180.	Cumbum Valley		1993-94	8.10	NA
	181.	Amaravathy	Amaravathy	1993-94	20.60	NA
	182.	Kodayar Chittar Paltanamkal	Kodayar and Chittar	1993-94	25.60	NA
	Total				718.81	809.35
XX. Tripura	183.	Gumti	Gumti	1985-86	4.49	4.49
	Total				4.49	4.49
XXI. Uttar Pradesh	184.	Gandak	Gandak	1974-75	411.00	308.00
	185.	Sada Canal	Sarda	1974-75	2000.00	1923.00
	186.	Ramganga	Ramganga	1974-75	1897.00	1372.00
	187.	Upper Ganga Canal	Ganga	1990-91	457.00	438.00
	188.	Madhaya Ganga Canal	Ganga	1990-91	229.00	178.00
	189.	East Ganga Canal	Ganga	1990-91	233.00	105.00
	190.	East Jamuna Canal	Jamuna	1990-91	221.00	200.00
	191.	Jamrani Dam Canal	Gola	1990-91	150.00	105.00
	192.	Betwa and Gursarai Canal	Betwa and Gursarai	1990-91	422.00	269.00
	193.	Ken Canal System	Ken	1990-91	222.00	112.00
Total				6242.00	5060.00	
XXII. West Bengal	194.	DVC System	Damodar Valley	1974-75	391.97	515.00
	195.	Kangsabati	Kangsabati	1974-75	340.75	401.46
	196.	Mayurakshi	Mayurakshi	1974-75	226.63	250.86
	197.	Teesta Barrage	Teesta	1983-84	923.00	923.00
	Total				1882.35	2090.32
XXIII. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	*	Damanganga	* Damanganga	1983-84	6.28	6.28
XXIV. Daman and Diu	*	Damanganga	* Damanganga	1983-84	3.41	3.41
Grand Total				21566.07	21075.24	

* Damanganga Project falls under Gujarat Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli, it is being counted once under Gujarat, though CCA falling under the respective State Union Territories have been indicated against them.

[Translation]

**Production and Supply of
Coal in the Country**

522. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been constant gap between the production and supply of coal in the country for the last three years;

(b) if so, the quantum of gap during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have fixed the priority of the various coal consuming sectors in view of demand and supply of the coal; and

(d) if so, the percentage of the coal decided to be supplied for consumption in power, iron, cement and other coal consuming sectors, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b). Indigenous coal production and its offtake from the mines of Coal India Limited and Singareni Collieries Company Limited along with gap during the last three years are as follows :

(Million Tonnes)

Year	Production	Offtake	Gap
1993-94	241.30	241.85	(+)0.55
1994-95	248.72	247.09	(-)0.63
1995-96	264.05	264.47	(+)0.42

(c) and (d). Priority in coal supply is given to linked consumers in the core sector like power, steel and cement. During 1995-96, out of the targetted offtake, 65.18% was allocated to power sector, 8.78% to steel sector and 5.53% to cement sector and balance 20.51% to other consumers.

[English]

Modernisation of Indian Navy

523 SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are plans to modernise the Indian Navy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) and (b). Modernisation of naval assets like ships, submarines, aircraft and the naval bases is a continuous process. Due attention is given to keep these assets updated

and in a state of preparedness. The Indian Navy is also re-equipped and modernised in keeping with the emerging threat perceptions. In order to ensure that ships, submarines and aircraft do not suffer from technological obsolescence, they undergo normal modernisation during their mid-life refits. In addition, retrofitment of special systems and force multipliers is taken up depending on specific requirements. Modernisation is always a consideration while going for major acquisitions and projects.

[Translation]

Misuse of Money

524. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether public money is being misused by spreading the transport network though the dumping yards are merely two kilometers away from the coal mines of Central Coalfields Limited in Giridih and Baniadih coalfields;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the annual expenditure incurred under the head of transportation in this coalfield;

(d) whether coal can also be dumped in the nearby hundreds acres of land, and

(e) if so, the reasons for incurring the huge expenditure on transportation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (e) CIL have denied that there is any misuse of money in transporting coal from production points in Giridih which is also known as Baniadih coalfields to the despatch point. As reported by CIL there are several different production points in this coalfield. The coal is transported from the production points to the railway sidings for despatch to power plants. Coal is also transported to a central and convenient point for despatch/sale by road. The expenditure on coal transportation in Giridih Coalfield and reimbursement received against the same during the year 1994-95 (as per financial accounts) is as follows

(Rs in lakhs)

	Data	Provisional
Coal Transportation	82.22	
Reimbursement	45.36	
Net Expenditure Incurred	36.86	

According to the information received from CIL, the present dumpyard site has been decided on consideration of various factors such as availability

of level ground, easy and free access roads, availability of space for trucks awaiting loading, space for establishing local sales office and availability of power for proper lighting etc.

Payment for DDA Flats

525. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount collected by DDA as registration fee and advance payment for allotment of various types of flats, plots and shops from 1979 onwards;

(b) the time by which the flats, shops and plots will be allotted to all the registered people; and

(c) whether any new scheme is proposed to be launched this year to complete the construction of the flats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U VENKATESWARLU) (a) DDA has reported that the following amounts have been collected by way of registration fee and advance payment for allotment of various types of flats, plots and shops from 1979 onwards

Category	Amount Collected
(i) Residential flats	Rs 186.25 Crores
(ii) Commercial flats	Rs 1.84 Crores
(iii) Plots	Rs 21.94 Crores

Commercial plots and built-up commercial properties are disposed of through auction/tender.

(b) FLATS At present, 31204 persons under NPRS, 1979 and 12190 persons under the Ambedkar Awas Yojana, 1989 are awaiting allotment. Keeping in view the constraints of land and provision of services by other agencies, DDA has planned that all the waiting registrants will be allotted flats in a period of about two years.

PLOTS At present, 38342 registrants are on the waiting list and it is expected that all of them will be accommodated in another two years time, subject to the availability of land, funds and infrastructure. Options have been obtained from the awaiting registrants for allocations under different existing schemes.

(c) Construction of flats is undertaken by DDA on a continuous basis. As on 1.4.96, construction of 12,258 flats of different categories was in progress. In addition, DDA has plans to start the construction of 17,900 flats during the year 1996-97.

[English]

Water Supply and Sewage Projects in Rajasthan

526. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state the details of drinking water supply and sewage projects of Rajasthan for which Central assistance has been sanctioned during Eighth Plan, so far (year-wise)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U VENKATESWARLU) In the State of Rajasthan, under the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) a total of 18 schemes have been approved since 1993-94 for providing central assistance for safe and adequate water supply facilities to the towns having population less than 20,000 (as per 1991 census). The year-wise break-up of schemes sanctioned is given in the statement attached. During the year 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96, an amount of Rs. 81.97 lakhs, Rs. 177.97 lakhs and Rs. 237.00 lakhs respectively has been released.

There is no Central sector programme for providing Central Assistance for sewerage schemes.

STATEMENT

S.No.	Name of Town	Year	Project cost (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Antah	1993-94	74.44
2.	Sarwar	-do-	10.00
3.	Baswa	-do-	99.50
4.	Deogarh	-do-	94.74
5.	Galiakot	-do-	17.20
6.	Kherli	-do-	67.40
7.	Mahwa	-do-	40.80
8.	Dhariwad	-do-	79.00
9.	Bali	-do-	160.00
10.	Takhatgarh	-do-	58.80
11.	Khaitoon	1995-96	78.20
12.	Pokharan	-do-	106.90
13.	Shahpura	-do-	78.60
14.	Sunel	-do-	80.20
15.	Viratnagar	-do-	78.00
16.	Amet	-do-	164.00
17.	Chhapar	-do-	195.00
18.	Nawacity	-do-	114.50
Total			1607.38

Recruitment in Defence Production Unit

527. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether recruitment to some posts in the Defence Production Unit, Saintala, Orissa had taken place during the year 1995-96;

(b) if so, whether the local candidates have not been considered for any of those posts; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Of the 310 posts filled in 1995-96, 268 have been filled with local candidates sponsored by the employment exchange. The balance 22 were recruited through open advertisements due to non-availability of suitable candidates, as certified by the local employment exchange.

[Translation]

Technical Tests of Agni Missiles

528. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether technical tests of Agni missiles have been completed;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to start production of these missiles; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) Three flight tests of re-entry technology demonstrator AGNI have been completed.

(b) and (c). No, Sir. AGNI project did not envisage development of missile system.

[English]

Defence Production Units in Orissa

* 529. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to establish some new defence production units in Orissa during Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the new defence production units proposed to be established State-wise, during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) Other than completing the ordnance factory at Bolangir there is no proposal to set up any new defence production units in Orissa or elsewhere in the country.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Manufacture of LCA

530. SHRI T. GOPALKRISHNA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to complete the work relating to manufacture of Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) in the beginning of 1997;

(b) if so, whether it will be built fully with Indian technical knowhow; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) First flight of LCA is scheduled in March 1997. After extensive flight tests, the first production version of LCA is expected to be ready in the year 2002.

(b) and (c). The indigenously designed and developed LCA will be manufactured with selected technological inputs from abroad to cut short time cycle for development to production.

[Translation]

Wastage of River Water

531. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the river water go wasted at present as they flow down into sea;

(b) the reasons for not giving importance to the scheme formulated earlier to link river Ganga with Cauvery;

(c) the target fixed by the Government to raise ground water level, extend the means of irrigation and to reduce dependence of agriculture on rain,

(d) the funds earmarked for this purpose in the Eighth Five Year Plan and the purpose for which they were earmarked; and

(e) the State-wise details of the funds allocated so far?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir, Out of 1142 million cubic kilometres of available utilisable water resources, only 608 million cubic kilometres of water is being utilised at present (1994).

(b) The proposal on linking river Ganga with Cauveri was found to be not economically feasible. However, studies are in progress on linking of rivers under the National perspective formulated by the Government.

(c) and (d). In addition to major and medium projects, irrigated agriculture is being augmented through minor irrigation also. This is through both surface and ground waters. During the 8th Plan, a target for creation of additional irrigation potential of 10.71 million hectares by minor irrigation has been fixed. An amount of Rs. 5972.26 crores has been

earmarked for minor irrigation (including ground water development).

(e) A Statement is enclosed.

STATEMENT

Eighth Five Year Plan Outlays for Minor Irrigation (which includes ground water development also)

S.No.	State/UTs	Outlay of Minor Irrigation (Rs. Crores)
<i>States</i>		
1	Andhra Pradesh	234.68
2	Arunachal Pradesh	53.69
3	Assam	183.45
4	Bihar	1021.30
5	Goa	13.10
6	Gujarat	240.00
7	Haryana	134.45
8	Himachal Pradesh	95.25
9	J and K	84.20
10	Karnataka	306.91
11	Kerala	130.00
12	Madhya Pradesh	728.37
13	Maharashtra	612.17
14	Manipur	25.00
15	Meghalaya	29.03
16	Mizoram	11.75
17	Nagaland	21.00
18	Orissa	389.40
19	Punjab	113.20
20	Rajasthan	171.92
21	Sikkim	11.50
22	Tamil Nadu	250.00
23	Tripura	31.50
24	Uttar Pradesh	400.60
25	West Bengal	370.00
Total States		5662.47
<i>Union Territories</i>		
26	A and N-Islands	4.24
27	Chandigarh	1.00
28	D and N Haveli	3.00
29	Daman and Diu	0.44
30	Delhi	8.00
31	Lakshadweep	0.00
32	Pondicherry	5.11
Total UTs		21.79
Total States and UTs		5684.26
Central sector		293.00
Grand Total		5977.26

Kendriya Vidyalays having Hostels

532. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of Kendriya Vidyalayas that have attached hostels, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to construct some new hostels during 1996-97;

(c) if so, the locations thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) Kendriya Vidyalayas having hostels :

Name of State	Name of KV's.
Bihar	1. Jawaharnagar
Delhi	2. No. 1 Delhi Centt
Haryana	3. Jhajjar
Karnataka	4. ASC Bangalore
Madhya Pradesh	5. No. 1 Gwalior
	6. Pachmarhi
Maharashtra	7. Vayusena Nagar Nagpur
Punjab	8. No. 1 Ferozepur
	9. No. 2 Jalandhar Cantt
Tamil Nadu	10. IIT Madras
Uttar Pradesh	11. Lansdowne

(b) No, Sir

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The facilities available are found adequate to meet the present requirements.

[English]

Mismanagement in Asiatic Society

533. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that valuable treasure at priceless items are vanished from the Asiatic Society, Calcutta due to mismanagement by vested interest and that the General Secretary has sought judicial inquiry into the theft and other irregularities being committed in the Institute;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter and details of action taken on the representation from General Secretary of the Society;

(c) the present status of the case; and

(d) the policy of the Government to protect and preserve the rich cultural heritage of the country and fresh initiatives proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMALI) : (a) The Asiatic Society, Calcutta has reported that some valuable treasures and priceless items had vanished from Asiatic Society prior to taking over of the Society by the Government of India. The management of the Society had approached the Department of Culture for setting up of an inquiry commission under the Commission of Inquiry Act, 1952.

(b) The Society was asked to refer the matter to the Central Bureau of Investigation.

(c) The Society has now informed that the Central Bureau of Investigation could not invoke its jurisdiction, since the alleged offence took place prior to 1984, when the Asiatic Society of Calcutta was not takenover by the Government of India.

(d) The institutions which are fully funded by the Government of India have introduced round-the-clock security and surveillance by deputing the security staff, as well as security forces, wherever necessary, and have also introduced scientific methods like Closed Circuit T.V., metal detectors etc. As far as preservation is concerned, the preservation of the objects are carried out in scientific manner through government laboratories and specialised agencies.

[Translation]

Bihar Hindi Granth Academy

534 SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the objective of Bihar Hindi Granth Academy and its achievements in the last three years;

(b) whether the Academy has been resorting to unauthorised publishing of unapproved books instead of the approved manuscripts of many writers during the last three years;

(c) if so, the reasons for such indifference and violation of rules; and

(d) the steps taken for publishing standard books and payment of royalty by improving the working of the Academy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) In pursuance of the decision to promote Indian Languages as the medium of instruction at the University level, Bihar Hindi Granth Academy was set up by the State Government in 1970 as an autonomous organisation. The Academy has

produced 23 books in different disciplines during the past three years.

(b) No complaint has been received by the Central Government in the matter.

(c) and (d). Does not arise.

[English]

National Libraries

535. SHRI JAG MOHAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Libraries, libraries run by the State Governments and local agencies directly or with their financial aid, are suffering badly on account of rising cost of books and declining allocations of finances and fall in the value of rupee vis-a-vis foreign currency,

(b) whether the present state of affairs is choking the flow of new ideas and thoughts to the country and

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

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMALI) : (a) Library is a State subject and as such the libraries run by the State Governments are to be provided funds by the States. However, the libraries which are fully funded by the Central Government are able to procure lesser number of books on account of rising cost of books and non-allocation of more funds due to financial constraints.

(b) and (c). The Working Group on Libraries and Informatics set up by the Planning Commission for the formulation of 9th Five Year Plan has recommended for more allocation of funds for the Libraries during the 9th Plan period.

National Institute of Computer in Kerala

536. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up the National Institute of Computer and Allied Technology in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (c). There is a proposal to establish an institute namely Rajiv Gandhi National Institute

of Computer and Allied Sciences (RAGNICAS) The Government is yet to take a decision in the matter, including the location

[*Interim*]

Dues Outstanding against State Governments

537 SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state

(a) the details of the action taken by the Government to recover the outstanding dues from the various States which have used IAF aircraft and helicopters for the Chief Ministers and the other Ministers, and

(b) the States which have fully or partially paid such dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) (a) and (b) The respective State Governments are being reminded at frequent intervals. As a result, an amount of Rs 6 78 crores has been recovered from the State Governments/Union Territories during the first quarter of 1996-97. Details of outstanding as on 30.6.96, against the State Governments/Union Territories are given in the enclosed statement

STATEMENT

Details of Outstanding Payments towards the Airlift Charges from the State Govts U.T Adms - as on 30.6.1996

S No	Name of the States	Amount outstanding (in Rs)
1	2	3
1	Assam	16,57,865/-
2	Andhra Pradesh	21,09,343/-
3	Arunachal Pradesh	7,07,79,047/-
4	Bihar	16,25,000/-
5	Delhi	3,81,062/-
6	Gujarat	2,13,33,333/-
7	Himachal Pradesh	90,19,166/-
8	Jammu and Kashmir	1,12,95,411/-
9	Karnataka	65,000/-
10	Kerala	32,82,508/-
11	Manipur	41,11,409/-
12	Meghalaya	20,64,870/-
13	Mizoram	14,53,217/-
14	Jagaland	35,52,096/-
15	Orissa	5,76,677/-
16	Punjab	10,78,344/-

1	2	3
17	Rajasthan	1,21,60,418/-
18	Sikkim	6 42,884/-
19	Tamil Nadu	47,11,374/-
20	Tripura	5,00,084/-
21	Uttar Pradesh	81,697/-
22	West Bengal	1,03,55,916/-
23	Andaman and Nicobar	1,15,69,227/-
Total		17,44,05,948/-

[*English*]

Indian Fishermen in Custody of Pakistan and Bangladesh

538. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No 1122 on December 4, 1995 regarding Indian fishermen in custody of neighbouring countries and state

(a) the efforts made by the High Commission of India in Pakistan and Bangladesh to get release Indian fishermen in custody there and the outcome thereof,

(b) the number of such fishermen who have since been released from the custody of Pakistan and Bangladesh and repatriated to India,

(c) the number of Indian fishermen still languishing in jails in Pakistan and Bangladesh as on June 30, 1996, and

(d) the efforts being made to get them released and repatriated?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) (a) The Government is making sustained efforts to seek the release of all the Indian fishermen presently in Pakistan and Bangladesh custody. With regard to Pakistan, the Government have also agreed to Pakistan's proposal for holding technical level talks on the subject and are awaiting Pakistan's response regarding the dates and venue for the talks

(b) As a result of Government's efforts, 17 fishermen were released from Pakistani jails and repatriated to India during the last three years in Bangladesh, as per information available fishermen who are caught by Bangladesh authorities are detained for a period of one month and then sent back to India

(c) In Pakistan, 198 Indian fishermen are in the custody as on 30.6.96. For Bangladesh, data on the exact number of fishermen in custody of local authorities is not available as the information regarding the release of the fishermen from jails and

their expulsion is not provided regularly to the High Commission of India.

(d) Government has taken up with the Governments of Pakistan and Bangladesh all known instances of apprehension of Indian fishermen and has sought their release and repatriation.

[Translation]

Fake Universities

539. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of fake universities and institutions are functioning in the country;

(b) if so, the names of such fake universities/institutions;

(c) whether the Government have already initiated action against the fake universities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures proposed to be taken by the U G C so that such fake institutions do not crop up in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) (a) and (b). According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the number of institutions styling themselves as universities is 20 but Association of Indian Universities (AIU) have informed that there are 36 self-styled universities. There are 20 universities common to both the list. A list of fake universities as circulated by the University Grants Commission is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) to (e). The University Grants Commission, the Association of Indian Universities and the Monopolies and the Restrictive Trade Practices Commission keep watch on the existence of fake universities functioning in violation of the UGC Act, 1956. As soon as information about the existence of fake universities comes to the notice of UGC, the promoters/office bearers of such self-styled/fake universities are informed of the relevant provisions of the UGC Act. They are also advised to disassociate the use of expression 'University' and also stop awarding degrees/diplomas. The concerned State Governments are also requested to conduct enquiries regarding the functioning of such fake universities. Cases of bogus institutions issuing fake degrees to students are brought to the attention of MRTPC Commission by UGC with the request to initiate necessary action under MRTPC Act. UGC warn the general public through press releases about fake universities. The last press note was issued by the

UGC on 2nd July, 1996. A list of fake universities is also sent to all the universities/State Governments by UGC for wide publicity in States/Universities regularly. Recently, UGC has set up a Special Cell to deal with matters relating to functioning of fake universities in the country.

The MRTPC Commission has asked Director General (I and R) to carry out investigation in respect of certain alleged fake universities under MRTPC Act, 1969. Association of Indian Universities (AIU) produces extensive literature on the recognised university courses/education through various Handbooks for the benefit of the students and others. AIU issues notification from time to time in 'Employment News' informing the students to ascertain the position on the standing of self-styled universities/institutions from it.

Government has already introduced an amendment Bill to UGC Act, 1956 in the Parliament on 2nd June, 1995. For contravening the provisions of Sections 22 and 23 of the UGC Act, the amendment Bill provides for imprisonment for a term of not less than 6 months which may extend up to rupees 10 00 lakhs. The proposed punitive provisions could also be applicable to any association or body of individuals, every member of association or other body willfully conniving in violating the provisions of the University Grants Commission Act.

STATEMENT

Fake Universities

1. Maithili University/Vishwavidyalaya, Dharbhanga, Bihar
2. Mahila Gram Vidyapith/Vishwavidyalaya, (Women's University), Prayag, Allahabad (U.P.)
3. Varanaseya Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya, Varanasi (U.P.)
4. Commercial University Ltd., Darya Ganj, Delhi
5. Indian Education Council of U.P., Lucknow (U.P.)
6. Gandhi Hindi Vidyapith, Prayag, Allahabad (U.P.)
7. National University of Electro Complex Homeopathy, Kanpur
8. Netaji Subash Chandra Bose University (Open University), Achaltal, Aligarh (U.P.)
9. Shrimati Mahadevi Verma Open University, Mughal Sarai, (U.P.)
10. D.D.B. Sanskrit University, Putur, Trichi, Tamil Nadu.
11. Bharatiya Siksha Parishad (U.P.), Open Vishwavidyalaya, Lucknow (U.P.)
12. Arya University, Srinagar (J and K).
13. St. John's University, Kishanattam, Kerala.
14. National University, Nagpur.

15. United Nations University, Delhi.
16. Vocational University, Delhi.
17. Uttar Pradesh Vishwavidyalaya.
18. Maharana Pratap Shiksha Niketan
Vishwavidyalaya, Pratapgarh (U.P.).
19. Raja Arabic University, Nagpur.
20. Urdu University, Motia Park, Bhopal.

**Nuclear Disarmament and Comprehensive
Test Ban Treaty**

540. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI GANGA RAM KOLI :
SHRI PINAKI MISRA :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :
SHRI E. AHAMED :
SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH :
SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :
SHRI RUPCHAND PAL :
PROF RASA SINGH RAWAT :
SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D CHAVAN :
SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH
KUMARI UMA BHARTI
SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) the developments that have taken place during the last six months towards the goal of global nuclear disarmament and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the role played by India therein.

(b) whether any fresh proposals were made by India in this regard during the period.

(c) if so, the details thereof.

(d) the stand of India in regard to signing of CTBT and the reasons therefor.

(e) the reaction of major countries to the Indian stand, country-wise;

(f) whether any moves have been initiated by some countries to pressurise India to sign CTBT; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI J.K. GUJRAL) : (a) In the Ad hoc Committee on CTBT negotiations, India has been playing an active and constructive role. In the past six months progress was achieved in finalising the draft Treaty text but differences remained. The Chairman of the concerned Ad hoc Committee has presented a compromise text

to delegations. From the Indian perspective the text is deficient in the core points of concern.

(b) and (c). On 26 January 1996, India tabled amendments to the Preamble, Review and Entry into Force. In the Preamble, India sought to introduce the following language: "through the total elimination of nuclear weapons within a time bound framework", to strengthen the existing references to achieving global nuclear disarmament within a time bound framework. In the Review article, India introduced the following amendment: "With a view to ensuring that the objectives, purpose and the provisions of the Preamble of the treaty are being realised". On the Entry into Force article, India suggested the following amendment: "notwithstanding anything contained in this Article, this treaty shall enter into force only after all States Parties have committed themselves to the attainment of the goal of total elimination of all nuclear weapons within a well-defined timeframe (of ten years)".

(d) India has made it clear that as the draft CTBT text is not a measure towards universal nuclear disarmament and is not in India's national security interest, India cannot subscribe to it in its present form.

(e) A majority of non-aligned countries have expressed support for India's position. The nuclear weapon states are opposed to any binding nuclear disarmament obligations being included in the draft CTBT text.

(f) Some countries have urged India to review its position, to whom our position has been clearly reiterated.

(g) does not arise.

[Translation]

Flood Water for Irrigation

541. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state

(a) whether Rajasthan has been demanding 12 M.A.F. Ganga river flood water for carrying out irrigation in the 12 districts i.e. Jhunjhunu, Churu, Ganganagar, Nagaur, Jodhpur, Pali, Barmer, Jaisalmer, Jaipur, Alwar, Bharatpur and Dholpur.

(b) whether the above demand is under consideration of the Union Government since long, and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b). Rajasthan has been demanding since 1984 diversion of Ganga water, for 100 days during monsoon, at the rate of 1133 cubic metres per second (cumec) near Hardwar and 566 cumec near Bijnore for use in the drought prone areas of the State.

(c) Ganga Flood Control Board constituted an Expert Committee to study this proposal but the Committee could not arrive at any conclusion on the surplus water availability of river Ganga. The study conducted by Central Water Commission revealed that sufficient water was not available in Ganga near these two places for more than 20-30 days in a year for diversion to Rajasthan. It was concluded that running the proposed large size diversion canals, more than 100 kilometres in length, for such a short period will result in damages and their maintenance was likely to be very expensive thereby making the proposal highly uneconomical. On further request of Rajasthan Central Water Commission has requested Government of Uttar Pradesh to furnish some more data to review the study

National Water Development Agency has, under the National Perspective of Water Resources Development, taken up a more broad based study of the Himalayan Rivers Development Component which inter-alia envisages diversion of surplus water from river Ganga and its eastern tributaries to the water short areas of Rajasthan. Their report is expected to be available by the end of the 8th Five Year Plan

[English]

Objectives of TLC

542 SHRI S D N R WADIYAR Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) the main objectives of the total literacy campaign and the achievements made therein, State-wise.

(b) the percentage of literacy, State-wise and national average in the country.

(c) the steps proposed by the Government to increase the percentage of literacy and to provide education for all

(d) whether there is any proposal to formulate New Education Policy, and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) The total literacy campaign is the principal strategy of the National Literacy Mission for eradication of illiteracy in the country. Under the district-wise total literacy campaigns functional literacy is imparted to adult learners of 15-35 age-group within 200 hours spread over a period of five to six months. State-wise achievements are given in the attached statement-I

(b) The literacy data in the country is collected through the decennial census operations. The State-

wise literacy rate in country as per 1991 Census is given in the attached Statement-II.

(c) The National Literacy Mission has been mandated to make 100 million people literate in the age-group 15-35 by the year 1997. In order to achieve total literacy by the turn of the century, the Government is implementing major schemes like Adult Education, Non-Formal Education, Operation Blackboard and District, Primary Education Project.

(d) and (e). The National Policy on Education was reviewed by the National Policy on Education Review Committee (NPERC) headed by Acharya Ramamurti as well as by the Central Advisory Board on Education (CABE) Committee on Policy under the Chairmanship of Shri N. Janardhana Reddy during 1991-92. Following this, the National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 and its Programme of Action (POA), 1992 were updated and tabled in the House on 7th May, 1992 and 19th August, 1992 respectively. At present, there is no proposal for formulating a new Education Policy.

STATEMENT-I

Districts covered under Total Literacy Campaigns and number of persons made literate since the launching of the National Literacy Mission

(As on 31.3.1996)

State/UT	Districts covered	Persons made literate
1	2	3
1 Andhra Pradesh	23	63,21,907
2 Assam	18	1,63,021
3 Bihar	28	13,36,456
4 Delhi	1	8,659
5 Goa	2	49,910
6 Gujarat	19	36,18,832
7 Haryana	15	2,50,134
8 Himachal Pradesh	12	3,43,274
9 Jammu and Kashmir	5	—
10 Karnataka	20	30,42,132
11 Kerala	14	13,45,000
12 Madhya Pradesh	45	20,18,178
13 Maharashtra	26	23,67,277
14 Manipur	1	—
15 Meghalaya	3	—
16 Orissa	17	15,74,598
17 Punjab	9	2,07,519
18 Rajasthan	24	11,84,537
19 Tamil Nadu	23	46,41,001
20 Tripura	3	—

	1	2	3
21. Uttar Pradesh	62		17,04,051
22. West Bengal	17		70,23,410
23. Chandigarh	1		23,699
24. Dadar and Nagar Haveli	1		—
25. Daman and Diu	1		460
26. Pondicherry	4		88,799

STATEMENT-II*Literacy rate - 1991 Census*

India/States or Union Territory	Literacy rate percent
INDIA	52.21
States	
1 Andhra Pradesh	44.09
2. Arunachal Pradesh	41.59
3 Assam	52.89
4 Bihar	38.48
5 Delhi	75.29
6 Goa	75.51
7 Gujarat	61.29
8 Haryana	55.85
9 Himachal Pradesh	63.86
10 Karnataka	56.04
11 Kerala	89.81
12 Madhya Pradesh	44.20
13 Maharashtra	64.87
14 Manipur	59.89
15 Meghalaya	49.10
16 Mizoram	82.27
17 Nagaland	61.65
18 Orissa	49.09
19 Punjab	58.51
20 Rajasthan	38.55
21 Sikkim	56.94
22 Tamil Nadu	62.66
23 Tripura	60.44
24 Uttar Pradesh	41.60
25 West Bengal	57.70
Union Territories	
1 A and N-Islands	73.02
2 Chandigarh	77.81
3 D and N Haveli	40.71
4 Daman and Diu	71.20
5 Lakshadweep	81.78
6 Pondicherry	74.74

*[Translation]***Percentage of Passed Students**

543. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR .
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether 34 percent of the students from Government schools and 89 percent from public schools of Delhi have passed the Tenth class examination of 1996 conducted by the CBSE,

(b) if so, the reasons for this wide gap in the examination results between the Government and public schools and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to abridge this gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The Government of N.C.T. of Delhi have intimated that the majority of students admitted to Government schools come from poor socio-economic background and very high percentage of them are first generation learners and as such cannot provide additional impetus at home. This primarily contributes to the poor results in Government schools.

(c) An action plan has been initiated with the involvement of District Heads, all Education Officers and involving those Principals who have shown good performance over the years. Under this special classes for bridging the gap and strengthening the basics of the students coupled with examination oriented education is being taken up from the current year.

*[English]***Use of Timber in Government Buildings**

544. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have banned the use of timber in construction of Government buildings by C.P.W.D.;

(b) whether the Government have also advised the State Governments in this regard, and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR U VENKATESWARLU) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c). The State Governments and Union Territories have already been advised in April, 1988

to reduce the consumption of wood and to use alternative materials which are available in the market.

Flaws in Education System

545. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the press newsitem captioned "Flaws in education system discovered" as reported in the Hindustan Times dated June 8, 1996;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to bring amendment in the education policy to make it effective and job oriented; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Report, inter alia, refers to the drop-out rates, resources and issue of quality.

(c) and (d). The National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 and its Programme of Action (POA) were up-dated and placed before the Parliament in 1992. As of now, the emphasis would be on toning up implementation and stepping up resources for education so that there is a better linkage between education and the world of work and improvement of access, retention and quality at all stages of education, particularly elementary education.

[Translation]

Setting up of Bhasha Ayog

546. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to set up "Sanskrit Aur Pracheen Bhasha Ayog";

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made in this regard;

(c) the details of Chaturvedi Report in this regard;

(d) by when the said Ayog will start functioning; and

(e) the reasons for delay, if any, in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (c). The main recommendations of the Chaturvedi Committee Report was to set up a

Sanskrit and Classical Languages Commission through an Act of Parliament, as a national apex body for development of Sanskrit and Classical languages.

(d) No time frame has been fixed for this purpose.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Management of Water Resources

547. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose institutional innovations in the management of water resources in the country to make the provision and maintenance of irrigation services much more responsive to the farmer interests; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b). Irrigation being a state subject, operation and maintenance of irrigation systems is carried out by the State Governments. Recognising the impact of management turnover on irrigation efficiency, the National Water Policy (1987) emphasises farmers involvement in irrigation management. Government of India has been promoting farmers participation in irrigation management through its centrally sponsored Command Area Development programme and various externally aided irrigation management programmes.

[Translation]

Inter-State Water Dispute

548. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state.

(a) the present position of inter-State water disputes among Delhi, Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan;

(b) the reasons for delay in resolving these disputes;

(c) the details of the outcome of the meetings of Chief Ministers/senior officials of these States, held during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government to resolve these disputes amicably?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (d). The inter-State dispute regarding surplus Ravi-Beas waters was referred to a Tribunal constituted by the Central

Government under the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956. The Tribunal gave an interim report on 30.1.87 on which States of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan and the Central Government had sought explanation and guidance on certain points from the Tribunal. Meanwhile one of the members of the Tribunal resigned and the vacancy could not be filled up due to one reason or the other. Government has taken action for filling up the vacancy so that report of the Tribunal could be finalised.

Inter-State water related issues between the States of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan were discussed between the Chief Ministers of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan in the meetings convened by the Minister (WR and PA) in July and August 1992. Some broad decisions were taken on various inter-State Water related issues. Regarding sharing of Ravi-Beas Waters, it was decided that it shall continue to be Governed by the provisions of the 1981 agreement. As per suggestion of the Chief Ministers, a draft agreement was formulated by Ministry of Water Resources to which the decisions were to be annexed. Further meetings at Chief Ministers/Senior officers level to discuss and finalise the draft agreement could not be held due to one reason or the other. The Ministry of Water Resources is making all efforts to resolve issues amicably by arranging further inter-State meetings

[English]

Funds for Towns

549. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the state-wise funds made available to the various States for the development of towns during the last three years and the plan heads under which the said amount was provided;

(b) the amount proposed to be made available under the above heads to the various States by Union Government during the year 1996-97;

(c) whether inadequate amount was provided to Orissa under this head; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT) and Infrastructural Development in Mega Cities, Central assistance is provided to various States for the development of

towns/cities. The plan heads under which Central assistance is provided are :

Scheme	Plan Heads
IDSMT	3601, 3602, 7601 (Charged), 7602
Mega City Scheme	2217, 3601

Statewise details of Central Assistance released under the IDSMT Scheme during the last 3 years (1993-96) are given in the attached statement.

Under the Mega City Scheme, Central grants were released for the selected cities during the last three years (1993-96) as follows :

Name of City/State	Rs. in Crores.
Bombay (Maharashtra)	54.28
Calcutta (West Bengal)	54.28
Madras (Tamil Nadu)	43.28
Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh)	41.78
Bangalore (Karnataka)	35.28

(b) The amount to be made available to the various State under the two schemes, viz., IDSMT and Mega City Scheme during 1996-97 will depend upon several factors including the receipt of utilisation certificates for funds released earlier from the State Governments, availability of State share as required under the scheme guidelines, progress reports on implementation of sanctioned projects conforming to the approved guidelines, etc. It is not possible to indicate the releases proposed for various States during 1996-97 at this stage.

(c) The Mega City Scheme is applicable to cities with more than four million population as per 1991 census. Since Orissa does not have any such city, this scheme is not applicable to Orissa. Under the IDSMT Scheme adequate amounts have been provided to Orissa and the State has been one of the major beneficiaries under the Scheme

(d) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

Central Assistance Under IDSMT Scheme Released to various States during the last three years (1993-96)

S No	State/UT	Rs. in lakhs
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	830 00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	51.00
3	Assam	85 00
4.	Bihar	166.00
5.	Goa	36 00

1	2	3
6.	Gujarat	399.00
7.	Haryana	50.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	35.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	78.00
10.	Karnataka	92.00
11.	Kerala	329.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	568.00
13.	Maharashtra	1148.50
14.	Manipur	16.00
15.	Meghalaya	—
16.	Mizoram	60.00
17.	Nagaland	32.00
18.	Orissa	297.00
19.	Punjab	127.25
20.	Rajasthan	355.75
21.	Sikkim	32.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	447.26
23.	Tripura	22.74
24.	Uttar Pradesh	624.00
25.	West Bengal	382.66
Union Territories		
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	—
2.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	5.00
3.	Daman & Diu	5.00
4.	Lakshadweep	—
5.	Pondicherry	50.00
Total		7027.70

[Translation]

Percentage of Literate Women

550 SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of on going schemes to make women in the rural areas literate; and

(b) the percentage increase registered in the literacy of rural women after 1991, year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) The Schemes of Universalisation of Elementary Education, Non-Formal Education for School Drop outs, Total Literacy Campaigns of the National Literacy Mission form the three pronged strategy for increasing female literacy in the country.

(b) No such statistics have as yet been computed. Data on increase in literacy rates among women in rural - urban areas is collected only through

decennial Census conducted on country-wide scale. The next Census is due in 2001.

Funds Spent on Technical Education

551. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of GNP being spent on technical education;

(b) the extent to which it compare with developing and developed countries; and

(c) the steps taken to increase the public expenditure on technical education especially the elementary technical education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) The percentage of GNP during the last three years (1992-93—1994-95) being spent on technical education has been of the order of 0.15

(b) Comparison is not possible since the data on percentage of GNP spent on technical education in other countries is not published in the standard publications like "UNESCO STATISTICAL YEAR BOOK."

(c) Allocations for the development of technical education have been stepped up within the overall available resources.

Publication of Science Books for Primary Level Education

552 DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the NCERT can provide science books in Hindi with the assistance of science teachers for primary and middle level education, and

(b) if not, the arrangements, made the Government for the publication of science books in Hindi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Does not arise.

Constitution of NWRC

553. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a National Water Resource Council

has been constituted to formulate water policy in the country and to review it;

(b) if so, the details of the composition of the Council;

(c) the number of meetings held by the Council during last three years indicating date and place of meeting; and

(d) the main conclusions and recommendations of the meetings and the follow up action taken on the decisions arrived at?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The National Water Resources Council was set up on 10th March, 1983. As per present composition of the Council, the Prime Minister is its Chairman, Union Minister of Water Resources is its Vice-Chairman and Union Ministers of Finance, Agriculture, Power, Welfare, Rural Areas & Employment, Urban Affairs & Employment, Planning, Surface Transport, Science & Technology, Environment & Forests, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and Chief Ministers of States and Administrators of Union Territories are Members. Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources is the Secretary of National Water Resources Council.

(c) The third Meeting of the National Water Resources Council was held on 6th February, 1996 at New Delhi. The Council has not met since September, 1987 till 6th February, 1996.

(d) In the first meeting of National Water Resources Council held on 30.10.1985, it was decided to prepare a National Water Policy.

In the second meeting of the Council held on 9.9.1987, the National water Policy was adopted.

In the third meeting of the council held on 6.2.1996, the main conclusion and recommendations are as follows :

- (i) National guidelines on many issues of water resources development are necessary though the problems may differ from state to state.
- (ii) In the 9th Plan proposals, special provision for maintenance, dredging, desiltation, etc., should be included.
- (iii) More funds should be allocated for maintenance
- (iv) In the 9th Plan, real imaginative proposals should be made
- (v) Various important policy guidelines on water management, resettlement & rehabilitation of reservoir project affected persons, allocation of water for different uses, etc., discussed in the third meeting should be modified based on the deliberations.

The National Water Board would be shortly taking up follow-up action on the modification of the draft policy guidelines. The other suggestions would be kept in view while finalising the 9th Plan proposals

[English]

Funds Spent on Primary Education

554. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether lesser funds are being provided for primary education as compared with higher education;

(b) if so, the break-up of allocation made therefor during the last three years;

(c) whether any efforts have been made to minimise this imbalance; and

(d) if so, the details and the impact thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) The total funds provided for Elementary Education (upto Class-VIII) by the State Governments and the Central Government are not less than that of the funds provided for higher education.

(b) The year-wise allocations for the last three years are given in the attached statement.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

STATEMENT

Financial Allocation for Elementary Education & University & Higher Education

Sector	1992-95 (Rs. in crores)		
	1992-93 (A)		
	Centre	States/UTs	Total
1	2	3	4
Elementary Education	316.25	9161.07	9477.32
Higher Education	504.81	2195.14	2699.95
Total Education	1797.30	19155.60	20952.98
	<u>1993-94 (RE)</u>		
Elementary Education	433.96	10915.47	11369.43
Higher Education	538.77	2497.23	3036.00
Total Education	2188.91	22080.08	24268.99

1	2	3	4
<u>1994-95 (RE)</u>			
Elementary Education	523.22	12064.68	12587.90
Higher Education	581.88	2671.74	3253.62
Total Education	2420.26	24756.97	27177.23

Bhutanese Refugees

555. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that thousands of Bhutanese refugees have taken shelter in the Indo-Nepal border areas;

(b) whether some of these refugees while participating in appeal march to return to Bhutan have been arrested and jailed by the police of West Bengal;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the number of refugees arrested so far;

(d) whether it is a fact that one of the refugees died in a Central Jail in West Bengal; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (c). Government are aware of the movement of Bhutanese citizens of Nepalese origin from their place of origin to camps in Nepal. Some groups have attempted to march from Nepal through Indian territory towards Bhutan in order to agitate the matter of their status and their demands. It is the consistent policy of the Government of not allowing political activities on Indian soil directed against friendly countries. Hence prohibitory orders have been imposed by the competent authorities. 1896 persons were taken into protective custody, in accordance with the laws of the land, for violating the prohibitory orders. Most of them have already been released.

(d) and (e). It is learnt that one of the detainees Shri Babu Ram Tamang, who was suffering from tuberculosis, passed away on 13 June 1996 in the Berhampur Central Jail.

[Translation]

Financial Assistance for Physical Education

556. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide

financial assistance to the States to improve the standard of physical education in schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of states which have placed their demand in this regard as well as the action taken by the Union Government thereon; and

(c) the extent of financial assistance sanctioned to each state during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) No, Sir. There is no scheme under which Government propose to provide financial assistance to the states to improve the standards of physical education in schools.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Gratuity to Retired Workers of CIL

557. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the retired workers of Coal India Limited have not been paid gratuity till date;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which their gratuity will be paid;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the workers are not being provided the benefit of LTC for the last two years; and

(d) if so, the time by which the unpaid amount pertaining to LTC is likely to be paid to the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b). As per information furnished by Coal India Ltd., the payments of gratuity to its retired employees have generally been made in time. However, there has been delay in cases relating to one of the subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited upon its being confronted with a severe cash crunch or where the claimants had not completed the requisite procedural formalities.

(c) and (d). Financial constraints faced by a subsidiary company of Coal India Limited have led to delay in provision of LTC benefit to the workers. While efforts are being made to remedy the situation, indicating a definite time limit therefor does not seem possible.

Review of National Policy on Education

558. SHRI T. GOPALKRISHNA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have undertaken the review of the National Policy on Education since its implementation; and

(b) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The review was done by the National Policy on Education Review Committee (NPERC) headed by Acharya Ramamurti as well as by the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) Committee on Policy under the Chairmanship of Shri N. Janardhana Reddy during 1990-92. Following this, the National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 and its Programme of Action (POA), 1992 were updated and tabled in the House on 7th May, 1992 and 19th August, 1992 respectively.

Indian Coast Guard

559. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(b) whether the Indian Coast Guard are facing difficulties in strengthening vigil due to inadequate number of ships and aeroplanes and shortage of other facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any information regarding intimidation of Indian fishing vessels by Pakistani navy along Western Coast;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures Government are taking to strengthen vigil along the coastal areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) and (b). The Coast Guard are maintaining the required vigil by appropriately deploying ships and aircraft available with them. Upgradation of facilities and reequipping of forces is an ongoing process which is given priority attention.

(c) and (d). In the absence of a well-defined IBL between India and Pakistan at sea, there have been stray incidents of apprehension of fishermen by armed forces of either country and some reports of intimidation to Indian fishermen.

(e) Enhanced maritime surveillance and patrolling are being carried out jointly by the Indian Navy and the Coast Guard in the sensitive coastal areas.

SYL Canal Project

560. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount invested so far on the construction of Sutlej-Yamuna Link Canal (SYL);

(b) the progress made in the construction of this canal, so far;

(c) whether the Government propose to chalk out a time bound programme for completion of the SYL canal project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) The Central Government has released Rs. 499.12 crores to the Government of Punjab for construction of Sutlej-Yamuna Link Canal so far.

(b) About 97% of the earth work, 95% of the lining work and 86% of the structures were completed when the construction work came to a halt.

(c) and (d). The information cannot be disclosed in public interest.

Pak's Offer of Most Favoured Nation Status

561. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
DR RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :
SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY :
KUMARI UMA BHARTI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Pakistan regarding formal trade between the two countries and offer of most favoured nation status to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (c) Pakistan has not accorded MFN status to India and permits import from a list of 573 items.

Government have taken up the issue of grant of MFN status to India with Pakistan on several occasions and at various levels. Pakistan's official response is awaited.

International Monitoring System Facilities

562. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI G.G. SWELL :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India had made it clear at Conference on disarmament, Geneva that it would withdraw its International Monitoring System facilities in India;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
 (c) the number of IMS facilities in India?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. On 26 June, 1996, India informed the President of the Conference on Disarmament and the Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee on CTBT negotiations that as a result of its decision not to subscribe to the CTBT in its present form, India would no longer be able to maintain its offer of CTBT monitoring facilities as part of international verification system.

(c) In the draft Treaty text introduced by the Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee on 28 June, 1996 references to IMS facilities in India have been deleted.

Colleges running with Foreign Aid

563. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :
 SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH :
 SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the schools and colleges being run with foreign assistance for the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to bring such schools and colleges under its control; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (c). Statistics regarding the number of schools set up with foreign assistance in different States and UTs of the country is not maintained in the Ministry of Human Resource Development as school education is mostly looked after by the State/UT Governments. As regards colleges, information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Innovative Programmes

564. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether the Union Government have introduced some innovative programmes for the development and welfare of women and children;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) are also involved in those programmes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is attached.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT

The innovative programmes for the development and welfare of women and children are the following:

Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)

The ICDS, providing essential package of services comprising supplementary nutrition, pre-school education, health check up referral and nutrition and health education to pre-school children and pregnant and lactating mothers has been universalised during 1995-96. In expanding the coverage of the scheme throughout the country, recent years have witnessed a host of initiatives for strengthening the impact of the scheme, which include :

Interventions for the hitherto neglected adolescent girls in the age group of 11-18 years aiming to meet their special needs in the areas of nutrition, health, education and skill development have been introduced through 507 ICDS blocks to 3.50 lakh girls.

The World Bank assisted ICDS projects were introduced in 755 blocks in the pre-dominantly tribal areas of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. Apart from normal ICDS services, certain additional services namely income generation activities for women, interventions for adolescent girls, nutrition, rehabilitation of severely malnourished etc., are extended in these multi-state ICDS.

Indira Mahila Yojana (IMY)

Government has introduced the scheme of Indira Mahila Yojana (IMY) in the country on 20 August, 1995 in 200 ICDS blocks, for awareness generation, convergence of schemes of sectoral departments, income generation and preparing women component plan at district level by organising women's self-help groups. It will federate at sub-village level (Anganwadi level) and the block level. Utilizing the group dynamics the women's group will contribute in making grass root level planning with the governmental system and create district sub-plan which will be related to women.

Small homogenous groups of women will be organised in every Anganwadi area of the selected blocks. These groups will form their Indira Mahila Kendra (IMK) at the Anganwadi level. The representatives from these IMKs will form Indira Mahila Block Societies (IMBSs) at the block level. Each IMK will be assisted by a one time grant of Rs. 5,000/- by Government of India.

The women's group under IMY will be assisted by the District Authorities who will be preparing the District level annual sub-plan, called IMY.

NGOs will provide crucial input at the time of group formation, training and liaison with the Government. Government's role in this entire scheme will be that of a facilitator. Village level officials will facilitate IMK, block level officials will facilitate IMBS and women will be trained in participatory decision making.

National Creche Fund (NCF)

A National Creche Fund with a corpus fund of Rs. 19.90 crores has been set up in March, 94 with a view to opening more creches to meet the growing requirement of creches. Under NCF creches are sanctioned out of the interest accrued to the corpus. The scheme is being implemented through voluntary organisations of repute/mahila mandals with a grant of Rs. 18,480 per creche per annum towards recurring expenditure which includes honoraria of two creche workers (Rs. 800 per month) and grant for supplementary nutrition and contingency expenditure at the rate of Rs. 615 and Rs. 125 per month respectively. From the National Creche Fund assistance is also given to State Governments/Union Territory administrations for conversion of Anganwadis of the ICDS programme into Anganwadi-cum-Creche Centres. From the inception of the scheme till March, 1996, 1243 creches have been sanctioned which includes conversion of 299 Anganwadis into Anganwadi-cum-creche centres.

Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK)

The RMK has been started from 30th March, 1993, under which loan is given mainly through NGOs all over India for income generation activities of poor women. The amount of loan per woman borrower is Rs. 2500 (under short-term loan) and Rs. 5000 (under medium term loan). Till 28th June, 1996 RMK has sanctioned a loan of Rs. 1978.44 lakhs to benefit 109491 women through 112 NGOs.

Mahila Samridhi Yojana (MSY)

MSY was launched in October, 93 to inculcate among women the habit of thrift and empower them with greater control over their household resources. The MSY is implemented through Department of Posts (1.30 lakh rural post offices) where rural women open

their MSY saving account. On the deposit of Rs. 300 in a lock-in period of one year the MSY account holder gets a Government incentive of Rs. 75/-. NGOs are involved in organising MSY shivirs in the villages.

Support to Training and Employment Programme (STEP)

The scheme was launched in 1986-87. Under the scheme training is imparted in the traditional sector of agriculture, animal husbandry, handlooms, handicrafts, sericulture, khadi and village industries, dairying etc. to women for wage/self employment. NGOs active in the field of women's welfare are involved in the implementation of the scheme.

Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB)

CSWB, an apex organisation at the national level for promoting voluntary action in the field of women and child development by extending assistance to voluntary organisations has introduced some innovative schemes namely development and care of children of prostitutes in Delhi, Vijay wada, Varanasi, Allahabad and Jhargram; an integrated programme of shelter, vocational training, counselling and income generation for rehabilitation of some of the women living in abject poverty in religious places of Mathura; family counselling centres in police premises in 19 States/UTs so that cases of atrocities against women can be settled amicably and through professional counselling.

Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA)

NGOs have been involved in the implementation of DWCRA programme since its inception in 1982-83. CAPART has been supporting voluntary agencies for taking up DWCRA schemes in rural areas. So far 1366 DWCRA projects have been assisted by CAPART since inception.

Reproductive Child Health (RCH) by Department of Family Welfare

Considering that States display a wide variation in health parameters such as neo-natal, maternal and infant mortalities, area specific Reproductive Child Health (RCH) approach has been worked out separately for three groups of States plus the special category States (those States where considerable infrastructure input is flowing from IDA).

Category A states - 70-80% of the deliveries take place in hospitals, category B states-with even number of home-based deliveries and hospital deliveries, category C states-very high proportion of home based delivery. The essential components of RCH service include :-

- prevention and management of unwanted pregnancy

- Maternal care which includes ante-natal, delivery and post-partum services
- child survival services for new born and infants
- management of RTI/STDs

More NGOs will be involved for quality interventions and clinic based interventions in the new approach. Present schemes are being revamped for closer collaboration with NGOs who will strengthen community involvement in monitoring and implementing the project activities. They will also play a major role in training of trainers for technical skills as well as for IEC. Low cost maternity waiting areas for higher risk pregnancy cases are being proposed under NGOs sector.

Private rural medical practitioners and practitioners of indigenous systems of medicine will also be involved in preparing the Sub-Centre Action Plan and PHC plan.

[Translation]

Flood Control

565. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have any scheme to control the floods in the country particularly in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b). The investigation, planning and execution of flood control schemes are primarily the responsibility of the State Government. Centre renders assistance of technical and promotional nature and has mainly an advisory role.

However, the Rashtriya Barh Ayog (RBA) constituted by the Government of India in its report (1980) had made long term and short term recommendations for flood management in the country which included both structural and non structural measures. These recommendations have been sent to the States for implementation. Further, for the severe flood prone basins of Ganga and Brahmaputra, the Central Government Organisations of the Ganga Flood Control Commission and the Brahmaputra Board have respectively, prepared comprehensive master plans for flood management. These plans have been sent to the State Government for formulating detailed schemes for implementation.

In the successive Five Year Plans, the State Government have undertaken several Flood Management measures to mitigate the food problem which have provided a reasonable degree of protection to an area of 14.4 million ha. (against a flood prone area of 40 million ha. as assessed by

RBA). The Central Government is operating 157 flood forecasting stations covering 62 river basins which are providing timely flood forecasting services to the State Governments for issuing flood warning and organising flood fighting measures.

In the State of Bihar, the Flood Management measures undertaken by the State Government are providing a reasonable degree of protection of an area of 18.89 lakh ha. which is about 44% of the flood prone area of the State.

The Central Government has also launched a flood proofing programme in North Bihar in the 8th Plan by providing central assistance to the State.

Unscientific Extraction of Coal

566. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are ware of the fact that coal is being extracted unscientifically in certain coal mines in the country;

(b) if so, whether such mines have been identified;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken for ensuring the extraction of coal in those mines in a scientific and well planned manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (d). Coal mining activity by the public sector companies is undertaken on the basis of detailed exploration and mine planning. These companies are carrying out coal mining activity in a scientific manner, and according to available geological data.

[English]

Housing Programme

567. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any policy to implement the crash housing programme in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether jhuggi-jhonpuri dwellers would be provided houses under the said programme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b). Housing being a State subject, it is primarily for the State Governments

to formulate and implement housing programmes according to their priority and plan resources and loan assistance from national level financial institutions like Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd. (HUDCO).

The National Housing Policy stipulates reduction of houselessness in the country over a ten years' period. Pursuant to this provision, the State Governments are expected to formulate specific State-level Action Plans to achieve the objective of reducing houselessness in the country.

(c) and (d). The policy towards slums and squatter settlements in the urban areas enunciated in the National Housing Policy is that the Central and the State Governments would encourage in-situ upgradation, slum renovation, and progressive housing development with conferment of occupancy rights wherever feasible and would also promote incremental construction and upgradation by poorer households through access to land and services, technical support, outlets for low-cost technology and materials, opportunities for skill upgradation and access of housing finance on flexible terms.

[Translation]

TLC in NCR Delhi

568 SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the areas of National Capital Region of Delhi covered under the Total Literacy Programme during the last three years, till date.

(b) the total amount allocated to Delhi for this purpose during the above period, year-wise; and

(c) the amount actually utilised for this purpose, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) The areas covered under Total Literacy Programme in national Capital Region of Delhi during the last three years are as under :

Delhi : North-East, South-West, North-West, South-Central, North, East and West districts of Delhi.

Haryana : Panipat, Sonapat, Rohtak, Rewari, Gurgaon and Faridabad districts.

Uttar Pradesh : Meerut, Ghaziabad and Bulandshahar districts.

Rajasthan : Alwar district.

(b) and (c). A total amount of Rs 420.27 lakhs was released for Delhi for implementation of Literacy

Programme over the last three years. The year-wise details are as under :

Period	Rs. in Lakhs
1993-94	58.88
1994-95	62.95
1995-96	298.44

As the amount is sanctioned for the complete project, the actual utilisation of funds will be known only after completion of the project.

[English]

Radical Reforms in Examination System

569. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring radical reforms in the existing examination system; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) and (b). The National Policy on Education (NPE), 1996 as modified in 1992 stipulates adoption of certain functional measures to recast the examination system. All the functional measures recommended in the NPE have been circulated amongst the State/UT Governments and the various Boards of School Education in the country urging them to initiate action towards implementing the NPE recommendations. The basic responsibility of implementing these Examination Reform measures is with the Boards in relation to the School system affiliated to each Board.

In the Higher Education system, the University Grants Commission has been emphasising the implementation of some specific measures of examination reforms like Continuous Internal Evaluation, Development of question banks, Grading system, Semester system, re-designing of syllabi and question papers and conduct of examinations.

Implementation of these examination reforms is a continuing process.

Indian Institute of Management at Calicut

570. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN
SHRI E AHAMED :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state .

(a) the allocation made for the proposed Indian

Institute of Management to be set up at Calicut and Kozikode in Kerala;

(b) whether the work on these projects has commenced;

(c) if not, the time by which the work is likely to commence and the target date of completion; and

(d) the courses and faculties likely to be started and included in these institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (c). The Government has approved the establishment of Indian Institute of Management at Calicut with a total outlay of Rs. 43.11 crore upto the end of the Ninth Plan Period. An allocation of Rs. 1.00 crore has been made in the Budget Estimates 1996-97 for the institute. The Government of India has taken several steps to operationalise the institute.

(d) The proposed institute would offer Post-Graduate Programme, Short-term & Medium-term Programme and Fellowship Programme apart from Research and Consultancy activities.

World Bank Assistance for Primary Education

571. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has sanctioned any loan for promotion of primary education during 1995-96;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for approaching World Bank for loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (c). The World Bank has agreed to provide a credit of US \$ 425 million for the District Primary Education Programme Phase-II during the financial year 1996-97. The programme will cover about 60 districts in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu over a six year period. The District Primary Education Programme seeks to further the national commitment to achieve universalisation of elementary education.

Agni and Prithvi Missiles

572 DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had stopped

manufacturing of Prithvi and Agni Missiles and has postponed the programme;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government have now revised its decision and decided to develop and manufacture Agni and Prithvi missiles; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (b). There has been no postponement of the indigenous missile programme. User trials of surface-to-surface missile Prithvi have been successfully completed and subsequent activities are in progress. With three flight tests of re-entry technology demonstrator, the project Agni has been successfully completed. However, Agni is not a missile programme.

(c) There has been no revision in the Government's decisions. Status of Prithvi and Agni programmes is given in reply to parts (a) and (b) of the question.

(d) Does not arise.

US Arms Supply to Pakistan

573. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether US \$ 368 million worth of arms have been supplied by the US to Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details of the arms supplied to Pakistan;

(c) whether the US President has stated that arms supply to Pakistan is a conditional one;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have urged the US not to supply the arms in view of Pakistan's purchasing explosives of mass destruction from North Korea;

(f) if so, the details thereof and the response of the US thereto; and

(g) the measures the Government propose to take to meet the threat posed to the security of India?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) In April 1996, the US Administration decided, following the passage of the Hank Brown Amendment, to proceed with the release to Pakistan of \$ 368 million worth of military equipment which had been purchased by Pakistan prior to the 1990 imposition of Pressler Amendment sanctions. The actual transfer of the equipment is reported to have now started.

(b) The US \$ 368 million worth of military equipment includes.

— an army package of \$ 77.4 million of which the main items are nightvision equipment, howitzers, radars and rockets;

— a navy package of \$ 191.3 million consisting of P-3C aircraft, harpoon missiles and missile components; and

— an airforce package of \$ 98.8 million which includes engine kits, spares and support equipment.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f). Government have repeatedly conveyed India's concern at the US decision to transfer the arms package to Islamabad. Pakistan's past record of clandestine acquisition of nuclear weapons technology, ballistic missiles and related materials from third countries, its repeated use of US-supplied weapons against India and its continuing and direct involvement in sponsoring terrorism in India have been emphasized in this context. The US has maintained that the supply of the arms package to Pakistan under a one-time waiver of the Pressler Amendment does not constitute a resumption of the US-Pak military supply relationship.

(g) Government have noted that the advance military equipment to be supplied to Pakistan by the US contains a number of force multipliers and new items not part of current of military holdings in the region and that these would impact on India's security. The government is determined to take all necessary measures to counter any adverse effect on our national security.

Job-Oriented Scheme

574 SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether his Ministry has introduced any job-oriented scheme in urban areas of Karnataka during Eighth Plan;

(b) if so, the details of those schemes,

(c) the fund allocated to Karnataka for implementing those schemes; and

(d) the other details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b). A new scheme, namely, the Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme has been launched in November, 1995 to address several root causes of

urban poverty in Class II urban agglomerations (population between 50,000 to 1,00,000) with a multipronged, long-term strategy and a whole-town approach covering all dimensions of urban poverty. In keeping with this objective, self-employment through setting up of micro-enterprises to benefit urban unemployed and under-employed poor in Class II (urban agglomerations) is included as an important component of the programme.

All urban poor (annual household income less than Rs. 11,850/-) who have got education below or upto 9th standard are eligible for loans under the Programme, to set up small enterprises relating to servicing, petty business, manufacturing, etc. The maximum unit cost is Rs. 1,00,000/- and the maximum allowable subsidy is 15% of the project cost, subject to a limit of Rs. 7,500/-. The beneficiary is required to contribute 5% of the project cost as margin money.

(c) and (d). An amount of Rs. 634.59 lakhs has been released to the Government of Karnataka as Central share for the year 1995-96 for the implementation of Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme, out of which an amount of Rs. 179.23 lakhs has been provided for self-employment generation. A sum of Rs. 560.52 lakhs has been earmarked as Central share for the implementation of the Programme in Karnataka for the year 1996-97.

[Translation]

HUDCO Loan

575 SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state

(a) the details of institutions to whom the loan amount was provided by HUDCO during the last three years, State-wise, and

(b) the names of those states who had paid instalment of loan amount in time and the amount of loan recovered till date and the amount outstanding so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) HUDCO has provided loan assistance to various State-level housing and urban development agencies, namely Housing Boards, Development Authorities, City/Town Improvement Trusts, Slum Clearance Boards, Municipal Corporations/Committee, Co-operative Societies, NGOs etc. for construction of houses and development of the infrastructures in urban and rural areas of the country. The amount of loan assistance

released by HUDCO during the last three years i.e. 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 is as follows :

Year	Loan Amount released (Rs. in crores)
1993-94	1003.50
1994-95	1121.49
1995-96	1241.80

State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement-I

(b) Repayment of loans is made by individual agencies directly to HUDCO. Statement indicating State-wise loan sanctioned, amount released, repayment received and outstanding balance as on 31.3.1996 is given in the enclosed statement-II.

STATEMENT-I

S.No.	State/UTs	(Rs. in Crores)		
		Loan Amount Released		
		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	111.97	80.56	32.16
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.58	-	-
3	Assam	20.99	22.63	20.04
4	Bihar	15.32	3.94	15.46

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Goa	0.00	-	1.95
6.	Gujarat	59.99	41.39	35.44
7.	Himachal Pradesh	7.15	6.09	20.43
8.	Haryana	21.59	20.98	18.37
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.50	6.59	5.44
10.	Kerala	70.85	134.43	144.31
11.	Karnataka	79.27	158.54	222.76
12.	Meghalaya	8.63	0.62	4.06
13.	Maharashtra	84.60	85.91	91.62
14.	Manipur	6.63	3.73	3.35
15.	Madhya Pradesh	40.45	35.06	39.21
16.	Mizoram	0.25	2.18	3.35
17.	Nagaland	6.20	7.21	2.18
18.	Orissa	50.87	54.98	24.96
19.	Punjab	47.18	64.88	35.61
20.	Rajasthan	59.41	63.72	66.59
21.	Sikkim	10.68	4.44	12.82
22.	Tamil Nadu	152.24	184.44	196.16
23.	Tripura	0.39	1.18	0.30
24.	Uttar Pradesh	102.83	75.51	39.97
25.	West Bengal	36.54	58.03	43.86
26.	A & N Islands	0.19	-	0.57
27.	Chandigarh	7.85	4.20	-
28.	Delhi	-	0.26	110.83
29.	D & N Haveli	-	-	-
30.	Pondicherry	0.01	-	-

STATEMENT-II

S.No.	State/UTs	Loan Sanctioned	Amount Released	Repayment Received	Amount Outstanding (As on 31.3.96)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	966.81	664.35	269.86	349.49
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1.96	0.57	0.00	0.57
3.	Assam	200.84	110.38	17.20	93.18
4.	Bihar	221.84	96.91	48.20	48.71
5.	Goa	15.68	3.16	3.92	0.00
6	Gujarat	729.80	526.92	234.92	292.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	787.27	36.52	17.00	19.52
8	Haryana	254.28	174.76	112.39	62.37
9	Jammu & Kashmir	76.28	31.34	19.48	11.86
10.	Kerala	1072.83	721.66	237.24	484.42
11.	Karnataka	1062.86	671.53	174.78	496.75
12	Meghalaya	38.17	11.35	1.54	9.81

1	2	3	4	5	6
13.	Maharashtra	1053.56	741.64	411.57	330.07
14.	Manipur	39.96	21.02	4.05	16.97
15.	Madhya Pradesh	481.82	316.87	142.16	174.71
16.	Mizoram	20.09	13.25	1.64	11.61
17.	Nagaland	33.51	26.86	4.11	22.75
18.	Orissa	389.32	217.60	70.63	146.97
19.	Punjab	410.38	269.96	87.35	182.61
20.	Rajasthan	822.90	458.41	249.59	208.82
21.	Sikkim	40.35	30.17	4.48	25.69
22.	Tamil Nadu	1525.30	1112.20	376.36	735.84
23.	Tripura	12.52	5.48	0.70	4.78
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1614.43	1392.0	705.71	686.35
25.	West Bengal	425.53	204.14	61.72	142.42
26.	A & N Islands	5.21	2.18	0.93	1.25
27.	Chandigarh	78.28	71.82	59.09	12.73
28.	Delhi	144.02	113.18	46.47	66.71
29.	D & N Haveli	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.00
30.	Pondicherry	12.58	11.44	5.06	6.38

Coal available in Western Coal Fields Ltd.

576 SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM .
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR .

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the details of different categories of coal available in coal mines of Western Coal Fields Limited in Central India;

(b) the rates thereof;

(c) the order of preference given to the different categories of coal by the coal based Thermal Power Plants; and

(d) the position regarding the availability of coal of these different categories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) as per information furnished by Coal India Limited, details of different categories of coal available in Western Coalfields Limited and their present selling price are as under :

Grade of coal	Present Selling price of ROM coal including levies & taxes (Rs./T)
1	2
Medium Coking	785.00
<i>Non-coking</i>	
A	1016.00 (Steam)
B	940.00

1	2
C	855.00
D	644.00
E	486.00
F	405.00

(c) Power plants generally consume lower grades of coal suiting to the combustion technology of their boilers.

(d) The projected availability of the D, E & F grades of coal for the year 1996-97 are as under

Grade	Production Programme 1996-97 (M.T)
D	13.69
E	4.54
F	1.15

Construction of Houses

577. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state .

(a) the details of the houses constructed by the Government during the last three years; state-wise, Union Territory-wise and year-wise with names of the cities where these were constructed and also the amount spent thereon;

(b) the procedure for allotment of constructed houses;

(c) whether any Minister/officer, has got some fixed discretionary quota;

(d) the number of the houses constructed so far and allotted and the number of the houses lying vacant and the number of applications pending for allotment with reasons therefor;

(e) the procedure followed for getting these houses constructed and whether these houses were constructed through a contractor or by the department itself; and

(f) who were eligible for getting these houses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) The details of houses in the General Pool constructed during the last three years, city-wise, is given in statement enclosed. The total expenditure incurred on the construction of houses during these three years has not yet been compiled.

(b) Applications are invited from eligible Central Government employees, as per provisions of the Allotment of Government Residences (General Pool in Delhi) Rules, 1963. Waiting lists are prepared in order of the dates of priorities of the eligible

employees and, vacancies as and when they arise, are allotted on the basis of the waiting list prepared.

(c) Under the provisions of SR-317-B-25, Government for reasons to be recorded in writing, may relax all or any of the provisions of the rules in case of any officers or residence or class of officers or type of residence. Such relaxation is done with the approval of Minister incharge of Department of Urban Development. Further, a Quota of five units is fixed for out-of-turn allotment to the personal staff attached to the Cabinet Ministers and Ministers of States. However, out-of-turn allotments, except on genuine medical grounds have been stopped in pursuance to Hon'ble Supreme Court's interim direction dated 17.7.95 in the writ Petition (Civil) No. 585/94.

(d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(e) The houses are designed by the Central P.W.D. and the construction is carried out through contractors after call of tenders.

(f) All Central Government servants, working in offices specifically declared eligible for General Pool Residential Accommodation, are eligible for Government Accommodation.

STATEMENT

S.No.	Year	City	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	1993-94	Ghaziabad	-	-	-	24	8	-	32
		Simla	-	-	80	16	-	-	96
		Chandigarh	32	276	96	24	12	-	460
		Srinagar	30	-	-	-	6	-	36
		Kanpur	66	60	18	4	-	-	148
		Allahabad	42	116	60	-	3	-	221
		New Bombay	150	300	270	-	-	-	720
		Rajkot	48	48	-	8	-	-	104
		Calcutta	64	160	432	48	-	-	704
		Agartala	18	4	-	-	-	-	22
		Hyderabad	-	16	16	-	-	-	32
		Total	450	1000	972	124	89	0	2575
2.	1994-95	Chandigarh	80	-	48	-	-	-	128
		New Bombay	-	-	130	112	28	-	270
		Delhi	-	-	135	-	-	-	135
		Ghaziabad	176	-	-	-	-	-	176
		Rajkot	-	-	36	-	-	-	36
		Allahabad	-	40	-	-	-	-	40
		Total	256	40	349	112	28	0	785

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3.	1995-96								
		Faridabad	92	128	128	-	-	-	348
		New Delhi (M.B.Road)	-	-	-	112	-	-	112
		Total	92	128	128	112	-	-	460

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

**Brahmaputra Board (Standing Committee)
Rules, 1996***[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, under section 30 of Brahmaputra Board Act, 1980. I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Brahmaputra Board (Standing Committee) rules, 1996 (Hindi and English Version) published in Notification No. GSR. 112 in the Gazette of India dated 2nd March, 1996...*(Interruptions)*

[Placed in Library See No. LT.87/96]

*[English]***Central Motor Vehical (Amendment)
Rules, 1996 etc.**

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the table :

- (1) A copy of the Central Motor Vehical (Amendment) Rules, 1996 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 163(E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th March, 1996, under sub-section (4) of section 212 of the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988.

[Placed in Library See No. LT.88/96]

- (2) A copy of the Ministry of Surface Transport (Development Wing) Chief Engineer (Project Implementation Cell) Recuritmnt Rules 1995 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 131 in Gazette of India dated the 16th March, 1996 issued under proviso to article 309 of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library See No. LT.89/96]

*(Interruptions)***Annual Report and Review on the working of
National Book Trust, India, New Delhi for
1994-95 alongwith statement showing reasons
for delay in laying these papers**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English version) of the National Book Trust, India, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95 alongwith Accounts.
(ii) A copy of the Audit Report (Hindi and English versions) on the Accounts of the National Book Trust, India, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95.
(iii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working to the National Book Trust, India, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 90/96]

*(Interruptions)**[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : All right, go slowly. We have time; go coolly.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai-North) : The discussion on price hike of Petrol, L.P.G. and diesel is going on in this House. This discussion is likely to continue today. You must be aware. It was also discussed whether the price should be increased before presentation of Budget or not. In this connection, you and several other hon'ble Members have said that it is improper. It should not have been done, but I want to raise the question of propriety.

Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Indrajit Gupta, who is the senior most member of this House

and the Cabinet as well, has said at Madras that the price of L.P.G. will be reduced. That means he gave a statement outside this House in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Prime Minister had gone to Calcutta. Shri Gowda asserted :

[English]

"No plan to cut LPG prices."

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Naik, can we depend on this newspaper report?

SHRI RAM NAIK : Yes, Sir....(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : Sir, we do not depend on newspaper reports in this House(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let him finish. I will come to you later on.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Kaul and Shadhar has said on the page No. 259 of his book.

[English]

'No privilege of Parliament is involved if statements on matters of public interest are not first made in the House and are made outside. Such actions are against conventions and propriety, but do not constitute breach of privilege'

SHRI SURESH KALMADI (Pune) : Sir, we will support that.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : That is why I want to raise here a question of propriety....(Interruptions)

It is not proper that Hon'ble Prime Minister says something and Hon'ble Home Minister says something else. Therefore, I urge upon you that you should admonish the Prime Minister and the Home Minister. They should beg apology from the House because they have given such statements when discussion is going on in Parliament. Therefore, you should categorically say to them that they should not commit the contempt of House in this manner.

[English]

SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Sir, I fully support what Shri Ram Naik has said. It is a question of propriety and also of privilege. This was a very uncalled for statement, when the Parliament is in session I think nothing less than the resignation of the Home Minister is called for....(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Sir, please allow me to speak....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Would you like to speak on this issue?

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Yes, already I have given notice to raise this point of propriety. This point of propriety was raised on the first day of Session also. The veteran parliamentarian, the Home Minister, has made a statement at Madras on a topic which is being discussed in the House. As you know, the Home Minister has made a statement at Madras in his party office to the Press that the LPG prices would be reduced and a decision will be taken about it in a day or two. Further, he had added that this price hike is indirectly hitting the common man very hard. Of course, I congratulate him for that. He should have made all these statements on the floor of the House instead of making the statements to the Press. I would like to bring to the notice of the august House that this Government is a bundle of confusion and it is a bundle of contradiction. The Prime Minister one day prior to that has said that there will be no reduction in the prices of LPG. But the Home Minister is saying something else at Madras. And the Finance Minister says that there was a Cabinet meeting. And the decision to hike the prices was taken at the Cabinet meeting. But the hon. Home Minister says that he was not consulted on this issue. This is on record. He said, 'I was not consulted', while talking to the partymen and some other people here and there. This is the type of Government that we have today. I would like to say particularly that the Home Minister has committed an impropriety for which he should regret. He should withdraw the statement. He should apologise to the House. There is no collective functioning. There is no cohesion within the government. And this is the time for the Prime Minister also to get rid of such a Home Minister(Interruptions)

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA (Sangrur) : Sir, we are discussing a statement made at Madras by the Home Minister, the senior-most Member of the House. Now, there is a mention of impropriety in this statement. Now, obviously there are two statements, the statement of the Home Minister and the statement of the Prime Minister. We do not know which one is true-whether the price of LPG is going to be reduced or not. This is the question being discussed immediately by the House. So, this has to be resolved by the Home Minister and the Prime Minister. The P.M. should come to the House and make a statement to the effect which one of the two is correct. The other one should apologise that he has made a wrong statement. That is my submission.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Ram Naik has raised a question of propriety that the hon'ble Home Minister had given a statement outside the House. Shri Indrajit Guptaji is the Home Minister of this country and as on date, he is the senior-most parliamentarian also. It is different that

his experience of being in the Government is even less than that of Shrimati Kanti Singh. But he has given a statement outside the House. Therefore, it should be seriously discussed in the House because it depends upon them whether they would join the Government or not. Shri Somnath Chatterjee decided that his party would not join the Government. He said that if his party joins the government, it would have to be accountable and follow the Government policies and give statements accordingly.

When business of the House started, Members of Congress Party stood up and raised another issue about the remarks made by him about the Congress Party that they have no other option but to support this Government....(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KALMADI : It is our internal matter.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : This issue has been raised in the House. I had asked you at that time that do not waste time of the House. Your former Minister had said at that time....(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KALMADI : We will settle it.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I also gave this suggestion to them. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am concluding.

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : When Question Hour began, I said that it is your internal matter. Therefore, do not waste time of the House, and take a decision in this regard outside the House and if you are so much agitated, then you can withdraw your support. But just now what Shri Ram Naikji had said and later Shri Suresh Kalmadiji on behalf of the Congress Party said, atleast the Home Minister should resign. From the other side, one hon'ble Member Shri Panigrahi said that the hon'ble Minister should withdraw his statement but when he was pressurised, he said 'yes', the Prime Minister should get rid of such a Minister. He further said that this Government is a bundle of confusion. I would like to ask them whether they are less responsible for this bundle of confusion, whether they are not equally responsible for that? If this Government does anything, they are fully responsible for that. They should not waste much time of the House and should take a political decision outside the House and make it public. This House should not be used for pressure tactics and for black mailing the Government. If you have something about the Government, take a decision in this regard outside the House. It is only our privilege who are sitting in the opposition. We are raising the question of propriety. Therefore, you cannot go both ways at a time. I said that day also that the Members of the Congress Party want to take advantage of being in the ruling party and also want to maintain their prestige by opposing them. This is not going to last long. You will have to take decision whether you want to remain with the ruling party or with the

opposition. You cannot go both ways. Therefore, the question of propriety may be kept reserved.

Shri Indrajit Guptaji can guide all of us and he has been guiding us. We have been listening to his views being on hon'ble Member. But I do not know what has happened now, whether it is due to age factor, less experience in running the government or whether his personal views come in the open which ultimately are going to be the views of the Government? I have great regard for him. He is a senior Parliamentarian and a veteran leader of the country. I would also like to know under what circumstances he made such a statement.

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. It is not just a question of propriety, but it is something more than that. The matter was raised in this House and the Cabinet defended the decision of price rise. Now, a responsible Minister of the Cabinet going outside and making a different type of statement is something more than the question of propriety itself. The Cabinet functions on collective or joint responsibility, a very great responsibility. But this statement of his was striking at the very root of joint responsibility; and therefore, I feel that it is like a constitutional crisis. The Cabinet is working in different directions. The Minister owes an explanation to this House. I do not want to take more time of the House. But I would say that the Prime Minister himself should come to this House and make a statement. Thirdly, I want to say that that Minister made a statement insulting all the 140 Members of the Congress Party in this House.

We are responsible Members of this House taking responsible decisions. It is not for a Minister to go out and say that the Congress is taking decisions because they have no other choice. The CPI takes decisions like that but not the congress Party. It is an insult.

I want the Minister to apologise for that statement. We are 140 responsible Members as any other Member elected to this House. How can Mr. Indrajit Gupta go out and say that we are supporting this Government just because we have no other choice? We have a choice. We have taken a deliberate decision....(Interruptions)

I am not saying that he should resign. He should apologise to this House for insulting 140 Members of the Congress (I) Benches.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Kalmadiji, do you still have something to say....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : BJP supported you....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Guptaji has rightly said that it was their compulsion.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Ram Naikji has put up one aspect of the propriety but I would like to bring to your notice another aspect of it. A discussion is going on in the House on this matter. Members from both sides are expressing their views. Some Members, though their number is very less are defending it but remaining are criticising it.

In his statement the hon'ble Prime Minister said that the prices would not be reduced but on the contrary, Shri Indrajit Gupta stated that prices would be reduced. This is one aspect of the contradiction. If the hon'ble Prime Minister has already made up his mind for not reducing the prices, I think it is the insult of the entire House. If it has already been decided, then the discussion which is going on here for the last two days is an insult to the House. I want the hon'ble Prime Minister and the Home Minister both to apologise to the House. If they do not do so then I would like to submit to the Members of the Congress Party that the entire House should adopt a Censure Motion against both of them so that nobody makes such statements in future.

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : Sir, Mr. Ram Naik has raised a point of propriety in this House. I am more concerned with the statement given by Mr. Indrajit Gupta, hon. Home Minister. But very important point is that when we have been debating it under Rule 193. The discussion is incomplete. The Government has not expressed its viewpoint about this because Prime Minister has not replied the debate so far.

In-between Home Minister goes to Madras and makes a statement about LPG. I welcome his statement only because he has shown the sign of reduction in the LPG price.

On the same day, there was a different statement given by the Prime Minister of this country. In his statement, he had denied it. He said that there would not be any change in the price structure once declared. These are the two view-points of one Government.

The important question today is that the Prime Minister is not present in the House whereas Mr. Gupta is present here. I have nothing to say about what he has said about the Congress Party because both of them have got some understanding. Because of their understanding, he is at liberty to say anything. (Interruptions) I do not have to say anything. For God's sake, when Mr. Bal Thackeray is not here, do not take his name. If you want to say something else, you are welcome to do so.

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE (Ramtek) : What is wrong in mentioning the name of Shri Bal Thackeray. It is a good thing. Whether it is wrong to say good thing? ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : He is not in the House.

[Translation]

You pretend to be saying good things but in reality it is not so.

[English]

So, it is necessary that either Shri Indrajit Gupta should maintain his statement or he should ask for pardon particularly when we are discussing the price rise of petroleum products in the House. Otherwise, he should resign from the post and the Prime Minister should come to the House and clarify the stand as to what are the differences between the two; he should ask Shri Gupta to resign because this is against the policy of their own Government and particularly when the discussion is being continued under Rule 193, one should not utter a word outside the purview of this House.

SHRI SOMANTH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Mr. Speaker Sir, surely, our most respected Member of the House, Shri Indrajit Gupta can look after himself and it is for him to do so. I do not know whether he has been reported correctly or not and what his views are. I am not going it but Sir. It is being raised on a question of propriety and so many advices have been given to Shri Gupta that he should resign. He is one of the senior-most respected leaders of the country. Therefore, all sorts of suggestions, advices and admonitions are coming galore, addressed to a very respected Member of Parliament in this manner. He is occupying a very senior position in the Government. ... (Interruptions) I know Shri Nitish Kumar's agony; one can understand his agony; the way he is now behaving in the company of the BJP and giving advice to others as to how they should conduct themselves. Let him look after his own affairs.

We consider to be the patriotic duty of the majority of the Members of the House to preserve the Government at this stage. Therefore, Sir, we are very keen that whatever difficulties and problems they have, they have to be settled down. We all know that it is a coalition Government but trying to take up a posture as though a heinous crime has been committed and coming out with all sorts of epithets for a senior Member of this House, I think, it is insulting the House itself. ... (Interruptions) it is my personal feeling. This question had been raised in a much different form. Therefore, my request is,

Sir, that normally it is a matter for the Government and the Prime Minister. The Home Minister and other Ministers are here and I find that he is eager to make a statement. So, all these strong words need not have been used here in this case. This is my humble suggestion.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, at the very outset, I would like to remind my good friend, Shri Nitish Kumar that there was a time when there was Janata Government supported by the BJP without going to the Government. So, we have learnt some experience from them. They withdraw their support at a time. We shall also consider it at an appropriate time. This is not the time now.

Today, we are in a position. Shri Indrajit Gupta was one of the topmost Opposition leaders but as a Home Minister, he is a failure. Time and again, he is saying many things across the country about infiltration, one day he says, "People can come and go, what is there? There is no infiltration." Now, many things are happening. We do not want to go into all these things. We have been castigated in the national Press. (Interruptions). Sir, Please give me time, do not make me sit like that, I will finish. I am not going into the matter relating to LPG as all Members have said about it and it is up to him. It appears that Shri Somnath Chatterjee has already written a statement for him and he will read it out. Well, we accept it. (Interruptions)

Let me finish, I did not interfere when you were speaking. I have got full sympathy for this government but their Home is in trouble. Shri Taslimuddin went out and another is on the way of going out. Let me finish by saying one point. He made a statement about a matter which is pending in the court.

Sir, he is the Home Minister of the country. His position is not in the Opposition, his position is in the Treasury Benches. He cannot arrive at such forgone conclusions about a case which is pending before an appropriate Court. This is a very very serious matter. (Interruptions) he might be right or wrong. But no Home Minister of a country in the past has passed judgement about a case which is pending before a trial Court.

Secondly, we have given support to this Government and we would continue to support it. But that does not mean that we are the bonded labourers of the Treasury Benches. They have no authority to say as to how we are going to manage our Party affairs. If he wants I can walk out with my members from this House. Let him continue with the Government. It is a very irresponsible statement to make that 140 Members have no alternative but to support this Government. We have not interfered with their affairs. They could include anybody as Minister

as they like. But we are under no compulsion. Our compulsion is our conviction and our conviction is that the secular forces should be ruling this country, as Shri Somnath Chatterjee has also said. Shri Somnath Chatterjee has also rightly said that there are certain difficulties.

Sir, let us hope that this is the last time that any Minister of this Government make such irresponsible statement like this. I hope, Shri Indrajit Gupta, with his rich experience in this Parliament, would come out with an appropriate statement here in this House so that we could console our members and we do not have to take certain decisions which might not be pleasant for him and his Government. (Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : Sir, we want elections but not humiliation. (Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thought the issue was of propriety.

MR. SPEAKER : that is what I wanted to say to Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, I am again back on the issue of propriety of Parliament principally because of what Shri Somnathji has said that to say anything about the propriety of Parliament in the context of what the hon. the Home Minister has said or is alleged reported to have said is, in fact, impropriety towards this Parliament.

Sir, I think, in his enthusiasms and zeal he has oversaid. I am sure, he himself also realises this. Now, as far as the Chief whip of the Congress Party and his very severe admonition to the senior-most Member of this House is concerned, I do not wish to rush in where, as the phrase goes, angels fear to tread. I do recollect very well, it is not very long ago that this very party on a trivial issue like two policemen standing outside somebody's house brought down a Government. I am reminded of all those things also. (Interruptions) the then Prime Minister lost his job because of two policemen from Haryana. Two policemen from Haryana had cost Shri Chandra Shekhar his job. (Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia) : Please use appropriate phrases. I did not lose my job. You should not distort phrases. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Now the Congress party is in dilemma as to what it should do and what it should not do. It wants to attack without causing any injury. This dilemma of the Congress is not a new one. They may shout as much as they can but, they will not do anything. Therefore, I would like to request. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK (Bolangir) : We know our responsibilities...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say something if the Members of the Congress allow me to speak...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Panigrahi ji, you are one of the very senior Members of this House. Please sit down.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : what is the issue? The issue is the Congress Party's confusion within its own ranks; its confusion vis-a-vis the Government; the Government's internal confusion. Each has to be separate. The Congress Party's confusion is its own responsibility. The government's confusion is the responsibility of the House. If the government is confused, makes confused statements, then certainly the House is involved.

Here in this case, a very senior Member, in fact the senior most Member of the House is reported to have made - while a debate is going on in the House - a policy statement, which policy statement his own Prime Minister on that very day contradicted and said that it was not correct. So, the first impropriety is committed by the hon. Minister and the second impropriety is committed by the hon. Prime Minister by refuting the point. If the Prime Minister had not made a statement, I would be happy to be told that he has not made a statement. Similarly, if the hon. Home Minister had not made a statement I would be happy to be told because it is also reported that the hon. Home Minister stand by both the Statements, whatever his party has said and what the Cabinet has said. That is at the root of the confusion of this Government.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : That is on that side.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : That actually is at the root of confusion. That is the impropriety that has been committed. Hon. the Home Minister owes an explanation to this House. It will be very simply resolved if he gets up and says that no such statement was made. The issue will be over.

AN HON. MEMBER : How can he say?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Let him say so. Let him also say that he made no observation about the President of the Congress Party, that the Congress Party is free to have whoever they choose, whenever they choose and whether they choose or not to choose. This also should be said.

Unless the hon. Home Minister's stand has been clarified, I am afraid we will very sadly continue to have this conclusion carried that an impropriety has

been committed and that impropriety is going unobserved. We are simply fulfilling our duty and I am sure it is the responsibility of the Government now to satisfy us on these accounts.

THE MINISTERS OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, two or three points have been raised by the hon. Members. Let me first take up the one questioning my alleged statement made in Madras regarding the pricing of LPG. Of course, if my statement was correct - which events have proved that it was not - many people here would have been happy.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : We would have been happy.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Certainly you would have been happy. I want to make it clear, firstly it was not a printed statement. It was said in a response to the way, you know, the Pressmen encircle people and heckle them. I never said that the prices of LPG will be reduced or is going to be reduced. What I said was, 'It may be reduced. The government is considering these matters.' I agree that while a debate is going on in the House on the same subject, and even if there is no debate going on, no policy statement should be made outside the House. It does amount to impropriety and that is a well established precedent in this House. It is for you to judge whether it was a statement of policy what I had said was that the prices may be reduced, the matter is being considered. It is for you to judge whether saying that much also was an act of impropriety or not. Subsequently, the hon. Prime Minister, who is after all the head of this government, had very clearly contradicted whatever my alleged statement may have conveyed to the people and had made it clear that there would be no reduction in the prices of petroleum product. Naturally, his statement has precedence over anything I may or may not have said. He is the head of this Government. I can be accused by somebody of being not been able to understand the policy of the Government or being confused, something like that. I am willing to admit that as a way of criticism. But all I had said was that the prices of LPG may be reduced, the matter is under consideration. The Prime Minister has clarified subsequently that there is no such proposal and the prices will not be reduced. This being evident of a Government which is tied up in contradictions, so on and so forth, that is for the House and the people outside to judge. I do not want to go into the examples of what used to happen earlier.

Then, there are two other points. One is, that I am alleged to have said something which pre-judges or seeks to pre-judge a decision of the court when the proceedings are going on in the court. Mr. Dev has said that I have no business to come to any foregone conclusion about something which is at the moment going on before the court. I categorically

deny that I have made any kind of foregone conclusion about what may or may not happen in the court. I am not responsible. If you read half-a-dozen newspapers, I am sure you do, you will find half-a-dozen versions of my alleged statement. Every newspaper does not carry the same statement. Even regarding LPG, let me say, it did not appear like that in that form in every newspaper. It is very important things for the people of this country. If I say that LPG prices are going to be reduced, surely this is a statement which would have been carried very prominently in all the daily newspapers. It was not carried like that. You please see.

About this matter in the court, I categorically deny that I have ever said anything which amounts to saying the foregone conclusions as to what is going to happen in the court. How can I say that? I do not know what is going to happen in the court.

Thirdly, I wish to assure my friends.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pat): You must tell us, what did you say. You have said that there are several versions. You please tell us the real version. What did you really say?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I did not say anything about the court proceedings.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA: You have said about the resignation of the former Prime Minister.

MR SPEAKER: Please, Mr. Lodha, let the Home Minister answer.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA: Sir, I am only saying that if he has said about the resignation of the former Prime Minister. *(Interruptions)*

MR SPEAKER: He is saying that he has said nothing.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA: I only want to congratulate him because it was a right thing which he had said and should have said. The people of this country want to congratulate him on that point.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Members who are talking of propriety are behaving like this! Is it the propriety of the House? *(Interruptions)*

MR SPEAKER: Please, Mr. Lodha.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: If an hon. Member denies a statement, it is never questioned here. He was a judge in the court.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA: Sir, we want to know what was his real statement.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Unfortunately he is a retired judge of the High Court not serving.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA: That is why I want to congratulate him. *(Interruptions)* He has talked about the moral right, the standard which we want in public life. *(Interruptions)* A person who is facing the court proceedings should resign.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lodha, please sit down.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I cannot submit to another Press Conference here, inside the House.

As to the third point, I wish to assure my friends in the Congress-I have very many friends here, of course they do not always communicate with me nowadays; they communicate with other people. I was expecting somebody to communicate with me when they were all so worked up about it. Anyway, nobody spoke to me. I am getting reports from my other friends. I wish to assure my friends in the Congress that I have no desire and I have no intention of interfering in the internal matters of their party. If any impression like that has been created by what I am reported to have said, I am sorry. There was no such intention. I will not interfere in your internal matters.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: It is all right.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Wait a minute. I must explain it. When I say, and I still say, that your party has taken a particular stand towards our Government which you have done under compulsion. I still stick to that.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep): It was under conviction.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: You may call it conviction. I do not know if all the 140 Members got the same conviction. I say, you were under compulsion because your Leader, the former Prime Minister in this House, on the floor of the Parliament during a debate on the Confidence Motion had categorically stated two things. That is a compulsion. It is a public commitment from which you cannot go back. One was that they will never support a BJP Government and the other was that if a Government of secular forces was formed, they will support that Government. This is a compulsion, this is a public commitment. *(Interruptions)* No, no, you cannot go back from that.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Mr. Home Minister, it is not a compulsion, it is our conviction.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, as far as I am concerned, when a man of the status of Shri Indrajit Gupta said 'sorry' we have forgotten the whole issue and he can take his seat now. No further reaction is needed from him. The matter has ended. A man of his status saying 'sorry' is more than enough.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I am waiting for you to say that you are also sorry. Anyway, Sir, I do not want to have any bad feelings between myself and my friends in the Congress. I have many friends in the Congress and I wish to assure them once again that there was never any intention or desire on my part to say something which would be interpreted as an interference in the internal matters of their Party. If such an impression has been created, for that I am sorry. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please, enough....(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, we appreciate the statesmanlike attitude shown by the Home Minister....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, we would like to know the version of the Prime Minister also....(Interruptions)
The Home Minister has said that it is for the Prime Minister to say....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please allow me to speak.
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I know what I have to do.
(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a matter of price rise. In Punjab, farmers have come out on roads to oppose the price rise....(Interruptions) people have come out on roads. Please allow me to speak on this important issue....(Interruptions) Please allow me to speak. I have given a notice in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have to dispose of this issue first.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, no, I have not disposed of this issue.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : How can I give my rulings?
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Barnalaji, I have to give my observations on the question of propriety.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This matter has not been disposed of as yet by me. Will you allow me to dispose of this question?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Will you please sit down now?

[Translation]

SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS (Sitapur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, 300 new MPs have been elected to the Lok Sabha but no arrangements have been made for their accommodation. About 50 persons are compelled to live in single room. We want your protection. So far, House Committee has not allotted any accommodation to us. The Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the House Committee are sitting here....(Interruptions) No arrangements have been made for our accommodation. About 300 persons are staying in the place where we have been allotted

a room. I would like to request you to help us in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER : Discussion on the question of propriety is still going on. It has not yet been disposed of.

[English]

Hon. Members, only the other day we had spent a lot of time discussing the question of propriety. Again this matter has been raised today. The matter under discussion in the House is as to whether it was proper on the part of the Government to have made some statements outside the House. On this we have heard the Home Minister. I think the Home Minister was within his right to say that the Government may consider it, because at the conclusion of the debate the Government has to give a specific reply and naturally the Government will consider the pros and cons before doing so.

Shri Indrajit Gupta is one of the seniormost Members here and he himself had stated that he is fully aware of the questions of propriety that nobody should make any statement outside. I think we can't accept what the Home Minister has said. There is no question of breach of propriety here.

Now, I will come to the second question viz., the categorical and reported statement made by the Prime Minister. I do not know whether he had made that statement at all. I am not aware of it.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : On this question, let me make the position very clear. Even if you look at the newspapers also, the Prime Minister nowhere met any pressmen yesterday during his Calcutta visit. He has not made any statement to that effect. Only some people met him and they said something outside which has been interpreted as if that is the Prime Minister's statement....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Has it been officially contradicted?

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : He has not made any statement.

MR. SPEAKER : I think it has been now clarified by no less a person than the Parliamentary Affairs Minister himself. I think the House should accept that. There is no question of any breach of propriety. I think the matter has been clarified by the Government very clearly.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South) : I have given a notice of breach of privilege regarding the statement made by the hon. Prime Minister on Friday.

According to the rules, it takes precedence over other matters.

Sir, on 12th, while making intervening remarks ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The notice of privilege has been received by the office. I am going through it. The normal procedure is that, we ask for the comments against whom you are going to raise the privilege issue. It is under the consideration of the Chair. You need not raise it at the moment because we have to follow the procedure.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, it is regarding Cauvery. It is a matter of grave importance. According to Rule Book also, it should take precedence over all other matters. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It is under my consideration now. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, allow me to submit. On 12th, the hon. Prime Minister, in this House said: "With your permission, I would like to clarify the position. First of all, the Government of India has not given any instructions to anybody, to any State to release 5 tmc feet of water to Tamil Nadu. But on 11th, in Bangalore, on the floor of the Legislative Assembly, the Chief Minister of Karnataka states-Bommai advised water release. The Minister for Human Resource Development has clearly advised the State Government of Karnataka to release 5 tmc feet of water to Tamil Nadu. Now, I will quote what he has said. He said: "The Chief Minister, Mr. J.H. Patel on Thursday cleared the mystery surrounding the sudden decision of the State Government to release 5 tmc feet of water to Tamil Nadu from Tuesday morning". Mr. Bommai maintained all along this. When some Opposition Members insisted on being informed of the identity of the person, Mr. Patel said he was none other than the Union Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Bommai, who had requested him to release some water to Tamil Nadu.

MR. SPEAKER : I am saying that it is still under my consideration. It is under consideration of the Speaker. That is enough.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I request you to consider the matter. It is because there are two versions. The Prime Minister has definitely misled this House by telling that nobody from his Government advised or instructed to release 5 tmc feet of water whereas the Chief Minister had said Mr. Bommai had requested him to release some water to Tamil Nadu.

Therefore, I request you to consider this matter of breach of privilege against the Prime Minister.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, every Member has the right to speak on certain issues. But it is unfortunate that whenever I want to raise an issue I am always disturbed by other Members.

I am raising a very important issue and I think the whole House will support me. The basic principle of our Constitution is to protect the human rights under the principle of Fundamental Rights of every citizen. Sir, in recent times, the deaths under police and judicial custody have risen like anything. I can show you some photographs of these brutalities. This is the vindictive attitude of one section of the administration. Sir, this photograph shows how a boy was burnt inside the lockup. If this goes on like this, I do not know how the human rights will be protected.

According to our Constitution under the CRPC Act the court can take action against the accused persons and the law takes its own course ...*(Interruptions)* It is not a matter of a particular State. I am raising this matter as it is a matter of the whole nation.

Sir, I raised this matter earlier also when hon. Shri Shivraj V. Patil was in the Chair. At that time the Standing Committee on Home unanimously passed the amendment to the CRPC Act. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan was also a member of that Committee. The Recommendations of that Committee were :

- "(i) Within 24 hours, there must be a judicial enquiry; and
- (ii) the family members of the victim should either get a sum of Rs. 1500 per month or employment per family in the event of a custodial death."

The then hon. Speaker, Shri Shivraj V. Patil had kindly said that the Government had to look into this issue.

May I appeal to the Government, through you, to save the life of the common man as the lives of the people are not safe. People are now afraid to go to police stations. What happened in Aara in Bihar? What is happening in my State? What happened in Tihar Jail? Sir, it is not a political question.

MR. SPEAKER : Mamtaji, I think you have drawn the attention of the House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I support her on this issue. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please give chance to other Members to raise issues.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, through you, I draw the attention of the hon. Prime Minister, hon. Home Minister, hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and hon. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan that the Bill which is pending before the House in this regard should be passed immediately so that the victims and their family members could get some relief ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to state that the people of Punjab, leaving their houses and shops, have come to the roads in protest. They are agitating over the price-hike in petroleum products. The price-hike has cast its maximum effect on Punjab because the people of Punjab have one third of the total number of tractors in the country and there are around nine lakh tube wells which consume diesel. Therefore, the people of Punjab have been badly affected and are compelled to bear the burden of price-hike. Therefore, barring the Congress and Janata Dal, people belonging to all the parties in the entire State have staged Dharna before the office of Deputy Commissioner today. I am sorry to say that the hon. Ministers of this Government are confused and they have also confused the people. We became very happy when the Statement of the hon. Home Minister came but we became amazed when the said statement was withdrawn ... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi) Punjab is the food supplier State of the entire country.

Today, people of the State are agitated over the price hike in petroleum products and so, they are resorting to 'Bandh'... (Interruptions). This Government has presented its first gift to the farmers of the country by increasing prices of diesel and petrol due to which today agitations are being resorted to in Punjab ... (Interruptions) Bandh is being organised

[English]

MR SPEAKER I think you have made your point. Why do you not allow other Members to speak

[Translation]

DR SATYANARAYAN JATIA (Ujjain) Mr Speaker, Sir, I have to inform the House with a heavy heart that today in morning at 5 a.m. when a number of people were going to have 'Darshan' of Mahakal in Ujjain a stampede was caused which resulted into the spot death of 48 people there

The incident took place in the morning when 'Arta' a daily affair, was to be performed. A senior officer came for 'Darshan' through a VIP Gate. At that time, as there was no arrangement of police etc. to check entry of the people, the entire crowd rushed inside the temple which caused chaos and as a result 48 people were killed on the spot and hundreds were wounded. This accident took place at Mahakal temple in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh where hundreds of people come everyday for 'Darshan'

In spite of such a tragic accident, nobody has paid attention towards it. In fact, this accident took place due to mismanagement of police and administration. I would like to demand, through you, the Government to provide Rs. two lakh each to the families of the deceased and an amount of appropriate compensation to the persons wounded in the incident. Besides appropriate action should be taken against the officers responsible for this mismanagement. The guilty officers should be suspended and an enquiry be conducted in this regard. The affected persons should be provided economic assistance immediately. I would like to demand that the Government should make a statement on this accident... (Interruptions)

DR. PAMVILAS VEDANTI (Machhalishahar) Mr Speaker, Sir, my Parliamentary Constituency, Machhalishahar is at present in the grip of a 'Human hyena' which lifts the children frequently and has so far killed atleast 25 children. People of the area have staged 'Dharna' and resorted to demonstration several times. So far, three police jeeps and three buses have been set afire. Three rifles have been snatched and one revolver is missing. Two wireless sets also have been snatched. Many persons have been put in jails. The day before yesterday, in an accident which took place at Rajapur village under the jurisdiction of Sujanganj police station. While lifting the child of a Bangladeshi woman, the said 'human hyena' had lifted a four year old child of 'Kahar' whose stomach was cut with the help of a knife afterward. Children of the area are being kidnapped frequently and killed mercilessly in the name of this human hyena.

I would like to urge upon the Government to conduct a CBI enquiry in this regard so that the facts could be made public and the culprits could be identified. As per the information given by the people, some persons covering their faces with black cloth lift away the children and there after cut their stomach with the help of a knife. Local administration and the police are not ready to listen to anything in this regard. Not only that, after the incident, police and the administration are misguiding the people by killing a hyena and saying that this hyena is responsible for the incident but the people are not ready to believe this. People do not come out of their houses after 7 p.m. I demand for immediate solution of the problem and that the entire matter should be handed over to CBI. Shri D B Rai had also raised the same issue in the House on last 12th June. (Interruptions)

SHRI K D SULTANPURI (Shimla) Mr Speaker, Sir, due to heavy rains in Himachal Pradesh in this rainy season, crops in most of the hilly areas have been badly damaged and most of the crops have

been destroyed. The apple crop has been destroyed by the hailstroom due to which the economic condition of the farmers has worsened.

13.00 hrs.

I have sent a telegram and letter to the hon. Prime Minister in which I have demanded more financial assistance than the assistance of Rs 400 crore approved by Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly so that the farmers of the State may get a sigh of relief.

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Arariya) Mr Speaker, Sir, the Members of Parliament are provided with Rs One crore from MPs Local Area Development Fund every year. Many of our Schemes are pending on which many of my senior Members, who are also my friends, have expressed their views. Sir, I would like to know, through you, as to how many days it will take to reach this amount of Rs one crore to DM.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Island) Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to attract your as well as the Government's attention to a very serious matter. You know that Andaman and Nicobar Island is situated in the Bay of Bengal. The Government of India has issued an order that nobody will take away either sand or stones from the Island as it will stop the development of the Island because services of ships are required for transportation of sand and stones from the island. You know that shipping service is not available for transportation of eatable items. This order will hinder the development of tribals, Nicobar tribals and people living on the sea shore. They will not get drinking water. It will hurt the sovereignty of the country and then we will fail to protect our country. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR SPEAKER : When a Member is speaking, others have to sit down. I wish I could give a chance to everybody but what can I do? I am also helpless. Mr Bhakta, please conclude. Do not look back.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) Mr Speaker, Sir, one Member is speaking and several other Members are standing. What is this? (Interruptions)

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA I, therefore, would like to request the House to look into the matter immediately since the matter is very serious and if it is not done, the people of the island will be deprived of the development. I would like to submit the treasury benches as well as the other parties to do something in order to improve the situation and the order issued in this regard should be withdrawn.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now the House stands adjourned to meet at two o' clock.

13.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for lunch till fourteen of the clock.

[English]

14.05 hrs.

The Lok Sabha reassembled after lunch at Five Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES

(i) Council of Indian Institutes of Technology

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : Sir, on behalf of Shri S. R. Bommar, I beg to move the following :

"That in pursuance of Section 31 (2) (K) of the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961, the Member of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from among themselves to serve as members of the Council of Indian Institutes of Technology, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER The question is :

"That in pursuance of Section 31 (2) (K) of the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two member from among themselves to serve as members of the Council of Indian Institutes of Technology, subject to other provisions of the said Act"

The motion was adopted

[English]

14.06 hrs.

(ii) Governing Council of North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, Shillong

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : Sir, I beg to move the following :

"That in pursuance of Rule 3(b) read with Rule 4(b) of the rules of the North Eastern

Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, Shillong, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, one Member from among themselves to serve as a member of the Governing Council of North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, Shillong, subject to the other provisions of the said Rules."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That in pursuance of Rule 3(b) read with Rule 4(b) of the rules of the North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, Shillong the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, one Member from among themselves to serve as a member of the Governing Council of North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, Shillong, subject to the other provisions of the said Rules"

The motion was adopted

[English]

14.07 hrs.

(iii) **Governing Body of Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : Sir, I beg to move the following:

"That in pursuance of rule 15 of the Rules, Regulations and Bye-Laws of the Indian Council of Medical Research, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from among themselves to serve as members of the Governing Body of Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi, subject to other provisions of the Rules."

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER . The question is

"That in pursuance of rule 15 of the Rules, Regulations and Bye-Laws of the Indian Council of Medical Research, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from among themselves to serve as members of the Governing Body of Indian Council of Medical Research, New

Delhi, subject to other provisions of the Rules."

The motion was adopted.

14.8½ hrs.

Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Services) Bill*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : Sir, on behalf of Shri M. Arunachalam, I beg to move for leave to introduce** a Bill to regulate the employment and conditions of service of building and other construction workers and to provide for their safety, health and welfare measures and for other matters connected therewith or incidental thereto

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to regulate the employment and conditions of service of building and other construction workers and to provide for their safety, health and welfare measures and for other matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA . Sir, I introduce the Bill.

14.10 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: BUILDING AND OTHER CONSTRUCTION WORKERS (REGULATION OF EMPLOYMENT AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) THIRD ORDINANCE, 1996

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) . Sir, on behalf of Shri M. Arunachalam I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Third Ordinance, 1996.

[Placed in Library see No. LT.92/96]

* Published in the gazette of India Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dt. 15.7.96.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President

14.11 hrs.

**BUILDING AND OTHER CONSTRUCTION
WORKERS WELFARE CESS BILL***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : Sir, on behalf of Shri M. Arunachalam, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the levy and collection of a cess on the cost of construction incurred by employers with a view to augmenting the resources of the Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Boards constituted under the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996

• MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the levy and collection of a cess on the cost of construction incurred by employers with a view to augmenting the resources of the Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Boards constituted under the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996"

*The motion was adopted ***

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA Sir, I introduce the Bill

14.12 hrs.

**STATEMENT RE: BUILDING AND OTHER
CONSTRUCTION WORKERS' WELFARE CESS
THIRD ORDINANCE, 1996**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) Sir, on behalf of Shri M. Arunachalam, I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Third Ordinance, 1996

[Placed in Library See No LT. 93/96]

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 15.7.96

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President

14.12½ hrs.

**COAL MINES PROVIDENT FUND AND
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS
(AMENDMENT) BILL***

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : Sir, I beg to move

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Coal Mines Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1948"

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Coal Mines Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1948"

The motions was adopted

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH Sir, I introduce** the Bill

14.13 hrs.

**STATEMENT RE: COAL MINES PROVIDENT
FUND AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS
(AMENDMENT) THIRD ORDINANCE, 1996**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) Sir, I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Coal Mines Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Third Ordinance, 1996

[Placed in Library See No LT. 94/96]

14.13½ hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) **Need to rejuvenate HEC, Ranchi by providing adequate financial assistance**

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (Ranchi) : About 20,000 workers are engaged in HEC Poorva Ranchi

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 15.7.96

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President

in my Constituency and it is called mother industry. This industry is now on the verge of closure.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to take it out of BFIR and financial assistance should be provided to it. Supply Orders should be given to it from Bokaro and other places. Pay scales of the workers have not been revised since long. Therefore, their pay scales should be revised. Displaced families should be given employment and the land lying vacant should be returned to the displaced families. The workers of HEC are agitating on these issues.

(ii) Need to clear Bandra-Worli-Nariman Point sea way project of Maharashtra Government.

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA (Mumbai South) Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, the problem of traffic is assuming serious proportions in Mumbai with the rapid increase in population. In order to overcome the problem faced by the people of Mumbai, the Maharashtra Government has formulated a Bandra-Worli-Nariman Point sea way project.

This project will help in saving petrol/diesel worth Rs. 45 crore. The passengers will reach their destination within 12 minutes in place of 30 minutes. Besides, the vehicular pollution would be reduced sharply and the people will be largely facilitated after broadening of roads.

This project is about construction of Bandra-Worli Nariman Point sea way. The Central Government is requested to clear Bandra-Worli-Nariman Point sea way project at the earliest by taking written assurance from the Maharashtra Government.

Therefore, I propose that adequate provision should be made in the Ninth Five Year Plan for this project.

(iii) Need to restrain Karnataka Government from raising the height of Almatti Dam

[English]

DR T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) Sir, the Andhra Pradesh Government has urged the Union Government for its immediate intervention in the Almatti dam controversy involving the States of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. The Karnataka Government has taken a decision to raise the height of the dam to impound more water on its side, thus depriving the tail-end side of Andhra Pradesh its due share of water. The Karnataka Government has ignored these objections and has decided to go ahead with the raising of height of the dam. Union Government has been urged to restrain Karnataka from proceeding with the dam work pending an amicable solution to the crisis. Almatti dam

constructed by Karnataka on the upper reaches of Krishna river would impound 227 TMC of water as against Karnataka's share of 160 TMC. If Karnataka goes ahead with its plan to increase the height of the dam further, the storage capacity would go up by 400 TMC. In such an eventuality, the flow of water into Andhra Pradesh would drastically decrease which would affect power generation at Srisailem, the first dam of Krishna in Andhra Pradesh side and affect irrigation in a large area.

I urge upon the Union Government to restrain Karnataka from going ahead with construction of the dam till an amicable settlement between Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka is reached. Otherwise it will create great resentment in Andhra Pradesh.

[Translation]

(iv) Need for early settlement of boundary dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka

SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY (Mumbai North-Central) About twenty lakh Marathi speaking people living in Maharashtra-Karnataka Border region are raising their voice in a democratic manner for their justified demand for the last 35 years. Neither the Government of Karnataka is paying any heed to them, nor the Government of Maharashtra is doing anything for them. The Central Government is also not giving any assurance to these countrymen in this regard. This Border Dispute is creating problems in the border States again and again. The linguistic minorities in the region have not been given their due rights. These people have expressed their problems in a democratic manner by staging Hunger-strikes and also making representations. A discussion on the report given by Mahajan Commission in this regard is required to be held in this House.

I would like to urge upon the Central Government to find a way out to solve this Border dispute immediately keeping in view the problems of the people of Maharashtra-Karnataka Border.

(v) Need to take preventive Measures to check recurring floods in Punjab

[English]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) I wish to draw the attention of Central Government towards devastating floods in Punjab and adjoining States. Large number of houses have collapsed and crops worth crores of rupees damaged due to floods in Punjab for the last three years regularly. No adequate compensation has been given till now to the victims. The Government should inquire into the matter and make arrangements for preventive

measures to control the recurrence of floods I would like to suggest to the Central Government to take up the matter with the Governments of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh to construct a dam on the Gahaggra river. Firstly, it will be helpful to check floods and secondly, the stored water will be used for irrigation.

(vi) Need to check deforestation in Sunderbans area of West Bengal

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar) Sir, Sunderbans area in West Bengal, bordering the Bay of Bengal, was once renowned for its Tiger Project and unique flora and fauna. But unfortunately, it has now fallen on bad days resulting from its deforestation. The bane of the whole problem is that the traders in timber with some local people—who are poverty-ridden and ignorant of the resultant damage being caused to their forest wealth as a result of this deforestation—are clandestinely getting the trees uprooted and carting them for being sold at a very high price.

It is high time that the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests, responsible for the maintenance of the Tiger Project in Sunderbans and its guardian for ecological protection, moves in the matter and puts an end to these nefarious trade practices and save the scenic forests from degradation.

Further, Sir, nature is also taking its own toll inasmuch as during the tide, the sand brought by it accumulates and spreads and ultimately uproots the trees. Since the Ministry is also responsible for the preservation of bio-sphere ecology in this region, it is high time that it consults some experts and devises some effective measures to check that the sand does not uproot the trees but is utilised more gainfully and purposefully.

(vii) Need to lay railway line between Chatra and Gaya, Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL (Chatra) Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, Chatra is a very backward district of Bihar which is about 80 km away from Gaya. In the absence of rail route, the people of this district feel difficulty to visit Gaya. Local people have been demanding construction of a rail line from Gaya to Chatra since long. A survey was conducted in this regard earlier but the construction work has not started yet. I am the people's representative of this district. The people of Chatra have urged me to ensure that Chatra is connected by a rail line at the earliest. This is an urgent matter of public interest. It will pave the way for development of this area.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government that District Headquarter Chatra should be connected by a rail line on the priority basis so that the development of the area can start.

14.23 hrs.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER

(i) Situation arising due to Kala-Azar in Bihar

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : Mr Deputy-Speaker Sir, Kala-azar is a major public health problem in the States of Bihar and West Bengal. It is spread by the sand fly vector which is predominantly seen in the Gangetic belt, especially to the north of Ganges.

During the current year upto the month of May 196 deaths are reported to have occurred due to Kala-azar in the State of Bihar as against 259 deaths reported in 1995 and 379 deaths reported in 1994. It may be mentioned that both in number of cases and in deaths Kala-azar has shown a declining trend since 1993 upto close of 1995 in the State of Bihar. There has however, been an increase in both cases and deaths over the period January to May, 1996 as compared to the same period last year.

Out of the 196 deaths due to Kala-azar, reported between January and May 1996, the worst affected districts have been Vaishali, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Madhubani, Sitamarhi and Darbhanga.

The increase in the number of the cases in Kala-azar during the first half of 1996 can be attributed to non-spraying of DDT according to the prescribed schedule and the fact that active house-to-house detection and treatment of cases was not carried out adequately.

Health is a State subject and the responsibility of preventing and controlling a disease rests essentially with the State Government. However, the Government of India in the form of a Central Sponsored Scheme provides insecticides and anti-Kala-azar drugs required for the control of this disease to the Government of Bihar. The Central Government further provides technical assistance to the State health authorities in the form of evaluation reports, training and offers guidance on strategies relevant to the situation. The implementation of the Kala-azar control programme nevertheless remains the responsibility of the State Government. This includes meeting the operational costs of insecticidal sprays, prompt detection and treatment of cases as well as meeting the expenditure on the staff component etc.

My Ministry has supplied 99,200 vials of Sodium Stibogluconate (SSG) and 10,000 vials of Pentamidine to the Government of Bihar during 1995-96 which constitute essential drugs for treatment of Kala-azar. Supply of another 50,000 vials of SSG and 10,000 vials of Pentamidine for the current year is in the pipeline. The State Government in their telephonic and written communications have not expressed any shortage of drugs. In addition, DDT has been supplied to the State for spraying operations. Our information is that 1,000 MT are available with the State for undertaking spraying operations. Further supplies will be made as per demand of the State Government whose confirmation is awaited.

The need for undertaking spray as per schedule, as well as house-to-house search and providing early treatment has been impressed on the Bihar Government repeatedly over 1994, 1995 and 1996. This has been further supported through meetings with the State officials both at Patna and at Delhi on different occasions including this year. An expert team was constituted on 28th May, 1996 for assessing the implementation of the Kala-azar control activities in Bihar and West Bengal. Although, the State Governments were asked to participate, Bihar State has asked for a postponement till August, 1996.

Sir, on the 9th of July, 1996, the Honourable Member from Bihar Shri Md. Ali Ashraf Fatmi met me in my office and requested me to see that an expert team visits the affected districts immediately to offer on-the-spot advice on the situation. Seeing the Member's concern and the problem that Bihar is facing, I immediately ordered a team of technical experts from the Directorate of National Malaria Eradication Programme, National Institute of Communicable Diseases and Indian Council of Medical Research to visit the affected districts of Bihar and offer such assistance as called for. These teams were despatched on 11th onwards and are working closely with the State Government but they will need a little time to give a complete report. We are in touch with them on a daily basis and they have been asked to render the maximum assistance to the State Wealth authorities.

The need of the hour is that the Government of Bihar undertake the spray operations and organise house-to-house search for detection of cases and arrange for their treatment. Our technical staff as well as the Expert Committee are at the disposal of the Bihar Government to support their efforts.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, just now the Hon'ble Minister has told that I had met him. Sir, DDT has not been sprayed out, it was not done to the required extent in the last year or this year.

Another thing, I would like to say is that he has mentioned that this medicine Pentamidine is available here but at the local level there is shortage of this medicine and the Doctors are using Pegijon. A vial is being sold in the black market at the rate of Rs. two hundred and fifty or Rs. three hundred, whereas its cost should be Rs. 10 only. I have come to know that this drug should not be utilized because this is a life saving drug. I would like to know from the Minister that if that medicine is usable then the Government should provide it and if that medicine is not to be used, then why it is being used there? If that is a life saving drug, then it should be used for other purpose only. Therefore, I would like to know from the Minister that if that medicine is required for the control of the disease Kala-azar, then it should be provided there and if it is not required, then necessary steps should be taken to check it.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the answer given by the Minister just now seems to be beyond truth. Besides, the districts of North Bihar and Central Bihar are also affected by Kala-azar. In my constituency, there is a village Badpur under district Patna, where I myself have met the families of the people who have died due to Kala-azar. We have seen that eight-ten people have died of Kala-azar and several people are still afflicted with this ailment. Medicines are not available there. Spraying of D.D.T. is also not being carried out. Now you have said that the D.D.T. is available in adequate quality. Nothing to worry about. The truth has been revealed by Fatmi Jee. If medicine is available, and spraying of DDT is also being carried out, then why the disease is not being controlled. Your have said in your reply that the intensity of the disease is declining. But why the disease is not coming under control? The official data collected from lower level have nothing to do with reality. The reality is not the same as projected by data. The situation is very horrible. People in large number are suffering from Kala-azar. Everybody knows what is the situation in his constituency irrespective of whether the Minister is present here or not. All know that there is a dearth of funds at state level, there is no dearth of staff. Staff do not have any work and they cannot do even the available work. We are not going to have excuse of having shortage of staff or technical expertise. But it is a reality that there is a shortage of funds, DDT and medicine. Why do not you arrange it? I agree that it is a state subject but all people are citizens of India. If you have DDT then you arrange it and send it. If we indulge in talking about the duty of State Government and that of Union Government, then the humanity afflicted with it will not get a relief. We will urge upon you that you should personally visit the area and take stock of the situation. If it is published in newspaper that Mr. Minister is coming to meet the Kala-azar afflicted people and you are not scared of meeting such people, then such people will come to meet you.

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE (Calcutta-South): Go for the surprise visit.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : You must intimate before going there. This is a state matter, how could I say that you go on surprise visit. Go and have on the spot study. If despite this, it appears to you that everything is okay, then only God can save us. So far as I know the situation is not good and it is not under control. I pray to you that whatever help is possible from here should be made available to the people so that their treatment could become possible and the Kala-azar could be controlled. We should go for advance spraying of DDT in the Kala-azar affected areas. Otherwise after it has broken out DDT is not effective. Therefore, we should go for its sprinkling in advance. Thus its arrangement should be made on both the fronts. As far as it appears to me, the Central Government should extend its assistance exclusively for this. The Government should launch a Kala-azar eradication programme along the pattern of Malaria eradication programme and this should be hundred percent centrally sponsored programme. If this happens, only then this problem can be solved.

PROF RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr Speaker, Sir, in what connection you had given directive to the Government that it should deliver a statement in regard to the Kala-azar disease. This disease is spreading out in epidemic form. Every year thousands of people fell prey to it. And every year we are given the same statement that the medicines from the Central Government have not reached and this disease is still spreading like a monster. Five to seven years have elapsed ever since I have become member of Parliament and every year hon. Minister's Statement is delivered here or a special statement comes later on but it makes no difference to the situation. Why not appropriate measures are taken in order to check its recurrence in the state like Bihar where thousands die of Kala-azar. If various other programmes for the eradication of different diseases can be launched by the Government in order to check those diseases, then why a special programme cannot be launched for checking the dreaded disease like Kala-azar.

The Government of Bihar should be given special assistance so that the disease could be eradicated like Malaria and the people of Bihar could be saved from untimely falling prey to this disease. The Government of Bihar has written to you. A team of experts has gone there. Who have said that the Government should send those medicines as a mark of precaution and it should be ensured that these medicines are being properly utilized and delivered at the appropriate place. Whether the doctors, employees of Primary health centre or sub-health clinic are making available these medicines to the

village people should also be ensured. This is my request to you.

SHRI SATYAPAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, In the statement given by hon'ble Minister just now in the House, comparative figures have been given in regard to the last 2-3 years as to how many people have died, whether this number is more or less. I want to bring to your notice only a small matter. This disease normally attacks in this region only. Sometimes less area is affected by this disease and some other time more area are affected. After the break out of the disease it is said that the medicines have been sent and so many people have died and this much number of people have survived. This thing comes up. I want to ask one thing specifically as to what preventive steps have been taken by the Government in order to check its spreadout and whether the committee constituted for the purpose has submitted its report. If this does not happen, then to say that so many people died or survived is not going to serve the purpose. If your say that 295 people died last year and 195 died this year and so, there is improvement in the situation. But, even if one person dies, then action should be taken. You said that the Government of Bihar has been asked to take some steps. My request in this connection is that the concerned Minister should personally talk to the Government of Bihar. There is no question of success or failure of the central Government or state Government. The question is how to save human life, the Government should take steps on war footing so that people's lives could be saved.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chapra) : We have got informations through newspapers and the proceedings of this House that 70-75 people have died in the Vaishali district. Such an information is also being received from my Parliamentary constituency, Chappra.

Sir, we are noticing over the last few years that when epidemic of Kala-azar breaks out only then the House initiates discussion over it. Often it is said that the medicines are being sent and spraying of DDT is being made. I would like to ask from the hon. Minister as the epidemic of Kala-azar is continuously increasing whether Research institute or National institute of immunology is investigating it particularly whether any success has been achieved in regard to this disease? Whether any research has been carried out by your department or by the National Institute of Immunology for the development of vaccine, so that we could assume that the local medicines or imported drug will be available within 1-2 years. Whether the Government is taking action in this regard?

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, sir, the disease of Kala-azar is spreading

in Bihar over the last 3-4 years. We raise this issue every year. Even the World Health Organization has admitted that the disease like Kala-azar, Thalesemia and malignent Malaria often occur in the eastern region and in the border areas of Bihar and West Bengal. It is said in the House that medicines are being sent. This should be a continuous process and precautionary measures should also be taken. I want to bring one more thing to the notice of hon. Minister. The medicines that you send.

[English]

The State Government are using the medicines after the expiry date. It is very bad. In my State last year, three children died because the medicine used in the vaccination was after the expiry date. May I request the hon. Minister to get in touch with the World Health Organisation to see that the needful is done in the matter because they are helping many developing countries in the eradication of this disease?

[Translation]

The cost of injection for Thalesemia, Kala-Azar and Malignent, malaria is more then Rs 400/- This Pentamedine injection is given to children once a month but its price has gone up by Rs 900/- It has become very difficult now

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : It costs rupees one hundred. I am telling about the malignant malaria. (Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE : It is not that. Now I am telling you about *thalasemia*. Malignant malaria is different. I have already told about malignant malaria. Now I am telling about *thalasemia*. The point is the one *desferal* injection cost Rs 450/- Two such injections are needed in a month. If an employee earns Rs 1000/- a month, for getting two injection for his child, he has to spend Rs 900/- The question is, How will he spend Rs 900/- for the injections to administered to his child? Kala-azar, malignant malaria and *thalasemia* are serious diseases. I request the hon. Minister to look into the matter, review it and reduce the prices of the medicines so that the poor people can get the medicines. He can even arrange to supply preventive medicines for this particular disease so that poor people will not suffer.

[Translation]

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : This statement was under rule 372 in which permission is not granted for putting question but as this is a very serious matter therefore as a special case, I have allowed five hon.ble members. If the Minister wants to say anything then he may say.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH (Aurangabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, This is a serious matter. This disease is caused among the poor people because they sleep on the ground. This injection of Pentamedine is very costly and is not available, so the arrangement for this should be made. The third thing is that the spraying of DDT has become ineffective. The Mosquitoes got killed in the initial spraying but later sprayings did not have any effect. I therefore urge that, either a research should be conducted on this or some other solution should be found out.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Whether the Hon'ble Minister would like to say anything?

SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I very well, understand the anxiety and problem of the hon'ble members because the reality is that here people are dying of kala-azar and we should adopt measures to check it. As I have told earlier some members have not understood my statement properly and I would like to inform Mr. Nitish Kumar, through you, that I have not said that it is confined to this region. I had told that these are the worst affected areas and the names of these 4-5 areas have been mentioned. I had also not told that the number of persons dying due to these diseases is decreasing. This number had gone down for two years but this year it is increasing. Therefore, we are adopting some measures regarding this. I am trying to send an expert committee from here so that this problem could be controlled at the earliest. I would also like to say that some measures are taken by the Centre and some, the State Government has to take. This disease has two aspects. The preventive one can be tackled by spraying DDT and after that S S G and thereafter it can be treated by Pentamedine. The Hon'ble Member Shri Fatmiji has brought this matter to the notice of the Government. I have sent a team there in this regard and after we receive its report, I assure the House that we will take action on war footing. It shall be our endeavour to prevent it fully so that it may not spread further.

SHRI KRISHNA LAL SHARMA (Outer Delhi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have to mention about two tragic incidents. The one is that in Maha Kaleshwar temple of Ujjain.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : This has already been mentioned in the morning.

SHRI KRISHNA LAL SHARMA : If this has been mentioned it is fine. Whether the Government has given any statement over it?

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : No statement has come.

SHRI KRISHNA LAL SHARMA : I think it is good if any statement comes from the Government. The

reason for it was that at both these places i.e. in Ujjain and Haridwar adequate arrangements were not made. So, the Government should give a statement that on such occasion when large number of people have gathered, why proper arrangements are not made? If it has any information regarding Ujjain, then Government should come out with a statement 13 person have died in Haridwar Today was the day of taking holybath on the occasion of Somvati Amavasya. 13 persons were drowned due to stampede in the crowd The arrangement that was made was not proper. The bamboos which were erected at Mahabaleswar were so weak that people succumbed to their injuries, caused by these I want that the Government should inquire into this matter so that on such religious occasions when people visit these place in large number and die, occurrence of such accidents should be stopped and the Government should give a detailed statement on this

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER The Government should make a statemnt tomorrow on both these incidents.

DR MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Allahabad) Mr Deputy Speaker sir, Uttar Pradesh is at present under President's rule Therefore it is the overall responsibility of the Central Government that the arrangements made at these places should be thoroughly inquired into and full information regarding the cause of the accident and the details of the action taken against the officers found guilty of mismanagement should be given to the House

DEFENCE MINISTER (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV) Sir, the incidents at Haridwar and Ujjain have been very tragic In this regard, the questions asked by hon'ble Mr Joshi and the other members, will be referred to the Governor of Uttar Pradesh and will be requested to make available information regarding cause of accident and negligence on the part of officers Whatever help is required will be provided The same process will be followed in case of Ujjain

14.46 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Steep Pre-budget hike in the administered prices of Petrol, LPG, Diesel and other petroleum products—contd.

[English]

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER The House shall now resume Discussion under Rule 193 Shri E. Ahmed to continue his speech

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as I said other day, the decision of the

Government to hike the price of petroleum products has put the people into great hardship and difficulty And I express here the sense of resentment on behalf of the people who are to suffer due to this unprecedented hike in the prices of petroleum products

I am sorry to say that the popular Government under the leadership of Shri H.D. Deve Gowda has been forced to take an unpopular decision so soon which, I should say, should have been avoided. The Government may have to go around justifying that 25 to 30 per cent hike in prices was inevitable and it would also mop up for the Government additional resources to the tune of Rs. 8,000 crore during the remaining nine months of the current financial year The additional resources mobilisation in the full year will be more than Rs 18,000 crores taking into account the Excise Duty, Sales Tax etc

I am very much concerned because this hike would definitely result in raising the prices of essential commodities. We had that experience The last price hike of LPG was effected in January 1994 and for other petroleum products like petrol and diesel the price hike was effected in February 1994 So on a perusal of the consumer price index then prevailing in the country before and after the price hike of the petroleum products last time, you would know that there was a steep rise in the prices of essential commodities.

For expample, Sir, prior to the hike in 1993, from July to December, the pre-hike period being increased in consumer products based on the consumer price index was 11 points But after the price hike of the petroleum products in 1994 January for LPG and February for petrol, the increase during February and July 1994 was 16 points So, this is what is going to happen in this, as a result of the present hike in Price of petroleum commodities also So, this increase in the essential commodities which we are going to face within a few months in future will definitely put an additional burden on the common man.

It is on this basis, sir, that I would request the Government to reconsider their decision of hiking the prices too steep from 25 per cent to 30 per cent in the petroleum products

Sir, there are certain things I would like to observe which have resulted by this hike in the price of petroleum products. We are to take some steps to control the consumption of the oil But unfortunately, our consumption is growing and growing every year And, it is also seen that during 1994-95 the consumption of petroleum products was 65.5 million tonnes showing a growth rate of 7.7 per cent over the previous year In 1991-92, the growth rate in consumptions of petroleum products was 3.5 per cent, in 1992-93 it was 2.4 per cent and in 1995-

96 from April to November the growth rate has gone upto 9.5 per cent. So, it is the duty of the Government to take some steps to reduce the consumption of the petroleum products. The Government is one authority which consumes, for its several activities, a large quantity of petrol and there is no check on the part of the Government in the consumption of oil. Later on, we go to the general public in this respect. And, this is also seen that our import is also increasing, at least, in terms of half a billion dollar a year. The growth in diesel imports ought to be seen. It is the net growth in crude oil and petroleum products imports. The net total petroleum oil and lubricates import grew from five billion US dollars in 1993-94 to over 6.5 billion US dollars in 1995-96 which implies a growth of nearly 30 per cent between 1993-94 and 1995-96. This is so because our oil companies and refineries are not functioning efficiently. Also, the price hike according to me, is as a result of some lethargic attitude on the part of the Government agencies.

Sir, I have a paper with me. It is *Kaleej Times* from Dubai, dated July 13, 1996 which has also indicated oil prices.

The oil price was much lower in February. It was below 16 dollars a barrel. But in July it was 17 to 18 dollars a barrel. I will tell you how purchases are made by our companies when there is fluctuation in the market. When the oil price goes down we will not go to the market and we will allow the price to go up. When it goes higher we will be there in the market. This, according to me, is a matter the Government should seriously consider and examine. The Government should put an end to such a practice. After all the burden is being put on the shoulder of the common man. This is one aspect. I would like the Government to ponder over and also examine.

There was a mention by the hon. Prime Minister of course in their party meeting that the inflation will not be as high as it has been indicated in the papers. But the economists of various hues have already come out with the statement that there will be a double digit inflation as a result of the hike. According to experts the impact of the hike in the administrative price of the petroleum products on inflation would be greater than the Government's estimates. There would be price rise and it would push to the freight and the industrial costs.

I may be permitted to quote here the observation made by an economist. It has been published in the latest issue of the *Frontline* magazine. It is written by Shri C.P. Chandrashekhar. Perhaps many of the Members of the Council of Ministers also get an inspiration by the thinking of the people like Shri Chandrashekhar. What he has mentioned here is :

"Rising prices now to clear that deficit in a short period amounts to raising domestic

prices much more than the 14-15 per cent warranted by the current rupee value of imports.

In doing so, those responsible have ignored the inflationary consequences of raising the prices of universal intermediates like petro-products. Informed estimates of the likely increase in the rate of inflation place it at between 5 and 7 percentage points. This invitation to double-digit inflation though a single initiative obviously affects most adversely the poor and middle income earners, whose money incomes are either not formally indexed to price increase or cannot be adjusted upwards to an equivalent extend."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please conclude.

SHRI E. AHAMED : I have only started just now. I am the only speaker here.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Two hours were allotted for discussion on this subject whereas more than three hours have already been taken by the hon'ble Members.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED : I am avoiding repetitions. I am just referring to some points which other hon. Members may not get an opportunity to do so. So, I may be given a little more time because I am the first and the last speaker from my party. Therefore according to him,

"The oil price increase is therefore akin to an across-the-board hike in indirect taxation."

Therefore this is very much evident. There will be price increase in all the products, especially the industrial products.

Noted economist and Director General of the international Institute of Management, Shri Sengupta felt that 'Government expenditure would go up on account of increase in the prices of key petroleum products because the increase in prices of industrial inputs would add to the woes of industries struggling to find a foothold in the liberalised economic environment. This is the situation and this situation has to be looked into.

15.00 hrs.

Another point I would like to say is this. We will find that the very good percentage of return on net worth of our oil companies is not because of their efficiency. This is not because of their hard work. This is because they have been allowed to retain a return on net worth more than the permissible limit.

of 12 per cent. The permissible limit was 12 per cent. Now, we can very well see the position. The return on net worth of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation was 22.27 per cent in 1993-94 and 22.6 per cent in 1994-95; the return on net worth of Indian Oil Corporation, which is much below, was 13.61 per cent in 1993-94 and 15.47 per cent in 1994-95; and the return on net worth of Bharat Petroleum Corporation was 18.88 per cent in 1993-94 and 20.93 per cent in 1994-95. This shows that it was all being permitted by the Government, I should say, even at the expense of the ordinary consumer.

Let me also say that because of the inefficiency of the Government, the people have to bear more cost. For instance, wharfage and other port charges may be charged on the actual while computing the retention price. Such charges may be higher than the national or international norms. If a ship takes a longer time to turn round while calling on the Indian ports, the shipper would quite naturally load the additional cost on transportation. But the question that the Indian consumers may well ask is, 'why should we be called upon to bear to burden of the additional cost for the inefficiencies at the port?'

15.03 hrs.

(Prof. Rita Verma *In the Chair*)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : Is the Member reading from *The Frontline* magazine? He cannot read from a magazine here.

SHRI E. AHAMED : This has been written by an eminent economist, not somebody like you and me. (Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : We will go home and read that. Why does he waste time?

MR CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now. Your time is over.

SHRI E. AHAMED : Madam, I was just saying that because of the inefficiency of the transportation system and because of the inefficiency of the Government agencies, the ordinary man has to bear the entire burden.

The Government should duly reconsider the present hike in the prices of petroleum products, especially LPG. Madam, you know what our housewives say about the rise in the price of LPG. You know what the people are feeling about it. Therefore, I take this opportunity to urge upon the Government to make the entire petroleum sector effective in functioning. This is an abnormal rise in prices. It should have been a normal ten per cent to fifteen per cent increase, but it is a twenty-five per cent to thirty per cent increase now. I request the Government to reconsider and reduce the prices of petroleum products.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Thank you, Madam, for calling me. I shall try to be brief. But my position is a bit complicated. Generally I never want grace. But for this I want your grace.

The first thing which cannot be denied is that our previous Government's policy in regard to this led to a situation where this Government has to face the consequence of the Rs. 4,000 crore withdrawn from the Oil Pool Account as well as the increasing price of petrol in the international market. The value of rupee is constantly going down. So, all these things surely led to a situation where the present Government is in trouble. I do definitely understand that. But unfortunately we have taken over at a time when trouble is there everywhere. We have to find out how to face it. To face the situation, this Government will have to think of various ways and means. And in that respect I have certain things to say.

While talking about LPG, Shri Ahmed mentioned about housewives. Although I am a politician, it is true, I must point out that this increase is very steep. Let not anybody think that all those who use LPG are very rich people. Even workers today have to use LPG. See the increase. Poor Calcutta, capital of my home State, is the worst hit. There the increase in from Rs. 106.99 to Rs. 138.99, though in Delhi the increase in from Rs. 93.00 to Rs. 121.00. But in Calcutta it is always more and the increase is also heavy.

All of us are burdened with the terrible thing, that is, these gas coupons. I hope and pray, take away these gas coupons from us, MPs. Do not bother us all the time. We have to give it to the people. We know to whom we give. Now-a-days, even in the village poor people also use LPG. Our life is miserably with those hundred coupons. Please take away those hundred coupons and save us from this disgrace. Therefore, we know who uses the LPG from our own experience. So, this is true that LPG price-rice is hitting the poor people also. How to face the situation?

I would suggest that our Government should find some way out. You can have dual pricing system. But the prices must be decreased for ordinary people. This is a simple truth. We have to face it. Maybe we have to introduce dual prices. The Government can think over it. It may not be possible to do it tomorrow. It may not be possible to do it today itself. But we have to think over it.

Secondly, I fully agree with the suggestion that the use of petrol has to be seriously restricted, "Apni Achiri Dharam Parere Sekhao"? You yourself should start first. Then, you teach others. Today, my good friends, hon. Shri George Fernandes is not here. The other day he gave a tremendous speech in which he rightly asked, 'why should we import such cars which

go only six kilometres per litre?'. I fully agree with him. And incidentally, I was one of those who during the last Government's tenure, from the first Budget to the last Budget, have been saying the same thing that we must not import things like that.

We must not import such cars. But only one small thing I would say. I would like to ask Shri George and his allies, with all humility: where does the biggest sale of such cars mostly take place? It is in places like Delhi, Mumbai, Gujarat, etc. In Delhi, of course, we have the Central Government and the Delhi Government both. The Delhi Government is controlled by the allies of Shri George, people who are in the Opposition Benches here. The Maharashtra Government is controlled by Shiv Sena, again an ally of Shri George; and in Gujarat, it is again an ally of his. Did he ever ask them to control it?

Shri Jagmohan has come now. He was the Governor and now, of course, he is in BJP.

SHRI JAG MOHAN (New Delhi) : The Delhi Government has nothing to do with the import policy. The Delhi Government is not a State Government in the full sense.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Yes, I know that.

SHRI JAG MOHAN : It has nothing to do with this import policy. It has nothing to do with the consumerist-oriented economic policy which has been followed.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : I have something to say about this. It is not the question of 'nothing to do'. If you are in a Government of a State, even in a smaller way, with restricted power, you can do it by 101 means, if you want to do.

SHRI JAG MOHAN : We will seek your advice on that matter. Now kindly enlighten the House as to what is the item that you have in mind.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : I am coming to that. Restriction can be in various ways. We started it with our own way. You can save the petrol likely to be spent by the Delhi Government. That is not a restriction on these people. By that way, you can pave the way for restriction among the people so that a legislative measure can be brought against these people. Why do you allow people in one family to have four, five or six cars? Can we not stop that? Should we not move towards that direction? I am saying this about all the Governments including my own. *(Interruptions)* Let it be made clear. When I speak of everybody, of all the Governments... *(Interruptions)*

MR CHAIRMAN : Shri Jagmohan, you may reply to the point when your turn comes.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Should we not try that so that we can control the expenditure?

Secondly, the most important point is about our own resource of petrol. Are we trying our level best to extract that? Let me tell you that I have been talking about extraction of petrol for a very long time.

In West Bengal, the situation is that the ONGC has ordered that the entire oil-well drilling operation should be shifted away from West Bengal and that it need not be done any more. Shri Janeshwar Mishra is not present here. When I appealed to him, he saw to it that it begins afresh, when he was the Minister for Petroleum, for a little while. That is how, it was stopped at one time. In two wells the work had started and it actually brought out oil of good quality. Even then, it was stopped. Why? It was done by the last Government. The ONGC can save a lot of its money if it tries to control its infrastructural expenses. Can the ONGC not go in with the extraction from those two wells which yielded petrol and gas, through other processes?

The time will soon be over. Otherwise, I would have gone into the whole length of processes that are to be taken up.

Why is so much gas being flared in Mumbai High? I would like to know about it. Those things can be stopped. Should we not try to stop all that? Our Common Minimum Programme has come to one point. If we really can implement it, much of this can be done.

Is there transparency in the deals? Let me say 'no'. If there is no transparency in the deals, then we will see that many of these things are actually done for corruption. Corruption is a source of many of these things. Much can surely be stopped if all these deals are transparent. I wish the United Front Government would stick to its Common Minimum Programme and make all the deals transparent through which they will be able to save a lot of money on different scores. And then, our own resources can really be used in big way. That has not been done. I hope all those things will be done.

Now, who is cornering black-money? Is help being given to the Central Government on that score? Is the Central Government ever trying to do it seriously? I am talking about the last Government. No Government is really trying to catch black-money in right earnest - not tinkering here and tinkering there. So, we have to find out the alternative sources or resources. Now there is not much time to go on illustrating what other alternative resources are there. We must respect all the time that these are the ways that we have to follow and not the other way round.

Suddenly faced with such a situation, we have to make the price go up to such a high that the whole atmosphere will be like that, and a new Government will be starting. Unfortunately, the new Government is starting with a high burden. That psychological atmosphere is definitely there. We must try our level best, through whichever way it may be, to vote it out and feel confident that this is the Government which wants to go in a different way. And while doing like that, if there is anything wrong, if there is anything that has been done in haste or through certain compulsions, an after-thought, second thought, or third thought must be given. We can yield to the people's will and if second and third thoughts are given. There is no question of prestige. That adds to the prestige of that Government which can really come to take people's criticism and their feelings. Then accordingly, if necessary, make a change wherever possible.

I would have gone into many other things. But I am not going into all those things. My appeal is that at least the price of LPG may be cut over in a different way. Some concession can be there. I would be very very happy if our hon. Prime Minister can assure us today little-at least on something.

Later on, dual-pricing can be considered. For example, even in the case of petrol, the two-wheelers and cars cannot be on a par. The uses of two-wheelers are a different set of people. So, this dual-price question needs a lot of exercise. That exercise can be done seriously.

Keeping the alternative sources in view, I hope that the huge price hike that has been made in the case of LPG, will be reconsidered and in the case of other items like petrol, the dual-price will be thought over seriously.

I think, I have not taken a lot of time. But I press all this for consideration of the whole House and of the Government. Those who are with the Government and those who are in the Opposition should think about this question seriously and not just try to score points.

[Translation]

DR MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Allahabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a very important question, which is under consideration of the House. One reason of price hike of petroleum products is that there was a big deficit in the oil pool and this deficit reached upto Rs.10,000 crore. The question is as to why this deficit of Rs.10,000 crore occurred in oil pool. What were the reasons therefor? Why this deficit was allowed to go up and whether the price hike was the only way to remove this deficit? Whether there could not have been any other measures to solve this crisis?

As far as my knowledge goes, the Petroleum Committee had made a remark in the steering committee for economic reforms and I quote it :-

[English]

"It is essential that an immediate Action Plan be drawn up to generate surplus in the Oil Pool Account to clear the outstanding within a specified time frame of one or two years. A steep increase in the consumer price, 10-15 per cent across the board is not feasible under the present circumstances as it will have a spiralling effect on all other consumer prices. Other alternatives will be to provide revenue budget support by apportioning a part of cess and other oil revenues earned and diverting that to the Oil Pool Account. In any case, a definite action has to be worked out so that the oil companies' outstanding claims are cleared without any further delay."

[Translation]

This remark was made in August 1995. It means that upto August 1995 Ministry did not consider it proper to increase the prices even by 10 to 15 per cent, but today an increase of 30 per cent has been made and it is the same Ministry which is justifying this price hike. This I cannot understand. This is such an example of mismanagement in the petroleum sector, the production of petroleum and the administered price policy that no amount of condemnation of present Government as well as the previous one is adequate enough (*Interruptions*) I am doing it. This is what I am doing (*Interruptions*) There is no need of referring to the Government of 13 days, forget it. You have as much abused the 13 days old Government as you could. What we could have done, we have done it. But what you could do is before you. Please, listen to me. Please, listen to me. Please hear about your deeds with patience. The entire nation should know what Rao's Government, the Government of Congress, and this Government has done in regard to petroleum sector. This is the mismanagement of petroleum sector due to which our internal production is going down continuously. There is a story behind decrease in the petroleum production. There was 21.7 per cent per year increase in the production of crude and petroleum during the 6th Plan period. This increase came down to 3.3 per cent during the 7th Five Year Plan from 1985-90, and this production went down. That means there was no question of increase in it, rather this production further went down to 3.1 per cent.

[English]

It is a decline by 3.1 per cent over the production of 1989-90 and in 1991-92, production was 30.34 million tonnes as against the production of 34.09 million tonnes in 1989-90.

[Translation]

The production of crude oil went further down in 1990-91. This decreased further in 1992-93 and this was around 26.95 million tonnes. Its production was 34.09 million tonnes in 1989-90 which decreased to 26 million tonnes in 1992-93. How did it happen? This situation remained same in 1993-94 and in 1994-95 it was hoped that there would be a production of crude oil upto 32 million tonnes. How it is for the Government to reveal what was the production. My guess is that it did not go beyond even 30 million tonnes. That is how the internal production of crude oil is going down every year.

My friend from West Bengal is sitting here. As far as my knowledge goes, the entire West Bengal and the Bay of Bengal have lot of potential for over oil. But I do not know why the Government has not taken steps to do something in this regard. Now you have got one of your alliance party's Government there. You please exercise your pressure on it that oil be explored from West Bengal and the Bay of Bengal and internal production be increased as soon as possible.

[English]

DR. ASIM BALA (Navadwip) : We tried our best and still we are trying.

[Translation]

There is no justification for making this kind of remarks.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : You try, they should also try and we would also try. I feel very sorry to say that what should have been done for the exploration of crude oil in India has not been done. The surcharge which was taken in order to increase our oil production in not being utilised in this direction. This is such an area in which the world forces are cooperating with one another. We should also cooperate them and instead of depending an outside energy we should try to enhance our petroleum production and the energy derived from petroleum. The production in our country is going down and the consumption is increasing. Because of this, anomalies arise and we need to import more oil. The quantity of import is increasing. The import of petroleum products in 1990-91 was 12.3 per cent which rose to 21.2 per cent in 1992-93. This pace is increasing because the number of vehicles, two wheelers and three wheelers is increasing. The number of trucks is also increasing because there is

a need for transportation of goods so that consumption is increasing. Therefore, if the internal production is going down then you have no alternative but to import oil. On the other hand the devaluation of rupee is increasing. Thus with increasing import and devaluation of rupee, the prices of crude and petroleum products will go up. If you understand it, then what measures you have taken in this regard? This question is before the nation. The nation wants to know what you have done in order to stabilize the prices of petroleum products and increasing their production and reducing their import.

I feel that there has been maximum carelessness. The cost of import of oil over the last three years has been 17.18 thousand crores. We had imported oil worth Rs. 6344 crore in 1989-90. An import of Rs. 17838 crore or more in 1995-96. This will go upto 31-32 thousand crore rupees because of the value of dollar going up and the value of Rupee going down. I am talking about 1989-90. Then the price of dollar was Rs.18, today it is Rs.36. It can be easily understood that if there is increase in import and consumption, the prices will go up. What were you doing? What steps did you take to contain the prices? What have you been doing for the last four years? It is very strange. The Government has been increasing the prices of petroleum, crude oil and petroleum products. It is the fifth time when the prices have been increased. The prices of petroleum products were increased in 1990 for the first time when the Gulf War was in progress and it was stated that the international prices of petroleum were increasing, therefore the Government was bound to increase the prices and 25 per cent surcharge would have to be levied on petroleum. Therefore, the Government levied 25 per cent surcharge on petroleum products. When the Government had increased prices in 1989-90 during Gulf War, then it had mobilised the resources worth Rs.2256 crore for this crude oil. again, when the price increase was made second time in 1991, the Government had mobilised resources worth Rs.5006 crore. During the years 1991-92 and 1993-94 the resources mobilised were worth Rs. 2054 crore and Rs. 2460 crore respectively. It is not that you are not mobilising resources. The Government, by increasing the prices of petroleum products has mobilised 10-11 thousand crore rupees 3-4 times. In spite of this why the crude oil suffered losses? No price increase was made during the years 1994-95 and 1995-96 therefore no resource was mobilised. But due to increase in price in 1996-97, the Government will be able to mobilise Rs.12900 crore in one year and Rs.9000 crore during the next nine months. While the Government was mobilising the resources of Rs.2200 crore during 1989-90, it is going to mobilise resources worth Rs. 12900 crore during 1996-97. You have made

mockery of the system. You should think as to how much burden you are putting on the people of the country.

When the Gulf War was in progress you had stated that international prices were increasing therefore it was necessary for you to increase the price and at any cost you could not decrease the prices and therefore you increased the price. But under what compulsion you are at present? Why do you not withdraw the surcharge levied at the time? You can very well see that the prices of petroleum products have fallen rapidly in past. The prices of petroleum products were increased during 1990 because per barrel cost of petrol during 1989 was Rs. 17.31 in terms of dollar. During 1990 it rose upto Rs. 22.26. You said that you were levying 25 per cent surcharge. When this price came down to Rs. 18.62 during 1991, why did you not withdraw the surcharge? You had levied the burden of 25 per cent on the people of the country, why was that not withdrawn? You had made commitment before the country, the people of the country and the House that you would withdraw the surcharge of 25 per cent. I would like to request Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee to put his pressure on the Government to withdraw this surcharge. I request you to withdraw this 25 per cent surcharge. You may increase it upto 30 per cent but I do not think that the situation as such will arise. You could have withdrawn this 25 per cent surcharge and increase 30 per cent prices but you did not do so. I think, you do not want to do so. The prices are decreasing constantly. The price of per barrel petrol was Rs. 18.44 during 1992, Rs. 16.33 during 1993 and Rs. 16.30 during 1994, thus the international prices of petrol have been constantly decreasing. No doubt there was an increase in July last but overall the international prices were either static or there was decrease. Why did you not import oil and purchase crude oil on cheaper prices at that time? When the refineries as over the world are making 90 per cent, of their capacity utilisation, why the figure is 65.70 per cent in our own case?

I suppose that the hon. Defence Minister and the Hon. Tourism Minister are least bothered about the price-hike. I would like to draw your attention towards the situation of the country and would like to know as to how you would solve the problem of the country by adopting such attitude? You are requested to take these points seriously, but I am sorry to say that the Government is not taking it seriously and is laughing away the matter. It was not expected from the Government.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Are you taking it seriously?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: No, I am talking about you. You are Defence Minister. It is very

important issue for you. If the increasing trend in the prices remain the same, a major share of your budget will be lost in it. You are related to tourism, please pay attention. If the prices are increased in the country and the Government hikes the air fare then what will happen to you. You are also requested to pay your attention towards this issue seriously. Our Government did not think it proper to purchase petroleum and petroleum products when there was recession in the international market. Neither you increased the efficiency of refineries nor intend to do so. You say that you are helpless since the oil pool has suffered loss and that has to be off set. The hon. Finance Minister, some days ago, had very politely stated that the account of oil pool was self sustaining and self modulating. We do not withdraw any amount from it. I think, the Government had withdrawn more than Rs. 4000 crore during eighties from this oil pool. Why was that amount not deposited back? You only want to play with the statistics, by withdrawing money from this account and showing it in the other and then you show that budgetary deficit is brought down. Please stop doing it. Thus withdrawing money from this account and showing it in some other account, you dodged people for 5 to 10 years and then you say that prices will have to be increasing because the pool is incurring losses. You alone are responsible for this loss. ...*(Interruptions)*

Look the charisma done by you. The price of petrol during 1991 was Rs. 9.84 per litre and today during 1996 it has reached to Rs. 21.14 per litre. The price of diesel has gone up from 4 Rs. and 8 paise per litre to 9 Rs. and 4 paise at present. Look, how much increase you have made in prices during five years. You innocently reply that this price hike is not going to cause inflation and the prices will not shoot up and everything will normalise. It will hardly increase the price index by 1-2 points but actually it is not so. Several economists have given their opinion. My friend Rahman Saheb has already quoted the opinion. My friend Raham Saheb has already quoted the opinion of Shri Nitish Sen Gupta but Shri Charan Wadhwa—Centre for Policy Research—says that due to it the wholesale price index will go up by 2.5 per cent and it will have cascading effect. It will prove as instrument in increasing the prices of other things. Shri Sashank Bhide National Council for Applied Economic Research also supports this opinion. All the institutions related to trade and industry have drawn their attention towards this problem and stated that it will lead to soaring of prices. *(Interruptions)* I would like you to match your announcements with those of your deeds. If you really had tried to help, you could have put it under Rule 184 for discussion and we could have voted in the form of censure motion.

brought against the Government. Then we could know that you have sympathy for common man. Otherwise, we will from the opinion that you are giving only a lip service...*(Interruptions)* I am aware of your helplessness. Confederation of Indian Industries and other institutions say that due to 30 per cent increase in petroleum, the prices of all other commodities will certainly increase. It further says that this increase is against the common man and the farmers. This view has been expressed by PHD Chamber of Commerce. Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry also opines that it will have cascading effect. The entire economy will be marred with morbidity. The Associated Chamber of Commerce and Management has also the same opinion. The Federation of Indian Export Organisation has also the same opinion and states that it will lead to heavy losses and the adverse thing is that most of the Indian Industries will lag behind in international competition because this increase does not remain confined upto only petroleum, diesel and kerosene. Today, many petroleum products are used as input in many industries. Many industries use them as raw material which are further used in many other industries. The entire plastic industry depends on that and many other industries. The entire plastic industry depends on that and many other industries are totally dependent on plastic industry. The entire chemical industry is dependent on that and the medicines, some of them being chemical formulations, depend on that. Therefore, the increase will not only affect the petroleum, it will also affect medicines, textiles and dyes and paints. It will also cost its impact on sheets used in houses and rexine. Today, we use a large number of products in our day to day life prepared with the help of petroleum products. The prices of all those things will increase in which these things are used as raw material. Therefore, the industrial progress which you are talking about will stop and industrial production will be adversely affected and the products will become costlier and will also lag behind in international competition. When production will not remain globally competitive, your exports will become costlier. Then you will have to resort to the devaluation of the money and again you will be trapped in the vicious circle.

[English]

You have been caught in a vicious circle

[Translation]

First, go through the process of devaluation of rupee. Thus, foreign exchange reserve will decrease. To meet that difference, you will get loan from abroad. Then pay more money towards interest on the loan and ultimately public will be over burdened. This vicious circles will keep on going continuously. The

foreign exchange reserve has been reduced from 20 million dollar to about 16.5 million dollar. The import bill of petroleum products is increasing. Thus the trade gap is increasing gradually. How you will make a balance? What is your position? The Rao Government which has made you to be in this position and whom you are supporting..

SHRI B.K. GADHVI (Banaskantha) : The Members of Rao's party are supporting them.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Both have been supporting each other but both are responsible for this situation. Public will not forgive them.

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Shimla) : You will get an opportunity to come in power.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Rest assure, whenever we get an opportunity, we will improve it ...*(Interruptions)* The fiscal deficit which was Rs.36325 crore in 1991-92 has become double i.e. Rs.74634 crore in 1995-96. This is the financial deficit of this country. This is the performance of your Government to which you are giving support. This is the Government being protected by you. How is this alliance for increasing financial deficit and to bring this country under the net of debts? Till 1980, the revenue deficit used to be 32 per cent but now

[English]

Sixty-two per cent of Government borrowings are being used in meeting revenue deficit

[Translation]

You are using 62 percent of Government borrowings in meeting the revenue deficit. Earlier, it used to be only 32 per cent but now it has doubled. The Government is stating emphatically that it would manage the things.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : Still budget is to be presented...*(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : This is the impact of the earlier budget. You are again trying to increase the budget by raising deficit upto Rs. 9000 crore. By making provision in the budget for this deficit, you want to mobilise your resource. You want to keep the fiscal and revenue deficit under control otherwise the investors who are going to invest will not come forward. But when they will come to know about the actual position of the Government and when they know about the price-hike done by you, they will be aware of your real condition. The primary consumption deficit has increased from 27.5 per cent in 1990-91 to 66 per cent in 1995-96 as a result of that the Government expenditure is increasing. The increase in the prices of petroleum products will lead to the increase in all sorts of expenditure. The major consuming organisation of Petroleum is Government itself. So expenditure of Government will

increase. It means that non-planned expenditure is going to be increased and you will not be in a position to implement the Fifth Pay Commission's recommendations. You will not be in a position to do any work of public interest.

[English]

You will not be in a position to implement any welfare schemes.

[Translation]

You will not be in a position to launch any of the employment schemes of the Prime Minister. It has been announced that the Government would provide drinking water to the village but it would not be able to provide even a single hand-pump because the Government has no funds.

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : Suggestions should also be given, you are criticising only.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : I will give suggestions also. I will tell all the things. Please keep patience. We have formed the Government in Delhi State and very soon we will be able to form the Government at Centre. You should not be worried about it. After coming to power at Centre, we will improve economy of this country and free the country from foreign debt. You keep on looking what we will do. You are responsible for this situation. External aids are decreasing gradually and net inflow has been 674 crores. This is the result of being depended on foreign aids which was the basis of your economic policy which you are supporting and the Finance Minister is following. It is appearing in all the newspapers that you had net inflow of 674 crores. This is the only result of your wrong economic policies and the entire country is facing its impact. You commit mistakes in implementing economic policy and leave the common man to suffer its consequences.

You have three options to meet this situation. One option is that let the present situation of the economy continue and keep on taking loans from abroad and spending it lavishly. If anybody asks you as to how you would repay it then you will say that once you get out of power who will ask you to repay the loan.

"Yawat Jiwet Sukham Jiwet,
Rinam Kritwa Ghritam Pivet,
Bhaasmbhutasya Dehasya,
Punaragaman Kutah"

Then who will ask for repayment and who will go to pay. You have an option. Whatever you are doing. (Interruptions) This option is very easy for you but the coming generation of the country and their children will have to suffer from its consequences. Once your policies are implemented,

this country will have to be pledged. I want to caution you about the result of the debt policy you are following. Avoid it. Ibrahim Saheb you have been opposing to this policy but why you are keeping mum today? You should oppose this policy. Do not allow it to run. The party to which the hon'ble Prime Minister belongs, has been criticising this policy. But now you are moving towards this debt policy and going to bring this country under the net of debts. No, a person, a VIP or patriot of the country will allow this country to move on the path of indebtedness. India cannot survive with such a huge amount of debt. It is very sad to say that today, you have made our country the third most indebted country of the world. I feel more pain when the supporters of such policies who are sitting here. (Interruptions) Why are you showing hands. You should oppose it by voting. Why are you supporting this policy?

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : You should address some of the questions to Shri Jaswant Singh. He made a statement when he was Finance Minister for 12 days. Ask him to reply to some of your questions.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : I am asking you as to why are you should tell about your opinion.

The second option before you is that you should enhance the production of petroleum and keep control on its consumption. But you are a supporter of all policies of consumerism. You are importing Mercedes which cost Rs.20 to 25 lakh. You are manufacturing such a new vehicles which will consumer costlier petrol and not the ordinary one. How I can expect that you will keep control on the consumption of petrol because you are not able to do so.

The third option, I am not sure that you will be able to do it or not. If you want to reduce the deficit of import pool and make a balance between export and import, you will have to find out a substitute of petrol. Any other fuel will have to be used in place of petrol. On the basis of a little knowledge of Science I possess, I would like to say that India is competent enough to uses power alcohol in place of petrol being uses at present. It can be made of sugarcane directly.

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : It is under trial.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : For how long trial is being done? We are talking about it for the last 10 years. In Brazil, power alcohol is being used by vehicles for the last 12 years and you are still doing trial. All the countries in the world are well aware of this technology while you are on trial. Whom

you want to make a fool? The whole world has already completed its trial, what are you talking about. This technology is available in the entire world. Not only this, vehicles can also be operated by using gas. I know such common mechanics of this country who operate their two wheelers, motorcycle and scooter by using small gas cylinder. You are flaring up in the entire country. You can stop it. But you are claiming to be sympathetic to the farmers. Hon'ble Defence Minister often cries for the cause of farmers. Shri Kalp Nath Rai is sitting here who has been the Agriculture Minister. What is your problem in developing this technology in the country? The reason behind it is that you have some nexus with international racket. You get kick-back in the import deal of crude petrol. That is why you do not want to stop it. You talk of sugarcane growers' sympathy. Grant permission to produce power alcohol and to open sugar mills in the country. If you do so, farmers of this country will become happy and the vehicles will run very fast. It has no sort of pollution.

[English]

It is eco-friendly, it is cheap and it is in our control.

[Translation]

We are heavily dependent on other countries for the import of crude oil. During war, they can stop the supply whenever they like. It has happened before. America had imposed sanctions several times earlier. We may also face such a situation. Today, the world has become complex. America is threatening us daily to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty otherwise it would impose sanctions. This may include putting hurdles in the import of petrol. By sending ships in the Gulf, it can stop the supply of petrol. Our country has rich energy resources and we can become self sufficient. No country can think of allowing the foreigners to have control over its energy resources but our Government is doing so. You do not want to make the people see the reality. We have alternative sources of energy in the country, but the Government does not want to make use of them.

Therefore, I would request you to concentrate on these facts. I would like to draw the attention of the Prime Minister to the August 1995, report of the Standing Committee of Petroleum which contained the comment made before the Economic Reforms Committee and it was clearly stated that 10 to 15 per cent increase in cost would be unjustified. But the Government have hiked it by 30 per cent. You should not make it a prestige issue. I know, you lack experience, therefore mistake can be made. You were full of enthusiasm as you were in a hurry and wanted to mobilise resources to present a populist budget. But your entire plan has been exposed. You should

openly acknowledge your mistake and roll back the price hike.

Madam Chairman, I would request him that for this, there are other ways. Therefore, there is no justification for the price hike in petrol, diesel and gas. In this regard the entire nation is ready to help you. Yesterday, bandh was observed in several parts of the country. The bandh was complete in Uttar Pradesh. People are angry and seething with rage. To prevent this from snowballing the Government is requested to reconsider its decision. The coalition partners should put pressure and persuade the Government that mistake has been committed. By accepting the mistake your stature will increase. In your speech, you spoke a lot about the farmers. But petrol price hike is antifarmer. It is a cruel joke on them. This will make the pesticides and fertilisers costly. Both are used by the farmers. The price of canvas used by the farmer will rise. The Defence Minister himself had done farming in Uttar Pradesh. It seems there will be two-fold price rise all round. This is a dangerous step you have taken. You think over it seriously. Where do you want to take this country? Do not further deteriorate the economy of the country which is already not doing well. For God sake withdraw the price hike. With this request I again appeal that it is essential to withdraw the price hike.

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE : Madam Chairman, I am grateful to you for giving me opportunity to speak on price rise.

[English]

We all remember the opening lines of Panditji during the Proclamation of Independence. He said at the stroke of midnight: "When the world sleeps, India wakes up". Forty-nine years later, literally at the stroke of midnight, after some close-door manifestation, the Government announced this administrative price hike which is destined to put the country in a deep economic crisis.

[Translation]

There was price rise even during the Congress Government. But it was never more than ten per cent. But the United Front Government has created a record. I am not aware how they did this, which resulted in 25-30 per cent price rise.

Madam Chairman, I have seen the manifesto of the United Front Government. They had mentioned

[English]

"We would bring down the Consumer Price Index."

[Translation]

But price rise has been exorbitant in the month. I do not desire to get political mileage by speaking

on this issue because it is not a political question, rather, it concerns the common men. If someone holds Congress is the second largest party in the House. I want to ask the Prime Minister, whether this decision was taken in consultation with the Congress Party?

I want to draw the Prime Minister's attention on one more aspect. Today several papers have published the Prime Minister's decision of not taking back the price hike. Whether this is true or not, Shri Jena has said in this regard.

[English]

"The Prime Minister has not met any Press person". That is Okay But it is reported in the Press that the Prime Minister has said so

I want to know one thing. When anything discussed in the House, then it becomes the propriety of the House. If the Prime Minister has said this outside the House, then the House should take note of this. One can become big leader, a Prime Minister by speaking on such matter which concerns the common men but in spite of a fight for power one has to safeguard the interest of the common men. I want to request that the United Front Government should think about it. I hope the Prime Minister will assure the House, because we are discussing under rule 193. This discussion is not under rule 184. Nor is it a discussion on Adjournment Motion. Discussion Under Rule 193 does not mean a mere discussion. But I want that there should be some meaningful discussion which may convey the message to the people of the country, that the United Front which is supported by the Congress, can not remain in power by raising the price of essential items. I appreciate, that it has been done to curb the consumption of petrol. But there are several other methods to do this. I request the Government to adopt those methods. Leaders make tall claims but if they show the way then the common men would follow suit. (Interruptions)

16.00 hrs.

MR CHAIRMAN: You may Speak Mamta!

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE: I will speak. But the Prime Minister should also listen to the discussion.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T. R. BASLU): Madam, you go ahead. We are here to take notes.

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE: That is all right. But as the Prime Minister is here, I want to bring it to his attention. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

Madam, austerity measures should have been taken first. Has the Government taken austerity measures? Madam, the price of cooking gas differs from State to State. In Calcutta it was Rs. 106.99, which has been increased to Rs. 136.66. In New Delhi it was 93.78, which has been increased to Rs. 120.95. In Madras it was Rs. 98.04 and now it would be Rs. 125.60.

16.01 hrs.

(Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee in the Chair)

Sales tax on cooking gas in Mumbai, Madras and Delhi has raised its price by Rs. 25 to Rs. 50. But due to the Sales tax in my State its price has increased to Rs. 131. You tell us, what is the income of the poor people, such as, the workers, and those of the labours? How much pay does a Government servant get? Cooking Gas is used in the households of farmers. So should the cooking gas not be used by the farmers. If the price of Cylinder is increased by 30 Rupees, one can well imagine the plight of LPG users. I do not wish to speak from any political angle but many people have sent me telegrams and have telephoned me to ask why we did not oppose it and where it was necessary to hike the prices of LPG.

[English]

I appreciate that the Government gives subsidy. But there are certain areas where the Government is bound to give subsidy like fertilisers where Government has to give subsidy. You cannot deny the Defence sector. You have to give money for the Defence sector. You have to give subsidy on cooking gas and diesel etc.

[Translation]

Do you know that the increase in the price of Diesel and Petrol will equally affect a two wheeler owner as well as a farmer who uses a diesel pump for agricultural purposes. Those who use tractor for cultivation would also find it expensive to do so. The increase in the prices of diesel and petrol will indirectly affect the prices of essential commodities too. There are certain instructions issued by the Government regarding essential commodities which can be applied in case the prices of such commodities are hiked. However, no State follows it. You should ask for a report from the States regarding the number of black marketeers and hoarders and the details of those arrested. In absence of which such things happens like the administrative price for potatoes was announced as Rs. 5 but its price rose upto Rs. 8-10 within two days time. The price of onion which was Rs. 7, went upto Rs. 10. The prices of chillies, potatoes and other commodities have also soared high.

[English]

Madam, From vegetables to fertilisers, everywhere the prices are being increased. I want to tell the hon. Prime Minister that the increase in prices by 25 to 30 per cent is unprecedented. May I request you, Sir, to reconsider it in the interest of the common people, in the interest of the middle-class people, in the interest of farmers, in the interest of the workers, in the interest of the Government employees and other employees? I do not think it is a matter of prestige. The first priority must be the people of this country. The effect of this will be on the small and marginal farmers, small-scale entrepreneur, salary based middle class people and those 40 percent who are below the poverty line.

[Translation]

They would also be affected by this. What would happen to the poverty eradication programmes of our Government viz. NRY, JRY, RNEGP, RIDP. What would be the fate of Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana.

There are many such villages in our country where people do not get electricity, water. But if the prices of petrol and diesel are not reduced, the rates of electricity and other things would also flare up. With an increase in the rates of electricity, prices of all other commodities would go up. You are aware that 40 per cent farm labourers in our country are living below poverty line and they require all sort of help

It is a fact that with the increase in the prices of petrol and Diesel, inflation rate has gone up by 4 per cent. If we do not reduce the prices, the inflation rate would rise further. Who will suffer then? The whole country is going to suffer. Hence I seek your help and I request you to take pro-people stand.

You would be surprised to know that not only the prices of essential commodities but the prices of some essential medicines have also increased. This morning Geetaji was telling me that the rate of life saving injection meant for the patient of Thalessemia which cost Rs.1600 earlier has been increased by Rs 400. A patient requires two injections every month and with this increase, he would have to cough up Rs 900 more for two injections. It would be more difficult for him to make the both ends meet. It is the responsibility of the Government to provide food, clothing and shelter to its people.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Mamata Banerjee, now a statement is to be made by Shri I.K. Gujral on India's position with regard to CTBT

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Shall I wait for few minutes?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, please.

16.07 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

(ii) India's position with regard to Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : Almost 50 years ago, India took the lead in calling for a ban on nuclear testing. In fact, in this very House, Jawaharlal Nehru addressing the Lok Sabha on 2nd April, 1954 after the first hydrogen bomb test was conducted, called for a 'standstill' agreement to halt nuclear testing pending progress towards elimination of nuclear weapons. Since then, we have persisted with our efforts to convince the international community of the need for a CTBT which would bring an end to the qualitative development of nuclear weapons and mark the first step on the road to nuclear disarmament.

In the Conference on Disarmament, the CTBT negotiations have now been going on for two-and-a-half years. The negotiators have the unambiguous mandate to conclude a CTBT which would "contribute effectively to the prevention of proliferation in all its aspects, to the process of nuclear disarmament and therefore to the enhancement of international peace and security". We have participated actively and constructively in these negotiations and have put forward a number of proposals consistent with the mandate. We have stated clearly that the CTBT must be truly comprehensive and not leave any loopholes that would permit nuclear weapon states to continuous refining and developing their nuclear arsenals at their test sites and laboratories. We have underscored the importance of placing the CTBT in a universal disarmament framework, as part of a step by step process aimed at achieving complete elimination of all nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework.

It is a matter of regret that the CTBT, as it has emerged, does not go justice to the mandate. Without being anchored in the nuclear disarmament framework, it will not contribute to the process of nuclear disarmament. Our proposals were put forward in a constructive spirit in order to engage in negotiations. These were not presented on a take-it-or-leave-it basis. What we are seeking is a commitment to engage in negotiations that will lead to the elimination of nuclear weapons within a time-frame. Naturally, we have our own idea of what is a reasonable time-frame but we are willing to negotiate this with other countries. We realise that such negotiations are not a part of the CTBT but we would like the CTBT to act as a catalyst for these negotiations. Without such a commitment reflected in CTBT, we are convinced that this treaty will be an end in itself rather than a first step on the road to

nuclear disarmament. Unfortunately, the nuclear weapon states remain unwilling to make any meaningful commitment with regard to eliminating their nuclear arsenals.

Our nuclear policy, as expressed in the CTBT negotiations, is intimately linked with our national security concerns. We have never accepted the notion that it can be considered legitimate for some countries to rely on nuclear weapons for their security while denying this right to others. This has been a consistent policy, also reflected in our rejection of the NPT (Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty).

It has been shown that knowledge and technology cannot be the monopoly of a handful of countries. In 1974, India carried out a successful peaceful nuclear explosion, demonstrating its nuclear capability. For 22 years, we have exercised a policy of unparalleled restraint and refrained from undertaking additional tests. Yet, as has been stated in this House by previous Governments, we continue to maintain our option so that we are able to take all necessary measures to cope with any threat that may be posed to the security of the nation. We cannot allow this option to be restricted in any manner if other countries remain unwilling to accept the obligation of eliminating their nuclear arsenals. We are deeply conscious of the fact that other countries in our region continue their weapons programmes, whether openly or in a clandestine manner. On the basis of recent statements and developments, we have been obliged to conclude that the nuclear weapon states have no intention of giving up their nuclear weapons. This makes it inescapable that our national security considerations will be the governing factor in our decision making.

Hon. Members are aware of the plenary statement made by our Permanent Representative in the conference on Disarmament on 20 June on CTBT. We undertook consultations on this issue, cutting across party lines, in order to ensure that the statement reflected national consensus. In the statement, we announced that India cannot subscribe to the CTBT in its present form. We have also subsequently indicated that we will be constrained not to associate with the international monitoring system being set up to verify the CTBT. We stated that in the light of our clear stand on this issue we are unable to accept any obligations which affect our sovereign right of decision making. Since then, a new draft text of the CTBT has been introduced. Discussion on this is scheduled to resume on 29 July in Geneva. On the face of it, the new draft text does not attend to the issues that we have been raising. Therefore, we cannot endorse it or accept the text in its present form. We will remain engaged in the discussion when these resume on 29th July in order to ensure that our freedom of

action is not constrained in any manner. Our approach will remain a responsible approach, but we have to safeguard our national interest. If other countries reach their own consensus, that is their sovereign decision. We would expect that all countries will respect our decision and ensure that the Treaty, with which we will not be associated, not impose any obligation on India. These views will be conveyed to the Conference on Disarmament.

I have taken this opportunity to keep the hon. Members informed about the Government's policy on this issue and I hope that this will enjoy their support. I would like to assure this House that the Government sees this as an issue of vital national concern and is fully conscious of its responsibility. We have demonstrated the strength of our conviction and national resolve in the past. We remain confident that we can do so again.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) Madam, we want a discussion on this because this is a very serious issue and the discussion may be allowed under Rule 193.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may have important things to say. But two Ministers have to make two more statements immediately now, because they have to go to the Rajya Sabha after that. Now Shri Indrajit Gupta will make a statement regarding the incident of massacre of people in Bhojpur, Bihar.

16.15 hrs.

(iii) Incident of massacre of people in Bhojpur District of Bihar

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): Madam, I am making a statement on the heinous crime which has resulted in the massacre of several people on the 11th of July, 1996 in the Bhojpur District of Bihar. The statement I am making is based on the latest report received from the Government of Bihar.

The hon. Members are aware that 19 persons were killed in village Bathani Tola, Barki Kharan under Sahar Police Station of Bhojpur District of Bihar on 11th July, 1996. The facts of the incident as ascertained from the Government of Bihar are as follows: Around 60 armed activists of the Ranbir Kisan Mahasangh known as the Ranbir Sena raided the village of Bathani Tola, Barki Kharan on the afternoon of July 11, 1996. Eighteen persons were shot dead by them. Six persons were injured, of whom one also died subsequently. Twelve houses were set ablaze, destroying wheat, rice, clothes, etc. kept in these houses. The provocation for the attack seems to have been to settle scores with one Maimuddin.

Ahamad who was suspected of having killed two reporters of Ranbir Sena earlier.

The Government of Bihar have also reported that 30 persons have been named in the report filed in the Sahar Police Station, along with others unknown. As on date, 22 persons had been arrested. Some firearms and ammunition have been recovered. One Sub-Inspector and eight other Ranks have been suspended for dereliction of duty. The Director-General of Police, Bihar and other senior police officials rushed to the site. The district Magistrate and Superintendent of Police have been camping there since the incident.

The dependents of those killed and the surviving victims have been provided immediate relief of Rs 10,000/- cash in each. The families of the deceased have also been provided with 30 kgs. of rice and other essential commodities. The Chief Minister of Bihar visited the area on July 13, 1996 and announced relief of rupees one lakh to the next of kith and kin of the family of those killed. The Chief Minister also announced a relief of Rs 2 lakhs to the family of Naimuddin Ahmad apart from the offer of a job in cases where the bread-winner has been killed. The Union Home Secretary has further ascertained that combing operations have been launched by the Bihar Military Police and the State Police in the area covered by four Police Stations, namely, Sahar, Sandesh, Piro and Udvant Nagar which are supposed to be the strongholds of Ranbir Sena. People have been asked to surrender their arms and efforts are being made to disarm the Ranbir Sena activists.

While there is little doubt that adequate follow up action including rehabilitation of victims will be taken up by the State Government, much more is required to be done by the State. It would firstly not only need to enquire into the alleged in action on the part of the policemen posted at the site of the incident but also go deeper to check out on the mind set of the law and order enforcement machinery. Then there is the question of empowerment of the weaker sections which always have to bear the brunt of the 'mighty'. A more effective strategy to implement various schemes relating to upliftment of these sections is obviously called for. The Central Government proposes to interact with the Bihar and other State Governments to ensure ways and means to retain and enhance the efficiency of the administrative apparatus in the country. The presence of an effective and responsible administration alone can prevent incident such as the one in Bhojpur.

DR ASIM BALA (Navadwip) : I want to put one question to the Home Minister.

MR CHAIRMAN : Let the other Minister make his statement. He has to go to Rajya Sabha. After that, if you want to say anything, you can say that.

16.20 hrs.

(iv) Air Crash Involving a plane belonging to Archana Airways on 11 July, 1996 near Kullu in Himachal Pradesh

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : Mr. Chairman, as I had promised in the House on 11.7.96, further details regarding the air crash of Archana Airways aircraft are now available and I would like to inform the House about the same.

The aircraft L-410 type belonging to Archana Airways crashed near village Kanda, District Mandi in Himachal Pradesh, about 30 kms. south of Bhuntar airport on 11.7.96. The aircraft hit a tree on top of the hill and then crashed into a house killing all the nine persons on board and injuring three on the ground. The aircraft caught fire and was completely destroyed.

Search and rescue parties from Indian Air Force Station, Chandigarh, District Administration of Mandi and senior Aerodrome Officer of Bhuntar Airport immediately left for the crash site and located wreckage of aircraft and mortal remains of the persons on board. All the nine bodies were charred.

The bodies of all the nine victims were identified and brought from the crash site to Kullu on 11.07.1996 by 9 p.m. After completion of the postmortem formalities next day, dead bodies were handed over to the next of kin, except those of the three Japanese passengers whose relatives were expected to reach Delhi last night.

The aircraft was under the command of Capt VM Malik with Capt S Gupta as Co-pilot. Malik had a total flying experience of about 8,800 hours with 1,600 hours as Co-pilot-in-command on this type of aircraft; Capt S Gupta had a total experience of about 1,800 hours with 876 hours as co-pilot on this type of aircraft.

The aircraft was purchased new by M/s. Archana Airways in 1994 and had logged about 3,300 hours of flying. The aircraft was last subjected to a major check on 24.06.1996. There was no reported snag in the aircraft when it departed from Delhi on 11th July.

Preliminary investigation into the cause of the accident has been initiated by the DGCA and Director of Air Safety has been appointed as the Inspector of Accidents under Rule 71 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937. The Inspector of Accidents along with an Aviation specialist Doctor left for the site of the crash on the day of the accident. Both the flight recorders have been recovered and brought to Delhi for decoding. Inspection of the accident site indicated that the aircraft hit a hill (approx. 8,000 ft high) about 20 ft below the peak. Weather at the accident site was cloudy. Further investigation is in progress.

Much as the accident is a matter of regret and deep sorrow for us all, I would like to take this opportunity of assuring the House that there has never been, nor will there ever be, any compromise with air safety in domestic or international air transport operations. Every aircraft operating in the country is subjected to the most stringent airworthiness checks and our system of regulation and control is as comprehensive as can be.

Even so, and after considering all aspects of the matter, Government have appointed Air Marshal (Retd) S.S. Ramdas, former Chairman and Managing Director of Indian Airlines, as the Court of Inquiry under Rule 75 of Aircraft Rules, 1937 to carry out the formal investigations into the accident. The Court of Inquiry has been specifically requested to give immediate findings on whether operations to Bhuntar airport have any technical shortcomings and, if so, to suggest remedial measures thereof, particularly in adverse weather conditions.

I would also like to inform the Hon. Members that I have directed a 100 per cent safety audit of every aircraft operating in the private sector.

This is being done in addition to the mandatory checks which are already in operation to ensure flight safety in domestic operations.

As the hon. Members are aware, there has been a tremendous growth in the air transport industry after its demonopolisation. Even under this rapid expansion process, the air safety aspect has not been allowed to be compromised. Procedures involving air safety are reviewed from time to time in consultation with the operators and necessary preventive steps are taken. I wish to convey to this House that the Ministry of Civil Aviation and its organisations are making every possible effort to ensure safe air transportation in the country and there is no cause for concern in the matter.

I will conclude by conveying our heart-felt condolences and deep sympathies for the members of the bereaved families.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, all statements that have been made are on important issues and it is natural that many hon. Members may want to speak something. But as it happens, the statements have been made under Rule 372 on which no further discussion takes place. (Interruptions) Hon. Members can give notices on these subjects through other forms and the Hon. Speaker can consider those notices. I absolutely agree that these are really important subjects. This is one way of doing things.

The other way of doing things is just to start discussion by all of you at the same time and start a bedlam in the House. You have to decide which one is to be preferred. You must tell me... (Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh): I have already given a notice... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seats first. All of you are standing together at a time. Let us go through some procedure. There has to be a particular way.

(Interruptions)

DR. ASIM BALA (Navadwip): I want to raise one issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Every one is making one issue. One or two or may be more hon. Members may be on the same issue.

SHRI SAT MAHAJAN (Kangra): I want my Call Attention Notice to be taken up.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is in the discretion of the Hon. Speaker. You can give some other notice also and have a talk with him.

Please do have a talk with him. At the moment sit down, please.

SHRI SAT MAHAJAN: Madam, I have given a Call Attention Notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What can be done now? Many other hon. Members also must have given some notices on it.

SHRI SAT MAHAJAN: My submission is that Justice D.P. Sood, who was appointed as the one-man Inquiry Commission in the air crash in which Shri Surendranath, the ex-Governor of Punjab died, had made certain suggestions. He gave a Report. But that Report has not been considered. The Government of India has not ensured that those instructions given are carried out. If they had been carried out, there would have been no such accidents. Had that Report been considered, this accident would not have taken place. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have made your point. That is all. Since you have made your point, what I will say is that now six Members raise their hands. I will give two minutes each, not more than that. Now, Shri Chennithala to speak.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): Madam, two hon. Ministers had already left. Who will reply to the question on their behalf? Now, only the hon. Minister of External Affairs is sitting here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you agree and if the Ministers are there, we can proceed. Otherwise, you can discuss it by giving a proper notice. This is what I

have suggested. Sit down, please. I will give two minutes to each speaker.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep) : May I make a submission? In this House, it is the established convention that on the statement, there is no clarification sought or given. What we are now doing is a departure from that convention.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is what I said. Under that rule, no clarification can be sought or no discussion can be started. This is the position. Shall I read it out? Though we have been doing it, it is not permitted.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : That is not the convention of the House. In the Upper House, whatever statement is made, even for the whole day Members can seek clarifications and answers are given by the Ministers.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are such an old Member. You should have already made the rules different for Lok Sabha!

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : There is no such provision here.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shall we proceed?

SHRI B.K. GADHVI (Banaskantha) : As per the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, this should not be discussed now itself. They should give another notice...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you go on doing like this, then, I have to stop it and call Kumari Mamata Banerjee to resume her speech which is according to the rules.

16.34 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Steep Pre-Budget Hike in the Administered Prices of Petrol, LPG, Diesel and other Petroleum products - Contd.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Madam, I am grateful to you for calling me.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Madam, I am on a point of information. I think the debate will be concluded today. I would like to know at what time the Minister will reply to the debate. If that information is given to us just now, it will be better so that Members will come back to the House. The reply may be at 5 p.m. or 5.30 p.m. The time should be fixed for the reply. If that is done, that will help us

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thank you very much. It is a very good point. Kumari Mamata Banerjee, please continue your speech and conclude it quickly. In the mean time, we will reply.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Madam, you will appreciate that I started my speech and because of the statements, I just sat down. Now, let me finish my speech.

This is a very serious issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have taken quite a long time. Kindly conclude quickly.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I have been disturbed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Whatever you have said, all those points are on record. Please conclude quickly.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Coming to my point, I would like to mention that the prices of High Speed Diesel and LPG, the two singular items which govern the everybody life of the ordinary citizens, have put a burden on the citizens. That is why, I would like to say that it is better to reduce the prices. Further, it is better to cut 10 percent of the non-Plan Budget. But instead of cutting the non-Plan Budget, if we put a burden on the poor people, then how will the common man survive?

I have a request to make to all the party leaders. The Members of Parliament travel by the Executive Class while performing their air journey. May I suggest you one thing? If you travel by the Economy Class you will save Rs. 400. I always travel by the Economy Class to save the Government money instead of staying in the five-star hotels for attending parliamentary committee meetings, why do we not stay in the Circuit House or the State Government Guest House or the Central Government Guest House. This way you will curtail the budget and this will help the poor people. If you follow this first, then others will follow it. If you do not follow it, others will not follow it. First you show the way to others, then they will show you. That is my request to the Prime Minister.

Regarding lunch and dinner hospitalities, on behalf of this country, my suggestion is that instead of hiking the price of LPG, you stop showing this lunch and dinner hospitalities to others, except foreigners. We are bound to show hospitality to foreigners. But we should not do it for making lobbies, for improving relations with one another. This way, we spend lots and lots of money. If you ask me, for this purpose, - I am ready - you talk to all the political leaders - we are ready to donate one year's salary to the Government so that this way, the Government can save some money. My only request is that the mobilisation of resources be done with a greater prudence in Government spending and not by taxing the scarce resources or cheating the ordinary citizens in this country. Let us start austerity from among ourselves. There should not be a price hike of LPG and diesel. Of course, the Prime Minister has decreased the price of diesel by 15 percent. My

suggestion is, you reduce the price of diesel by another five percent and please do not increase even a paisa on LPG. You think of hilly areas in respect of petroleum products. In those places where there is no railway connection like Himachal Pradesh or some parts of Uttar Pradesh and places like Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya, you please pay some attention to those people who live in such places about their travel. Is there any plan of action from the side of the Government for this area? I would like to know whether the Government is going to announce anything for them?

I do not want to take much of your time. But if all the hon. Members agree, we can start the austerity measures from our Members of Parliament itself. Though it was started by our Government yet I request the new Government to start this process. I request the government not to burden the people. We are ready to share the burden. My humble submission to the Prime Minister is, we do not want people to take this burden. Though you did not inform us yet you were kind enough to visit Calcutta yesterday. It was reported in the Press. There was a programme of agitation by youths. More than one lakh people courted arrest against the price rise. But to show a kind gesture, they did not do anything. Since you visited our State, it is our duty to give you proper respect. At the same time, request you not to make it a prestige issue and see it from humanitarian angle. The house-wives, the workers, the middle class people and every citizen of this country will be watching the proceedings. Please do not say 'no' to them. If there is a will, there is a way and I believe that 'yes' there is a way. You can find out the way. Otherwise, Madam, I do not know, what will happen to the country in the near future.

With these words, Madam, may I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity and I believe that the hon. Prime Minister will reduce the prices.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) Madam, Chairperson, it is not that there was no price hike earlier. For all these years had been price hike in almost all essential commodities including petroleum products. But what happened this time is that the hike is unprecedented. Twenty five to thirty percent hike in one go is really unprecedented and the people of this country can hardly afford it.

So, even being a part of the United Front and the support of the Government we had no alternative but to oppose this measure which we did, immediately when we came to know of it. And, it was a welcome gesture on the part of the Government to respond to our demand that in respect of the diesel particularly, there was roll back of 15 percent.

Madam, when some political party supporting the Government from outside is waxing eloquence

on the price hike, I doubt their sincerity, and I also doubt whether they have any moral authority to just oppose whether sitting in dharna or in any other way about this price hike.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Madam, I oppose this point.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, please. You cannot do that. He has not yielded.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Because he said something, they sat on dharna... (Interruptions) This is their fundamental right.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has not yielded.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : I have not said anything unparliamentary, Madam. I have not taken any name. I will rather say that it is at the height of hypocrisy to stage such dharna because if you look at their track record you will find that whenever they have been in power - just look at the period 1985-86 to 1988-89, the golden age - in respect of almost everything, viz. coal, steel, wheat, rice, sugar and petroleum, there was a whopping total to the tune of Rs. 13,000 crore or even more than that. And, our opposition at that time was that no such administered price hike should take place.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Where is your 'Rasta Roko' and 'Rail Roko' now?... (Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : The administered price is a very convenient instrument for the Union Government to mobilize resources. We had objection on two scores and now also we are objecting on these two particular scores.

Firstly, it is not subject to the parliamentary scrutiny, it is not subject to the parliamentary approval. It does not behave the Government who have been speaking about transparency in every count to continue such a practice.

Secondly, the State Governments can have a share in respect of hike in export duty and such other imports. But the State Governments do have to bear the burden of the increase in the administered price. But they can never have any share in it. When this Government is committed to the restructuring of the Centre-State relations in its entirety, including the fiscal relations, a measure that imposes such a burden on the State Government should be discontinued. There should be a rethinking in the matter. There lies our opposition. The States should be consulted.

There is a general feeling that when this Government has promised to the people price stability and employment generation, they should not have done this. But the Government says that they had no other way. Why? This Government has come to power only a few weeks back. This is a sin committed by the previous regime. They had kept it pending for a

have suggested. Sit down, please. I will give two minutes to each speaker.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep) : May I make a submission? In this House, it is the established convention that on the statement, there is no clarification sought or given. What we are now doing is a departure from that convention.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is what I said. Under that rule, no clarification can be sought or no discussion can be started. This is the position. Shall I read it out? Though we have been doing it, it is not permitted.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : That is not the convention of the House. In the Upper House, whatever statement is made, even for the whole day Members can seek clarifications and answers are given by the Ministers.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are such an old Member. You should have already made the rules different for Lok Sabha!

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : There is no such provision here.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shall we proceed?

SHRI B.K. GADHVI (Banaskantha) : As per the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, this should not be discussed now itself. They should give another notice...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you go on doing like this, then, I have to stop it and call Kumari Mamata Banerjee to resume her speech which is according to the rules.

16.34 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Steep Pre-Budget Hike in the Administered Prices of Petrol, LPG, Diesel and other Petroleum products - Contd.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Madam, I am grateful to you for calling me.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Madam, I am on a point of information. I think the debate will be concluded today. I would like to know at what time the Minister will reply to the debate. If that information is given to us just now, it will be better so that Members will come back to the House. The reply may be at 5 p.m. or 5.30 p.m. The time should be fixed for the reply. If that is done, that will help us.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thank you very much. It is a very good point. Kumari Mamata Banerjee, please continue your speech and conclude it quickly. In the mean time, we will reply

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Madam, you will appreciate that I started my speech and because of the statements, I just sat down. Now, let me finish my speech.

This is a very serious issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have taken quite a long time. Kindly conclude quickly.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I have been disturbed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Whatever you have said, all those points are on record. Please conclude quickly.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Coming to my point, I would like to mention that the prices of High Speed Diesel and LPG, the two singular items which govern the everybody life of the ordinary citizens, have put a burden on the citizens. That is why, I would like to say that it is better to reduce the prices. Further, it is better to cut 10 percent of the non-Plan Budget. But instead of cutting the non-Plan Budget, if we put a burden on the poor people, then how will the common man survive?

I have a request to make to all the party leaders. The Members of Parliament travel by the Executive Class while performing their air journey. May I suggest you one thing? If you travel by the Economy Class you will save Rs. 400. I always travel by the Economy Class to save the Government money. Instead of staying in the five-star hotels for attending parliamentary committee meetings, why do we not stay in the Circuit House or the State Government Guest House or the Central Government Guest House. This way you will curtail the budget and this will help the poor people. If you follow this first, then others will follow it. If you do not follow it, others will not follow it. First you show the way to others, then they will show you. That is my request to the Prime Minister.

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suggestion is, you reduce the price of diesel by another five percent and please do not increase even a paisa on LPG. You think of hilly areas in respect of petroleum products. In those places where there is no railway connection like Himachal Pradesh or some parts of Uttar Pradesh and places like Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya, you please pay some attention to those people who live in such places about their travel. Is there any plan of action from the side of the Government for this area? I would like to know whether the Government is going to announce anything for them?

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on the price hike, I doubt their sincerity, and I also doubt whether they have any moral authority to just oppose whether sitting in dharna or in any other way about this price hike.

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Secondly, the State Governments can have a share in respect of hike in export duty and such other imports. But the State Governments do have to bear the burden of the increase in the administered price. But they can never have any share in it. When this Government is committed to the restructuring of the Centre-State relations in its entirety, including the fiscal relations, a measure that imposes such a burden on the State Government should be discontinued. There should be a rethinking in the matter. There lies our opposition. The States should be consulted.

There is a general feeling that when this Government has promised to the people price stability and employment generation, they should not have done this. But the Government says that they had no other way. Why? This Government has come to power only a few weeks back. This is a sin committed by the previous regime. They had kept it pending for a

long 30 months and that they had done for narrow partisan ends. They were expecting that the elections would be held and therefore they kept it pending. So this Government had no other way. The BJP speakers were waxing eloquently. But their former Finance Minister Shri Jaswant Singh himself said that it was inevitable for any Government. But we think that this steep price hike is not at all affordable to the common people of the country. We welcome the fact that there was no rise in respect of kerosene. But LPG is not only used by the richer sections of the people, but it is used by the lower middle class, by the poor people and also by the working women. This Government which thinks in terms of empowering women politically and socially, which thinks in terms of giving more political power by way of reservations should know what will happen to the working women if the steep hike of LPG affects them seriously. There lies our demand that there should be a review.

There is some glee to be noticed on the other side as if we are embarrassed because some steps are being taken about which we have no alternative but to oppose. But we have made our position very clear even from the very beginning that there is a consensus, there is a common understanding with regard to the Common Minimum Programme. But on economic issues there are differences because it is a coalition programme. In the Common Minimum Programme on economic issues we have our own reservation. We retain the right to differ wherever required in the interest of the working people and the peasants of the country. But the BJP has no cause for elation. The Common Minimum Programme and the very foundation of this Government is an example that we are committed to seeing that no communal force comes to power. We shall see to it that secularism and pluralism of this country is maintained, the unity of this country is defended and for that this coalition Government will continue and we shall go on supporting it.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South) One which subject is the hon. Member speaking?

SHRI ROOPCHAND PAL I am speaking very relevant and very valid points.

Now I come to the question of subsidy and cross-subsidy. As you know the prices of petrol in the early '50s were determined on the basis of the prices prevalent in countries from where we had to import it. Things have changed in 1976 when the former Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi decided that it should be through administered price only. That was the time when administered pricing was adopted for petroleum, diesel and such other things, in a different scenario. The scenario has changed.

Now, let us come to the question of subsidy and cross-subsidy. The cross-subsidy has been taken

from motor-sport petroleum and ATF and given to what is consumed by the poorer sections, that is kerosene, LPG, and diesel. That is the mechanism. And what is the reality that prevails in our country? It is economic discrepancy. We must have a concrete philosophy with regard to subsidy because in the name of subsidy to the poorer sections of the people - if you notice, you will find - the richer sections have been appropriating portion of the subsidy meant for the poorer sections.

For example, let us take diesel. On diesel, the subsidy is meant for the poorer sections, for transport, for carrying commodities, articles, for the common people. What percentage is used by the transport sector? It is not very small, whereas a substantial amount is also consumed by the rural farmers and a chunk of them is rich. And they do not have to pay any tax at all. We should have a re-thinking about subsidies: subsidy in irrigation, subsidy in higher education and so on. So, when the Government says that they shall subsidise the poorest of the poor through the PDS, the Government should come out with its own concrete philosophy on subsidy, so that this question of cross-subsidy can be made to be understood by the people of this country so that people willingly agree with that in the interest of the poorer sections.

Some sacrifice will have to be made by those who consume petrol. Would the owners of 'Cielo' and 'Mercedes' cars not pay? Would they be so grumbling if the petrol price is just increased by a certain amount? But there are others also, the users of three-wheelers and two-wheelers. So, there is an idea. A suggestion was being made by Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee and the Finance Minister of the Government of West Bengal had also come out with a suggestion about dual pricing in respect of petrol. We request the Government to reconsider the matter.

MR CHAIRMAN : Roopchandji, please conclude.

SHRI ROOPCHAND PAL : But the crux of the matter, Madam, is that we do not have a national energy policy. Be it in respect of exploration, be it in respect of consumption, be it in respect of self-reliance, be it in respect of use of alternative sources of energy such as an integrated and comprehensive energy policy is urgently required so that in the coming days, India can stand on its own and it need not depend on others.

Today, we are amazed that in the name of privatisation, we do find that very, very important oilfields are being given on a platter to important parties. Corruption is taking place. So, in the absence of a coherent and meaningful national energy policy - taking into consideration all the aspect of it - exploration, usage, alternative usage and conservation - we will have difficulty in the coming days.

Madam, I am concluding that the Government has increased the prices of petro-products, which are not affordable by the people of this country. Although there has been a roll-back in the price of diesel, the Government should review and try to see what the burden that is being imposed is not imposed on just the common people of this country and that it is shared by the richer sections of the people also, through some mechanism that we may find out.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar) : Madam, I rise to oppose the hike in prices of Petrol and Diesel. The day the prices of Petrol and Diesel were increased there was great resentment among the people throughout the country. India is predominantly an agricultural country. Petrol and Diesel are generally used for agricultural purposes. Cultivation ploughing irrigation and harvesting can not be done without diesel. Diesel is the most required item for these processes. We are sorry that this Government without taking this House into confidence hiked the prices of Petrol and Diesel at 12 o'clock in the night in an arbitrary manner. When some members opposed it, then it was told that there would be a burden of 10 thousand crore rupees. For the past 7-8 days, we have been observing that the prices of soaps, pulses, toothbrush paste, building material required for construction of houses such as 'rorhi' 'bajri', iron, cement also increased. The Government is saying that it was necessary to increase the prices in order to improve the economy of the country. The country cannot be run without money but the manner in which they imposed burden on the common man, the way they have conspired to weaken them economically is very distressing.

Some parties claim that they are struggling for the rights of 'dalits', the exploited and the labourers. On one hand they oppose the price hike and say that it should be withdrawn and on the other hand they try to save the Government. The Government may remain or go, we are least interested in saving the Government but we are highly concerned about ensuring people their rights, who elected us to this position and not for saving the Government. The parties supporting the Government from outside should also clarify their position, whether they are in favour of hike in the prices of Petroleum products or in favour of reducing the prices?

Some colleagues say that the Government will fall and we should save the Government. The members of treasury benches are running the Government disregarding the sentiments of the people of the country and are putting such a burden on the people.

The people will have to bear at least a burden of Rs 30-40 thousand crores. Demonstrations and dharanas are being staged at many a places outside

the House over this issue. The coalition parties are supporting such a Government from outside.

I would like to tell them that when prohibition was imposed in Haryana, the state incurred a loss of revenue to the tune of Rs. 600 crore. Our colleagues including the members of Janata Party and Congress Party met the Prime Minister in this regard. The Prime Minister replied that an additional burden of seven thousand crore rupees would have to be borne. If the State Government takes any step keeping in view the public interest, the Central Government does not offer any assistance and on the other hand goes ahead to impose such a burden on the people of the country. If you needed money, you could have managed it through other means by curtailing the expenditure. The way the bureaucrats, the officials in Ministries, PM's Office are spending money, should have been controlled first. I have served as a Minister hence I would like to tell you that 20-30 cars run for unofficial purposes in the Ministries; lakhs of rupees are spent for paying telephone bills; such expenditure should be curtailed. Hon'ble Prime Minister is not present here but the other Ministers are sitting in the House.

16.59 hrs.

(Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

I would like to make a suggestion. The politicians who have accounts in the foreign banks, their account should be squeezed first and that money should be brought in India so that this deficit could be bridged. Irrespective of their being in the ruling party or in Opposition their accounts should be sealed and properties should be auctioned. They have amassed unlimited assets by taking advantage of their position. Such assets should be auctioned and money should be deposited in the Government treasury.

17.00 hrs.

There are reports in the newspapers that 10 thousands crore rupees, five crore rupees are deposited in the Swiss bank. Why does not the Ministry of Home Affairs arrest these leaders, interrogate them and expose them? Their money lying in the foreign countries should be brought back in country so that India's money can be spent for the people of India.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Government is a coalition Government and the Congress is supporting it from outside so as to prevent the BJP from forming a Government and to ensure that Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee does not hold the position of the Prime Minister of the country. I would like to say to the Minister that you have so many resources that your ten thousand crore rupees(Interruptions)*

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[English]

SHRI P.M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep) : Sir, this should not go on record. This is a matter pending before the court and so it should not go on record.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH : How is it pending? I am telling about the sources. This amount of Rs. 133 crores belongs to the public. We will not let the public cheated. Ministry of Home Affairs is responsible to give the account of urea scam. The persons involved in this scam of Rs. 133 crores should be arrested. Where this money has gone? Crores rather thousand millions of rupees have been embezzled and deposited in foreign banks. We will not let it happen.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether a person is a Minister or serving any higher post, whether it is me or Lalu Yadav, the guilty persons should be brought to book. (Interruptions) The people of the country ask us that where this Rs. 133 crores have gone? We are not given permission to hold discussion on this matter in the House whenever debate on this issue takes place, efforts are made to interrupt it. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I request the Prime Minister that public of this country would never forgive these leaders if such a steep hike in prices of petrol is not withdrawn. They say that their party is supporting the Government from outside but they all are collectively responsible for it. (Interruptions)* It is very humble submission to the Prime Minister that this hike in prices could be curbed by bringing back the money of this country deposited in foreign banks (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order (Interruptions) Sir, if any Member says that any other Member is not attending the House because of a particular reason, I think, it should not be allowed to go on record. It is like imputation of motives. No Member is supposed to impute motives to any other Member's presence or absence in this House (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH : I am saying that the money involved in urea scam should be brought back.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Jai Prakashji, please sit down

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Sir, in the flow of words, he has used certain expression which should not go on record. In that,

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair

certain matters are also *sub judice*. What I am trying to suggest is that you may please go into the proceedings and strike off those areas, because one cannot say that another Member can be justifiably arrested or unjustifiably arrested. There are many, such statements like this; and I do not want to go into all those things...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Okay, I will go into the record and see whether it can be done.

(Interruptions)

COL. RAO RAM SINGH (Mahendergarh) : Whom are you trying to protect?... (Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Not you ... (Interruptions)

COL. RAO RAM SINGH : I do not need your protection. ... (Interruptions) Whom are you trying to protect? ... (Interruptions)

I never need your protection. (Interruptions) I never need your protection... (Interruptions)* Whom are you trying to protect? Why can you not name him? ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Members, no side-talks.

(Interruptions)

COL. RAO RAM SINGH : You are trying to protect the corrupt. You said, you are protecting me. I do not need your protection. You are trying to protect the corrupt.

I thought that the Leftist Parties had some principles. You are trying to protect the people who have looted the country to the extent of Rs. 133 crore.... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down -

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, he is threatening me. I need your protection (Interruptions) Why do you not recall his statement? (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I could not hear what he had said.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record

(Interruptions) **

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will go through what he had said. I could follow it

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I want him to withdraw his words

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will go through the records. Please sit down

(Interruptions)

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

** Not Recorded

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : He has to withdraw his words. ...*(Interruptions)* He should withdraw it here. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Please go through the records.

COL. RAO RAM SINGH : I refuse to withdraw and be browbeaten by these people. ...*(Interruptions)* I will be the last person to protect any corrupt people.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please listen to me. I will go through the records and see if there is something objectionable. Then only, I will say about it.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : ...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I could not hear what he has said. I will go through the record.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let Mr. Sayeed speak.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Sir, he has made some expression. Of course, that has provoked my friends sitting to the left. You may kindly go through the record

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : That is what I am saying

COL. RAO RAM SINGH : He has provoked me. ... I have served for 25 years in the Army in defence of the country....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have allowed Mr. Sayeed

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : You Say expunge it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yes, yes.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Gentlemen, I have already said that I will go through the record. If there is anything objectionable, it will be expunged

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATERJEE : No, Sir. He has to withdraw it.

COL. RAO RAM SINGH : He has to withdraw *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, he should withdraw it ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will go through the record and I will see what both of you have said. And if there is something objectionable, it will be expunged

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, he should withdraw it. It is not the question of expunction

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let he go through the record first, then I will decide

(Interruptions)

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : ...*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let me go through the record; then, I will decide.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South-Central) : He is present here...*(Interruptions)** He was shouting loudly.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please do not complicate the situation further.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down. I have allowed you gentlemen.

MR. Bangarappa may speak now.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I thank you for having permitted me to speak on the subject in the discussion under Rule 193

Sir, many of the hon. Members of this august House sitting on both sides have thrown a lot of light on two major issues—firstly, the exact hike in prices of daily commodities including essential commodities and secondly, how to deal with the balancing of the accounts relating to the Oil Pool Account.

Sir, I may draw your kind attention to one aspect, namely, the hike of prices of petroleum products has really resulted in the abnormal prices that are to be faced by the people on the consumer's part, may be in the urban or rural areas. There are two areas in our country; one is where the commodities are directly supplied by rail and the hike includes thereby the rail freight hike or something like that and the other area has been put across by Kumari Mamata Banerjee. There are no rail facilities for some places at all and goods are to be transported by road only to every nook and corner of the country like the North-Eastern frontiers. There are so many other areas in our country where the consumer will have to face more prices on daily commodities because hikes relating to trucks and all those things will be abnormal on all these commodities.

The point is this. Cooking gas, petrol and diesel will certainly account for higher prices on all these commodities. Some people were arguing that there has been a hike of ten per cent of Naptha. It is not like that. The prices of kerosene have not been hiked at all. It is not the question. It a fact that the prices of kerosene have not been included in the list of other petroleum products whose prices have been

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair

hiked. But if one takes into account the consequent rise in the railway freight charges then certainly the impact of the rise would also be felt by the consumers using kerosene. Therefore, I would like to make an appeal to you that the Government should take care of all these things or should have taken care of it before announcing such a hike in the petroleum products.

Sir, I would like to bring to your kind notice the fact that this is an abnormal hike. In the past also the prices of petroleum products had been hiked on a number of occasions but they were to the extent of five per cent, 10 per cent and something like that. But this year's hike has gone beyond all limits. The hike has been to the tune of 15 to 30 per cent. Therefore, I would like to appeal to the Government that they should immediately bring down this abnormal hike in the prices so that the common consumers are not hit hard.

While increasing the prices you have mentioned about the Oil Pool Account, I would like to draw your attention to the situation that was prevailing in the 1980' when Shri Pranab Mukherjee was the Finance Minister. At that time, the Oil Pool Account used to be a part and parcel of the budgetary demand for the whole financial year. The bifurcation came afterwards. Later on, the Oil Pool Account was made a part and parcel of the day to day administrative measure. This is not correct. This could have a bigger share on the whole financial year itself through the Budget that is going to be presented by the Government in the Parliament. Therefore, I would like to appeal to the Government that hereafter they should think of adopting the system that was prevalent in the 'Eighties when the Oil Pool Account formed part and parcel of the whole Budget itself.

Sir, it was very rightly said by Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, the only person to have pointed out, that when there was a surplus in the Oil Pool Account, when we were getting a good margin from this Pool in those days, an amount of Rs. 4,400 crore and odd was transferred from the Oil Pool Account to the General Pool Account. Why was that money not transferred back again to the Oil Pool Account? Now, Suppose if that amount of Rs. 4,400 has been transferred back to the Oil Pool Account from the General Pool Account, this abnormal hike in the prices of petroleum products would not have been required at all. Why did you not do so? Why did you not take that step? You have taken the step of increasing the prices. Instead of that you could have sat and interacted with the Finance Minister and could have initiated steps for transferring back the amount of Rs. 4,400 crore and odd to the Oil Pool Account. Since the Government failed to do so, they have taken recourse to the hike in the petroleum products. This is highly unfair. This will hit hard the people across the whole country.

Another point is about the mechanism of the administered prices. I would like to appeal to the Government that the present system would not last long and the Government would have to think of some other methods also. Moreover, there is a tussle going on between the various partners of the petroleum industry, the refineries, the oil companies in regard to the various kinds of surcharges, levy, cess etc. Therefore, this levy system should be tackled a proper way so as to see that the burden does not fall on oil account in total.

On account of this price hike the national railway freight is also going to have its say in the Railway Budget which is going to be presented before the House. This is a sort of forewarning. The retail prices have already gone up. The consumers have also to bear the burden of various surcharges and other Government levies that have been introduced now. Sometimes, you may have to bear the entire burden of the previous Government. I am not here to go into the details of all these things. Had you thought of an alternative method, there would have been no necessity to go in for this kind of abnormal price hike. The entire matter now hinges on one point. The Government has claimed that on account of the price hike, the inflation rate is a not more than 0.9 per cent. The Press report says-we are not economists to say something on this subject-that it is somewhere around one-and-a half per cent. The inflation rate is accounted for about 6 to 7 per cent and in a few months it is going to touch double digit. Therefore, you have to take into account all these things.

Another point that I would like to deal with is about the time when you announced the price hike. The notices were already sent and the Session was called when you announced this price hike. You had taken a decision in this regard at midnight. All these things have been discussed in great detail by the hon. Members here. I do not want to go into all these things. I only wish to say that when you announced this price hike you knew it fully well that there were a number of companies who were having lakhs and crores of liters of petrol and diesel with them. Thousands of Government vehicles, both at the Centre and State level, are there. The moment you announced the price hike, the old stock was at once sold at the new rates to the consumers. Even your Government vehicles purchased the old stocks of petrol and diesel at the new rates. This is a very important point. Lakhs and lakhs of Government vehicles are there which purchased the old stock at the new rates. You should have issued a statement that all the old stocks should be sold at the old rates only. I would like to know why no statement is made in this regard by the Government. You should have immediately issued a statement to the effect that for the old stocks, lying at all the petrol pumps of the country, new rates will not apply. The Government has not come forward with such a statement. The Government is at the mercy of the refineries, oil

companies and the petrol pumps located across the country. How could such a grave mistake be committed so openly? Could the Government have forgotten such a basic matter? I see no wisdom on the part of the Government in doing this. The Government had better come out with an explanation as to how such a grave mistake was committed by them.

There are many issues on which many hon. Members are ready to speak. I too have a lot of details with me but it requires a lot of time for submitting them. Therefore, Sir, I demand that the Government should withdraw this hike in the prices of petroleum products today, while replying to this debate. The Government can later come with a new proposal which could get the approval of all hon. Members of the House cutting across Party lines.

With these words I conclude. I thank you for having given me this opportunity to speak.

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I would like you tell you that the hon. Prime Minister will reply to the debate at 6 p.m. today.

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA (Alipurduar) : Sir, though this is my maiden speech, I will not take much time of the House. Sir, I have heard the hon. Members and friends speaking on the unprecedented price hike of petroleum products. Now, I rise to speak on behalf of my Party, the Revolutionary Socialist Party.

Sir, the whole country, including farmers, small industrialists, drivers and people from all walks of life, is very much concerned about this sudden rise in the cost of petroleum products and LPG. There had been price hikes in the past and there will be price hikes in future. As long as we follow the capitalistic structure of economy, this sort of price hikes will continue to take place.

The common man in the village had very high expectations of the United Front Government. Although everyone is blaming the present Government for the price hike, I would like to ask a question as to "what about the earlier Governments including that of the BJP who had been in the Government for thirteen days?" What was the reason that they did not take stock of the situation when they were in power? Why did they remain indecisive so long? Had they taken proper steps at appropriate time, the common man who is unaware of this price hike would not have been made to suffer. The common man is being made to suffer now. This burden would not have fallen on the common people. This problem would have been avoided earlier also. Since no decision was taken by the earlier Government now the present Government had to take the decision at this stage. But the increase in the prices of petroleum products is also causing concern to all of us. Therefore, my humble submission will be, through you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker to the Government is that,

they should reconsider this increase and in future if any economic policy is to be adopted for the future, then proper care should be taken so that general public never suffers.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 90 crore people of this country are listening to this debate and they are eagerly waiting for the Prime Ministers reply in this regard. I do not think that their expectations will be fulfilled. It is my demand and the opinion of the Members of the House that hon. Prime Minister should give his reply in this matter for which 90 crore people of this country are waiting eagerly.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a strange situation has emerged in this House. This Government was formed one month and 20 days ago and within this short period it has imposed a burden of Rs. 8000 crore to Rs. 12000 crore on the public. I am worried about the fact that the main party of the coalition which has formed the Government has only 45 Members and rest of the Members are of alliance parties, Members of the all the alliance parties have condemned the increase in prices of petroleum products and demanded that it should be withdrawn. Except these 45 Members, all the 500 Members who belong to different parties have unanimously demanded that it should be withdrawn. I also say that this increase is improper. The Government has no right to do so. Except the 45 Members of this party, none supports the Government on this issue and even if these 45 members are asked their reactions outside this House they would also oppose this increase.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my first demand is that sentiments of the House and expectations of the people should be fulfilled. The public of this country, and this Government itself feels that it will not last long...*(Interruptions)*...We all believe that this Government is here for a very short period...*(Interruptions)* We are watching for the last one week...*(Interruptions)* We are reading in newspapers. It is not an issue to worry but in democratic system, a minority Government has taken up an issue of increasing Rs. ten thousand crores...*(Interruptions)* You can do that. We were ready to take up debate on this issue under Rule 184 but some of our colleagues are trying to save you, but they are not realising that the day will come when-A poet has said very correctly that...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : The demand of ruling party should be considered if it intends to go for voting.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : We were demanding that only...*(Interruptions)* Now the parties supporting Government should become alert...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) : Please recite your couplet.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : I am going to read it out. The poet has said :

"Ham to dubenge sanam tumko bhi saath le dubenge."

This Government will fall within one, two or six months period and with that will also spoil the image of your party. I feel that the Government has not gone into pros and cons of it before increasing these prices.

Bangarappaji has said a new thing that for the last many years we have been noticing that increased the prices of petrol are effective from at midnight. We forget that there are thousands of petrol pumps and depots which have storage of lakhs of litres of petrol and on the very next day consumers have to purchase petrol at increased prices. The Government does not get a single rupee by it but owners of petrol pumps are benefited by it instead and earn crores of rupees over night. Therefore, I would like to say that the Government should have given it a serious thought. I have said in the beginning itself that increase in prices of petrol, diesel and LPG directly affects all the classes of the country. Today, milk, vegetables, medicines and foodgrains are transported to villages daily.

[English]

Most of the essential commodities are transported by trucks.

[Translation]

You are saying that prices of kerosene have not been increased but it is also transported by trucks and oil tankers. Thus all the classes are adversely affected by this price hike.

Tomorrow Railway Budget is to be presented in this House and Union Budget is likely to be presented on 22nd. The intention of the Government has become clear before public with this price hike. Prices will also be hiked in budget as well as more taxes would be imposed. Commonman is going to be burdened further.

I will not take much time because my friends also want to speak on it. I would like to make two points clear. The first thing is that it does not reflect the opinion of the entire House. Except the 45 Members, all other members wish that this increase in prices of petroleum products, diesel and LPG should be withdrawn. The second point is that in a democratic system a minority Government has no moral right to raise the prices. In view of the these two points and aspirations of public I again demand that increase in the prices of petroleum products especially the increase in prices of diesel, LPG and petrol should be withdrawn.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for having

provided me this opportunity to participate in the debate regarding the hike in the administered prices of petroleum products.

Sir, the hike in the administered prices of petroleum products is not a new thing. The prices of petroleum products we reviewed and revised from time to time to see that the Oil Pool Account is balanced.

Sir, the petroleum products form 16 per cent aggregate of the various commodities, whose prices are either fully or partially administered. When all other prices are rising, some changes in the administered prices of petroleum products are necessary and inevitable. There is no denying of this fact. But, at the same time we have to see that price stabilisation is there, which has also been the election promise of the ruling Janata Dal and this has been given in the Common Minimum Programme. The prominent point, out of the twelve points given in the Common Minimum Programme, is that they will stabilise prices. Now, it is a contradiction. The price hike to this extent—25 per cent on petrol; 30 per cent on diesel, LPG, etc.—goes to contradict what they have stated in their Common Minimum Programme and it strikes at its root.

Sir, this price hike will have a cascading effect. Tomorrow we will be having the Railway Budget and the additional burden on the Railways will be about Rs. 340 crore. Fare and freight charges will be on the increase. So also, the burden on the Indian Airlines, Air India, etc. will be about Rs. 80 crore. Already reports about steel prices going up by 10 to 12 per cent appeared in the Press. The quality coal price has, of course, registered an increase of 60 per cent. All modes of transport—air, rail and road—will have the impact of this and I need not go into that aspect.

It has been the national desire, I will say the national will, that this price hike, of course, was necessary but certainly not to this extent.

The BJP friends wanted to censure this Government on this. But there is no need for censuring this Government.

I would quote what the Janata Dal Supremo, the Bihar Chief Minister Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav had said about this price hike. He said "The hike seems unreasonable. This should have been done in phases. I am going to convey the resentment of the people to the Prime Minister tomorrow." He added that he was going to ask the Prime Minister why he said that there would not be any review of this price hike.

The Janata Dal Party Supremo, the party President, the Bihar Chief Minister had taken the Prime Minister to task. Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav issued this statement before coming to attend the Chief Minister's Conference. So, how can they find

fault with others in criticising this price hike and demand its withdrawal? I now come to what the Chief Minister of West Bengal had said. He said: "The hike was unjustified." Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav had said, 'unreasonable' and Shri Jyoti Basu had said, 'unjustified'. Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav had suggested that this should have been effected in instalments.

The Maharashtra Chief Minister is another one. Shri Manohar Joshi has said that it is unbearable. One has said that it is unreasonable, another has said that it is unjustified and another has said that it is unbearable. So all the Chief Ministers have said. It is like that.

Sir, being upset, Shri Deve Gowdaji, naturally while calling the Members in a meeting of the UF, has advised them to come out in one voice so far as price rise is concerned and after that we have seen it. That I need not repeat. What has our esteemed colleague, senior parliamentarian, the hon. Home Minister stated in Madras? What I mean to say is, all this shows that the entire country is very much concerned about the steep, hectic price hike in petroleum products.

Our good friend, Shri Jaswant Singh, who initiated the discussion, is there on the other side. He also chaired a Standing Committee on Energy. That Committee had also come out with the recommendation that this has to be fixed on economic basis and something like that.

Sir, naturally we are poor people. There are overwhelmingly poor people in the society. You know that our society is not an even society. There are ups and downs. There are poor people, down-trodden people. More than 40 per cent of our people are below the poverty line. Naturally in a country of this nature, the economy also has to have an element of subsidy. That has been admitted. Subsidy is an essential element. Therefore, in certain quarters, we have this element of subsidy like the foodgrains and in fertiliser.

Diesel is somewhat an essential commodity. In diesel also, there can be no objection. You can have an element of subsidy in diesel also. So naturally this is a problem. There is criticism here. And the reason given for such a hike is that during the last 30 months of Congress Government, there was no price hike. Yes, there was no price hike for the last 30 months.

There are different political parties who are ruling in different States. I would like to know which of the political parties have come out with heavy taxation measures in the election year. We are all in a democracy. We have elected Governments. Tell me, which Government belonging to which Party has come with heavy taxation dose in an election year? Is it a fault of the Congress Government? In 1991-

92 what was the state of economy in India when the Congress Government led by Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao came to power? Kindly recall that. It was on the brink of collapse. And today what is the state of economy which Shri H.D. Deve Gowda inherited from Congress?

It is a buoyant economy. At that point of time also, there was a deficit of about Rs. 5,000 crore in Oil Pool Account. In 1991, it was not our playing with the money. Now, of course, there is suddenly a deficit of Rs. 8,000 crore. At that point of time, what was the GDP? What was the economic growth? What was the industrial growth? What were they in 1991-92? I would like to quote a statement. It says, "India appears to have entered a phase of high economic growth". And whose statement is it? It is the Government's own agency. Going by the surprising estimates of the Central Statistical Organization, CSO, on Friday, it said that the Gross Domestic Product, GDP grew by seven per cent last year, the highest ever, and it goes to grow by 6.6 per cent this year also. Sir, the target has been exceeded. The economy has performed so well last year. Whose Government was it last year? Now the godowns are overflowing with foodgrains. What about foreign exchange reserves? What was the position then? It was minus growth. The industrial growth was 2.25 per cent. Now the industrial growth is above 10 per cent. What was the inflation rate then? It touched 17 per cent. But now it is 4.67 per cent. This is the record, this is the economy which we have left behind and they should be grateful to us.

This Government and the Prime Minister, Shri Deve Gowda should be grateful to Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, to Dr. Manmohan Singh and to the Congress Party for having inherited such a buoyant economy and also for the support this party is giving them to run the Government. There cannot be any accusation on the Congress for this price hike.

When Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao took over it was such a hopeless economy that there was a deficit of Rs. 5,000 crore in the Oil Pool Account. When they could have absorbed it, when they could have managed it, why in such a good background can it not be absorbed now? It can very well be absorbed. There cannot be any allegation that because of the Congress misrule or because of Congress not having come forward with a steep price like this, this situation has arisen. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi): To what extent would you pressurise the Government?

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: I am coming to that. Do not worry. Please have some patience.

I had the good opportunity of heading the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals. I had got the opportunity of observing the functioning of these Ministries from close quarters. I wonder how our friend, Shri George Fernandes has said what we said on this. Of course, everyday we the old Members are acquainted with him, that is the 'Georgian' style. The hon. Member is not present today in the House, he came out with certain things, I do not know wherefrom he got those things. I have no access to the records now. But in my own way I recollected the things. He said that there was about Rs. 5,000 or Rs. 10,000 crore hanky-panky in transport etc. They appeared before the Committee while discussing about the pricing, distribution and exploration of this oil industry....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : You have punished the public by increasing its price.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : They pleaded their case for increasing their concession, their profit margin, etc. But, at the same time, a passing reference was made that the transporters etc. are also engaged in hanky-panky business. But they could not give any evidence.

I have no time, otherwise I can read from the Report. I have brought out all these things.(Interruptions). He said that this Committee did not take cognisance of this. Without corroboration of serious allegation how can you bring it to the recommendation part? But we have mentioned what they have stated. We have also dealt with that. We also enquired from the Ministry officials when the Ministry officials appeared before the Committee.

As I said, this price naturally has got to be balanced. But, at the same time, we have look to the effects thereof. They are saying that by the end of the year the deficit would be reduced to Rs. 2,000 crore. They would have got more than Rs. 12,000 crore for the whole year. But for the rest of the year they will get Rs. 11,000 crore and at the end of the year the deficit would be reduced to Rs. 2,000 crore. They should have gone for this revision partially, not to this extent and that could have been absorbed.

I had already told about the healthy economy. If Shri Deve Gowda can sustain whatever the economy that has been handed over to him and manage it, naturally a big portion of deficit, etc. could be very well absorbed.

Now, I am coming to some suggestions. Every time we find that there is a difference, there is a gap and that gap is also causing concern. Our consumption rate is moving very fast as compared to our oil exploration, etc.

17.55 hrs.

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

As you find, Sir these days our own indigenous crude is cheaper than the imported crude. So, the less we import, the more healthier our economy will be day by day. We have, therefore, to pump in money in this area for augmenting our production. This aspect nobody has highlighted and I think many people do not know about it also.

We have one Board called the Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB). This OIDE was created in mid-seventies and thereafter a cess has been levied, particularly to promote our oil industry. Having realised the importance of the oil industry, which is in basic sector and which contributes a lot towards the growth and prosperity of the country, this special cess was collected for the promotion of the oil industry. But surprisingly, this oil cess, which is primarily meant for the oil sector, has not been properly used. Out of Rs. 20,000 crore collected so far, do you know, Sir, what the amount spent on this oil sector is? It is a meagre amount of Rs. 900 crore. During this period, not only the Congress Government but several other Parties' governments have ruled the country but nobody has taken cognisance of it. So, why to blame the Congress Government alone? The situation was such that this money was taken to the General Account. Similarly the diversion of the OI DB Account and the Oil Pool Account also did not take place during this period.

In the overall economy, if we take certain steps, price hikes could be avoided to a certain extent. We can reduce the customs duty on imported crude. Austerity in the use of oil can also be observed. Any new programme you launch, you are giving some vehicles and those vehicles are deposited in the premises of the Collectors of every District.

MR. SPEAKER: Panigrahi, it is going to be six and six o'clock is the time for the Prime Minister to reply.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : All right, sir. I would have taken another half-an-hour.

MR. SPEAKER : I know, you can take even one full day.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : So, Sir, with a proper management of the economy, with austerity measures and also by reducing the import duty, the price hikes can be avoided. There is no harm even to go in for disinvestment.

I would like to give one proposal for the consideration of the House and of the Government. Everybody knows that there is a parallel economy of black-money going on in the country. Sometimes we think that this black money should come out. So, I think we can consider whether black money also can be used in the oil sector.

Some MNCs, some international organisations are being attracted to this sector and bids, etc. are going on. I think by augmenting our own production and also by bringing about some discipline in the economy, relating to Oil Pool Account, etc., we can bring a better situation.

Since you have already cautioned me about the time, I do not like to take more time even though I have many things to say. I would conclude by saying that this unprecedented price hike to this extent at a stroke was uncalled for and was not wise. I am reminded of one shloka.

"skandham no badhte raja, sarv badhti badhte."

Even our Shri H.D. Deve Gowda, who is known as bhumputra because of his concern for the farmers, while talking to the Press, I think at Lucknow, after this price hike, justified it. Of course, I do not find fault with him.

18.00 hrs.

But, at the same time, he said that this would not at all affect the interests of the peasants and farmers. I think this is too much and at least the Bhoomi Putra should have realised that this is not going to spare even the peasantry. Therefore, his own precedent is these and the C.P.M. supremo and the Chief Minister and all those are warning about one thing that is very very hefty, very very steep and this should not have been done at a stroke and it should have been done in phases or instalments. Sir, this is the national wish. The national wish is reflected in Parliament. It is the collective responsibility of the Government to bow down to the national wish, whatever may happen.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you Panigrahi. Please conclude now.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: I appeal to the Prime Minister that he should revive and reconsider this aspect. As I said, by giving statistics, he has inherited a very good and buoyant economy. He need not be upset at all. *(Interruptions)* What happened in 1991-92 Shri P.V. Narsimha Rao and Dr. Manmohan Singh managed the economy... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Panigrahi, you are going back. You do not have to repeat what you have said earlier. I was listening to you from my Chamber.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Sir, there should be no difficulty in managing with some increase. He should withdraw the increase in the price of diesel by another ten per cent and in petrol by ten per cent and by fifteen per cent in the LPG.

Sir, I make an appeal to have a dispassionate view and he should consider all these aspects and effect reduction of price hike.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Members, the time allotted for this was two hours. We have already spent four hours and fifty two minutes. I think the debate is good enough, Mr. Prime Minister may reply now.

(Interruptions)

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your kind permission, I would like to appeal to all sections of the House including the former Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition when I try to substantiate with all reasonings about the decision we have taken to increase the prices of petroleum products before the Session starts, five days earlier.

Sir, forget for a moment that this is a coalition Government and this Government consists of 13 Parties and this Government has another big Party supporting from outside. Let us not mix politics in this issue. Let us take a pragmatic view about the decision taken by the Government.

Sir, about propriety, your goodself has given a ruling. I do not want to question your ruling. I will bow my head. When the hon. Speaker from that exalted Chair gave a ruling, we have to respect the ruling of the Chair. I do not want to say anything about it.

I am not going to justify the decision taken by me or my Government. Sir, if you go back to the history, how many times did the hon. Speaker, sitting in the same Chair, has given rulings about the decisions of the previous Governments whose numerical strength was so monolithic two-thirds majority- and at that time how the administrative prices were increased prior to the Budget session? I can give any number of instances.

What made this Government take such a hurried decision of the decision six days or a week prior to the Budget Session? Let us have a clear picture before we come to any conclusion.

Sir, the issue before us was the same issue which was placed before the previous Government. The same issue was placed before our senior most leader, the former Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition.

I have got the highest regard for Jaswant Singh. Whenever he spoke, I used to sit there and hear his speech very carefully. At times, I was unable to understand some of the words he used or expressed. I am not so knowledgeable a person so far as English is concerned, but I could understand the message which he tried to convey to the nation from this House.

I am just quoting for his benefit what he said this matter came up before the previous Government. When the file was submitted to the Ministry of

Finance, the last views expressed by the Finance Minister were:

"Primer facie it seems inevitable that an across the board increase in POL price is required urgently to eliminate the pool deficit".

That is what he as Finance Minister had observed. I am not going to say that he took that view from the Ministry of Finance...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolhpur) : Is this the decision of Jaswant Singhji?

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Yes.

I have got the highest regard for our former Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition, I respect him, Sir. The Finance Minister has also observed that cumulative oil pool deficit is going to rise to a level of Rs. 11,700 crores at the end of this year from a level of Rs. 5,700 crore last year and as such an across the board, increase in petroleum prices is required urgently to eliminate the pool deficit. I am going to read again the words 'urgently to eliminate the pool deficit'. What was the pool deficit? It was Rs. 5,700 crore for the last year and the figure projected for 1996-97 is Rs. 11,700 crore. "While action on these points shall be taken separately the OEB as approved by the Ministry of Finance is submitted for approval". The then Prime Minister approved it and also directed necessary action to be taken on the observation made by the Finance Ministry headed by Jaswant Singhji. *(Interruptions)* I do not want to mix politics here. Forget that this is a Government which is headed by 13 political parties and supported by you friends. I have not come in search of any job in Delhi. My temperament is totally different

This is a thing which was forced on me. I highly respect you, wherever you may be. Nobody can prevent the destiny. If destiny is there on your side, you can come and sit here and somebody can go and sit there. That is not the issue. But when you attack as a senior parliamentarian I am too small a man. Let me honestly speak, compared to you I am too small a man. The Oil Pool Account deficit must be erased. That is your own decision and I have carried it.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not want to interrupt the hon. Prime Minister.

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : I am yielding

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr Speaker, Sir, the matter of deficit in oil pool account has not been

settled yet and prices of petroleum products are soaring high. We being in opposition have been warning the Government for years against it. I have not given orders to convene a session of Parliament. It is your decision to announce an increase in the prices of petroleum products five days before convening of the session of Parliament.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, let the Leader of the Opposition and Shri Jaswant Singh admit that they recommended a steep hike.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Mr Speaker, Sir, now that I am asked a direct question, I will respond only if you permit me to do so.

Sir, there are two issues involved here. Firstly, references to notings on files—whether those references to notings on files are a matter that has to be discussed and debated here. That is a different matter. That is one thing.

The second thing is that I have been asked by my senior colleague as to whether I had made any recommendation of this nature, of a sudden steep hike. No, Sir, I certainly expressed grave concerns at the deteriorating situation that the deficit would go upto Rs. 11,000 plus crore or more.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : The cat is out of the bag.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : It is an estimate. Certainly it was on record that if corrective action was not taken, the situation would be difficult. But that corrective action will be a 30 per cent hike was certainly not part of our notings. We would have found out alternatives to doing it and doing it not on the eve of a Budget Session of Parliament. Definitely not. I say this only because this matter was raised.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : This view was expressed on 25.5.1996, about 20 days earlier. I took over the office on 1st June and it was to be proved in Parliament as to whether this is a legitimate Government or not. So, I was unable to touch the file for another 12 days. I am not going to just drag the name of the senior leaders for the purpose of defending this decision.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : You are trying to score a debating point. That is all.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Please hear me. On the other day, when your goodself was speaking, other hon. Members attacked me so much, I was patiently watching them. I did not even react a word to them. Whatever may be the insult, I just swallowed it.

Mr. Jaswant Singhji, your own Committee—a Committee appointed by the Parliament—had recommended that the subsidy on LPG should be gradually reduced. He was heading that committee. While speaking to the Times of India on inflation,

you said that the inflation rate has been kept artificially low by not increasing the administered prices. You further added, this is particularly true in terms of the petroleum sector as there is Rs. 6,000 crore deficit in the Oil Pool Account. This is what you have told the Press...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : They are totally exposed.

MR. SPEAKER : Please, I do not think that is required.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Sir, I would like to apprise the House and through this House, to the nation what were the circumstances. I am not going to say that you support me. I am prepared to take the blame. But at least through this House I must also tell the nation under what circumstances I have taken this decision. That much liberty I have got.

Sir, on 17th June one refinery said that FOB payments due to IOC for crude supplies to the tune of Rs 49 crore had been deferred. Delaying payments to other suppliers, contractors, etc., you will agree, will lead to a serious loss of image. If OCC resorts to further retrenchment of this nature CRL will be expected to serious financial problems which may even lead to the refinery operations coming to a grinding halt. One of the refinery Chairman and Managing Director wrote like this to the Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum. Sir, there are series of correspondence between several refineries and the Ministry of Petroleum. I would like to quote only one case as I do not want to take much time of the House. It says

"We are afraid if this situation continues IOC may be under a great stress to default its foreign commitments for imports as well as loan repayments which will adversely affect its credibility in the international market"

They went on stressing the Ministry of Petroleum to take early decision. Some people say that I have done the biggest mistake. Even now by March, 1997 the deficit will be ranging from Rs. 4,700 crore to Rs. 5,000 crore. That is the projected figure.

I would just like to draw the attention of the House to the previous hikes in the prices of petroleum products. I want go back to the previous events that took place so far as the price increases in petroleum products are concerned. In 1979, after the Budget was placed in this very august House on 28.2.1979 - Shri Morarji Desai was the Prime Minister at that time - the price of HSD was increased by 8.5 percent, SKO by 8.3 percent and LPG by 9.2 percent. When the late Shri Charan Singh became the Prime Minister, on 17.08.1979, six months after the Budget was passed in this very same House, price of the LPG was increased by 20.4 percent.

When Madam Gandhi was the Prime Minister, on 13.01.1981 — the Budget was placed on 28.02.1981 — one-and-half months' earlier, the price of LPG was increased by 17 percent and the price of HSD was increased by 18.9 percent. Within six months, that is, on 11.07.1981, in the middle of the year again, the price of HSD was raised by 13.7 percent. If you add 18.9 percent and 13.7 percent, the total comes to 32.6 percent in respect of HSD alone. The price of LPG was raised by 17 percent on 13.01.1981 and on 11.07.1981, it was, again, raised by 14.5 percent. The total price rise comes to 31.5 percent in respect of LPG. The kerosene price was raised by 18.5 percent within six months in two instalments, in two dosages.

Coming to the late Shri Rajiv Gandhi's period, on 01.02.1996 — on 28.02.1996 the Budget was placed in this very august House — LPG price was raised by 23.1 percent and subsequently he had given some reduction...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar): How much was the reduction?

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : It was minus nine percent.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : He raised the price and subsequently reduced it.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : I am coming to it. That is why, I said, let us forget the party issues now. We have to see as to how we can set right the present crisis. Not only this; there are various other problems and we have to collectively think over those things. In 1991, NSD price was not raised. On 25.07.1991, LPG price was raised by 20 percent, on 16.09.1992, it was raised by 24.1 percent, and on 12.01.1994, it was raised by 20.6 percent. In three years, only on LPG, the total price rise comes to 64.6 percent. Later, a reduction was given, which was minus 6.9 percent. It means, 58 percent was the total price rise, in three years, only on LPG. You were all saying that the Prime Minister had no knowledge of the common man's problems. I am prepared to bear all these criticisms.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : They are genuine *bhoomi putras* who are sitting on this side.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Sir, I told you under what circumstances we were compelled to take this decision. Our demand — it was placed before you and before me also — in 1994-95 was 65.5 million tonnes and it has gone up to 72.5 million tonnes. It is further expected to go up to 78.5 during the current financial year.

As I told you a little earlier, even after this price hike, the projected figure is about Rs. 4,700/- to Rs. 5,000/- deficit by 31st March, 1997.

How much subsidy are we giving? We are giving a subsidy of Rs. 4,870/- on kerosene. We have not

raised anything. We are giving a subsidy of Rs. 4.17 paise per litre.

It was as if we have done it by midnight decision. It is not a midnight decision every time when the administrative price hike is going to be implemented. It is only because the decision will be given effect to when almost all the accounts of the oil pumps and petrol pumps will be closed only at about 10.30 or 11 o'clock.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : They have to raise.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : That will be there. I do agree. I do not dispute that point. I do agree that all these things are bound to happen. It is not as if I have taken a midnight decision. It is the decision taken by the Department. Yes. It should come into operation the next day. That is why, they will inform the concerned dealers after the closure of their accounts.

Even today we are giving subsidy amount of Rs. 62.50 paise on one LPG gas cylinder

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : If subsidy of Rs. 62 is being given on LPG then it should be stopped.

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : If you want to totally remove that means totally remove...after this Government collapses, if you come to power, you can do that....(Interruptions)

If we take LPG users whose monthly income is below Rs. 250/-, they come under the purview of below the poverty line. It comes to 3.8 percent

The percentage of people whose monthly income is Rs. 750/- to Rs. 1,500/- comes to 25.9 and Rs. 1,501 to Rs. 2,500 comes to 29.1 and Rs. 2,501 to Rs. 4,000 comes to 23.5 and over Rs. 4,000/- comes to 17.7

These are the figures I am placing before the House

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : By whom has the survey been done?

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : It is done by the Department, not by any news agency. Even after the price hike of Rs. 8.46 per kg of LPG gas in India, if you go back to other neighbouring countries, in Malaysia it is Rs. 16.12, in Bangladesh — they are richer than us — it is Rs. 13.58, in Myanmar Rs. 22.37, in Sri Lanka Rs. 13.4 and in Thailand Rs. 15.4 per kg of LPG.

About the HSD, in the case of road transport, yes, there is some effect on the transportation of the commodities. I do agree. The total consumption by

the Road Transport Department in the whole of the country is to the extent of 61.8 percent; in the case of Railways, it is 4.3 percent; in the case of Shipping, it is 0.4 percent; in the case of agricultural sector, it is 16.3 percent and in respect of the industrial sector, it is 17.2 percent. This is the sectoral consumption of HSD.

About vehicle population, there are 3,10,412 diesel cars; jeeps are to the extent of 5,98,191; commercial vehicles are to the extent of 21,27,504.

I now come to MS consumption profile. The car population is to the extent of 1,36,76,000. The total consumption is 1,98,10,973 metric tonnes. I have given the figures about the sectoral consumption as well as diesel vehicle population, car population and all these things. The consumption is about 1,98,10,973 metric tonnes.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : What about tractor?
...(Interruptions)

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : I told you how many farmers are using it. I do agree that whenever the price of any commodity is going to be increased, some sections have to bear the burden. I do not dispute that point. But, at the same time, let us also think about the other people. Nitishji, I thought that you are coming from the farming community
...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : He has jettisoned it. He has gone to construction of Temple business! (Interruptions)

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : I have got the highest regards for him. Shri Nitish Kumar, I heard your speech though I was in my office. But I was unable to understand the full speech because you spoke in Hindi. But I tried to get the information. At least, you have not mentioned even a single word about the fertiliser subsidy which this Government has given

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I have appreciated that. But Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav has not reported it properly.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : If you have mentioned it, thank you very much. In my opinion, India can be economically split into two parts: one is rural India and the other is urban India. Do not be under the impression that I am biased towards the urban people or unbiased towards the rural people. Forget that. Just I am giving you the figures. In Bombay, Calcutta and Madras alone, the Railways suffer a loss of Rs. 220 crores for which we are providing subsidy. It is for suburban trains.

Shri Nitish Kumar, about the post-cards, registration and the sale of inland letters, in the Communications Department alone, we are giving subsidy to the tune of Rs. 600 crores.

Who is going to get the benefit? It is the people. There was a massacre in Bihar. I got that message two days back on Saturday morning at 7.30. I told the Home Secretary, "I want to go today afternoon to the place where this unhappy incident has taken place." The Home Secretary contacted the Chief Secretary, Bihar. And he gave me the information within two hours. He said: "Even though you can go to Patna by the Indian Air Force aircraft yet you cannot reach that village by helicopter. We can arrange for a heliped two miles away from that village. You have to walk two miles." This is the true picture of India. You are coming from that State. I am only just giving one instance. What happened on the 27th? I wanted to go to that place on the very same day because it was a holiday and there was no sitting of the House. The Home Secretary conveyed to me, "you have to walk two kilometres; and we are not going to advocate you to go there today." As I told you, economically, we can split India into two parts - one is rural India and the other one is urban India. How much subsidy are we giving to various elite sections of the society? I am not against that. But you must also think in terms of those people who have no voice. This House is meant for those people who have no voice. I have taken a decision which is not going to be liked by so many elite sections of the society I know, they are the opinion-makers. Let them form the opinion against this Government. But so long as I am here, I must tell you very frankly, I am going to take the decision in favour of the rural masses. I am prepared to say this. I am not afraid of this Chair. So long as I am here, I am going to take the decision in favour of my constituents, these people who have been neglected all these 48 years. Certainly, they must be given their due share. There is nothing doing on this issue

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAM BEHARI MISHRA (Bilhaut) : Hon. Prime Minister, Sir, the class whom you are trying to benefit will itself be affected adversely by increase in the prices of diesel, petrol and other petroleum products. (Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the increase in prices of petroleum products is going to affect the poor whom the hon. Prime Minister is proclaiming to protect. (Interruptions)

SHRI S.P. JAISWAL (Varanasi) : Hon. Prime Minister, Sir, who is responsible if there. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down
(Interruptions)

[Translations]

SHRI S.P. JAISWAL : Hon. Prime Minister, Sir, you are the leader of farmers. Can you walk upto 2 kms. on foot. (Interruptions)

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Sir, with your kind permission, I say that the opposition has got the right to attack. Whatever harsh language they have used, I never opened my lips. Please bear with me for a moment. We are all human beings. We have come here to take care of those people also. It is not a monopoly of Deve Gowda. Please permit me to speak.

If I quote Bangalore, you may say that I always try to quote Bangalore. How much subsidy on milk are we giving in Delhi? It is to the tune of Rs. 50 crore. The Delhi Milk Scheme is subsidised to the extent of nearly Rs. 50 crore. In Delhi for power supply, 40 percent subsidy is there. There is no question of billing. About transport in Delhi alone, Rs. 120 crore subsidy is there.

Let us all collectively think in terms of those people who have no mere basic needs even today.

Sir, I called the Chief Ministers' Conference before this price is increased. I wanted to hear them. I myself had drawn the agenda with my background. I communicated to all the Chief Ministers 12 days earlier, to come prepared with their views, with their opinions and with their stand. Let me also hear them. I sat for two days. Normally no Prime Minister will sit for two days; he will inaugurate and go. I am saying this because I was also the Irrigation Minister of Karnataka for nearly five years and I attended three Irrigation Ministers' Conference. When Madam Indiraji was the Prime Minister and subsequently Shri Rajiv Gandhi became the Prime Minister, they normally inaugurated and went. I sat for two days, for 16 hours because I wanted to hear every Chief Minister. Then we have unanimously adopted - irrespective of any political party - identifying the priorities in seven areas viz., communication, drinking water, primary health, primary education, public distribution and mid-day meal.

Sir, 48 years after Independence in Uttar Pradesh about 63,000 villages - the Governor of the Uttar Pradesh has given this account. Based on that I am giving the figures, it is not mine - 35,000 villages have no school building. It is the State which has produced six Prime Ministers. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi) : They have ruined all that. (Interruptions)

SHRI SHYAM BEHARI MISHRA : Please reply to my question. What you have done...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : You are responsible for it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please, order in the House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Sir, 1.18 lakh villages including some hamlets have no roads. This is the figure given by the State Government...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Everybody knows, 48 years have passed. But who is responsible for this? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAM BEHARI MISHRA : A member of your party had been Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. What did he do?

[English]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : How have you helped the rural people by taking a decision of hiking the price of diesel?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It is enough. Please.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Who is responsible, who is not responsible is not my concern. My concern is, how best we can help those people. That is all my concern. That is why I called all the Chief Ministers for the Conference. I am happy to inform the House, irrespective of the political affiliations, almost all the Chief Ministers including the BJP Chief Ministers have cooperated to adopt a unanimous resolution to give the upper most priorities for these items which I have just now indicated. It should be a time bound programme. By 2000 A.D. we must complete whatever is the shortfall in the next four years. That is our decision. We have unanimously agreed and I am going to tell this august House that we want to increase every year 15 percent of the allocation in so far as these areas are concerned. Every year there is going to be a 15 percent increase in the allocation by the Central Government. We will place the money at the disposal of the State Government, whether it is run by the BJP or the Congress Party or the DMK, I am not concerned with that. I want to see that at least in the next four years, before the 21st century, in these areas the basic needs would be provided to the common man. That is our concern.

If we want to achieve this object, our hon. Leader of the Opposition and former Prime Minister did ask in his speech on the day of the Vote of Confidence as to where do we get the resources from. His good self has asked; you may have one hundred one-

schemes in your mind, but where do you find the resources from? I am quoting the Common Minimum Programme about how do we generate resources. Unless we touch the people who have got something to spare, it is not possible. Can they not give Rs. 26 more per LPG cylinder?

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Ask the CPI (M) people.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : I will ask everybody. That is why I said, let us not mix politics.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Our views are principled, yours are not.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : What principle? Just moving from this side to that side.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : I do not want to take much of the time of this House. I only appeal to the users of these commodities that they should also cooperate with the Government to overcome the present deficit in the Oil Pool Account.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : No, no.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : You do whatever you want. That is your right. How can I prevent that? You have got every right to attack me inside and outside this House. Nobody can stop that. You have got every right to tell the public that here is a person who has got some biased opinion against the LPG users. You go and tell them. I do not want to prevent you from attacking me both inside and outside the House. But through this House, I appeal to all the consumers, to my sisters and brothers, to cooperate with the Government to overcome the present crisis. That is all the appeal that I can make. My primary responsibility is to overcome the present problem being faced by the country.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : This is the reduction slip

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Already we have given 15 percent reduction on diesel

There is no question of any more reduction

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Now a days, the price of fuel wood is soaring high.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : You have got ample time to attack the Government...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Why do you not listen?

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : I will only appeal to all sections of the people to cooperate with

the Government for the decision that we have taken now.

◀ MR. SPEAKER : The House now stands adjourned.

18.49 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, July 16, 1996/Asadha 25, 1918 (Saka).
