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Thursday, August 1, 2002

Sravana 10, 1924 (Saka)

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LOK SABHA DEBATES
(English Version)

Tenth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)

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CONTENTS

(Thirteenth Series Vol. XXVII Tenth Session 2002/1924 (Saka)

No. 14, Thursday, August 1, 2002/Sravana 10, 1924 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
* Starred Question Nos. 261-263	1-31
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	31-324
* Starred Question Nos. 264 to 280	31-57
Unstarred Question Nos. 2630 to 2844	57-324
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	333
MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA AND BILLS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA	333-334
COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS	
Twenty-Seventh Report	335
CALLING ATTENTION	
Problems being faced by coffee growers in Karnataka due to collapse of price in international market	339-355
Shri H.D. Deve Gowda	339, 341-344, 352-354
Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy	339-341, 348-352, 354-355
Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan	344-345
Shri C.K. Jaffer Sharief	345-346
Shri K.H. Muniyappa	346-348
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377	355-362
(i) Need to lay rail line between Bilaspur and Mandla in Chhattisgarh	
Shri Punnu Lal Mohale	355-356
(ii) Need for early commissioning of Bokaro and Navinagar Thermal Power Stations	
Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey	356

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

Subject		Columns
(iii)	Need to expedite construction work of Doordarshan building at Gorakhpur, U.P.	
	Yogi Aditya Nath	356-357
(iv)	Need for early completion of construction work of Sardar Sarovar Project, Gujarat	
	Shri Ratilal Kalidas Varma	357
(v)	Need for allround development of Bihar after its bifurcation	
	Shri Rajo Singh	357-358
(vi)	Need to divide the country into two different standard time zones	
	Shri K.A. Sangtam	358
(vii)	Need for restoration of Azimganj - Nasipur rail line in West Bengal	
	Shri Adhir Chowdhary	359
(viii)	Need to effectively implement reservation policy for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes	
	Dr. Manda Jagannath	359
(ix)	Need to provide financial assistance to Government of Uttar Pradesh to meet the situation arising out of drought conditions in Bundelkhand region of the State	
	Shri Ram Sajivan	360
(x)	Need to set up industrial units in public sector in Krishnagiri Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu	
	Shri V. Vetriselvan	360
(xi)	Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Bihar for providing basic amenities to tourist centres in the State	
	Shri Raghunath Jha	361
(xii)	Need to ensure smooth functioning of Neyveli Lignite Corporation	
	Shri E. Ponnuswamy	361
(xiii)	Need for early completion of construction work of N.H. 7 passing through Butibori, Hinghanghat, Jam, Nagpur and Kamptee in Maharashtra	
	Shri Vilas Muttemwar	361-362
(xiv)	Need to protect the interest of powerloom/handloom weavers particularly in Bhagalpur, Bihar	
	Shri Subodh Roy	362

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
COAST GUARD (AMENDMENT) BILL	362-372
Motion to Consider	
Shri George Fernandes	363-365, 369-371
Shri K. Malaisamy	365-367
Shri Prabhunath Singh	367-368
Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat	368-369
Shri Bikram Keshari Deo	371
Clauses 2 to 11 and 1	372
Motion to Pass	372
NATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL	372-375
Motion to Consider	
Shri Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav	372-373
Shri Rattan Lal Kataria	373-375
DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193	
Disinvestment of Public Sector Undertakings	375-448
Shri Prabodh Panda	375-380
Shri Kirit Somaiya	380-390
Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi	390-395
Shri Somnath Chatterjee	395-408
Dr. B.B. Ramaiah	408-411
Shri C.N. Singh	411-415
Shri Anandrao Vithoba Adsul	417-418
Shri H.D. Deve Gowda	418-424
Shri Anadi Sahu	424-430
Shri Joytiraditya M. Scindia	431-439
Shri P.H. Pandian	439-444
Shri Arun Kumar	444-446

LOK SABHA

Thursday, August 1, 2002/Sravana 10, 1924 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

[Translation]

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN (FEROZABAD) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, nine farmers have committed suicide in Andhra Pradesh *....(Interruptions)*. This is a very serious matter....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You may raise it in Zero Hour.

[English]

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH (NAGAR KURNOOL) : Sir, the Government of Andhra Pradesh is taking all steps to counter drought and to provide succour to the people though some sad deaths have taken place...*(Interruptions)*

11.01 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Investments by Oil Companies in Foreign Based Oil Companies

\+

*261 DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

SHRI KALVA SRINIVASULU :

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

(a) whether the public sector oil companies have made investments in foreign based oil companies;

(b) if so, the details of such companies;

(c) the names of foreign companies in which investment has been made alongwith the amount invested and the dates of such investment; and

(d) the annual average profit earned by each of these companies as a result of investments during each of the last three years?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) ONGC - Videsh Limited, Oil India Limited and Gas Authority of India Limited are the Oil PSUs who have participating interest in various Projects abroad, details of which are given in the Annexure. The investments made by these PSUs relate to exploration and production of oil and gas, which the long-term in nature. Accrual of profit is expected at a later stage.

Annexure

Sl. No.	Name of the PSU	Project, location and participating interest	Foreign partners (participating interest)	Cumulative investment (Rs. in crore)	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	ONGC Videsh Limited	(i) Block 06.1, Vietnam - 45%	British Petroleum, UK (35%) and Petrovietnam, Vietnam (20%)	585	Gas production of 2.7 billion cubic metre per year for the total project to commence by Dec. 2002
		(ii) Sakhalin - 1, Russia - 20%	Exxon-Mobil, USA (30%), Sodeco, Japan (30%), SMNG-S, Russia (11.5) & RN Astra, Russia (8.5%)	2,003	Total oil production of 12.5 million metric tonnes per annum targeted from Dec. 2005. Gas production of 10.3 billion cubic metre per year targeted from 2008.

1	2	3	4	5	6
		(iii) Block - 8, Iraq-100%	–	3	Under exploration, Hydrocarbon discovery already exists in the Block.
		(iv) Block-A-1, Myanmar-20%	Daewoo International Corporation (DIC) (60%) & Korea Gas Corporation (KOGAS), Korea (10%)	6	Under Exploration
2.	Gas Authority of India Limited	Block A-1, Myanmar-10%	DIC (60%) & KOGAS, Korea (10%)	1	Under Exploration
3.	Oil India Limited	Block - 4, Oman - 20%	Total Elf Fina, France (80%)	29	Relinquished on 31st December, 2001 as the well proved to be dry.

[Translation]

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has acknowledged in his reply that different oil companies of India like Gas Authority of India, ONGC-Videsh Limited and Oil India Limited have made capital investment in foreign countries. The capital investment has been made in various projects abroad related with crude oil production, gas production etc. however, many such projects are lying pending in our own country for want of funds. I would like to know from the hon. Minister that since there are many such projects in our country which need to be funded, whether those companies which made investment in foreign countries have got the consent of the Government? If they have got the Government's nod, the reasons therefore, and the benefit likely to be accrued to the country therefrom? Besides, the funds invested by different oil companies in foreign countries during the last few years, till March 2002?

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, at present we are importing about 70 percent crude oil. Last year, it cost us Rs. 80,000 crore. We are trying our level best to increase the production of oil and gas in the country. In last two years, we have given 47 blocks under the New Exploration Licensing Policy and now we shall be giving 27 more blocks, for which bidding will be opened on 28th August. Despite doing all this, we are unable to cater to the demand of the country, therefore, we continue to work in foreign countries and provide our assistance in oil and gas production over there. We are also trying to participate in the exploration work of oil and gas, wherever, there is a possibility of finding the same. The hon'ble Member has asked the number of projects and their location? At of now, we are working in four main projects abroad, information about which I have already given in the reply. The aim is to make the country self-reliant, for this we are trying to bring oil and gas from there so that the country could be made self-reliant in this regard. The international oil market registers frequent oil price hikes and slumps. Our cooperation in oil exploration and production abroad can help stabilise the oil prices. That is why we have jumped into the fray.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA : Did India make capital investment there on the same pattern as followed by foreign countries making capital investment in India through different financial institutions? I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister that since our Government guarantees the security of foreign investment and 16 to 18 percent return thereon, whether the Governments of those countries where our capital has been invested have made similar security arrangements for our investment? As we give 16 to 18 percent return, do we get more than that so that profit may be accured and what is the annual average profit earned as a result of investments made till date during last few years, yearwise?

SHRI RAM NAIK : As far as security is concerned, there is a need for insurance, therefore, insurance is done accordingly. A bipartite agreement is signed with the country in which we make investment so that any kind of problem does not arise due to any reason. This type of agreement is in force with every country in which we are working. The third question you have asked is about the return on investment made? At this stage,

work on four projects is going on, the first is a gas project in Veitnam. Till now, Rs. 585 crore has been invested on it but in total 1,127 crore rupees would be invested on it. It will give 20 percent return. We are going to set up another project in Sakhalin. It's production will begin in the year 2005. Till now, Rs. 2003 crore have been invested in it and expanded investment is to the tune of approximately Rs. 8500 crore. It's rate of return is 14 percent. We are trying to set up third project in Iraq. The House is aware that some UN sanctions are in force on Iraq. But at this time we are carrying out a survey there on which UN sanctions are not applicable. At this stage, we are carrying out that work. The total investment of Rs. 74 crore will be made and after 5-7 years of lifting of UN sanctions, we would be able to begin commercial production. Its rate of return would be 20 percent. The fourth project is in our neighbouring country-Mayanmmar. Rs. 6 crore have been invested till now there and this project will cost Rs. 21 crore. Its production will begin after 5 to 7 years and its rate of return is 14 percent. It is expected that all of them would give good returns....*(Interruptions)*

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA : Mr. Speaker, Sir the hon'ble Minister has not given a complete reply.

MR. SPEAKER : Replies are never complete.

[English]

SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU : Sir, I want to put a specific question to the Minister. I would like to know whether India proposes to invest in oilfields in Central Asia, especially in Kazakhstan and Kazan oilfields, if so, the details thereof, including the amount proposed to be invested in the oilfields.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, we are trying for many countries in which Kazakhstan is also included. I may mention that presently we are trying to have some fields in Russia, Kazakhstan, Venezuela, Iran, Vietnam, Libya, Iraq Egypt, Qatar, Syria and Indonesia. Now, these are the countries where we are trying to invest, but with which company and to what extent, it would not be possible to say anything in the public interest. There are two aspects one is commercial confidentiality.

[Translation]

If we divulge the details is thereof before that we complete agreement with them, another country is likely to get the contract.

[English]

It would not be in public interest also to say anything, unless we sign the contract. From that point of view, it would not be possible to say what amounts we will be investing, unless we sign the contract.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister likes to give short cut replies and he is expert in this. The question was asked about the dates of investment, the hon'ble Minister has not given its reply. He should also give reply to this question. In reply to part (a), he said that the gas production to the tune of 2.7 billion cubic metres per year would be done with the help of all the projects which are likely to commence by December 2002. Through you, I would like to get a clear cut reply from the hon'ble Minister as to what is the position of the project as on date, which is likely to commence by December 2002? Moreover, what is the total investment made by the Government of India in it and the rate of return it is likely to give? He should not talk of future, nobody knows what is going to happen in future. Late Shri Krishan Kant was conducting the business of Rajya Sabha till one o'clock and at 9 a.m. the other day it was informed that he no more. 'Kiske roke rukega sawera, vah kisise ruk rahin raha hain', nobody knows about the future. He may kindly enumerate the achievements of the Government of India after investing so much money?

SHRI RAM NAIK : I would like to thank the hon'ble Member for his compliments. As far as information is concerned, out of these four projects, the agreement about the gas project in Veitnam was signed 14 years ago in 1988 and the commercial production of it will begin by December, 2002. This gas project is in Veitnam. It can be asked as to why so much delay was caused. Though there was some delay in receiving the gas supply but there were also delay on the part of the Government of Vietnam in creating the necessary infrastructure for the supply of gas for the purpose of power generation. All that infrastructure has been created just now and its commercial production would begin after December 2002. The Sakhalin agreement was signed in July 2001 and thirdly agreement with Iraq was signed in May 2001 and with Myanmar in April 2002. You might well remember that more that 2 years have passed and the Vietnam project has entered into the production phase which was signed 14 years ago. You may appreciate that unless the production begins how can we expect profits.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister that

the foundation stone of the Beena refinery was laid under the joint venture. India and Oman by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited in the Sagar districts of Madhya Pradesh in 1996 in which Oman had made an investment in the beginning but later on refused to carry on owing to some reasons. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how much investment was made by Oman in this project and by when the refinery is likely to start functioning in view of the changed circumstances on account of Oman's withdrawal from further investment? Besides, by when the Government propose to start the functioning of Beena refinery by providing assistance to BPCL through Oil Industries Development Board and by deferring the decision to disinvest the BPCL?

SHRI RAM NAIK : This question does not relate to the original question but I would give the information, I have with me. The setting up of Beena refinery by Bharat Petroleum in joint venture with Oman was delayed because Oman decided to withdrew in despondency in view of the long pending cases in the High Court and the Supreme Court. However, Oman also decided not to withdraw the investment of Rs. 50 to 60 crore they had made. Only 15 day back, the Supreme Court has given its verdict with regard to the Beena refinery saying that environmental clearance should have been obtained and No Objection Certificate should also have been given in this regard. As this question is not related to the original question, I can say that approximately a capital investment of Rs. 200-250 crore has been made so far. The work is going on and we would expedite it further. Secondly, the hon. Member has raised an important issue as to what would be the fate of the project in case disinvestment take place. Today, there will be a discussion on the issue of disinvestment in the House the reply to which would be given by the concerned Minister. However, I would like to assure the House that the Beena refinery project would certainly be completed.

[English]

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister, in his reply, said that investments made by the PSUs relate to exploration and production of oil and gas, which are long-term in nature, and actually provide benefit at a later stage. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal to invest in coutnries other than those mentioned, particularly in Sudan.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, I already indicated the names of the countries where we are going to invest, we are trying to get the oilfields. So far as reference to Sudan is concerned, the Cabinet has already approved in principle purchase of 25 per cent interest in Sudan's Nile Oilfield. There, 40 per cent stake is with the Chinese national company, 30 per cent is with the Malaysian national company, five per cent is with Sudan, and 25 per cent is with Tallsman which they have proposed to sell and we have proposed to purchase.

So far as Sudan's field is concerned, I must say that, by and large, it is as good as the Mumbai High. When everything goes okay, we will be getting about three million metric tonnes per year. It is a producing field. All other fields which I have mentioned in my reply have yet to start producing. But this is producing field. As soon as the formalities are cleared, we can start getting oil. This is so far as Sudan is concerned.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, the reply given by the hon. Minister says that the single largest investment of ONGC, I think since the inception of ONGC, is in Russia in a project called Sakhalin-I which amounts to Rs. 2003 crore. This investment of Rs. 2003 crore of ONGC was made with the object of getting the targetted 12.5 million tonnes of oil per annum from 2005, and gas from 2008. Now, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the criteria and procedure followed by ONGC to decide on its investments; and, when this investment plan was finalised, who were the people involved in that? Umpteen number of reports have been published in the print media in India on Sakhalin project saying that this project was considered at one stage by the Soviet Union, when it was not dissolved, as a junk project with no possibility and no profitability. Later on, when Russia became an independent republic, Russian experts also found it difficult to develop this area. Later on, excepting this 30 per cent stakeholder Exxon-Mobil whose terms and conditions, I am told, are different from the as of ONGC; and the 30 per cent stakeholder SODECO of Japan whose terms and conditions are also different from those of ONGC, nobody is there.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister certain information about this project on which Rs. 2003 crore have been invested. Will the Minister please lay on the Table of this House, at an appropriate time, the details of Sakhalin Project right from the days of agreement, the terms and conditions of ONGC, and the terms and conditions of the other companies like Exxon-Mobil of USA and SODECO of Japan? Secondly, in view of the fact that huge investments have been made, would the Minister, since his is the nodal Ministry having such a high stake abroad, like to recommend shedding of equity, in view of the disinvestments being proposed by Shri Arun Shourie?

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, let me further amend the figures which the hon. Member has quoted. What we have done is, so far we have invested Rs. 2003 crore. The total ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : The total comes to more than Rs. 8000 crore.

SHRI RAM NAIK : The total comes to Rs. 8500 crore when it is completed by 2005. Exxon-Mobil is having a 30 per cent equity in that. Russia earlier had a 40 per cent, and 30 per cent is with the Japanese. Japanese company is not one company; there are seven to eight companies. It is a joint venture or a consortium of companies. Now you can imagine, the Japanese are there, Exxon-Mobil is also there, and because of our good relations with Russia, we requested them to give us something because we also want it. So, they gave us 20 per cent of their share. Somebody, at some time might have said that this was junk. To me, it is like a goldmine. The initial inferences that we are getting show that commercial production may start even earlier than the scheduled date. So, it is a good project. All cases have been taken into account.

So far as disinvestment is concerned, it is a general question and it can be discussed in the afternoon. Overall what decision would be taken, would depend upon the general nature, which will be decided by the Cabinet.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I asked for the criteria based on which ONGC decides to invest in a particular field; and who are the Members in the Committee? Who decides on such agreements; is it only the Petroleum Ministry?

SHRI RAM NAIK : No, it is a Cabinet decision. The Cabinet has decided this. Of course, the nodal organisation ONGC and its foreign arm ONGC Videsh did all the exploratory work. Everywhere exploratory work has to be done, and that was done by them. All necessary precautions have been taken that our investment is good, and nothing will be there which will go wrong. All commercial precautions have been taken. You may rest assured that as proposed we will get, unless some unforseen thing happens oil by 2005 and gas by 2008.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a good thing that the public sector oil companies are making capital investment in foreign countries. I would like to know as to how many developing countries have the oil reserves and what is the extent of the demand from these countries for getting their crude oil processed by setting up refineries with Indian assistance? I would also like to know in details as to how much capital investment is proposed to be made by the Government of India for setting up refineries in these countries.

SHRI RAM NAIK : I have already given the names of the countries in which we are trying to make investment. It is not possible to give the exact figures of the capital investment to be made because at this juncture it is not known as to what projects are likely to be assigned to us. It is true that we import 70 percent of our crude oil worth Rs. 9,30,000 crore. We are trying to be self-reliant in this field either by boosting production in our country or by making investment abroad in various projects of oil production. We are making great efforts in all the possible oil exploration areas and also where it is commercially viable to do so.

SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL : How much is the demand? At least tell us whether or not there is any demand?

SHRI RAM NAIK : I have told that we import 70 percent of our demand of crude oil costing Rs. 80,000 crore of foreign exchange.

[English]

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Sir, the question is about the investment of oil companies. But the question paramount in the minds of people of this country is disinvestment of oil companies that is on the agenda of the Government.

So, I would like to know whether the Government has finally decided to disinvest the two major oil companies, namely, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum. If so, what is the logic behind it because these two companies are the huge profit-making undertakings?

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, again I would plead that this hardly arises out of the main Question. Yes, the Government has taken a decision. We are also going to discuss about the disinvestment of public sector undertakings today at 4 o'clock under Rule 193, where I am sure, many hon. Members would have interest in discussing the oil companies.

In all, there are 12 oil companies. Out of these 12 PSUs, 5 are the *Navratnas;* 6 are *Mini Ratnas:* and one is at Numaligarh which has started production only last year.

So, as everybody would be interested, we would be debating it at 4 o'clock today.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Sir, we are happy to know that our Public Sector Undertakings or Companies of Petroleum and Natural Gas sector have become so capable that they are engaged in oil and natural gas exploration in foreign countries also. In this regard, through you I would like to know from the Government, as the agreements have been signed between India and Myanmar and Oman and the capital is being invested over there whether earlier also oil was found in those areas? Oil was earlier also found in Myanmar. I would like to know the time since exploration is going on there and by when the production is likely to start. I would like to draw your attention particularly towards Oman where Oil India Limited has abandoned that project on 31.12.2000 because that well was declared as dry. He capital of Rs. 29 crore was invested in it. I would like to know the total amount invested over there, how much is left, whether exploration work is going on in other places also in Oman or Oil India Limited has completed its work over there.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, earlier India used to get Kerosene from Myanmar which was called 'Brahm Desh' in old times and at present there are chance of availability of gas in Myanmar. Therefore, we have signed an agreement with Myanmar on April, 2002. Initially as I stated earlier we would invest capital worth Rs. 21 crore in it. Further when progress in exploration work would be made, it take 5 to 7 years to begin commercial production. As regards Oman it has been stated in the reply that the capital of 29 crore was invested there but after digging a well there oil and gas was not found. Such a fact has been revealed. Therefore, there is no use of digging another well. We have closed that option. In English it is said the oil business is such that sometimes oil is found and sometimes, not. One has to dig 4 to 5 kilometres below the earth surface to explore oil. Therefore oil business is probabilistic in nature. Sometimes, it is found, sometimes not and some times is not found at one place but it is at other place. Therefore, it is not found at one place, there is no use of trying further at that place. The hon. Member hails from Rajasthan and he would be aware that earlier oil was not found over there. Now, it is being found at other place, so we are working on it.

[English]

Oil business is probablistic in nature.

[Translation]

We will continue to work wherever there is a possibility of findings oil.

[English]

Pulling out of Foreign Firms from Power Projects

+

*261 SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB :

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "foreign firms pulling out of power projects" appearing in The Hindu dated July 8, 2002;

(b) if so, the facts reported therein;

(c) whether the Government propose to add another one lakh MW of power generating capacity to supply power on demand by 2012;

(d) if so, the details of the mega projects initially undertaken by the foreign companies, State-wise;

(e) the names of the foreign companies that have withdrawn along with the reasons therefor;

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the goal?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) to (g) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (e) As per available information, the details of foreign investors who have withdrawn from power projects, and reasons thereof, are given in the enclosed Annexure.

(c) and (g) According to the 16th Electric Power Survey brought out by the Central Electricity Authority an additional capacity of about 1,07,000 MW is required to meet the demand of power by 2012 A.D. For the 10th Five Year Plan (2002-07), the target for capacity addition

of around 41,000 MW has been planned. The experience of the poor performance in capacity addition during the 9th Plan, was kept in view while fixing targets for the 10th Plan. During the 9th Plan, there was over dependence on capacity addition by the Independent Power Producers (IPP), which did not materialize as these projects could not attain financial closure on account of poor financial health of the State Electricity Boards (SEB). Hence, for the 10th Plan, 22,830 MW is expected from the Central Sector, approx 11,150 MW from the State Sector and around 7120 MW from the Private Sector. A National Conference was held on the 8th and 9th of July, 2002 at New Delhi to ascertain whether the targets were realistic and whether they could be attained. This conference was attended by the State Power Secretaries and Chairmen of SEBs and in their presence, each listed project was reviewed and critical constraints were identified. After detailed deliberations, it was agreed that this target of 41,000 MW was realistic considering the fact that about 19,000 MW is already under construction and another 8500 MW has the requisite approvals. An encouraging factor is that the outlay for the Tenth Plan has been enhanced by 214% vis-a-vis the Ninth Plan Outlay. This would ensure that adequate funds would be available for the capacity addition programme.

The Government of India has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)/Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with twenty - two States. These reflect the joint commitment of the Center and the States to undertake reforms in a time bound manner. The State Government's commitment in these MOUs include setting up of the State Electricity Regulatory Commission, 100% metering of 11 KV feeders, effective energy audit, identification and elimination of power theft and attainment of commercial viability in distribution. Government of India has committed its support through additional allocation of power from central Generating Stations and financial assistance for strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution as well as for renovation and modernization of power plants. Government have launched the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) to assist the States in improving their sub-transmission/distribution system in identified circles and to provide incentive grants linked to the bridging of the gap between cost of supply and average revenue per unit. Twelve State Electricity Regulatory Commissions have passed tariff orders, which reflect a trend towards tariff rationalization. In addition, measures for Energy Conservation, Demand Side Management, Renovation and Modernisation, encouragement of captive power plants and reduction of transmission and distribution losses (including control and elimination of theft) are expected to further improve the availability of power. Besides, the proposed National Grid would eliminate the transmission hurdles which are faced in transmitting electricity from surplus areas like Eastern Region. The Draft Electricity Bill, 2001 proposes to allow open access to consumers in a phase manner as may be allowed by Regulatory Commissions. The Regulatory Commission may allow open access without eliminating cross subsidies by way of imposing a surcharge on transmission/wheeling on the consumers opting for open access. It is expected that with effective implementation of reforms, commercial viability would be achieved and the confidence of investors in power sector will improve.

(d) Out of the various projects identified as mega power projects under the revised mega power policy announced in November, 1998, foreign investor has been identified only in regard to the Hirma project. As already stated in reply to (b) and (e) above, the foreign promoters of the project, M/s. Mirant Asia Pacific Ltd have announced their withdrawal from the project.

(f) Inability of the State Electricity Boards to provide adequate payment security cover to the private sector power projects, (which is a requirement of the project developers and more particularly the financial institutions), has been one of the main reasons due to which the majority of private sector power projects could not achieve financial closures in spite of progressing well on other fronts. However, in order to ensure that required generation capacity addition takes place in the country, the Government has taken concrete steps outlined in above paras, which will ensure that the targets for additional generation capacity are met.

Annexure

(i) Maheshwar Hydel power project (10×40MW) of M/s. Shree Maheshwar Hydel Power Corporation Ltd. (SMHPCL) in Madhya Pradesh is being promoted by a consortium led by M/s. S. Kumars. The consortium partners M/s. Bayerwerk View and M/s. Ogden Energy, USA, have since exited from the project. SMHPCL have informed in August, 2001 that Ogden Energy was no longer associated with the project and that their agreement stood terminated. It was infromed by SMHPCL that the exit of Ogden could be attributed to its own reason viz., internal restructuring and changed business focus. Moreover, Ogden had planned to bring in equity contribution at the end of the project construction, which was not acceptable to the Indian Financial Institutions. The Financial Institutions were also insisting for the corporate guarantee of Ogden Energy while Ogden wanted non-recourse financing, which was not acceptable to the lenders. The project is still being pursued by the original promoters.

(ii) M/s. Cogentrix Energy Inc : In February, 2000, the company informed the Government of Karnataka and Government of India that they had transferred their interest in the Mangalore Power Company and the Mangalore Power Project to China Light (Mauritius) Ltd. with effect from 11th February, 2000. No reasons for the withdrawal were indicated by the company.

(iii) 420 MW Bakreshwar Thermal project in West Bengal (units 4 & 5) : The Government of West Bengal : informed that M/s Bakreshwar Power Generation Co. Ltd., which is a Joint Venture Company set up by the West Bengal Power Development Corporation, M/s. DCL and M/s. Ogden Energy Asia Pacific Ltd., for setting up the project, has been wound up and M/s Ogden Energy Asia Pacific have exited from the Joint Venture Company. The project is now being implemented as a State Sector project. The West Bengal State Electricity Board have informed that while the foreign company may have incurred some expenditure on project formulation, no investment has been made on the ground.

(iv) 1070 MW Korba East Thermal Project : The promoters, M/s Daewoo Power (India) Ltd. gave termination notice to the Government of Madhya Pradesh on 14.8.2000 citing inability of the Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board to provide payment security. Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board has informed that while the company has made some investments on acquisition of land, no other work has taken place on ground.

(v) In the case of the 6×660 MW Hirma Thermal Power Project in Orissa, which is being developed as a mega power project, the foreign promoters of the project, M/s. Mirant Asia Pacific Ltd have announced their withdrawal from the project, stating that several key milestones for activities relating to payment security mechanism, Fuel Supply Agreement, Implementation Agreement and Transmission Services Agreement have not been met.

(vi) In the case of the 2×250MW Balagarh project in West Bengal, the project could not proceed due to poor financial health of the main promoter, i.e. Calcutta Electric Supply Company. On account of this, the co-promoter, M/s Mirant Corporation, has walked out of the project. The West Bengal State Electricity Board have informed that while the foreign company may have incurred some expenditure on project formulation, no investment has been made on the ground. The project is still being pursued by the main promoters.

(vii) The Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) informed during, August, 2000 that M/s. Electric cite de France, a French Power Company, had decided to pull out from the 1082MW Bhadrawati Thermal Plant in Maharashtra. The following reasons were indicated for pulling out from the project;

(a) Inordinate delay in getting clearances from various authorities.

b) A very high coal price sought by the coal supplier.

c) Lack of proper commitment to escrow arrangements.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Sir, the question was relating to investment by private sectors both foreign and Indian. My first Supplementary is this. Is it true that the foreign or Indian private companies which are willing to live with uncertainties of competition, find it very difficult to comprehend due to lack of sanctity for contractual obligations in the contracts which they enter into?

Later on, in the reply, he has mentioned that many companies are backing out. The list which we had asked for, has been supplied to us. So, it is backing out of contractual obligations for which they are shying away from investment rather than willing to face the competition in the market. Whatever competition is provided in the available market, they are shying away. After the agreement is done, more time is spent in holding discussions on agreement than actually running the business.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Sir, it is a matter of fact that some of the companies which initially decided to set up power projects in India, particularly in the beginning of Nineties, over a period of time, have decided to change the decision on investment in India, and they decided to pull out of it.

I have provided the reasons to the hon. Member, and I am sure, he is satisfied with them. But one of the reasons is that world wide, several companies are now thinking of exiting from emerging markets. The hon. Member has based his question on a newspaper report to the fact that foreign companies are pulling out. I will also give the updated newspaper report which has appeared in the today's *Financial Express* where it is stated that M/s. Mirant and many other American companies have now decided to pull out of not only India but almost all the emerging markets in Asia, in Latin America and other parts of the world. This is because these companies

have created huge debts over a period of time to acquire new assets world wide. But now, it is becoming extremely difficult for them to service those debts. For example, one of the top American energy company whose share was quoted at about 45 to 50 dollars only about a year ago, is not quoted in the stock market at 50 cent. So, this is the drop that has taken place world wide and, therefore, several companies are pulling out.

But I would like to share the concern expressed by the hon. Member in which he says that it is only the contractual obligations which make it obligatory on the part of the new generator to sell it only to one buyer, which, in this case is the State Electricity Boards. It creates a lot of problems.

Sir, the Government has proposed a new legislation which is before the consideration of the Standing Committee for which we are now proposing for generators. The private investor can also distribute power direct to the market, which is the question here.

We fully share this concern that we need investment. In fact, during the last Five Year Plan, we were expecting that 43 per cent of the investment would come through private sector. One of the reasons why our plan outlay has not been successful is that out of those 43 per cent of the investment which we were expecting to come through private sector, hardly anything materialised.

Therefore, a new Bill has been proposed. We are saying that when investment is required, the new generator will be able to sell the power direct to the consumers using transmission as a common access. The Government of India is preparing a national grid which can be used as a common access. That is what we are proposing today.

The hon. Member is absolutely right that the Power Purchase Agreements have taken unduly a long time. A lot of time has been spent on negotiating the agreements. Therefore, the new regime, we are trying.

SHRI BHRATRUHARI MAHTAB : Sir, in reply to my Question, a mention had been made about Hirma Thermal Power Project. The hon. Minister had also mentioned about the M/s Mirant Asia Pacific Limited which has pulled out. Hirma Power Project is supposed to be the only mega project which was identified and where the foreign investment was decided to be made.

Now, I come to my second Supplementary. Orissa has a special case. Recently, NTPC, Orissa Government and the private parties have entered into a tripartite agreement. My question relates to this case. Unlike other States where State Electricity Boards are functioning, we have disinvested in this field. Private entrepreneurs are working there.

So, is it true that the guarantees are required only because the State-owned entities providing those service; operate on commercially viable lines? If so, what reforms are needed so that they become bankable and there is no need for such guaranties?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Sir, in the early Nineties, there were eight projects which were contemplated to come on the basis of sovereign guarantees which were provided by the Central Government in addition to the State guarantees provided by the State Governments. Barring one project, that is, Dabhol Power Company which came up in Maharashtra, all the other projects did not materialise.

Therefore, the Government of India has now decided that giving guaranties is not a solution, and there is no substitute for commercial viability.

If there is commercial viability for a project, then automatically investment wil come in. To make the sector commercially viable, several steps have been taken, a mention of which I made. In fact, I have deliberately given a very long answer so that all these steps would be known to you. If you want, I can repeat what those steps are. But they have already been stated in the written answer.

Therefore, making the State Electricity Boards commercially viable is one of the things; and for that, a 'one-time settlement' has already been initiated. Hopefully within the next few days' itself, all the State Electricity Boards would have entered into tripartite agreements; Rs. 41,000 crore worth of dues from the balance sheets of the State Electricity Boards would be taken off so that the State Electricity Boards will become viable and the balance sheets would also look much better than before.

Twenty-two States have signed agreements with the Central Government whereby they can set up Regulatory Commissions so that the tariffs would be reasonable and rationale.

We have also taken a number of other steps. Of course, these are the steps which are going to take time because it is the State Governments which have to initiate them. The Central Government has its limitations; the

Central Government can support the States, if they want. This is what we are trying to do.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : It is the payment security mechanism because of which M/s. Mirant Asia Pacific Ltd. went back. What I was asking you is regarding the bankable system which has been asked for.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : That particular agreement envisages that the Power Trading Corporation will buy the entire power that is generated from that project. As you know, that project is supposed to generate more than 4,000 MW of power. So, it is very difficult to sell such power on a 'back to back' basis. At that time, the new law which is now under the consideration of Parliament was not contemplated. But since now we are proposing to have the new law, that project – M/s. Hirma Thermal Power Project – will be able to generate power and it will also be able to sell power directly in the market without any guarantees.

Therefore, the alternative payment security mechanism which was holding back that project – now that we are, in fact, coming up with the new law - may not be necessary.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the power situation in the country is very grim. Two days back, we experienced power failure in many States. The Government claims that FDI is pouring into the country.

However, my specific question is this. The Bakreshwar Thermal Project in West Bengal is a joint venture company between the Government of West Bengal and M/s. Ogden Energy Asia Pacific Ltd. In the case of Balagarh Project, it is between Calcutta Electric Supply Company and M/s. Mirant Corporation.

According to the reply of the hon. Minister, in the case of both the projects, the foreign partners have left. I would like to know what are the reasons for that. May I also know whether the Centre has any proposal to make any additional investment for increasing power generation in that project?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : That project was going to be a joint venture between the Government of West Bengal and a foreign company. The Government of West Bengal had informed us that though the foreign company had withdrawn from that project, since there had not been any substantial investment in the project, the State Government wanted to go ahead with that project, using its own resources, as a State sector project.

If the State Government requires any financial assistance from the Central Government in terms of loans, they will be offered to them.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, entire country is affected by the power crisis. Almost all States are affected by it, but in Uttar Pradesh, the power situation is very grim. Resultantly, all factories and industries are lying closed in Uttar Pradesh. The farmers are not getting power. In the absence of power supply, the irrigation system is badly affected in the villages, though they are already facing drought. Two days back, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh gave the statement that if this kind of power situation continued to prevail in Uttar Pradesh, power sector would be privatised. I would like to ask the Minister of power that whether the Union Government have advised the Uttar Pradesh Government to privatise power sector in order to improve power production and distribution in the State. If any such suggestion has been given, whether it is for production field or distribution field.

Whether any other option is not left to improve power supply in Uttar Pradesh. Does the Ministry of power feels like that?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the hon. Member said it is the responsibility of Uttar Pradesh Government to make power arrangement in Uttar Pradesh. If Uttar Pradesh Government think it is appropriate to privatise it, they would have done it after considering all aspects. The permission of Union Government is not required for it.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Whether the Union Government have give any such suggestion?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : The Union Government's approval is not required for it.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Your Ministry can at least give suggestions.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : If they will ask for suggestion, we will definitely give it.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : I am not taking about permission whether you have given any suggestion?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Whatever step the Uttar Pradesh Government thinks appropriate to improve the

power situation in Uttar Pradesh and if the privatisation is the only way, it is competent of doing so. The approval from Union Government is not required for it. If they will ask for suggestion, the Government will definitely give but as per my information, the Uttar Pradesh Government can itself consider over it.

All State Governments require planning for five-ten years, as per their needs to improve power situation in their States. It takes minimum five years to materialise any new project. Optimum supply can take even 10 years. There was a need to generate new capacity to improve power supply in Uttar Pradesh during last five-ten years. Power crisis is prevailing over there in lack of it. If the Uttar Pradesh Government formulates any plan to meet that crisis and wants aid from the centre, the Union Government will provide aid to Uttar Pradesh, as it does in case of other states.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Power is a very energetic man and is blessed with a very imaginative mind. He is trying to overcome the power crisis in the country.

Madhya Pradesh is passing through power crisis. The power crisis of Madhya Pradesh is grave, but it appears that the Government of Madhya Pradesh is not serious. The graveness of crisis can be judged from the fact that Madhya Pradesh is always alleged of taking more power from western grid and due to which the country faces power crisis ....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : The hon. Chief Minister has given proper reply to it....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether hon. Member has risen to ask question or to criticise the Government? Shri Digvijay Singh has given reply to it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister regarding a consortium under M/s. S. Kumar which is looking after the work of Maheshwar Hydro-power project in Madhya Pradesh. Bayer work view and M/s. Orden Energy USA have opted out from Project. This project is very important for Madhya Pradesh. What will be the future of this project after this; Whether the progress in that regard would be made nor not? I would like to know by when this project would be completed.

The hon. Minister has given one important reason for pulling out of the project by these companies is inordinate delay in getting clearances from various authorities like fire, environment, land disputes. It takes so much time to get clearance that it increases cost and time of completion by many times. Therefore, many people pull out of these projects. This matter is not only related to power Sector. The irrigation projects of entire country are lying pending due to it.

I would like to know from the Minister whether he is making any such effort so that better coordination should develop between different departments so that all approvals should be given in a definite time period?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Maheshwar hydro-electric power project has been conceptualised by the Private Sector and it is a fact that there has been a lot of delay in its completion. The kind of investment required to be made by the Private Companies in the projects they undertake to complete has actually not been made, and that is why the Government of Madhya Pradesh is holding talks with them. I have talked to the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh a few days back. I had talked to him in this connection as we propose to complete this work in the Tenth Five Year Plan. This is a very important project for Madhya Pradesh.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, secondly, the hon. Minister has rightly mentioned that delay was also caused due to the process of getting approval and clearance of different departments for construction work of the proejct. As he said that, there is no single institution which can give all kinds of clearance required for this. Therefore, approval of different departments has to be taken. We try a lot to do away with it but as all the hon. Members are aware that various agencies of the State Government and Central Government are involved in it from which clearance has to be sought. We have been making efforts since long to ensure that there is no delay in obtaining the clearance. In order to succeed in our endeavour, it becomes imperative to get the Electricity Bill, 2001 passed immediately because we have made a provision in that Bill that there would be no need to obtain a license for setting up new Thermal Power Projects. So, we have tried to de-license it. I, therefore urge upon the hon. Members that the Electricity Bill, 2001 may be immediately passed. This would, atleast remove the major hurdle of getting clearance for setting up a power project but those who intend to set up such power projects shall have to follow the grid code. Delay in the power projects merely in the absence of clearance is not appropriate at a time when there is

paucity of power. I feel that this is a very important issue. That is why, we have made efforts on behalf of the Central Government and the Ministry to ensure that obtaining a license would not be mandatory for setting up new power projects.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the Government of West Bengal is trying for a loan from Japanese Bank of International Corporation for Bakreswar 4th and 5th 210 MW power units. The Chief Minister of West Bengal has also spoken to the Prime Minister before his visit to Japan. Today, Japanese team is also visiting Bakreswar and tomorrow they will have discussion with the West Bengal Government. As these two projects are urgently required to meet the shortage in future, I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government of India will take up this matter with the Government of Japan so that this is expedited and the construction of these two units can be taken up immediately.

Sir, as he has stated that 22 States have already signed MoUs, I would like to know from the Minister whether there is any mechanism to monitor the implementation of MoUs. What are the terms and conditions? What are the measures which the State Governments and State Electricity Boards have agreed to implement? Is there any coordination or any mechanism to monitor the implementation of MoUs?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Sir, firstly, we are totally with the West Bengal Government. The Central Government will strongly support both these projects which have been proposed by the West Bengal Government so that these projects could be taken up with the funding from JBIC. As the hon. Member is aware, my Ministry has already taken up this matter. I am sure that this project would be materialised very soon. Of course, final decision can be taken only by the Japanese Government but as far as we are concerned, we are strongly supporting it and we want that this project should be completed as soon as possible.

Secondly, the hon. Member has asked a very important question. In fact, the weakling of the entire power sector is that the entire responsibility of creating distribution, new generation, intra-State transmission, is with the State Government, whereas, the Central Government is required to ensure that the power is available to all. So, it is a very difficult proposition indeed. The responsibility is divided but there is one party for taking blame and that is the Central Government. Therefore, how to really operationalise it is a very important issue. That is why, we have decided to come out with this new mechanism of signing MoAs and MoUs with the States. We have now designated each of the Joint Secretaries in the Ministry responsible for a few States so that they could monitor those States. The Central Electricity Authority has also been advised to take up some steps which means they will also do some monitoring. But we will depend really, to a large extent, on the wisdom of the respective State Governments to ensure that since we are doing this in the national interest, they will also try to implement these agreements in spirit and not just in word...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, There is power crisis in Bihar and you did not me an opportunity to Speak on this....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have gave half an hour for this question. I cannot give more time than this.

Question No. 263 – Dr. M.V.V.S. Murthi.

Shri M.V.V.S. Murthi is absent.

Shri Ram Mohan Gadde.

(Interruptions)

[English]

Recruitment in Armed Forces

+

*263. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "vacancies in officer cadre stablished, says Army" appearing in the *Hindu* dated July 10, 2002;

(b) if so, the number of persons recruited in officer cadre in the Armed Forces since the inception of "An Image Projection Compaign" of the Armed Forces, State-wise;

(c) the number of vacancies remained unfilled as on date alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to fill up these vacancies?

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

(b) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Induction of officers into the Army is open to all eligible candidates. No State-wise quota is earmarked. The recruitment figures since the inception of Image Projection Campaign in 1998 are given below :-

1998	1999	2000	2001
1947	1782	2335	1473

While the Image Projection Campaign was specific to the Army, extensive publicity and recruitment drives have also been undertaken by the Air Force and the Navy.

The present shortage of officers in the Army, Air Force and Navy is given below :-

Army	Air Force	Navy
12554	686	914

Some of the factors which could be attributed to the shortfall in the strength of officers are the following :-

(i) Although a good number of candidates pass through the written part of the examination, many get rejected through Service Selection Board (SSB) which is mandatory for selection of officers, as they are not able to meet the requisite selection and medical criterion.

(ii) A relatively risky and hazardous career in the armed forces compared to other options available, in a fast developing and modern society, also has a significant impact on the preference of potential aspirants.

In addition to the Image Projection Campaign by the Army with special focus on eligible Army aspirants, the valiant image of the Armed Forces is consistently projected through the electronic and the print media. The Directorate of Public Relations of Ministry of Defence, regularly interacts with the media persons while giving Defence related information and endeavours to ensure positive publicity of the same. Regular coverage of defence related events in the print and electronic media go a long way in creating of awareness among the masses and motivating the youth to join the armed forces.

Seminars, lectures and presentations are also organised by the Recruiting Offices at school and colleges in order to motivate the youth to join the armed forces.

Besides, the training capacity of the Army has been increased resulting in increased intake of about 400 officers per annum.

[Translation]

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : One hon. Member can raise this issue.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Why are all the Members on their legs.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am unable to understand why are all of you standing.

....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : One Member may stand up and tell me as to what is happening.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister please.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, my reply is : (a) Yes, Sir. (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. Everybody is requested to sit down. Please let me know one thing.

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE : Sir, the Defence of India requires a new outlook *....(Interruptions)* It needs different operational capability, creation and infusion of technology and human resource development *...(Interruptions)* I want to knows as to when would the shortage in officers' cadre in Army, Navy and Air Force be wiped out*....(Interruptions)* I also want to know the action taken to revamp the officers' cadre in the recent past*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The Question is being put to Shri George Fernandes, the Defence Minister. You are all, probably, aware that this issue was taken up in the Rajya Sabha and there, the Ruling Party and the Opposition agreed to have a meeting on the issue. I also have no objection if the Opposition and the Ruling Party decide to discuss this issue and find out a way. I can understand that there is a complaint against the Minister on certain issues. But the Questions are not pertaining to those issues. As the Speaker, my duty is to see that the Member who wants to put a Question is allowed to put his Question and the Minister, if he wants to reply, may reply. But at the same time, if the Opposition and the Ruling Party had agreed to sit together in the Rajya Sabha, I will be happy if you also can decide to sit across and discuss this issue.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Acharia, let me complete because we want to work with the cooperation of each other. So, anybody from the Opposition Parties may tell me that as to what are reasons and causes.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let me complete. Please do not disturb me.

I have taken up this issue also when a few leaders of both the Parties were present and I had said that if there is a deadlock, I would be happy to intervene and find out a way. Therefore, we can sit together and find out a way. If in the Rajya Sabha it is being done, why not do the same thing in the Lok Sabha also?

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, on what basis is he speaking...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have taken the name of Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi. Please sit down. You cannot conduct the House. Everybody cannot conduct the House. If you want to speak, I will permit you also to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : On which subject is he speaking *...(Interruptions)*. This is not a healthy practice *...(Interruptions)*. They are creeting Pandemonium due to their Majority, how is it possible...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have moved a proposal for bringing some understanding between both of them which is in the interest of conducting the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, we are respectful to your observation...*(Interruptions)* Our leader has made it clear on the first day of the Session that our Party has no intention to obstruct the proceedings of the House excepting in exceptional situation when Government does not come to respond. Our leader has made it very clear...*(Interruptions)* Hon. Speaker has given me the chance to speak...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL : Under which rule is he speaking...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. Let me listen to what he is saying.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Why is he speaking. *..(Interruptions)*.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my only plea to you is that we have no personal animosity to any individual of the Treasury Benches...*(Interruptions)* Individual beings are not our hostile force or enemy. We do not count them like that. To uphold the highest tradition of Parliament, in terms of propriety and its rich traditional values, we made a point.

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : When the hon. Speaker has allowed him to speak then why is he interrupting....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed Shri Priya Ranjan

Dasmunsi to speak because I want that this problem may get solved.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You can also speak. We have to find one or the other solution to this problem. We cannot leave it like that. Every Minister has the right to give reply in the House and every Member has the right to ask questions. When a question is asked in the House, Member expect its reply to be given. The Minister is ready to give the reply, but I am trying to find a way out so that no obstruction occurs in the House and next time, if there are any questions asked, the Minister concerned may be able to give reply to them. But if we keep on doing like this, it would be difficult to find a way out. Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi ji is putting forth his points. I want to see what his suggestions are.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Would you give suggestions on his behalf? Or would you feel satisfied without getting proper reply to the question.

I wish that the Minister of Defence, Shri George Fernandes give reply to this question.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : He is talking of decorum and he would go on speaking on this?

MR. SPEAKER : He will not speak at length. He will be precise.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : *....(Interruptions)* Sir, what Congress will speak or will not speak should not be guided by Shri Prabhunath Singh*.....(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let me listen to the reply. Let me see what his proposal is. I want that this problem is resolved so that from next time the reply come in a proper atmosphere.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, when we assumed this highest Office, we made it clear that we will cooperate with you and cooperate in the business of the House in the best possible manner. What we say to you and what we said when Shri Balayogi was in the Chair is that we have no enmity towards any individual, including Shri George Fernandes. It is only to uphold the rich tradition we are saying this. Shri George Fernandes had publicity declared in the television that he will not assume Office till he is cleared by the Commission *...(interruptions)* He said that *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not go into the merits. Kindly hear his proposal*....(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir as you said you can call a meeting of the leaders of various parties. We will make our views very clear there*...(Interruptions)* We cannot cooperate with a Minister who publicity said that he will not assume Office till he is cleared by the Commission. Till the Commission clears him, he cannot be the Minister*...(Interrutions)* It is in the records of the House that right from the days of Jawaharlala Nehru whosoever faced any charge in the Commission, were not in the Office of the Government. Therefore, how can we cooperate with him?*...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Its the same thing again *....(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have asked Prabhunath Singhji to speak.

[English]

Let me know what is his proposal.

....(Interruptions)

12.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Question Hour is going on. In the Question Hour, the hon. Members ask questions and the hon. Ministers give reply to them. But for the best last many months, the Members of the opposition, due to their malicious vested interests - even yesterday, I had uttered a word, and you also asked me to withdraw that which I did, therefore I would not utter that word...*again. The Leader of the Opposition is present here. She is at liberty to raise this question*....(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will again remove that word from the recrod.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH . in this Question Hour *...(Interruptions)*. Many important questions are there before

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

the country, but discussion, somehow, is not being held on then in the House Discussion in the House is also not being held on the issue about the litigation going on in the Supreme Court, notice has been...issued, idol was stealed from this country and sent to Italy and no action has been taken on this so far...*(Interruptions)*. There is no scope for anything on this issue....*(Interruptions)*

12.01 hrs.

[English]

(At this stage Shri Sunder Lal Tiwari and some Other Hon. Member came and stood near the Table.)

12.01¼ hrs.

(At this stage Shri Raghunath Jha and some Other Hon. Member came and stood near the Table.)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Members may resume this respective seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This fact has no relations with that.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am doing the same thing.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I adjourn the House for 15 minutes.

12.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eighteen Minutes past Twelve of the Clock.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Setting up of Rural Electrification Technology

*264 SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI :

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Rural Electrification Technology Mission to strengthen the Rural Electrification process;

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

(c) whether the target of rural electrification by 2012 can be achieved by setting up the Technology Mission; and

(d) if so, the plans formulated for rural electrification during the current plan period?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) to (c) The suggestion for setting up a Rural Electrification Technology Mission is under active and advance stage of consideration of Government of India. In the Chief Ministers' Conference held on 3rd March, 2001, the Government had resolved to complete village electrification by the end of the 10th Plan period i.e. by 2007 and full coverage of all households by end of 11th Plan period i.e. by 2012.

(d) Following measures and initiatives have been undertaken by Government of India to ensure universal electrification and achieve the goals as indicated above. The initiatives taken are :-

1. Under the Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) funds have been provided for rural electrification as a basic minimum service. Accordingly for the first time under the PMGY a sum of Rs. 412 crores was released in 2001-02 to states. A provision of Rs. 2747 crores has been made under PMGY which includes rural electrification with the flexibility given to the states to fix interse allocation.

2. Under Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) the provision has been enhanced from Rs. 175 crores (2001-02) to Rs. 600 crores (2002-03).

3. An interest subsidy scheme called - 'Accelerated Rural Electrification Programme' has been announced for which an outlay of Rs. 164 crores has been provided in the current year.

4. The Rural Electrification Corporation, which has been given the responsibility of financing rural electrification programme on a continuous basis has been permitted to access the capital market to raise resources through Initial Public Offering (IPO).

5. Besides, REC has been permitted to issue Capital Gains Tax exemption Bonds under Section 54(EC)

of the Income Tax Act 1961. During the last year REC has raised Rs. 1397 crores and during 2002-03 (upto 31.07.2002) Rs. 1350 crores approx.

6. Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) has been suitably modified to allow States to access these funds for rural electrification programme. A provision of Rs. 750 crores was made in 2001-02 for system improvement and mini & micro hydel schemes. A similar provision is expected during the current year.

7. A meeting was held with Power Ministers of 12 States wherein backlog of village electrification exists, in order to impress upon them the need to accelerate rural electrification in a time bound manner. Accordingly, as per the resolution of the meeting the States were requested to draw an Action Plan to complete rural electrification within 5 years.

8. The States have also been requested to conduct a detailed census of all the villages, hamlets and dalit/tribal bastis to ensure that each and every settlement is covered under rural electrification.

9. For rural electrification to be implemented in the right spirit and to ensure that the benefits actually reach the people, the definition of village electrification is under review.

10. States & institutions involved in rural electrification have also asked to identify alternate means to raise resources to meet the targets of rural electrification by accessing programmes like Member of Parliament - Local Area Development Programme (MPLAD) and Kutir Jyoti Programme and financing from REC.

Although various measures have been initiated by the Government of India to ensure universal coverage and ensure sufficient resources for the same, the progress so far has not been satisfactory. The primary responsibility of implementation of rural electrification lies with the State Govern-ments. It is with their commitment and their active cooperation that the rural electrification programme could be made a success and enable the country to achieve the goal of 'Power for all by 2012'.

Ban on Obscene Advertisements

*265 SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH :

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BORADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Goverment are aware that obscene advertisements on liquor, tobacco and surrogates of certain intoxicating products, which cause addition, are continuously telecast on cable channels, violating all the Advertisement Rules and Programme Code;

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

(c) whether the Government have constituted a Committee to keep a vigil on sch advertisements and programmes on cable channels;

(d) if so, whether the Committee has proved in-effective to check such advertisements and programmes on cable channels;

(e) the steps taken by the Government in the recent past to ban such advertisements/programmes;

(f) whether the Government propose to draft a comprehensive Advertisement Policy for private channels; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said policy is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROAD-CASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (g) All television channels transmitted or retransmitted through a cable network are required to adhere to the provisions of the Programme Code and Advertising Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the Rules framed thereunder. The Programme Code prohibits carriage of programmes which offend good taste or decency, contain anything obscene or which derogate women. The Advertising Code provides, inter-alia, that no advertisement shall be permitted which promotes directly or indirectly production, sale or consumption of cigarettes, tobacco products, wine alcohol, liquor or other intoxicants.

To look into the reported violations of the said Programme Code and Advertising Code, the Government has constituted two committees under Session 20 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995;

(i) An Inter-Ministerial Committee consisting of Officers from the Ministries of Information & Broad-casting, Home Affairs, External Affairs, Defence and Law to render advice on the violations of the Programme Code; and

(ii) A Committee consisting of officers from the Ministries of Information and Broadcasting, Women & Chid Development, Health and Law and a representative from the Advertising Standards Council of India to look into the violations of Advertising Code including cases o: surrogate advertising.

On the recommendations of the Committee on Advertising Code, show cause notices were issued to four channels, for telecasting surrogate advertisements of liquor products and violating the provisions of Rules 7(2) (viii) of the Advertising Code of the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994. These channels have since sent their replies and confirmed that they had stopped the concerned advertisements, till the matter is further examined. At its second meeting, the Committee had decided to issue show cause notices to channels displaying eight advertisements, which prima facie, appear to violate the Advertising Code.

[Translation]

Poor Quality of Telecast in Tribal Areas

*266. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BRODCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the efforts made by the Government to extend good quality T.V. coverage to all the tribal and inaccessible areas of the country;

(b) the areas still left out of T.V. coverage;

(c) whether the quality of the T.V. telecast is quite poor in several areas of the country; and

(d) if so, the number of representations received by the Government from the public representatives so far in this regard and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) At present, 1321 TV transmitters of Doordarshan are functioning in various parts of the country, including 417 transmitters in tribal sub plan districts and remote areas. TV coverage is estimated to be available to about 89.7% population of the country spread over about 77.7% of its area. In satellite mode, programmes are available throughout the country and can be received with the help of appropriate dish antenna system or through cable network. To further expand terrestrial coverage, 135 TV transmitter projects are under implementation. With the commissioning of these transmitters, population-wise coverage is expected to increase to about 91.3% and area-wise coverage to about 80%. Besides, additional transmitters are envisaged to be set up during the 10th Plan and alternative technology options are also proposed to be adopted to cover hitherto uncovered areas. A cable head end scheme, for expansion of TV coverage in North East States including Sikkim, is under implementation.

(c) and (d) The technical quality of Doordarshan telecasts is satisfactory. Representations from public representatives are received from time to time about the quality of telecast. It is Doordarshan's constant endeavour to promptly take necessary corrective action on these representations.

[English]

Development of Fatigue Meter

*267 SHRI V. VETRISELVAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether IQ Infotech Limited and National Aeronautics Laboratory have developed fatigue meter for fighter aircraft to reduce air crashes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the manner in which this meter would help the defence sector;

(d) the estimated expenditure incurred in developing this meter; and

(e) the time by which it would be incorporated in Indian Defence?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However a microprocessor based fatigue meter for aircraft application is under development jointly by M/s. Infotech Ltd. and National Aerospace Laboratory (NAL), Bangalore. The meter when installed would measure the fatigue cycles and enable assessment of life utilized until the last flight.

(c) This instrument would be helpful in assessing the residual safe life of aircraft.

(d) The estimated expenditure for development as reported by developing agencies would be around Rs. 18 lakhs.

(e) The instrument will be considered for fitment on aircraft on aircraft once full scale development is completed which is likely to be around mid 2004.

Report of Ahluwalia Committee

*268 SHRIMATI KUMUDINI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have asked the State Governments to accept the Ahluwalia Committee Report on electricity and consequently signed tripartite agreement to authorize NTPC to deduct the power bills from the Central devolution to the States;

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

(c) whether this tripartite agreement is also applicable to Orissa, which has adopted the electrical reforms with the help of World Bank Loan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to safeguard the interest of Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) and (b) The financial position of all State Electricity utilities have deteriorated quite rapidly in the past decade. The Planning Commission has estimated that during the last financial year alone, i.e. year 2001-02, the loss could be of the order of Rs. 24,837 crores. The accumulated losses for the last 10 years ending 2001-02 has been calculated to be a colossal amount of Rs. 88107 crores.

Such huge losses have very adversely affected the operations and the ability of the electricity utilities to supply electricity to the consumers. They have been facing resources crunch to buy power from various generating companies. Because of the accumulated losses and inadequate cash generation, all the state utilities have defaulted in paying their power purchase as well as other dues to the Central PSUs like NTPC, Power Grid, NHPC, Coal India Limited, Railways, etc.

To resolve this problem and to help the state electricity utilities to clean up their balance sheet which can help them to revive their activities including generating resources for new capacity additions, which is so very critical for the economy of the country, this issue was discussed by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India in a conference of the State Chief Ministers and Power Ministers on 3rd March, 2001. In the said conference, it was resolved that an Expert Group be set up to recommend a one time settlement of all power Sector past dues to Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) and dues from CPSUs to State Power Utilities. The Expert Group was set up under the Chairmanship of Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia.

On the basis of the recommendations of the Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Montek Singh Ahluwalia that was endorsed, with minor modifications, by the High Level Empowered Group of Chief Ministers under the Chairmanship of Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Government of India announced the scheme of one-time settlement of outstanding dues as of 30.9.2001. On 20.05.2002, Government of India circulated a modified tripatite agreement (TPA) that is to be signed among the State Government, Government of India and the Reserve Bank of India.

The salient features of the one-time settlement scheme and the TPA are:

1. For the states participating in the scheme, 60% of the interest/surcharge on the delayed payments as on 30.09.2001 would be waived off.

2. The rest of the dues comprising the full principal amount as well as the remaining 40% of the interest / surcharge to be securitised through bonds issued by the respective State Governments.

3. The bonds will be issued through RBI at a tax-free interest rate of 8.5% per annum. The terms of bonds shall be structured to achieve a moratorium of 5 years on repayment of principal with the entire principal being repaid between the 6th and 15th year. These bonds shall be identical to the bonds issued in connection with the market borrowings of State Governments, with the attendant discipline in repayments. The bonds will be subject to lock-in restrictions that will allow release of only 10% of the bonds in the secondary market each year

4. For ensuring timely payment of current dues in future, defaults in current payment for power/fuel shall attract a graded reduction in the supply of power from central power stations and in coal supplies. Payments that remain outstanding after 90 days from the date of billing shall be recovered, on behalf of the CPSUs, by the Ministry of Finance through adjustment against releases due to the respective State Government on account of plan assistance, States' share of Central taxes and any other grant or loan.

5. In order to initiate steps towards reform of the sector, the State Electricity Boards/State Government's to accept reform-based performance milestones such as setting up of State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERC), metering of distribution feeders, improvement in revenue realisation specified in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)/Memorandum of Agreement signed/to be signed with the Ministry of Power.

6. The States to be offered incentives for complying with the scheme. If SEBs do not default on their current dues and adhere to the performance milestones, CPSUs would pay the, bi-annual cash incentives equal to 3% of the value of bonds in the first year, 2.5% in the second year and 2% in the third and fourth years (total incentive of 19% for four years). Further, if SEBs open and maintain Letters of Credit (LCs), CPSUs would pay them a one-time cash incentive equal to 2% of the value of bonds. In addition, States undertaking reforms would also be assisted through the Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme (APDRP) grants and discretionary allocation of Power.

7. The States that withhold their consent beyond 60 days after this scheme enters into force will be denied any share in the discretionary allocation of power (15%) from the power stations of CPSUs as well as any assistance under APDRP. If the overdues of such States exceed Rs. 50 crore in respect of any CPSUs, they would also attract reduction in power and coal supplies, available to the states participating in this scheme.

8. Outstanding dues as on 30.09.2001 would form the basis of the one time settlement. Dues that accrue after this date would not form part of the scheme. Individual CPSUs & States can consider exchanging bonds for the outstanding.

9. The Scheme covers the outstanding dues payable by the SEBs to the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC), North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO), Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) and Power Grid Corporation of India (PGCIL) under the Ministry of Power, Coal India Limited (CIL) & its subsidiaries and Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) under the Department of Coal, Nuclear Power Corporation (NPL) under the Department of Atomic Energy and the Ministry of Railways.

The reasons for asking the State Governments to accept the scheme for one time settlement of outstanding dues of SEBs payable to CPSUs are:

(i) To facilitate the settlement of outstanding dues of Rs. 41,852 crores of the SEBs payable to the CPSUs, listed above, as on 30.09.2001.

(ii) To set up mechanism for regular payment of future dues of the SEBs to the CPSUs, through incentives for timely payment, regulation of power and coal supplies and in exceptional cases, through deductions from central resource transfer by the Ministry of Finance in case of default; and

(iii) To assist the reforms process in the States by cleaning up the books of the SEBs/Utilities.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Orissa is very much covered under the above scheme and the Chief Minister of Orissa, who was also a Member of the High Level Empowered Group of Chief Ministers, has conveyed willingness to sign the tripartite agreement under the scheme for one-time settlement to outstanding dues of the SEBs payable to the CPSUs. The agreement is, however, yet to be signed by Government of Orissa.

After signing the agreement, the electricity company of Orissa will get an immediate waiver of Rs. 119.54 crores on their interest liability and stand to avail an incentive of 21% on the securitised amount of nearly Rs. 760 crores as already stated.

(e) As already explained, the scheme is open to all the States, including Orissa and it is beneficial because of the various concessions and incentives which would reduce the existing liability of the SEBs/Electric Company. Accordingly, GRIDCO of Orissa will get the benefit as stated above it would help in its financial restructuring and improve its viability.

Project Seabird

*269 SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Project Seabird is gaining some momentum now;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

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

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

(b) to (d) Government had accorded its approval in 1995 for execution of the first phase of the Project at revised completion cost of Rs. 1294.41 crore. The Project is progressing satisfactorily and is scheduled to be completed by 2005. The project would enable 10 ships and 10 yard crafts for refit and maintenance.

[Translation]

Pending Cases in various Courts

270. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of pending cases are increasing in various courts, and some cases out of them, are even pending for more than fifteen years, as the State Governments have not provided adequate funds;

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

(c) the average number of cases pending before each Judge of a High Court, at present; and

(d) whether the Government have made any efforts to appoint more Judges in the High Courts in order to clear the backlog?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY) : (a) The pendency of cases in the Supreme Court has come down from 1,04,936 as on 31.12.1991 to 23,012 as on 1.5.2002. However, in the High Courts, the number of pending cases which was 26.51 lakh on 31.12.93 has increased to 36.20 lakh as on 15.7.2002. The pendency of cases in the District and Subordinate Courts, which was to the tune of 2.18 crore as on 31.12.95, has now stablized around 2 crore cases. There are indeed some cases pending for more than 15 years at various levels of the Judiciary.

Pendency of cases in the courts is due to a multiplicity of factors, like increase in litigation & increase in the number of laws, inadequate provision for infrastructural facilities for the Judiciary, inadequate strength of Judges and supporting staff, etc.

The Hon'ble Chief Justice of India in his Law Day Address on 26th November, 2001 stated "the reason why we do not have more judges across the board is because the States are simply not willing to provide the finances that are required... Each and every State in the country has stated in reply that it has no more money for the judiciary".

(b) Both Government and Judiciary are concerned about the huge pendency of cases in courts. A series of steps have been taken by the Government for the speedy disposal of cases. These include simplification of procedures; increase in the number of posts of Judges/Judicial officers; establishment of Special Courts/tribunals; adoption of alternative modes of dispute resolution, such as, arbitration; and conciliation and establishment of increasing number of Lok Adalats.State Governments have also been requested to accord more financial autonomy to the Judiciary.

Central Govt. have sanctioned a grant of Rs. 502.90 crores, based on the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission, for the creation of 1734 Additional Courts, known as the Fast Track Courts in the country. An amount of about Rs. 197.00 crore has been released to the States for setting up these courts. Till date, 1123 courts have been set up/notified till date by the State Governments.

(c) The average number of cases pending before each judge of a High Court comes to around 5,600 cases.

(d) The review of judge strength of High Courts is undertaken every three years with reference to the felt need for disposal of cases, taking into account the backlog and expected future filing. This triennial review of judge strength is being undertaken in the current year, 2002. The filling up of vacancies in the High Courts is a consultative process among the Constitutional authorities. Every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously.

The Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs has been periodically requesting the Chief Justices of High Courts, Chief Ministers and Governors of States to make recommendations for filling up the existing as well as anticipated vacancies of Judges in the High Courts expeditiously. The last such request was made vide letter dated March 15, 2002.

[English]

Disinvestment of RITES and IRCON

*271 SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways are not in favour of

disinvestment in Rail India Technical & Economic Services Limited and Indian Railway Construction Corporation;

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

(c) the recommendations of Disinvestment Commission in regard to these PSUs; and

(d) the reaction of the Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Ministry of Railways is not in favour of disinvestment in Rail India Technical & Economic Services (RITES) and Indian Railway Construction Corporation (IRCON) International Ltd.)

(b) RITES is a consultancy organization under the Ministry of Railways which carries out studies as required by the Indian Railways, clients railways abroad and other sectors. RITES also is in the business of export of rolling stock and inspection of materials procured by the railways. IRCON is in the field of construction of railway projects which are of specialized nature. The Ministry is not in favour of disinvestments of Rail India Technical & Economic Service Ltd. (RITES) and Indian Railway Construction Corporation (IRCON International Ltd.) for the following reasons:

(i) IRCON & RITES being construction and consultancy organizations can keep only a small work force on permanent basis. In the existing scenario of stiff competition in the construction industry, both in domestic and international market, only companies which are lean with respect to their fixed cadre can sustain their profits. Presently the skills for undertaking rail related consultancies are acquired by RITES through personnel on deputation from railways. After disinvestments it will not be possible to induct railwaymen into RITES. It will affect the competence of the organization to carry out rail related consultancy in India and abroad.

(ii) Activities of RITES/IRCON abroad afford an opportunity to railway personnel to observe developments which benefit the railway officers on repatriation.

(iii) Indian Railways have got surplus manufacturing capacity in production units for manufacture of locomotives and coaches. RITES and IRCON are the export arms of Indian Railways for export of locomotives, coaches etc. For export of locomotives and coaches, a close coordination between Railway Research, Design and Standards Organisation, Indian Railway manufacturing units and RITES is required. The railway rolling stock requirement varies from country to country and considerable design inputs and manufacturing efforts is required in most cases, e.g. the Indian Railways in association with RITES and IRCON have developed locomotive suitable for 'Cape Gauge' which is prevalent in some African countries and Southeast Asian countries.

(iv) RITES also carries out independent third party acceptance testing for components procured by the Indian Railways. If RITES were to be disinvested, Indian Railways would have to create a new organisation for this.

(v) Many of the projects undertaken abroad for construction and for operation of railway system are given to the PSUs on the strength of Indian Railway backing, e.g. the Letter of Intent given by the Malaysian Govt. for construction of US$ 1.5 billion Ipoh-Padang Besar doubling project on single tender without going through the process of formal tendering is only on the strength of the backing of Ministry of Railways, Government of India. Similarly, the contracts for operation management of Railway System in Colombia and Zambia have been secured by RITES based on the Railway operating experience of Indian Railways.

(c) Disinvestment of IRCON International Ltd. is under examination by Disinvestment Commission, who have yet to make their recommendations.

For Disinvestment in RITES, Commission has recommended that :

(i) A minimum of 51% of the Government equity may be given to employees (both present and past) of RITES. Government may retain 25% of the equity. Balance equity may be distributed among reputed infrastructure consultancy organisation and infrastructure leasing and financing organisations after suitable prequalification.

(ii) The Railways should have an agreement with RITES under which continuous induction of talented railways personnel would be guaranteed for a period of 5 years.

In addition, the Disinvestments Commission has also suggested:

(iii) RITES should develop consultancy expertise outside railway area with a view to increase non-railway consultancy business.

(iv) Export of rolling stock handled by the RITES can be handled directly by the Railways.

(v) Inspection work related to quality assurance of purchased items presently entrusted to RITES may be handled by the Ministry of Railways.

(d) Ministry of Railways have not agreed to the recommendations and suggestions of Disinvestment Commission for disinvestments of RITES as listed in question 'C' above for the following reasons:

(i) the present net worth of RITES is Rs. 158 crores and the share capital is Rs. 2 crores. For sale of 51% of shares to employees, the Government should be able to realize 51% of the net worth i.e. Rs. 80 crores approxi-mately. Thus the hundred rupee share would have to be sold for approximately Rs. 7800/-. Also the expected annual dividend of Rs. 3 crores, would yield an average return of only 1.9% to the employees. To realize Rs. 80 crores through employees as recommended by the Disinvest-ment Commission, on the average investment of the present employees of RITES would be in the range of Rs. 3.5 lakhs per employee if all the present employees opt for it. This may not be possible.

(ii) Deputation of railway personnel to RITES, after disinvestments, would not be possible.

(iii) Disinvestment Commission's suggestion that RITES may develop expertise in non-railway business, after disinvestments, would defeat the very purpose for which RITES was initially set-up. Indian Railways requirement of consultancy expertise in railway area, would get diluted and may not be available after sometime as availability of railway expertise in RITES dwindles.

(iv) The export of rolling stock was delegated to RITES only because Indian Railways was unable to handle it directly through government depart-mental setup. The recommendation if accepted would immediately effect export of Railway rolling stock and Indian Railways efforts to utilize spare capacity available in workshops.

(v) The work of quality assurance for purchase items was hived off as a non-core activity to RITES as an independent third party. If Ministry of Railways were to carry out inspection work, they would need to create an organization for the same at a time when Indian Railways are making every effort to contain growth of manpower.

ONGC Stake In Sudan

*272 SHRI MOINUL HASSAN :

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to acquire 25 per cent share in the Greater Nile Oil Project in Sudan and have recommended the ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL) to go ahead to acquire the stakes in land which has become a 'no-no' zone for investment; and

(b) if so, the steps so far taken in that direction and the reasons for this unusual investment?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) has been making attempts to acquire equity oil abroad in a number of countries for enhancement of the country's oil security and in fulfilment of the "India Hydrocarbon Vision 2025". Accordingly, OVL has been aiming to acquire 25% stake of M/s. Talisman, Canada in the Greater Nile Oil Project (GNOP) in Sudan, and an 'in principle' approval to this has been given by the Government. The fructification of the acquisition will lead to equity oil of about 3 million metric tonne per annum. Any investment abroad is subject to various risks like, political, financial, business and technical, besides country risks. OVL as a prudent investor, takes comprehensive measures for mitigation of such risks to protect its investment.

[Translation]

Report on Constitution Review Commission

*273. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :

SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state the steps so far taken by the Government towards implementing the recommendations of the Constitution Review Commission particularly on the recommendations made in regard to making comprehensive changes in the electoral laws, inclusion of new fundamental rights in the Constitution and to debar such citizens from occupying top most posts in the country, who are not born in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K.

JANA KRISHNAMURTHY) : Action on the recommendations made by the Commission lies with the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India, which are administratively concerned with the subject matter of the recommendations. The concerned Ministries/Departments have been requested to examine the recommendations. The examination of the recommendations, which is a time consuming process, has been initiated and these require detailed examination before the decision regarding their implementation can be taken.

As regards non-India born citizens, the Commission has not made any specific recommendation but has suggested that the issue should be examined in-depth through a political process after a national dialogue.

[English]

Mining Activities Around Railway Tracks

274. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether mining activities are undertaken around railway tracks on certain railway routes of eastern region;

(b) if so, whether there is always a danger of spontaneous ignition of the underground seams, which are left unmined;

(c) whether the Ministry of Coal has suggested to his Ministry to resolve safety related issues; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not meeting safety measures in the railways?

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

(b) No, Sir. However, dangerous situation may occur if mining operations are not done properly.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Coal had requested for constitution of a committee by Ministry of Railways with participation from Ministry of Coal and Mines, local Administration and Coal Mines Officials. Accordingly, a committee was constituted in June, 2001. Meanwhile the then Minister for Coal and Mines, Government of India, had advised in October, 2001 that Railways need not wait for the recommendations of the Committee referred herein and in view of urgency of the situation, close the line without any further loss of time, to eliminate danger to life and property. The committee has since submitted their report. In order to ensure safety, the committee's recommendation to suspend passenger traffic on Dhanbad-Patherdih line, has been accepted and Railway Board have issued instructions to Eastern Railway for its implementation.

Import of Petroleum Products

*275 SHRI J.S. BRAR :

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

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

(a) the quality and value of different petroleum products imported during 2001-02 and proposed/contracted for 2002-03, project-wise;

(b) whether the country has surplus refining capacity; and

(c) if so, the reasons for importing petroleum products instead of crude oil to utilise the surplus refining capacity?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) The quantity and value of petroleum products imported during 2001-02 and estimates for 2002-03 are as under :

Product	2001-02 Provisional		2002-03 (Estimates)	
	Quantity in thousand tonnes	Value in Rs. crore	Quantity in thousand tonnes	Value in Rs. crore
LPG	657	808	766	1,013
Aviation Petrol	2	9	Nil	Nil
Kerosene	387	383	Nil	Nil
Naphtha/Natural Gas Liquid	3,282	3,449	3,107	3,432
Fuel Oil/Low Sulphur Heavy Stock	983	710	450	298
Others	1,250	1,547	1,297	1,531
Total	6,561	6,906	5,620	6,274

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Imports of petroleum products are limited to meet the gap between the requirements of specific products and their dometic production.

Blending of Ethanol with Petrol

*276. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR :

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

(a) whether a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with the Brazilian Government for sharing the know - how to blend ethanol to petrol or diesel;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether any tests have been carried out to mix ethanol in diesel;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have been able to save foreign currency after allowing petrol-ethanol blending;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the blended petrol would be made available throughout the country; and

(g) if so, the expected foreign currency to be saved as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (g) The Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Government of India and Government of Brazil on 08.04.2002 which provides for sharing of technology by Brazil for blending of ethanol with petrol/diesel and giving consultancy on various related aspects. R & D studies are in progress for blending of ethanol with diesel.

Petrol is not imported at present. However, foreign exchange could be earned by export of petrol rendered surplus through its blending with ethanol.

Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas have decided in principle to supply 5% ethanol doped petrol in the eight sugarcane producing States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh in the first phase with effect from 1.1.2003 and in the rest of the country in the second phase. No computation of foreign currency saving is possible at this stage.

Rural Electrification

*277 SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission's Approach Paper to the 10th Plan (2002-07) has given suggestions on rural electrification;

(b) if so, whether it has been pointed out that it is necessary to prescribed a minimum number of rural households to be given power connections before a village is declared electrified;

(c) if so, whether according to the report, around 80,000 villages in India are yet to get power connections and of these 18,000 are in remote areas;

(d) if so, the details of recommendations made by the Planning Commission for rural electrification; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) Yes, Sir. The Planning Commission in its Approach Paper to the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07) have suggested that while reforming the power sector, care must be taken to ensure that the needs of the rural areas are not neglected.

(b) and (c) The above Approach Paper does not mention the minimum number of households to be electrified before a village is declared electrified. However, it is estimated that there are 80,000 villages in the country which are unelectrified. Of these, 18,000 villages are located in remote areas.

(d) and (e) The Planning Commission have not finalized the 10th Plan document so far. However, in the Chief Ministers' Conference held on 3rd March, 2001, Government had resolved to complete village electrification by the end of 10th Plan i.e. by the year 2007 and the coverage of all households by the year 2012. In order to accelerate the pace of village electrification in 2001-02, Government released an amount of Rs. 412.236 crores under the Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) and an amount of Rs. 175 crores under the Minimum Needs Programme (MNP). For 2002-03, the Planning Commission have made an allocation of Rs. 2747 crores under PMGY for all the six components of PMGY, including rural electrification. The States have the flexibility to decide interse allocation among various components depending upon their priorities. Under the MNP an allocation of Rs. 600 crores has been provided.

[Translation]

Potential of Wind Power Generation

*278 SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cost of wind power generation has been assessed;

(b) if so, the maximum and minimum costs thereof; and

(c) the present requirement of capital investments for generation of per mega watt electricity under this project?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The cost of generation from wind power varies between Rs. 2.25–Rs. 2.75 per unit depending upon the site and taking into account various fiscal and promotional incentives available for wind power projects.

(c) The capital cost of wind power varies between Rs. 4.5 crore to Rs. 5 crore per MW.

[English]

Captive Power

*279 SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "PFC stresses captive power" appearing in the 'Times of India' dated June 7, 2002;

(b) if so, whether the Power Finance Corporation has made investment in States and SEBs;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether PFC has sent captive power policy guidelines to all the States; and

(e) if so, the extent to which the target of generation of power is likely to be achieved after investments made by PFC?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Details of captive power projects funded by the Power Finance Corporation (PFC) are enclosed at Statement-I.

(d) and (e) PFC has not circulated any Captive Power Policy guidelines to the States. Ministry of Power has, however, circulated a Captive Power Policy prepared in consultation with Central Electricity Authority (CEA) to all the State Governments and Union Territories in July, 2001.

The salient features of the Captive Power Policy are enclosed at Statement-II.

The Policy provides a more liberal framework for setting up Captive Power Plants and utilizing their surplus output for the benefit of consumers. However, no target, as such, under captive power generation has been fixed.

Statement-I

Details of Captive Power Projects funded by PFC

Details of Project	45.33 MW Power Project of Sanghi Industries Ltd.	77 MW Captive Co-generation power plant
Promoters	Sanghi Industries Ltd.,	Vadinar Power Company Ltd.
Location	Kutch, Gujarat	Vadinar, Jamnagar in Gujarat
Purpose	To meet the power requirement of SIL's Cement Project	To meet the power and steam requirement of the proposed Essar Oil Refinery
Project Cost	Rs. 114.35 crores of the power project	Rs. 5598 Million
Financial assistance provided by PFC	Rs. 57.00 crores Term Loan disbursed + Rs. 12 crores guarantee executed + Rs. 3.09 crores sanctioned	Rs. 235 crores sanctioned; documents yet to be executed.
Status of the Project	Power Project commissioned in February, 2002	Project work yet to restart

Statement-II

Captive Power Policy

1.0 **Objective**

According to the 16th Electric Power Survey conducted by CEA, the country has energy shortage of 7.8% and peaking shortage of 13.0% for the current year. The capacity addition required by the end of 11th Plan to meet these shortages is nearly 100,000 MW. In view of the massive investments required for capacity addition it is necessary that the existing investments in the power

sector are fully utilised and captive power plants which are utilised only partially are encouraged to sell power to the grid. The following general guidelines are recommended to the States to enable a more liberal framework for setting up Captive Power Plants and utilising their surplus output for benefit of the consumer.

2.0 Permission and Approval

(i) Permission for installation of Captive Power Plant is to be obtained from SEB under Section 44 of Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948. For captive power generation exceeding 25MW, SEB will accord permission under Section 44 of Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 only after consulting the Central Electricity Authority as per Section 44 (2A) of Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948.

(ii) The following would be eligible to install a Captive Power Plant :-

a. A consumer of electricity.

b. A group comprising more than one consumer as a joint venture.

c. An actual user of power but not a consumer.

d. A group of actual users of power, but not consumers, as a joint venture.

e. A group comprising both consumers and actual users of power as a joint venture but excluding "Generating Company" as defined under Section 2(4-A) of Electricity (Supply) Act 1948.

3.0 (a) If the captive plant fall under the category of hydro or co generation plant, such plant, irrespective of its size and status of power supply position in the State, may be permitted liberally.

(b) If the Captive Power Plant is based on coal or liquid fuel or gas and if the State is deficit in power supply, the installation of such captive power plant could normally be allowed and the capacity of the plant permitted upto 200% of the requirement of the industry for its own use.

(c) If the Captive Power Plant is based on coal, liquid fuel or gas the State is surplus in power, the installation of such captive plants can still be considered in the following cases :-

(i) If the industry requires uninterrupted power supply due to the nature of the industry and if the State/SEB or Successor entity are not able to guarantee supply of such requirements, the proposal for setting up of such a captive power plant for the uninterrupted power supply requirement of the industry can be considered.

(ii) If the industry requires quality power supply (within the stipulated variations in voltage and frequency) and if the State/SEB or Successor entity are not in position to guarantee the power supply of such stringent requirements, the proposal for installation of the captive power plant of the required capacity can be considered.

(iii) If the cost of generation from the captive plant is found to be lower compared to the tariff of the power supply from the grid, the proposal may be considered after thoroughly examining the cost and tariff aspects.

(d) Banking facilities may also be provided to the Captive Power Plants so that available capacities are utilised to the extent possible and when required. The rates for banking may be determined on mutually agreed terms.

(e) Units in Special Economics Zones (SEZ) and industrial estates may be allowed to set up CPPs liberally.

4.0 If the CPP is of co-generation in nature, and the capacity exceeds 25 MW, the proposals shall be forwarded to CEA for consultation under Section 44(2A) of Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 duly certified by the concerned Utilities that the proposal qualities for the status of co-generation. (In this regard, MOP Resolution No. A-40/95-IPC.I, dated 6th November, 1996 may be seen for reference).

5.0 Permission of State Electricity Board is required to synchronize and operate with the Grid.

6.0 All statutory clearnces for setting up the CPP have to be obtained by the owner of the CPP of his own accord.

7.0 Conditions for Usage of Captive Power

Energy generated from captive power generating units:

(i) Can be used by the owner of the captive power generation plant.

(ii) Can be used by sister concern(s) of the owner of the captive power generation plant.

(iii) Balance power after usage in items (i) and (ii) above can be sold to SEB, if required by them.

(iv) Third Party sale is also permissible, with the approval of SEB.

(v) Captive generator could be asked not to draw power from the grid during peak seasons/hours.

8.0 Wheeling Charges & Rules

Prior approval of SEB has to be obtained for wheeling of power. Captive generated power may be wheeled only where interface for synchronization with the grid exists. Wheeling will be done to any service (High Tension or Low Tension). The cost of interfacing lines, switchgear metering and protection arrangement may be met by the CPP and/or the Board as per mutual arrangement. Similarly, the wheeling charges may be worked out based on pooled rates of wheeling charges worked out by the Central State Transmission Utility of that Region and the amount of energy wheeled.

9.0 Pricing of the Balance Power Sold to SEB

For the FIRM POWER, the pricing for the Captive Power Generation could be in single part i.e. rate for units alone. The tariff for sale of power from thermal CPPs to SEB may be fixed after mutual discussions between SEB & CPP and could be based on pooled variable charges of thermal power stations operating in the SEB plus some percentage of the pooled variable charge as an incentive to CPP generator. In case of hydro CPPs also, the tariff for sale of power to SEB may be fixed after mutual discussions between SEB & CPP and could be based on pooled variable charge of thermal power and incentives. To attract more power from CPPs into the Grid, tariff could also be based on the highest variable cost in the system or the actual variable cost of CPP, whichever is lower, and some percentage of the variable cost as an incentive.

The rate for INFIRM Power could be at 75% of the normal rate.

Tariffs for purchase of power from captive plants may be determined by SERCs wherever they have been established.

10.0 Billing Methods

(i) Separate billing may be carried out for export and import of power by the Captive Power Generator. Import of power may be billed according to the Tariff Notifications of Government from time to time.

(ii) Export billing may be done for the units exported as per the mutual agreement between SEBs & CPP.

11.0 Definitions

Definitions are given in Appendix.

Appendix

(i) CONSUMER means any person who is supplied with electric energy by a State Electricity Board.

(ii) ACTUAL USER OF POWER means one who is not a consumer but uses power out of captive power generation.

(iii) GRID means electrical network of a State Electricity Board

(iv) BOARD means State Electricity Board or its successor entities.

(v) CPP means Captive Power Plant.

(vi) FIRM power means quantity of power in units committed by the owner of the Captive Power Plant to be sold to State Electricity Board annually.

(vii) INFIRM power means quantity of power in units sold to SEB without any commitment.

(viii) CAPTIVE POWER PLANTS may be defined as plants meant for catering to the needs of a particular industry/consumer or group of industries/consumers for their own use, which should be not less than 50% of the total output of the plant.

(ix) GENERATING COMPANY means a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 and which has among its objects the establishment, operation and maintenance of generating stations.

Adverse Effect on Medium and Small Newspapers by FDI

*280 SHRI SURESH KURUP :

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the small and medium scale newspapers industry in the country is likely to suffer a lot and there will be further unemployment by allowing FDI in Print Media;

(b) if so, the benefits/adverse effects of allowing FDI in Print Media;

(c) the safeguards taken/likely to be taken to protect the interest of the indigenous magazines/periodicals/ journals in Regional languages; and

(d) the steps taken to prevent unemployment on this account?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) FDI is likely to be of use in maintaining diversity in the print media and improvement in its quality and also in improved availability of Indian editions of scientific and technical journals and speciality magazines at affordable prices.

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

Hydel Power Projects in Assam

2630. SHRI M. K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to develop major hydel power projects in Assam particularly in North Eastern Region by way of flood cushioning in the reservoirs built for the purpose; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating their estimated cost and capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) According to the studies carried out by the Central Electricity Authority, the North Eastern Region has an exploitable Hydro-electric power potential of 58971 MW in terms of aggregate installed capacity. 1062 MW of the potential in the Region has already been developed and 387 MW is under development. Assam has only a small share of 674 MW in the assessed Hydro Electric potential in the North Eastern Region whereas Arunachal Pradesh accounts for 50328 MW. Out of the potential available in Assam, 250 MW has already been developed and 145 MW is under development. The following Hydro-electric Projects, which have been planned in the North Eastern Region for implementation in the Central Sector will, apart from power generation, also help in flood moderation in the Region including Assam :

Sl. No.	Name of the Hydro-electric Project	State	Provisional Capacity (MW)
1	2	3	4
1.	Lower Subansiri	Arunachal Pradesh	2000
2.	Middle Subansiri	Arunachal Pradesh	2000
3.	Upper Subansiri	Arunachal Pradesh	2500
4.	Lower Siang	Arunachal Pradesh	1700
5.	Middle Siang	Arunachal Pradesh	700
6.	Upper Siang	Arunachal Pradesh	11000
7.	Tipaimukh	Manipur	1500

Among these Projects, Lower Subansiri is presently at pre-construction activity stage and all the other projects are still at an investigation stage. The estimated cost of these projects is yet to be firmed up.

Sale of Land of BSCL (Jabalpur)

2631 SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the land of the Burn Standard Company Limited, Jabalpur belongs to State Government of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the permission has been granted to sell this land and the process regarding sale of the assests has been initiated;

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal to reorganize this industry for the sake of the Jabalpur; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) :(a) and (b) A total of 60.216 acres of land was given on lease by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh to the Burn Standard Company Ltd. unit at Jabalpur.

(c) The BIFR in its Rehabilitation Scheme sanctioned on 16.4.99 permitted sale of assets of Jabalpur Works and the process for sale of land has been initiated by the Company.

(d) and (e) In view of the unviability of the Unit, the company is not in a position to restart the operations and has already separated all employees of this Unit.

Utilisation of Television Transmitter at Barmer

2632. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has installed a 10 Kilo Watt High Power Transmitter at Barmer (Rajasthan) in February 1993 at a cost of Rs. 5.32 crores;

(b) if so, whether the original height of the tower was 300 metres and DD decided to reduce it to 100 metres;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Transmitter is operating at one tenth of its capacity and covering less than half the area envisaged;

(e) if so, whether the mismatch and lack of capacity synchronization between the transmitter and the height of the tower had rendered the expenditure of Rs. 5.2 crore unproductive;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the action taken/proposed to be taken and to fix up the responsibility by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (d) Prasar Bharati have informed that a transmitter of 10 KW power on a termporary tower has been installed at Barmer, Rajasthan. The transmitter is presently operating on 1 KW power with coverage range of about 60 Kms. The original height of the tower was 300 metres and was reduced to 100 metres subsequently keeping in view the natural elevation and marginal increase of resultant coverage owing to sparsely populated area. Coverage range of the transmitter will become about 110 Kms. on commissioning of the 10 KW transmitter on a 100 Metre tower.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Existence of Sambhar Salt Lake in Danger

2633. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the existence of salf Sambhar lake of Rajasthan is in danger dut to encroachment in the course of rivers leading to this lake;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the ground water level of this area is continuously decreasing as the private companies are producing salt by drawing water from the depth of this lake;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check it;

(e) whether the lake is losing its natural form due to improper exploration and the salt industry is facing closure; and

(f) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. 1035 acres of land has been reported as under encroachment.

(d) to (f) The Company has approached the local administration and higher authorities of the State Government of the removal of encroachments from the leased land.

Sports Person

2634. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of employees of class three appinted under the sports quota working at present in the Northern and North Eastern Railways, post and sports-wise;

(b) whether the Government appoints such sports persons on the places equipped with sports facilities in view of their interest in the particular sport;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have received represenation from the sports person employees for being posted at an appropriate place owing to the lack of concerned sporting facilities at the place of their posting;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) Since the period for which the details are required has not been indicated it has not been possible to furnish the same. However, information for the last two years is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c) Efforts are made to appoint and post sports persons at places where adequate facilities are available to enable them to practice. Due to administrative constrains, however, it is not feasible at certain times to follow this practice.

(d) to (f) As and when such representations are received the request is given due consideration and appropriate action is taken keeping the Administrative and sports interest of the Railways in view.

[English]

Parameters to Check Oil Discovery

2635. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether oil discovery is related with meterage drilled; and

(b) if not, the scientific parameters required to be used for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Drilling is an activity taken up to define ultimately the presence or absence of hydrocarbons. The parameter used in the industry for the purpose is "Success Ratio", which is the ratio of the total exploratory wells/prospects drilled to the hydrocarbon bearing wells/prospects over a period of time, and is generally related to factors like exploration history and various geo-scientific aspects.

[Translation]

Rail Projects in Jharkhand

2636. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :

SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of railways projects received from Jharkhand during the last one year;

(b) the action taken on each such proposal;

(c) the details of the ongoing/pending rail projects and surveys in Jharkhand along with the progress made therein.

(d) the expenditure incurred thereon, project-wise; and

(e) the other works undertaken for improvement and expansion of rail network in Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (d) Ministry of Railways have not received any proposal for a new Railway project from the Government of Jharkhand during the last one year. Railways have, however, entered into a Memorandum - of - Understanding with the Government of Jharkhand for execution of certain specified projects on cost sharing basis.

Details of all ongoing projects in Jharkhand, including expenditure on each project by the end of March, 2002 and their progress are given in the Statement.

Details of ongoing surveys in the state of Jharkhand are as under :-

New Line

1. Gaya-Chatra
2. Hazaribagh - Garwa Road
3. Tori - Shivpur
4. Jhajha - Giridih via Sonuchakai
5. Tori - Chatra
6. Lohardaga - Korba
7. Barwadih - Chirimiri : Restoration of line

Doubling

1. Bhagalpur - Barharwa
2. Chakradharpur - Bondamunda
3. Patratu - Chandil via Barkakana

The surveys are in various stages of progress.

(e) Improvement and expansion of Rail Network is an integrated activity where system requirements are taken into consideration. Data relating to this activity is not maintained state-wise. Railway Zone-wise data is available in the Budget papers placed in the Parliament.

Statement

On-going Railway Projects in Jharkhand

S. No.	Name of the Project	Rly.	Latest Anticipated Cost	Outlay expected by the end of 2001-02	Status
			(Amount in Crores of Rupees)		
New Lines					
1.	Deogarh-Dumka	ER	172.98	7.13	Final location survey has been completed. Proposal for land acquisition have been submitted. The work will be taken up once the land becomes available.
2.	Deogarh-Sultanganj including MM Ext. from Banka-Barahat and Banka-Bhitiah Road	ER	312.00	17.04	First location survey for Deogarh-Banka and Banka-Barahat completed. Part estimate from Deogarh to Katuria (31 km) and Banka-Barahat has been sanctioned. Land acquisition papers for this section have been submitted to State Govt. Work has been taken up.
3.	Giridih-Koderma	ER	145.00	7.26	Final Location Survey has been completed. Past estimate (Koderma-Maheshpur 20.5 km) has been sanctioned. Earthwork & bridges on Koderma-Kodema Town (10 km) has been taken up.
4.	Koderma-Ranchi	ER	859.79	55.01	Final location survey has been completed. Land papers have been filed with the State Govt. and part land taken over. Earth work and bridge works have been taken up.
5.	Koderma-Tilaiya	ER	261.05	0.01	Final location survey is in progress. Land acquisition has been processed. Work would be taken up once land is handed over by State Government.
6.	Rampurhat-Mandarhill via Dumka	ER	170.47	14.46	Final location survey has been completed. Land acquisition have been processed. The work would be started once the land is made available by the State Government.
Gauge Conversion					
7	Ranchi - Lohardaga with extension to Tori	SER	185.31	22.89	The work for widening of formation completed for a length of 37 km out of 69 km between Ranchi - Lohardaga. On Tori - Lohardaga (44 km) new line portion, final location survey has almost been completed and report is under finalisation.
Doublind					
8.	Sahibganj-New Farakka-Malda	ER	67.07	67.06	Completed and commissioned.
9.	Goelkera-Manoharpur : 3rd line	SER	186.92	1.45	Work has lower operational priority.
Railway Electrification					
10.	Sitarampur - Danapur-Mugalsarai including Rampur Dumra-Garhara-Barauni	ER	363.36	358.58	The work has been completed.
11.	Bokarao Steel City-Muri-Hatia-Bondamunda-Bimlagarh-Kiriburu/Barsuan incl. Purulia-Kotshila	SER	269.81	265.24	Entire section energised till March, 2002. Residual works are in hand. The project has been delayed due to bad law and order problem and failure of OHE contractor and delay in release of 132 KV supply by DVC/BSEB.
12.	Chandil-Muri-Barkakana	SER	47.67	42.16	Work has been completed. Residual jobs in hand.

[English]

Transmission Lines

2637 SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received a proposal from Kerala Government to direct Central Electricity Authority and Power Grid Corporation on India Limited to take up the 400 KV transmission line from Kolar-Mysore to Kozhikode on a war footing; and

(b) if so, the present position thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) had sent a proposal for construction of a 400 KV transmission line from Kolar to Kozikode which has been examined in consultation with the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL). Talcher-II Transmission System was finalised in 1998 and the project is already under advanced stage of completion. As such, enhancing the scope of Talcher - II Transmission System by including 400 KV line from Kolar to Kozhikode at this stage would not be feasible.

One 400 KV D/c transmission line from Udumalpet (Tamil Nadu) to Trissur (Kerala) already exists and the second line from Madurai to Thiruvananthapuram is under construction by POWERGRID and is expected to be commissioned by 2003-04. These lines are capable of supplying more than 1500 MW of power to Kerala against a share of about 1100 MW from Central Sector projects including future projects like Talcher-II (4×500MW). However, keeping in view the long term perspective, CEA and PGCIL are working on a plan for providing a 3rd 400 KV feed to Kerala from a suitable point in Karnataka for meeting the increasing demand in the Southern Region by import of increased quantum of power from Eastern Region.

Tehri Hydro - Electric Project

2638. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the persons displaced due to the Tehri Hydro-electric Project has been rehabilitated near Wardrabad in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of persons rehabilitated there together with the names of the villages of Tehri which these persons belong; and

(c) the amount spent by the Government on these persons so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) About 150 rural families from the villages of Bagi Sarjula, Bilyasaur, Plas, etc. have been resettled in Pathri Roh (renamed as Suman Nagar Revenue Village) near Wadrabad in Haridwar District of Uttaranchal.

(c) According to the Government of Uttaranchal, who are handling the rehabilitation of affected, families, approximately Rs. 2.1 crores has been spent on development works so far.

Signaling Cabins

2639 DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of signalling cabins are existing at present in the Railways;

(b) the number of over-aged signalling cabins in the Railways;

(c) the number of over-aged signalling cabins replaced by the Government during the last three years; and

(d) the time by which the remaining over-aged signalling cabins are likely to be replaced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) There are 5692 interlocked stations on the Railways. Each of these stations normally has one or more cabins depending upon the station and type of signalling system provided thereon.

(b) As on 1.4.2002, there were 2388 stations with over-aged (more than 25 years old) signalling equipment. This included 1363 stations on A.B.C.D. spl. D.E. spl routes.

(c) During the last three years, over-aged equipments were replaced at the cabins of following number of stations.

(i) 1999-2000 : 83

(ii) 2000-2001 : 141

(iii) 2001-2002 : 131

(d) The work replacement of over-aged equipment at signalling cabins of the 1363 station is in progress. The work is targeted for completion in the next 5 to 7 years. The rehabilitation/renewal work at the signalling cabins of the remaining stations which are more than 35 years old on E and MG routes is also in progress.

[Translation]

Austerity Measures

2640. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent by the various Departments under her Ministry on various heads during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government propose any economy drive to reduce expenditure on publicity, advertisement, entertainment, catering, inauguration functions, seminars, tours within the country and abroad, including the payments made against STD and ISTD Bills, electricity bills particularly the bills of airconditioners and coolers and other such expenditure; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) The details of the sub-head wise expenditure incured by the various Media Units etc. in the years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are available in the Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for the years 2001-2002 and 2002-2003, respectively, which were laid on the Table of the House. The details of expenditure (Provisional) for the year 2001-2002 are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) It is the Government's constant endeavour to contain Non-Plan, non-developmental expenditure. The Ministry of Finance, which is the nodal Ministry for controlling the expenditure of all Central Government Departments, has been issuing directions from time to time to avoid wasteful expenditure.

Statement

Object headwise actual expenditure during the year 2001-2002 (Provisional)

(Rs. in thousands)

Object Head Code	Description in English	CBFC		Film Division		FCAT		NFAI		CFSI	
		Plan	Non-plan	Plan	Non-plan	Plan	Non-plan	Plan	Non-plan	Plan	Non-plan
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Revenue											
01	Salaries										
	Voted	835	8928	0	101839	0	0	277	5102	0	0
	Charged	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
02	Wages										
	Voted	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Charges	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
03	O.T.A.	0	9	189	594	0	0	0	8	0	0
11	Domestic Travel Exp	60	679	1320	2348	0	0	48	194	0	0
12	Foreign Travel Exp	0	0	1018	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	Office Expenses	4958	2876	2191	14102	0	0	641	3285	0	0
14	Rent, Rates & Taxes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Voted	0	0	399	2003	0	0	0	189	0	0
	Charged	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Publications	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
20	Other Administrative Exp.	0	0	1456	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21	Supplies & Materials	0	0	767	85805	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	P.O.L.	0	0	99	94	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	Advertising & Publicity	0	0	547	1025	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	Minor Works	1527	0	384	6809	0	0	0	2150	0	0
28	Professional Services	249	1472	1492	1944	0	0	0	0	0	0
31	Grants-in-aid	0	0	0	10	0	715	0	0	32214	1500
32	Contributions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33	Subsidies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
42	Lumpsum Provision	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
50	Other Charges	0	0	15577	13768	0	0	3596	9	0	0
63	Inter Account Transfer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	7629	13964	25438	230343	0	715	4561	10918	32214	1500

Object headwise actual expenditure during the year 2001-2002 (Provisional)

(Rs. in thousands)

Object Head Code	Description in English	FTTI, Pune		Film Societies		DFF		SRFTII		IIMC	
		Plan	Non-plan	Plan	Non-plan	Plan	Non-plan	Plan	Non-plan	Plan	Non-plan
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Revenue											
01	Salaries										
	Voted	0	0	0	0	0	5526	0	0	0	0
	Charged	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
02	Wages										
	Voted	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Charged	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
03	O.T.A.	0	0	0	0	0	60	0	0	0	0
11	Domestic Travel Exp.	0	0	0	0	82	22	0	0	0	0
12	Foreign Travel Exp.	0	0	0	0	264	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	Office Expenses	0	0	0	0	0	1691	0	0	0	0
14	Rent, Rates & Taxes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Voted	0	0	0	0	0	4195	0	0	0	0
	Charged	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Publications	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Other Administrative Exp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21	Supplies & Materials	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	P.O.L.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	Advertising & Publicity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	Minor Works	0	0	0	0	0	23500	0	0	0	0
28	Professional Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31	Grants-in-aid	12500	51913	400	0	0	0	30815	0	20134	30586
32	Contributions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33	Subsidies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
42	Lumpsum Provision	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
50	Other Charges	0	0	0	0	13960	12	0	0	0	0
63	Inter Account Transfer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	12500	51913	400	0	14305	35007	30815	0	20134	30586

Object headwise actual expenditure during the year 2001-2002 (Provisional)

(Rs. in thousands)

Object Head Code	Description in English	RR & TD		DAVP		PIB		PCI		PTI	
		Plan	Non-plan	Plan	Non-plan	Plan	Non-plan	Plan	Non-plan	Plan	Non-plan
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Revenue											
01	Salaries										
	Voted	0	5924	0	82252	26	121957	0	0	0	0
	Charged	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
02	Wages										

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Voted	0	0	0	696	0	1752	0	0	0	0
	Charges	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
03	O.T.A.	0	359	0	1264	0	1434	0	0	0	0
11	Domestic Travel Exp.	0	91	0	2301	133	2265	0	0	0	0
12	Foreign Travel Exp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	Office Expenses	613	1666	2882	13018	12779	28008	0	0	0	0
14	Rent, Rates & Taxes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Voted	0	0	0	14296	0	3481	0	0	0	0
	Charged	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Publications	0	0	0	0	7	3062	0	0	0	0
20	Other Administrative Exp.	0	0	0	1280	0	1527	0	0	0	0
21	Supplies & Materials	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	P.O.L.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	Advertising & Publicity	0	0	1469	457143	0	3034	0	0	0	0
27	Minor Works	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28	Professional Services	0	0	0	0	0	3945	0	0	0	0
31	Grants-in-aid	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	21871	0	0
32	Contributions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33	Subsidies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	802
42	Lumpsum Provision	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
50	Other Charges	0	0	0	1804	0	233	0	0	0	0
63	Inter Account Trainer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	613	8040	4350	574054	12945	170703	0	21871	0	802

Object headwise actual expenditure during the year 2001-2002 (Provisional)

(Rs. in thousands)

Object Head Code	Description in English	RNI		DFP		S & DD		Photo Divn.		Publication Divn.	
		Plan	Non-plan	Plan	Non-plan	Plan	Non-plan	Plan	Non-plan	Plan	Non-plan
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Revenue											
01	**Salaries**										
	Voted	0	14220	2765	143738	0	99817	0	12882	0	62125
	Charged	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
02	**Wages**										
	Voted	0	0	0	17	0	229	0	45	0	530
	Charges	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	49	0	0
03	O.T.A.	0	200	0	1005	0	632	0	326		502
11	Domestic Travel Exp.	0	400	354	11108	15	9735	0	171	0	1383
12	Foreign Travel Exp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	Office Expenses	0	4053	261	11701	267	3929	2285	2746	8927	4506
14	Rent, Rates & Taxes	0	0	241	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Voted	0	0	0	7089	128	1218	0	0	0	934
	Charged	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Publications	0	171	0	0	0	0	0	0	170	34094
20	Other Administrative Exp.	0	0	820	304	0	0	0	0	17	852
21	Supplies & Materials	0	0	6113	0	8537	4984	0	6461	0	1341
24	P.O.L.	0	0	303	11665	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	Advertising & Publicity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11126
27	Minor Works	0	0	776	1054	0	0	0	1144	0	0
28	Professional Services	0	0	0	0	12664	10047	0	0	0	2721
31	Grants-in-aid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32	Contributions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33	Subsidies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
42	Lumpsum Provision	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
50	Other Charges	0	0	622	2279	0	0	0	0	0	2531
63	Inter Account Transfer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	0	19044	12254	189961	21611	130590	2285	23823	9114	122644

Object headwise actual expenditure during the year 2001-2002 (Provisional)

(Rs. in thousands)

Object Head Code	Description in English	EMPLOY. NEWS		IPDC/JWF		Main Sectt.		Prasar Bharti		Total	
		Plan	Non-plan	Plan	Non-plan	Plan	Non-plan	Plan	Non-plan	Plan	Non-plan
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Revenue											
01	Salaries										
	Voted	0	5369	0	0	0	87524	0	0	3904	757204
	Charged	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
02	Wages										
	Voted	0	740	0	0	0	1494	0	0	0	5502
	Charges	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	49
03	O.T.A.	0	215	0	0	0	1177	0	0	189	8385
11	Domestic Travel Exp.	0	136	0	0	0	3872	0	0	2012	34705
12	Foreign Travel Exp.	0	0	0	0	0	2937	0	0	1282	2937
13	Office Expenses	0	1830	0	0	1131	20845	0	0	36933	114236
14	Rent, Rates & Taxes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	241	0
	Voted	0	785	0	0	0	1909	0	0	528	36098
	Charged	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Publications	0	0	0	0	0	150	0	0	177	37476
20	Other Administrative Exp.	0	0	0	0	0	3385	0	0	2292	7348
21	Supplies & Materials	0	108840	0	0	0	0	0	0	15416	207432
24	P.O.L.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	402	11760

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
26	Advertising & Publicity	0	45855	0	0	0	0	0	0	2016	518183
27	Minor Works	0	0	0	0	0	12100	0	0	2686	46747
28	Professional Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14405	20129
31	Grants-in-aid	0	0	0	0	0	100	829100	8472200	925163	8578900
32	Contributions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33	Subsidies	0	0	0	1440	0	0	0	0	0	2242
42	Lumpsum Provision	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
50	Other Charges	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33754	20637
63	Inter Account Transfer	0	0	0	50000	0	0	0	0	0	50000
	Total	0	163770	0	51440	1131	136092	829100	8472200	1041401	10459981

Object headwise actual expenditure during the year 2001-2002

(Rs. in thousands)

Object Head Code	Description in English	Films Division		NFAI		SRFTII		PIB		S & DD	
		Plan	Non-plan	Plan	Non-plan	Plan	Non-plan	Plan	Non-plan	Plan	Non-plan
Capital Section											
52	Machinery & Equipment	26511	0	0	0	0	0	4048	0	494	0
53	Major Works	354	0	5405	0	14660	0	5080	0	0	0
54	Investments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55	Loan & Advances	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15.00.42	For the benefit of North East & Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	26865	0	5405	0	14660	0	9128	0	494	0

Object headwise actual expenditure during the year 2001-2002

(Rs. in thousands)

Object Head Code	Description	Main Sectt		Soochana Bharti		Prasar Bharti		Total	
		Plan	Non-plan	Plan	Non-plan	Plan	Non-plan	Plan	Non-plan
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Capital Section									
52	Machinery & Equipment	3685	0	0	0	0	0	34718	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
53	Major Works	0	0	18000	0	0	0	43499	0
54	Investments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55	Loan & Advances	0	0	0	0	44001332	0	44001332	0
15.00.42	For the benefit of North East & Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	3665	0	18000	0	44001332	0	44079549	0

Key to Abbreviations

S.No.	Abbreviation	Expanded Form
1.	CBFC	Central Board of Film Certification
2.	FCAT	Film Certification Appellate Tribunal
3.	NFAI	National Film Archive of India
4.	CFSI	Children's Film Society, India
5.	FTII, Pune	Film & Television Institute of India, Pune
6.	DFF	Dte. Of Film Festivals
7.	SRFTI, Kolkata	Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute, Kolkata
8.	IIMC	Indian Institute of Mass Communication
9.	RR & TD	Research, Reference and Training Div.
10.	DAVP	Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity
11.	PIB	Press Information Bureau
12.	PCI	Press Council of India
13.	PTI	Press Trust of India
14.	RNI	Registrar of Newspaper for India
15.	DFP	Directorate of Field Publicity
16.	S & DD	Song and Drama Division
17.	Employ. News	Employment News
18.	IPDC/	International Programme for the Development of Communications
	JMF	Journalists Welfare Fund

Modernisations of Coco and Jubilee Retail Outlets in Madhya Pradesh

2641. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM :

SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA :

SHRI SURENDRA SINGH BARWALA :

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL :

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

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation Limited and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited have fully modernized the 'Coco' and 'Jubilee' retail outlets operating under the contract labour system in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of outlets yet to be modernized; and

(c) the dates on which the agreements regarding commissioning of Jubilee and Coco retail outlets, appointment of labour contractors related interviews and mutual contracts signed between the contractor and the oil company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM NAD NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) had, as on 30.6.2002, the following number of Company Owned Company Operated (COCO) retail outlets and Jubilee Retail Outlets (JROs) in the State of Madhya Pradesh:

	No. of retail outlets	
	COCO	JRO
IOC	23	6
HPCL	4	4

Out of the above, some retail outlets are not fully modernized. Both IOC and HPCL have plans to fully modernize those retail outlets by way of provision of additional facilities at those outlets. The details of the above retail outlets are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Sl. No.	JRO/ COCO	Location	District	Date of commissioning	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
Indian Oil Corporation Limited					
1.	COCO	Bhouri	Bhopal	15.01.1996	–
2.	COCO	Kheria	Guna	24.12.1996	–
3.	COCO	Malanpur	Bhind	31.03.1996	–
4.	COCO	Dhoswas	Ratlam	14.02.2000	–
5.	COCO	Sandiya	Hoshangabad	31.03.2000	–
6.	COCO	Deharda Crossing	Shivpuri	29.07.2000	–
7.	COCO	Dolariya	Hoshangabad	31.03.2000	–
8.	COCO	Dabra Bhitarwar	Gwalior	29.07.2000	–
9.	COCO	Jaora Khachrod	Ratlam	30.08.2000	–
10.	COCO	Talen Nangr	Rajgarh	31.08.2000	–
11.	COCO	Begumganj	Raisen	31.08.2000	–
12.	COCO	Pachore	Rajgarh	29.09.2001	–
13.	COCO	Pohri	Shivpuri	31.03.2001	Not fully modernised
14.	COCO	Satrati	Khargone	29.07.2000	–
15.	COCO	Rajpur	Barwani	30.9.2001	–
16.	COCO	Khirakiya	Harda	31.03.2002	Not fully modernised
17.	COCO	Khachrod	Ujjain	31.03.2002	-do-
18.	COCO	Bankhedi	Hoshangabad	31.03.2002	-do-
19.	COCO	Bandhavgartala	Shahdol	29.09.2000	–
20.	COCO	Kotma	Umaria	29.01.2001	Not fully modernised
21.	COCO	Satna	Satna	29.12.2000	-do-
22.	COCO	Badamalhera	Chhatarpur	28.02.2001	-do-

1	2	3	4	5	6
23.	COCO	Reethi	Katni	31.12.2001	-do-
24.	JRO	Dhamnod	Dhar	30.09.2000	Not fully modernised
25.	JRO	Ratlam Satrunda	Ratlam	30.06.2001	-do-
26.	JRO	Dewas Shajapur	Dewas	30.09.2001	-do-
27.	JRO	Jabalpur	Jabalpur	30.11.2000	-do-
28.	JRO	Sironja	Sagar	31.03.1999	-do-
29.	JRO	Biaora	Rajgarh	29.01.1999	-do-
Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited					
30.	JRO	Arniapitha	Ratlam	31.03.2000	Not fully modernised
31.	JRO	Satarati	Khargaon	30.03.2000	-do-
32.	JRO	Ashta	Sehor	30.03.2000	-do-
33.	COCO	Tewri	Katni	31.03.2000	-do-
34.	COCO	Kola Road	Bhopal	31.12.2000	-do-
35.	COCO	Shajapur	Shajapur	27.02.2002	-do-
36.	COCO	Hoshangabad	Hoshangabad	30.03.2000	–
37.	COCO	Bitoni	Jabalpur	31.01.2000	–

[English]

Golden Quadrilateral Project

2642 SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have announced Golden Quadrilateral Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the work on the said project is likely to be started?

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

(b) The Ministry of Railways has decided to draw up a proposal for strengthening the Golden Quadrilateral and its two diagonals, connecting the four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai. The investment, required for capacity enhancement work on Golden Quadrilateral, has been estimated to be in the range of Rs. 8000 crores. All possible avenues of funding, including multilateral financing and creation of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for mobilising funds, are being explored. The proposal for creation of SPV for Golden Quadrilateral works is presently being processed.

(c) The work, on the sanctioned capacity enhancement works on the Golden Quadrilateral is being progressed as per the availability of resources.

Losses in RSEB

2643. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the annual losses being incurred by Vidyut Board Rajasthan State Electricity Board (R.S.E.B.) at present;

(b) the present consumption of power in Rajasthan and out of it the percentage of power generated in the State by its own resources;

(c) the names of areas from which the remaining supply of power is made; and

(d) the efforts being made by the Government of Rajasthan to attain self-sufficiency in power generation along with the contribution of the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The estimated losses of Rajasthan Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Ltd., for the year 2001-2002 is Rs. 2412 crores.

(b) The total power consumption in Rajasthan during April-June, 2002 was 6132 MU, Energy generation during April-June, 2002 from its own resources in Rajasthan including actual drawl from Joint projects of Chambal-Satpura complex was 2847.2 MU which is 46.6% of the total consumption.

(c) The remaining energy was made available to Rajasthan from common projects of Bhakra and Beas Management Board (BBMB) located in Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, projects of Central Sector Undertakings like the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) located in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan projects of National Hydro Power Corporation (NHPC) located in Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir and also projects of the Nuclear Power Corporation (NPC) located in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan against States share allocation from the respective sources. Besides, assistance from Eastern Region and Western Region was also provided to the State.

(d) Rajasthan has a plan to add Suratgarh-III (250 MW), Ramgarh - II (75.32 MW), Kota - IV (195 MW) and Mathania (140 MW) thermal power stations during Tenth Plan.

[English]

Reduction of Excise Duty on Automobile Parts

2644. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers in a representation to his Ministry has asked the Government to reduce the excise duty from the present 32 to 24 per cent for such vehicles which are widely used in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether taking a note of sluggish growth in automobile sales in the past two years, the Government are considering rationalization of the excise duty on automobile parts;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether his ministry has taken up the matter with the Ministry of Finance.

(f) if so, the response of the Finance Ministry; and

(g) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to make the automobile industry viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHAIRIA) : (a) to (f) In their Pre-Budget memorandum, a copy of which was sent to this Ministry, the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) did not make any specific representation regarding excise duty on vehicles used in the rural areas according to the Ministry of Finance. However, they had represented for duty reduction in general on motorcars and multi utility vehicles from 32% to 24% advalorem. The excise duty rate on automobile parts is 16% advalorem which is the CENVAT rate applicable to most of the commodities.

(g) In order to make the Indian automobile industry viable and globally competitive, government has announced the Auto Policy on 7th March, 2002. To realize the objectives, the Auto Policy lays emphasis on rationalization of duty structure, incentivisation of R & D expenditure, promotion of alternate energy driven vehicles, upgradation and creation of testing infrastructure in the country and harmonization of standards. An Interactive Meeting on the problems and prospects of Indian automobile industry was held with the representatives of automotive industry in June 2002. Emanating from the discussions in this meeting, an Inter Ministerial Committee (IMC) has been constituted to coordinate implementation of the Auto Policy, steer resolution of Inter Ministerial issues and to remove impediments which hinder desired growth of the automobile industry in India. The Committee has already held its first meeting.

Calcutta Metro Rail

2645. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred on the construction of Calcutta Metro Rail and the rate of return as assessed in the project report and the actual rate of return during each of last three years;

(b) the sources of finance of the project and lending rates of the capital borrowed;

(c) the length of railway line of the Calcutta Metro and average number of commuters using the service daily during 2001;

(d) the annual maintenance expenditure including salaries and wages of the employees and annual income from different sources during each of last three years ending 31st March 2002 with surplus/deficit every year; and

(e) the manner in which the deficits are likely to be met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) An expenditure of Rs. 1740 crores has been incurred on the construction of Calcutta Metro Railway from Dum Dum to Tollygunge up to March 2002. The rate of return of the project as per original survey report was 8% by DCF method considering nil interest on the capital. With working loss of Rs. 52 crores during the year 2001-02, the rate of return (ROR) for the year works out to (-) 3% on capital deployed.

(b) Cost of the entire project has been met from dividend free budgetary support received from General Exchequer under the Plan Head "Metropolitan Transport Project". There has been no market borrowing by Railways for meeting the capital cost of the project.

(c) The total length of Calcutta Metro from Dum-Dum to Tollygunge is 16.5 Km. (approx.) An average of 2.1 lakhs commuters per day utilised the metro services during the year 2001.

(d) The annual expenditure and income of the Metro Railway, Kolkata are given as under:

(fig. in crores)

Year	Passenger Earnings	Sundry Other Earnings	Total Earnings	Expenditure	Deficit
99-00	25.50	1.43	26.93	78.25	51.32
00-01	31.95	2.43	34.38	86.89	52.51
01-02	34.25	4.92	39.17	91.18	52.01

(e) Metro Railway's budget being part and parcel of Indian Railways' budget, the net deficit in operation of Metro Railway is covered by other revenues of the Indian Railways.

Performance of Doordarshan

2646. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of viewers, transmission centres and programme Kendras of Doordarshan have increased during the last three years;

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

(c) the total income of the Doordarshan during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Year & Statewise details of transmission centres and studios is given in statement enclosed.

The number of home viewers for DD-1 channel (the National Broadcaster) during the last three years, as estimated by Audience Research Unit of Prasar Bharati, is as follows:

1999 - 362 Million

2000 - 403 Million

2001 - 415 Million

(c) Prasar Bharati has intimated that the gross commercial revenue of Doordarshan, through air time sale, during the last three years is as under:

1999-00 - 597.19 Crores

2000-01 - 637.51 Crores

2001-02 - 615.21 Crores

Statement

Doordarshan Studios and Transmitters

	State/UTs	Studios	Transmitters as on 31/03/2000	Studios	Transmitters as on 31/03/2001	Studios	Transmitters as on 31/03/2002	Studios	Transmitters as on 29/07/2002
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	77	2	84	2	95	2	96
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	45	1	47	1	49	1	49
3.	Assam	4	27	4	28	4	28	4	28
4.	Bihar	4	53	2	34	2	37	2	37
5.	Chhattisgarh	*	*	2	24	2	26	2	26
6.	Goa	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
7.	Gujarat	2	68	2	69	2	69	2	70
8.	Haryana	0	10	0	16	0	19	0	19
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1	43	1	46	1	50	1	50
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	2	47	2	63	3	99	3	106
11.	Jharkhand	*	*	2	23	2	25	2	25
12.	Karnataka	2	50	2	54	2	61	2	62
13.	Kerala	1	27	1	28	2	30	2	30
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2	88	3	72	3	77	3	77
15.	Maharashtra	3	99	3	106	3	111	3	112
16.	Manipur	1	9	1	9	1	9	1	9
17.	Meghalaya	2	8	2	9	2	9	2	9
18.	Mizoram	1	6	1	7	1	8	1	8
19.	Nagaland	1	12	1	13	1	13	1	13
20.	Orissa	2	86	3	92	3	95	3	94
21.	Punjab	1	11	1	11	1	11	1	12
22.	Rajasthan	1	85	1	93	1	100	1	100
23.	Sikkim	0	7	0	7	0	7	0	7
24.	Tamil Nadu	1	45	1	53	1	64	1	65

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
25.	Tripura	1	7	1	7	1	8	1	8
26.	Uttar Pradesh	6	113	6	77	7	85	7	85
27.	Uttaranchal	*	*	0	46	1	49	1	49
28.	West Bengal	3	28	3	33	3	34	3	34
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	13	1	13	1	13	1	14
30.	Chandigarh	0	2	0	2	1	2	1	2
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1
32.	Daman and Diu	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	2
33.	Delhi	2	4	2	4	2	4	2	4
34.	Lakshadweep	0	10	0	10	0	10	0	10
35.	Pondicherry	1	5	1	5	1	6	1	6
	Total	49	1090	53	1190	58	1308	58	1321

* The 3 states of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal were created in November 2000.

[Translation]

LPG Agencies in West Bengal

2647. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for selecting locations and dealers for allotment of gas agencies;

(b) the details of the locations identified in West Bengal for sanctioning new gas agencies; and

(c) the details of the gas agencies in the State approved during the last three years alongwith those that are likely to be approved during the current year location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The following criteria are adopted for selecting locations to set up economically viable LPG distributorships in different parts of the country by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs):

(i) All urban locations with a population of 10,000 and above by including potential of adjoining villages falling within the radius of 15 Kms.

(ii) Urban locations having population of 5,000 and above taking into account the potential of adjoining villages falling within 15 Kms radius.

(iii) Cluster of villages within 15 Kms radius of nucleus villages having a population of 10,000 and above.

(iv) Villages within 15 Kms radius around towns having population of 1 lakh and above.

The locations identified as above are advertised by OMCs and the selection of distributors is made as per laid down procedure by each company.

(b) and (c) As on 1.6.2002, OMCs have commissioned 42 LPG distributorships out of 167 locations identified by OMCs for setting up of LPG distributorships in West Bengal under various Marketing Plans. It is not possible to indicate the exact number of LPG distributorships likely to be commissioned during the current year. It generally takes 6-12 months for commissioning the distributorship after the date of interview.

[English]

Earnings from Commercial Publicity

2648. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total earnings made by the Railways from commercial publicity during 2001-2002; and

(b) the steps taken to earn more through commercial publicity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Rs. 41.76 crores.

(b) The Railways have adopted a pro active approach by giving newspaper advertisements, publishing information brochures, conducting meetings with advertising companies from time to time and establishing direct contact with prospective sponsors. Besides, steps have been taken for reassessment of value of sites, revision of rates and identification of new locations.

Performance of State Sector Power Projects

2649. SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been detailed discussions with each of the States regarding the targets to be added in the current Plan;

(b) if so, whether the States have given their commitment for completion of the projects that have been identified in the discussions;

(c) whether the targets have been fixed for achievement during the current Five Year Plan;

(d) whether some States have shown satisfactory performance in the State Sector Projects during the Ninth Plan; and

(e) if so, the names of such States along with their projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Detailed discussions were carried out with each of the States and its utilities before deciding on the projects to be commissioned in the 10th Plan and the States have given their commitment for completion of these projects. The list of identified projects were recently reviewed in a National Conference on Capacity Addition for the 10th and 11th Five Year Plans, held on 8-9 July, 2002. The Energy Secretaries and Chairman of the State Electricity Boards/Utilities had participated in this Conference.

For the 10th Plan, the target for capacity addition is about 41,000 MW and an addition of 3000 MW is expected from renewables.

(d) and (e) The performance of the State Sector was commendable in the Ninth Plan and they achieved 88% of their target. The list of State Sector projects which were commissioned in the Ninth Plan is enclosed as statement.

Statement

State Sector Projects commissioned during 9th Plan (All figs. in MW)

State Sector	'97-98	'98-99	'99-00
1	2	3	4
Northern Region			
i. Bhatinda (Punjab)	210	210	
ii. Suratgarh (Rajasthan)		250	250
iii. Tanda (U.P.)	110		
iv. Upper Sindh (J.K.)			35
v. Sobla (U.P.)		6	
Western Region			
i. Kutch Lignite (Gujarat)	75		
ii. Gandhinagar (Gujarat)	210		
iii Wanakbori (Gujarat)		210	
iv. Sanjay Gandhi Extn. (M.P.)		210	210
v. Chandrapur (Maha.)	500		
vi. Kandana (Guj.)		60	
vii. Rajghat (M.P.)			45
viii. Koyna-IV (Mah.)		250	750
ix. Warna (Maha.)	8	8	
x. Dudhaganga (Maha.)			24

1		2	3	4
Southern Region & Island				
i.	Kothagudem-IV (A.P.)	250		
ii.	Raichur (Karnataka)		210	210
iii	Barhampuram (Kerala)	80	20	
iv.	Kozhikode (Kerala)			128
v.	Karikal (Pondicherry)		22.9	9.6
vi.	Singur (A.P.)			15
vii.	Kallnadi-Kodasalli (Karnataka)	50	180	40
viii.	Bhadra (Karnataka)	6		
ix.	Lower Periyar (Kerala)	120		
x.	Kakkad (Kerala)			50
xi.	Poringal Kuthu (Kerala)		16	
xii.	Lower Bhawani (T.N.)	8		
xiii.	Sathnur Dam (T.N.)		7.5	
xiv.	Kunda-V Extn. (T.N.)			30
Eastern Region				
i.	Bakreshwar (W.B.)			210
ii	Eastern Gandak (Bihar)	5		
iii.	Upper Indravati (Orissa)			300
iv.	Teesta Canal (W.B.)	30	15	22.5
North Eastern Region				
i.	Rokhla (Tripura)	8		
ii.	Nuranang (Ar. Pradesh)	6		

State Sector		2000-01	2001-02
1		2	3
Northern Region			
i.	Panipat (Haryana)	210	
ii.	Ghanvi (H.P.)	2x11.25	
iii	Thein Dam (Punjab)	4x150	
iv.	Pragati CCPP (Delhi		104.6
v.	Chennai III (J&K)	7.5	
vi.	Upper Sindh (J&K)		70
vii.	Sewa-III (J&K)		9
viii.	Suratgarh (Raj.)		500
Western Region			
i.	Khaperkheda (Mah.)	2x210	
ii.	Bansagar Ton (M.P.)	20	35
iii.	Hazira		156.1
Southern Region & Island			
i.	Kovilkalappal (T.N.)	107	
ii.	Srisailam (A.P.)	150	300
iii	Sharavati (Karnataka)	60	180
iv.	Kuttiyadi Extn. (Kerala)	50	
v.	Kolpaong (A&N Islands)		5.2
vi.	DG (A&N Islands)	5.72	
vii.	DG (Lakshadweep)	3.05	
Eastern Region			
i.	Bakreshwar (W.B.)	2x210	
ii.	Upper Indravati (Orissa)	2x150	
North Eastern Region			
i.	Leimkhong DG (Manipur)		18
ii.	Likim Ro (Nagaland)		16

Finance for Power Reforms

2650. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have appointed any Committee to look into the question of arranging finance for the power sector for the Tenth and Eleventh Plans for reforms in the power sector;

(b) if so, the details regarding its recommendations; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The Government has appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of former Chairman - cum - Managing Director of Power Finance Corporation to estimate the overall fund requirements for achieving the goal of "Power on Demand by 2012". The other terms of reference of this Committee are to estimate the investments to be made by Central and State Power Utilities, identifying sources of funds to meet the investment requirements and to suggest institutional and other policy measures needed in order to achieve the desired goal. The Committee is yet to submit its recommendations to the Government.

[Translation]

Telecast of Health Telefilm on Doordarshan

2651. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a telefilm depicting on health programme was prepared by the government for televising on Doordarshan;

(b) if so, whether the said programme could not be telecast till date;

(c) if so, the date from which the said programme is likely to be televised; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A tele-film entitled 'Aatmaja' on female foeticide produced by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has already been telecast on DD-I Channel of Doordarshan and six other Kendras.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Track Fracture Near Padugupadu Railway Station

2652. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a gap was noticed in the rail track near Padugupadu railway station in Nellore under South Central Railways on July 10, 2002 when Lucknow-Chennai Express was about to pass that spot on the track;

(b) if so, the reasons for the faulty maintenance of rail track in that area;

(c) whether the railway staff were unaware of this track fracture; and

(d) if so, the action initiated against the staff responsible for track maintenance in that area?

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

(b) Track maintenance in the area is not faulty. Sometimes, rail fractures occur all of a sudden. Ultrasonic testing of this track was done as per stipulated frequency and no flaw was noticed at this location.

(c) It is true that the crack was noticed by an outsider crossing the track at 7.35 am before the keyman could reach the location during his daily inspection.

(d) Does not arise.

Constitutional Review Committee

2653. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the progress of work done by the Constitutional Review Committee appointed by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the Review Committee expected to submit its report to the Government; and

(d) the objective and scope entrusted to the Review Committee as per terms of reference?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY) : (a) to (c) The National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (NCRWC) has already submitted its report to the Government on 31 March, 2002.

(d) As per its terms of reference, the Commission was mandated to examine, in the light of the past 50 years, as to how best the constitution could respond to the changing needs of efficient, smooth and effective system of

governance and socio-economic development of modern India within the framework of Parliamentary democracy and to recommend changes, if any, that were required in the provisions of the Constitution without interfering with its basic structure or features.

Launching of 24 Hour AIR News Channel

2654. SHRI GUNIPATHI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to introduce twenty four hour news and current affairs channel on radio either AM/FM or both; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Prasar Bharati has no proposal to start a 24 hours News and Current Affairs Channel on All India Radio, either AM/FM or both.

(b) Does not arise.

Power Generation by Wind, Solar and Tidal Energy

2655. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the power generation capacity added through various non-conventional energy sources during 2000-2001;

(b) the share of wind, solar and tidal power in the total power generated through these sources;

(c) the details of various incentives given to private power producers in setting up non-conventional energy power projects; and

(d) the amount sanctioned and spent in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) A power generation capacity of nearly 340 MW was added through non-conventional energy sources during 2000-01. The share of wind power was 51 % and the share of solar power projects was less than 1 %. No tidal power project has so far been set up in the country.

(c) and (d) Fiscal and financial incentives such as relief in taxes and duties, accelerated depreciation and soft loans are available. Conducive policies have also been introduced by several States to attract private sector participation. Central financial assistance amounting to Rs.19.17 crores was provided during 2000-01 for private sector non-conventional energy power projects.

Technical Standards for Set-Top Boxes

2656. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether her ministry had asked the BIS to frame specifications for "Set-Top Boxes" as reported in the Hindu dated July 14, 2002;

(b) if so, whether the Bureau of Indian Standards has drawn up technical standards for 'set-top boxes';

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any committee has been set up to suggest specifications therefor;

(e) if so, whether the said committee has submitted its report; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2002, passed by Lok Sabha on 15.5.2002, inter-alia, provides for installation of equipment required for transmission/ retransmission of programmes of pay channels, through an addressable system, whose specifications are to be finalised by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

(b) and (c) The Bureau of Indian Standards has finalised the technical specifications - one for Analog Set Top Box and other for Digital Set Top Box.

(d) to (f) An expert Panel on Cabled Distribution System, LTD 20/P7 was functioning under Radio Communication Sectional Committee, LTD 20 of BIS. This Panel had prepared the draft technical standards for Set Top Box which were considered and finalised by the Radio Communication Sectional Committee, LTD 20 at its meeting held on 12 July 2002.

Beautification of Sub-Urban Railway Stations

2657. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Railway has taken up any special programme of beautification of Sub-urban railway stations recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of action plan finalised by the Government in this regard;

(d) the estimated cost likely to be incurred thereon; and

(e) the time by which the work on the said project is likely to be started?

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

(b) Encroachments/vendors obstructing free movement of passengers at entrance of stations have been removed. Improvements have also been brought out in the aesthetics and looks of the stations through continued maintenance work. Further, beautification of sub-urban stations is being done by development of gardens on either ends of platforms.

(c) The annual repairs, improvement and maintenance is a continuous process. To further beautify, till date 98 gardens have been developed. Of these, the maintenance of gardens at Vikhroli and Ghatkopar have been handed over to non-Government organisations.

(d) While the expenditure on annual repairs and maintenance is a continuous process, the estimated cost of one garden varies from Rs. 20,000/- to Rs. 50,000/- depending upon the size of garden.

(e) The work of maintenance and beautification is in progress. 98 gardens have already been developed to beautify the stations.

Restructuring of Assam State Electricity Board

2658. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps initiated to restructure the Assam State Electricity Board;

(b) whether any guidelines in this regard have been given by the Union Government to the Government of Assam; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Government of Assam had appointed Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad (ASCI) to conduct a study on reforms and restructuring of Assam State Electricity Board. ASCI has already submitted their report to Government of Assam. Government of Assam had also issued a policy paper on reforms and restructuring envisaging establishment of Assam Power Corporation to carry out generation and transmission, two Distribution Companies for distribution and Assam Rural Electrification Corporation for electrification of rural areas.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Power has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Government of Assam to affirm joint commitment of the two parties to reform the power sector in Assam. In the MOU, Government of Assam committed to set up a State Electricity Regulatory Commission, undertake energy audit to reduce system losses, complete metering and bring down the receivables of ASEB.

VRS IN BSCL

2659. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSCL recently allowed to its existing employees in various units to go in for VRS on payment of 100% benefit which covers effect on settlement of charter of demands due from 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the employees who were in service during 1995 and onwards and since superannuated, are entitled to get the benefits of the settlement on C.O.D. due from 1995; and

(d) if not, the justification given by the BSCL in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Burn Standard Company Limited (BSCL) vide their circular dated 7.12.2001 allowed its employees to avail the benefit of increased ex-gratia payment of 100% only for the employees who were opting for VRS and whose pay scales had not been revised since 1.1.1987.

(b) A copy of the BSCL's circular dated 7.12.2001 is enclosed as statement.

(c) and (d) The benefits of increased ex-gratia is available only to employees availing VRS and not to normal retirees. The payment of additional 100% ex-gratia to the VR optees encourage the existing employees to avail themselves of the benefits of Voluntary Retirement Scheme. The Voluntary Retirement Scheme having no connection with settlement of C.O.D., the employees who super-annuated after the year 1995 are not entitled to the benefit under this scheme.

Statement

Copy of BSCL's Circular No. Ref.PSL/VRS/777 Dt.07.12.2001

Notice

In order to provide opportunity to the employees of all Units/Offices of Burn Standard Company Limited, the following Voluntary Retirement Schemes as modified are hereby reopened with the following benefits which shall remain in operation till 31st December, 2001.

1. The option of the Gujarat or DHI Pattern shall be available to an employee whose voluntary retirement is accepted.

A. **Voluntary Retirement Scheme on Gujarat Pattern (Option I)**

(a) One month's /three months' Notice Pay as per terms of appointment applicable in each case which shall include Basic Pay & DA only. No other allowance or benefit will be counted for this purpose.

(b) Cash value of unavailed Privilege Leave/ Earned leave to the extent such leave can be accumulated in terms of the rules.

(c) Cash value of unavailed Casual Leave pro-rata till the date of separation under this Scheme.

(d) Payment of full share of employer's contribution to the Provident Fund along with the employees's own share including interest on total accumulation.

(e) Gratuity as admissible under the Payment of Gratuity Act., 1972.

(e) In addition, an employee whose request of voluntary retirement is accepted, shall also be entitled to a compensation, which will consist of salary (Basic +DA) of 35 days for every completed year of service and 25 days for each balance year of service left until superannuation at the age of 58 years. The compensation will be subject to minimum of Rs.25000/- or 250 days' salary, whichever is higher. However, this compensation including Notice Pay shall not exceed the sum of the salary that the employee would draw at the prevailing level for the balance of the period left before the age of superannuation.

(g) In addition, the employee and his family would also be entitled to travel by the entitled class to the place where he intends settling down. Entitlement will include transportation cost of personal effects as may be admissible in the case of superannuation/retirement.

The employee will not be eligible to claim any other compensation/benefit in any form whatsoever arising out of such retirement.

(B) **Voluntary Retirement Scheme on DHI Pattern (Option II)**

(a) One month's/three months' Notice Pay as per terms of appointment applicable in each case which shall include Basic Pay & DA only. No other allowance or benefit will be counted for this purpose.

(b) Cash value of unavailed Privilege Leave/ Earned Leave to the extent such leave can be accumulated in terms of the rules.

(c) Payment of full share of employers contribution to the Provident Fund along with the employees own share including interest on total accumulation.

(d) Gratuity as admissible under the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972.

(e) In addition, an employee whose request for voluntary retirement is accepted, would be entitled to an ex-gratia payment equivalent to 45 days' emoluments (Basic Pay + DA) for each completed year of service or the monthly emoluments at the time of retirement on attaining 58 years of age multiplied by the balance months of service left before normal date of retirement, whichever is less.

All those who have completed not less than 30 years of service, will be eligible for a maximum of 60 (sixty) months' salary/wage as compensation. This will be subject to the amount not exceeding the salary/wage including notice pay for the balance period of service left at the rate of monthly salary/wage at the time of voluntary retirement.

(f) In addition, the employee and his family would also be entitled to travel by the entitled class to the place where he intends settling down. Entitlement will include transportation cost of personal effects as may be admissible in the case of superannuation/ retirement.

The employee will not be eligible to claim any other compensation/benefit in any form whatsoever arising out of such retirement.

2. The salary/wage for VRS under both the above options shall be calculated on the basis of 30 days in a month and not 26 days. Consequently the method of calculations of Ex-gratia for both the schemes shall be similar.

3. Ex-gratia payment in respect of employees on pay scales at 01.01.87 and 01.01.92 levels, computed on their existing pay scales in accordance with the extant Scheme, shall be increased by 100% and 50% respectively.

4. An eligible employee, desiring to opt under this Scheme may submit his application in Form A for voluntary retirement to the Competent Authority through proper channel.

5. The Company however, reserves the right to withdraw, alter and/or amend any of the conditions of the Scheme at any time, at its discretion without assigning any reason whatsoever as also to accept or reject any application.

6. The Competent Authority for accepting the offers of voluntary retirement shall be the Managing Director in all cases.

7. Clarification given in DPE's OM No.2(32)97-DPE(WC)GL-XXXV dated 08.12.2000 stands modified in consequence of the foregoing.

8. The employees who have already been released by the Company before the date of issue of this notice, shall not be covered under the modified scheme.

9. Once an employee avails himself of voluntary retirement from the Company, he shall not be allowed to take up employment in another PSU. If he desires to do so, he shall have to return the VRS compensation received by him to the PSU concerned. Where the compensation was paid out of a Government grant the PSU concerned shall remit the refunded amount to the Government. In case the PSU is already closed/merged, the VR compensation shall be returned directly to the Government.

10. All other provisions of the DPE guidelines dated 05.05.2000 are to continue.

[Translation]

Promr ion Scheme

2660. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the .allways have implemented the ACP Scheme to its employees for two automatic promotion in his carrier;

(b) if so, the criteria/norms fixed for giving such benefit to the employees;

(c) the number of employees benefited by the said scheme;

(d) whether some employees of Railways have been/are being deprived from the ACP Scheme;

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

(f) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Yes, Sir. Assured Career Progression (ACP) Scheme has been introduced in the Railways with effect from 1.10.99. The Scheme envisages up to two financial upgradations to Railway employees in their entire Railway service career subject to certain conditions.

(b) Under this scheme, one financial upgradation each is granted after 12 years and 24 years of regular service respectively subject to fulfilment of normal promotion norms such as bench mark, trade test, departmental examination, etc. The scheme is applicable to Group 'B', 'C' and 'D' services / posts and isolated posts in Group 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' categories. Certain categories of employees such as casual employees (including those with the temporary status), substitutes, ad hoc and contract employees are not entitled for the benefits under ACP scheme. Two financial upgradations under the ACP scheme will not be available to those who have already got two regular promotions. If an employee has already got one regular promotion, he shall qualify for one financial upgradation on completion of 24 years of regular service.

(c) Approximately 41,000 Railway employees have been benefited by the ACP Scheme since its inception. As this is an on-going process, the number will keep on increasing from time to time.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Reduction of Sales Tax on Aviation Fuel

2661. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA:

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have sent a proposal to the State Governments to abolish or reduce the sales tax on the aviation fuel;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the States which have accepted this proposal along with the reasons for not accepting this proposal by the remaining States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Ministry of Civil Aviation had requested the State Governments to exempt/reduce the sales tax on aviation turbine fuel (ATF) in September 1997. However, this request was not agreed to by the State Government because of their apprehension regarding the adverse impact of such a decision on their revenues.

[English]

Budgetary Support to PSUs

2662. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM:

SHRI SUBODH ROY:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the budgetary support given by the Government to the PSUs during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the contribution of PSUs to the Central exchequer during the said period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) The budgetary support given by the Government to the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and the contribution of CPSEs to the Central Exchequer in terms of Dividend, Interest, Taxes & Duties in the last three years i.e, 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 the latest period for which information is available, are as under:

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	Budgetary Support	Contribution to Central Exchequer
1998-1999	4250	46934
1999-2000	4529	56157
2000-2001	4472	60978

The details are given in Volume-I of Public Enterprises Survey, 2000-01 which was laid in the Parliament on 7.3.2002 and is a published document.

[Translation]

Financial Allocation for Construction of High Court Building

2663. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal from the Government of Chhattisgarh regarding financial allocation for construction of High Court building and residential units for the Hon'ble Judges and other officers/staff in Bilaspur city has been lying pending with the Union Government for the last four months;

(b) if so, the time by which the approval of the Union Government for the proposed plan is likely to be given; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) A proposal for an amount of Rs.37.87 crore has been received from the State Government of Chhattisgarh for construction of High Court and residential complex of Judges, officers and employees.

(b) and (c) Government of Chhattisgarh has been released an amount of Rs.54 lakhs for this purpose in March, 2002. Planning Commission has allocated an amount of Rs.18.00 crore during the current financial year for construction/extension of High Court building and the use of information technology in High Courts in various States under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme relating to development of infrastructural facilities for judiciary on the basis of 50% matching share by the concerned State. The

amount to be released, High Court-wise, has not yet been decided. However, priority will be accorded to redressing the infrastructural deficiencies of the newly established High Court of Chhattisgarh.

The Government of Chhattisgarh is free to construct Judges residences with the funds released to them under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of infrastructural facilities for the judiciary. Construction of residential quarters for officers and employees of the High Court is not a permissible item under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

[English]

Expansion of Railway Network in Agartala

2664. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to link Agartala with other parts of the country with the rail network by 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) The work of new line from Kumarghat to Agartala is in progress, which on completion will provide rail connectivity to Agartala. Kumarghat-Manu is targeted for completion during 2002-2003. No target date for the whole project has yet been fixed. The line would be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

(c) Earthwork, bridgeworks and other works on the entire length have been taken up and are in various stages of progress. An outlay of Rs.80 cr. has been provided during 2002-2003 to expedite progress.

[Translation]

Vacancies of Judges in Subordinate Courts of India

2665. DR. BALIRAM:

SHRI SURESH KURUP:

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

(a) the number of existing vacancies of judges in the subordinate courts of India;

(b) whether the Government has any plan to fill the vacancies;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government plans to share the expenditure with the States in raising the funds for it; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) As per the available information, there are 2216 vacant posts of judges and magistrates in the Subordinate Courts in the country.

(b) and (c) Filling up of the vacant posts of judges/ magistrates at the District and Subordinate Courts is the concern of the respective High Courts and the State Governments. Appointment of District Judges and other judges of the subordinate courts is made by the Governor of the State in consultation with the High Court exercising jurisdiction in relation to such State under the provisions of articles 233-234 of the Constitution of India.

The Supreme Court, vide its judgment dated 21.3.2002, in All India Judges Association & Ors Vs. Union of India & Ors, has directed that the existing vacancies in the Subordinate Courts at all levels should be filled, if possible latest by 31st March, 2003, in all the States.

The Central Government have been periodically urging all the State Governments/Union Territories and the High Courts to accord utmost priority to filling up of vacant posts of judges and magistrates. The Minister of Law and Justice has written to the Chief Justices of all High Courts and Chief Ministers of all States on 26.4.2002 for ensuring compliance of the aforesaid order of the Supreme Court dated the 21st March, 2002.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Latest Technology by PGCIL in Power Distribution

2666. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Grid Corporation proposes to bring the latest technology in the distribution of power;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the adoption of latest technology by Power Grid Corporation is going to reduce T&D losses in power sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) has been appointed as Advisor-cum-Consultant for assigned distribution circles in different states under Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme (APDRP). PGCIL is assisting State Electricity Boards in formulating the schemes for upgradation of existing T & D system, where special emphasis is being given for utilization of latest technology in metering, distribution transforms, computerized billing, SCADA-DMS, Trouble Shooting, Cell Management, and renovation & modernization of sub-stations, transmission and distribution lines, etc. In some of the circles, implementation of state-of-art technology of Automatic Data Management System to improve the overall efficiency in both technical parameters and revenue realisation is also being considered.

(c) The adoption of latest technology will help in gradual reduction of technical losses and will also reduce commercial losses through use of high accuracy energy meters, proper energy accounting and auditing. This will also improve the quality of power through reduction in break-downs, improvement in voltage control and frequency fluctuations.

Production of Mines

2667. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board of Inquiry constituted to review the production of mines by the Ammunition Factory, Khadki has in its report *inter alia* pointed out that the mines produced at the factory had design defects and bad components;

(b) if so, the details of the findings and the recommendations made by the Board of Inquiry;

(c) the corrective measures suggested and the action taken by the Government thereon;

(d) whether the production of mines at the factory has been stopped; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Ammunition Factory Khadki (AFK) was not producing mines, but only fuze for Mine Anti Tank. A Board of Enquiry was constituted to investigate the causes of an accident which occurred in the factory on 11.12.2001 during preparation of such a fuze. The Board of Enquiry identified improper moulding of plastic material of shear washer as the most probable cause of the accident. The Board of Enquiry suggested stringent quality control of outsourced plastic items and strict adherence to specified drill for proof as remedial measures to avoid recurrence. These corrective measures have been implemented.

(d) and (e) The production of these fuzes was stopped after the accident. The production will recommence after availability of sufficient quantity of outsourced components duly quality audited.

Supply of LNG by Iran

2668. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:

SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI:

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

(a) whether Iran had agreed to supply Liquid Natural Gas to India through pipeline by the end of 2002;

(b) if so, whether Iran has now proposed to supply the LNG through ship; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which it is likely to be delivered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, under Indo-Iran Bilateral Co-operation there is a proposal to explore on-shore as well as offshore gas pipeline and Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) options for import of natural gas from Iran to India. For the pipeline project Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) from India and National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) from Iran have been nominated as nodal agencies by the respective Governments. Time frame for Indo-Iran pipeline project can only be known after

the techno-economic viability of this project, based on Detailed Feasibility Report, is established.

Autonomy in the Working of Oil Companies

2669. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY:

DR. ASHOK PATEL:

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to give more autonomy to the working of public sector oil companies in view of furthering the process of economic liberalisation;

(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 MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) After the dismantling of Administered Price Mechanism (APM), with effect from 1.4.2002, Government have taken the following decisions to enhance the autonomy in the functioning of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs):

(i) OMCs are free to decide the retail price of Motor Spirit, High Speed Diesel & Aviation Turbine Fuel, as per their commercial considerations.

(ii) OMCs have been given power to select the dealers /distributors as per their own procedure.

(iii) Various restrictive orders on the marketing of transportation fuels and LPG marketing have been withdrawn.

(iv) Navratna PSU's enjoy operational autonomy under Navratna dispensation.

[English]

Bodo Regiment

2670. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have contemplated to raise a separate Bodo Regiment in Indian Army on the pattern of Naga Regiment, aiming at reducing militancy menace in the Bodoland Territory by way of inducting between 5000 and 10,000 Bodo youths in Indian Army;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) There is no proposal to raise a separate Bodo Regiment in the Indian Army.

(b) and (c) The present policy of the Government is not to raise any new regiment on the basis of a particular class, creed, community, religion or region, but to have an Army in which all Indians have representation.

Checking up of Power Theft

2671. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether to check power theft many SEBs are installing Chinese make power meters at consumer premises;

(b) if so, whether the Government have issued any standardization norms for such meters for uniform compliance by all States and SEBs;

(c) whether the cost of new meters is to be borne by the consumer or to be provided free in replacement by the SEBs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The SEBs are installing meters at consumers premises which may also include Chinese-make power meters depending on whether they comply with the specifications.

The Central Electricity Authority and the Committee of Experts have prepared standard specifications for electro-mechanical meters as well as electronic meters. The same have been circulated to the State power utilities for uniform compliance.

The Policy regarding charging the consumer the cost of meters or providing free replacement differs from one SEB to another.

Regional Programmes on Doordarshan

2672. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether more regional programmes proposed to be shown on Doordarshan so as to enable non-residents to view these programmes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken to promote and telecast the regional programmes by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that nine regional channels of Doordarshan telecast programmes in their respective regional languages. The signals are beamed through satellites, which have the foot-print all over the country, including some neighbouring countries. The programmes of these channels can be seen through the cable network. In addition, Kashir Channel and North-East Channel telecast programmes in various languages and dialects to cater to regional audiences.

Import of Crude Oil from Middle East Countries

2673. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the average import of crude oil by India from the Middle East countries in a year;

(b) the difference paid annually in comparison with the European and American countries;

(c) whether the Union Government have ever taken up this matter with the Oil producing countries in the Middle East; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The crude oil import by PSU oil companies from Middle East countries for the year 2001-02 was 28.563 million metric tonnes out of total crude oil import of 44.878 million metric tonnes.

(b) No comparison of the difference paid annually in comparison to European & American countries can be made due to multiple grades of crude oil involved.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Entry of Hooligans in Reserved Bogies for Women

2674. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of misbehave with women after entering into reserved bogies for women in trains have increased;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government on the complaints;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide additional railway police on railway platforms; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. This Ministry has no such proposal. Government Railway Police functions under the control of the respective State Governments and ... provision of additional police personnel on Railway p ..orms is the responsibility of these Governments.

[English]

Food Plazas

2675. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the number of food plazas being opened so far in the country by Railways at Railway Stations, State-wise and Station-wise including Karnataka State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): Two food plazas, one at Pune and the other at Chennai has started functioning in the current year. A total of 50 food plazas have been planned on Indian Railways, subject to availability of land and suitable operators. Out of these two food plazas are planned at Mysore and Bangalore in the State of Karnataka.

[Translation]

Creating of All India Judicial Service

2676. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for creating All India Judicial Services like Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and Indian Police Service (IPS) 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 LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per the recommendations of the Law Commission of India, the directions of the Supreme Court of India in All India Judges Association case (W.P. No.1022/89) and the guidelines recommended by the First National Judicial Pay Commission, creation of All India Judicial Service has been under consideration of the Government for a long time. Since the creation of an All India Judicial Service would require co-operation of the State Governments and High Courts, views and comments of the State Governments/High Courts were sought. State Governments of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and High Court of J&K have not yet sent their comments in this regard. Further, creation of All India Judicial Service will require a Resolution in the Rajya Sabha to be passed by not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting, followed by an appropriate enactment by Parliament under article 312 of the Constitution of India. The National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution has not recommended the creation of the All India Judicial Service. Thus, no time frame can be fixed for final decision in this regard.

[English]

Production of Petroleum Products

2677. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for the production of petro-products during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the target during the plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The estimated availability of petro-products during the Tenth Five Year Plan is 660.144 million metric tonnes. No targets of production have been fixed as such.

(b) The refining industry was de-licenced in June, 1998. Hence, additional refining capacity can be set up by companies as per their requirement. Government has approved 3 new grass root refineries at Bina of 6 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA), at Paradeep of 9 MMTPA and at Bhatinda of 9 MMTPA. The expansion programmes of 3 existing refineries are under implementation.

Outstanding Dues of Maharashtra

2678. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Board has not settled the outstanding dues of Maharashtra bearing on Government Railway Police despite submission of audit certificate;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) the outstanding amount of Maharashtra against the Western, Northern, Central and South Central Railways as on date; and

(d) the time by which the said amount is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Out of the Government Railway Police claim of Rs. 63.76 crores received from Government of Maharashtra:

(i) Bills amounting to Rs. 63.09 crores are without Audit certificates from Accountant General.

(ii) Only bills amounting to Rs. 0.67 crores are with audit certification. However, these include bills for Rs. 0.23 crores on account of excess operation of posts without sanction and hence are not admissible.

(iii) The balance amount of Rs. 0.44 crores has since been paid.

(c) A statement is attached.

(d) Payment against admissible bills which are certified by audit will be released after necessary scrutiny.

Statement

(c) Northern Railway does not fall under the jurisdiction of State of Maharashtra. However, outstanding claims of State of Maharashtra on this account against the concerned Railways are as under:

(Figures in crores of Rs.)

Railways	Total	Without Audit certificate, other details	With Audit certificate
Central	54.97	54.97	-
South Central	-	-	
South Eastern	1.18	0.51	0.67
Western	7.61	7.61	
Total	63.76	63.09	0.67

Infiltration through Coast

2679. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Konkan Coast: 600 KM invitation to terror" appearing in the Indian Express dated July 9, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereon; and

(c) the manner in which the Government propose to check terrorists infiltration in the country through the long Konkan coast?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) A merchant ship reported sighting of an abandoned merchant ship 'MV Al Murtada' on 3rd July, 2002 in position 84 nautical miles west of Ratnagiri (110 nautical miles south of Mumbai). Coast Guard Ship Vijaya was sailed to monitor the movements of the vessel and boarded her on 6th July, 2002 and subsequently anchored the ship about 5 nautical miles of Devgarh (155 nautical miles south of Mumbai). During the preliminary search of the vessel, two AK 47 rifles with words "ALLAH" and "YUSUF" inscribed in Urdu were recovered. On further rummaging, 3 loaded magazines of AK 47 bore (74 rounds) were also recovered. An Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team of Navy also embarked the ship on 9th July, 2002 to sanitise the vessel of any explosives. None were found. As intimated by International Maritime Bureau the last owner of the ship is Mr. Assem Nidal Bealni, Lebanon.

The surveillance and patrolling off the West coast is jointly done by the Indian Navy and Coast Guard. Besides, Indian Coast Guard has institutionalised a system wherein merchant ships transiting through the Indian maritime zones are encouraged to pass information in case any suspicious vessel is sighted.

Rationalisation of Longer Carried Routes

2680. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Northern Railway and Western Railway administration failed to recommend to Railway Board rationalisation of longer carried routes for cement clinker and foodgrain traffic in compliance of Board's directive of February, 1976 reiterated from time to time and this lapse resulted in loss of revenue of Rs. 40.14 crores;

(b) if so, whether such facts reveal on C.A.G's Report No.9 of 2002;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) No recommendation had been received from Northern and Western Railway to rationalise longer carried routes for cement clinker and foodgrain traffic during 1996-2001. Rationalisation via any longer route is done after considering all relevant factors including the capability of the traffic to bear the extra cost and likelihood of its diversion to alternative modes of transportation thereby causing heavy loss of revenue to Railways. The movement of traffic was in accordance with existing Railway rules.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A summary of the cases as brought out by Audit and CAG Report 9 of 2002 to the notice of Railway Administration are given as below:

The Audit has made a reference to the Railways about loss of revenue due to the movement of loose clinker and cement traffic regularly in train load from cement siding/stations on Central Railway to destination on Northern Railway booked by the shortest route but actually carried by the longer route. In its Action Taken Note, Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) has intimated that cement being high profit yielding commodity for Railway, rationalisation of longer route would have definitely resulted in loss of traffic which the Railway could not afford. It was pointed out that cement traffic could have easily diverted to road if charged via longer route.

Audit has also pointed out loss on account of movement of foodgrain traffic booked by Food Corporation of India (FCI) from various stations of Northern Railway to stations on Western Railway. The traffic was moved via longer route due to operational constraints including reversal of locomotives which was involved in movement via shorter route.

(d) Since rationalisation of traffic via longer route could have diverted the traffic to alternate mode of transport in highly competitive scenario, rationalization via longer route was not proposed.. The traffic continues to move via longer route though charging is done via shortest route in accordance to Rule 125 of Goods Tariff part I, Volume I.

Track Renewal

2681. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether railway accidents are taking place due to poor condition of the railway tracks and the railways are finding it difficult to change the tracks due to cartelisation of the manufacturers of cement sleeper;

(b) if so, the steps taken to overcome the cartelisation of cement sleeper manufacturers;

(c) whether there is any proposal to use the steel sleepers in its place; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. The present production capacity for manufacturing Concrete Sleepers is adequate to meet the Railway's requirement. There is no proposal to use Steel Sleepers at present.

(d) Does not arise.

Marker System

2682. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:

SHRI C.N. SINGH:

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Centre for Service and Environment (CSE) has raised some doubts on the new marker system; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No such report has been received by the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Strategic Oil Reserves

2683. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

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

(a) whether FICCI has proposed building of a strategic oil reserve of India to withstand future oil stocks;

(b) if so, whether FICCI has also suggested that 15 days should be the starting point and building it in phases;

(c) if so, whether his Ministry is also working on the same lines;

(d) if so, whether the Government have estimated the cost of acquisition and storage of oil; and

(e) if so, the detailed strategy chalked out by his Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) As per available information, FICCI is conducting a study on the subject.

(c) to (e) Government are considering to provide strategic tankage for crude oil gradually in phases with a view to achieve a total of 45 days' cover. Government have received the Detailed Feasibility Reports for underground concrete storage tanks for the storage of crude oil. No final decision has been taken as yet.

Clearance of Hydel Power Projects

2684. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to convene a meeting with International Finance Institution and Multilateral agencies to explore the possibility of making finance available at low rates on long terms basis for hydel power projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have identified hydel projects and intend to provide a time bound clearance mechanism;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which such projects are likely to be started; and

(e) the incentives and encouragements being made to stimulate the private sector investments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) It is proposed to organize a Round Table on Hydro Power Development later in this year to showcase the available hydro projects for detailed investigation and subsequent implementation. The multilateral institutions would also be invited to participate.

Government has undertaken a number of measures for accelerating the pace of hydro power development in the country with the ultimate objective of fully developing the feasible hydro power potential of the country.

In order to lower the gestation period and streamline the execution of central sector hydro projects, the Government introduced a three-stage clearance mechanism in 2001. A large number of hydro electric projects of 22795 MW have been initiated under Stage-I and Stage-II development in the Central Sector. The 10th five year plan has target of adding 14393 MW from hydro electric projects under Central, State and Private Sector.

The Central Electricity Authority has recently carried out a ranking study to create a shelf of feasible projects which would facilitate the hydro developers to take up the implementation of potential sites in a phased manner in order of their ranking.

Among the donor agencies the JBIC is funding hydro projects. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has agreed to consider financing of hydro projects. The funds from the donor agencies are provided on their standard terms and any special dispensation for hydro projects is not envisaged.

Debt with repayment over a longer period for hydro projects from the capital markets domestic as well as international would improve the viability of hydro projects which have a long life with no fuel costs.

Private investment including 100% foreign equity participation is permitted in the hydro sector in accordance with the policy guidelines of the Ministry of Power.

[Translation]

Investment in Russian Missile Manufacturing Industry

2685. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to make investment in the Russian missile manufacturing industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the investment likely to be made by India and the benefits likely to be reaped therefrom?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Vacant Posts of Judges in Rajasthan High Court

2686. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of judges who have been appointed to head the different commissions in the country;

(b) whether it is not hampering the judicial system of the country; and

(c) if so, the steps the Government propose to meet this shortage of judges?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) During the past six months, three sitting judges of High Courts have been appointed in various Commissions, on recommendations of the Hon'ble Chief Justices of those High Courts.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Considering the position of arrears of cases in the Courts, it has been decided that a sitting judge should not normally be appointed to discharge functions other than those of a judge of a High Court unless there are very pressing and exceptional circumstances since the appointment of a sitting judge in other capacity adversely affects the disposal of cases. In cases where appointment of a sitting judge of High Court is required to be made on full time basis, the candidature of the judge will be considered only on the advice of the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court, and only in cases where the Judge is left with a service of not more than six months before he retires. As and when a sitting Judge of a High Court is proposed to be appointed, Presidential request to the concerned Judge is issued by the Department of Justice to enable him to discharge functions other than those of a Judge of the High Court.

[English]

Road Over Bridge at Palam

2687. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2892 dated August 10,2000 regarding construction of Road over Bridge at Palam and state:

(a) the details of progress made in the construction of road over bridges on Delhi-Rewari section near Palam Railway station and at Pankha Road Delhi; and

(b) the steps taken to complete the works expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Work of Road over bridge at Palam is a deposit work being done at the cost of Delhi Development Authority, tenders for which have been invited to open on 9.8.2002. (ii) Work of Road over bridge at Pankha Road has already been awarded in Jan, 2002 but execution was obstructed due to non-closure of level crossing and non-shifting of two water supply pipe lines of Delhi Jal Board and cables of MTNL, Now work of piling has started as level crossing has been got closed by DDA in June, 2002.

Modernisation of Thermal Power Stations

2688. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched a new phase programme for renovation and modernization of thermal power stations in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether thermal power stations in Tamil Nadu are proposed to be modernized under R&M programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the amount sanctioned and spent for the modernization; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The details of Renovation & Modernisation (R&M)/Life Extension Programme (LEP) planned for implementation during the 10th Plan are as under:

Sl.No.	Particulars	R&M	LEP
1	2	3	4
1.	Number of thermal power stations	12	32
2.	Number of thermal units	35	106
3.	Estimated Cost	Rs.750 crores	Rs.9200 Crores
4.	Total capacity involved	6440 MW	10413 MW
5.	Capacity after LEP	-	10747 MW
6.	Average PLF before R&M/LE Programme	58.5%	49%
7.	Anticipated PLF after completion	63.5%	75%

1	2	3	4
8.	Anticipated additional generation/annum	2800 MU	23700 MU
9.	Capacity expected after completion of Life Extension works	-	10747 MW

The Ennore TPS and Tuticorin TPS in Tamil Nadu are covered under the aforesaid programme. R&M/Life Extension works on Unit 3, 4 & 5 (3x110 MW) of Ennore TPS have been completed during the 9th Plan and the works on Unit No. 1&2 (2x60 MW) are planned to be implemented during the 10th Plan. The estimated cost for R&M/Life Extension of Units 1 to 5 is Rs.290 crores and an expenditure of Rs.214 crores has been incurred. Unit 1, 2 & 3 (3x210 MW) of Tuticorin TPS are planned for R&M/Life Extension during the 10th Plan at an estimated cost of Rs.420 crores.

Operation Ratio

2689. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the operation ratio has improved in comparison to Budget estimates and Revised estimates for 2001-02;

(b) whether the budgetary allocation for Special Safety Fund has also been enhanced;

(c) whether the Railways is in a position to repay a part of the loan (with interest) taken from the general exchequer;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

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

(b) The contribution to the Special Railway Safety Fund has been enhanced in 2001-02 from Rs. 1400 cr in the Revised Estimate to Rs. 1453 cr in Actuals (provisional).

(c) and (d) The Railways have repaid, in full, the loan of Rs. 249 cr taken from the General Exchequer in 2000-01, along with interest thereon, in 2001-02.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Setting up of Gas Based Power Projects

2690. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States in which the gas-based power plants are proposed to be set up; and

(b) the funds allocated by the Government so far for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) A list of gas based power plants proposed to be set up during the 10th Plan is enclosed as statement. The project developers are making necessary arrangements to provide funds for their implementation.

Statement

Sl No.	Name of Project	Capacity (MW)	Name of the State
1	2	3	4
Central Sector			
1.	Monarchak CCGT	500	Tripura
State Sector			
2.	Pragati CCGT	225.78	Delhi
3.	Rokhia GT	21	Tripura
4.	Baramura GT Extn.	21	Tripura
5.	Valuthur GTPP	94	Tamil Nadu
6.	Ramgarh CCGT St.II	75.32	Rajasthan
7.	Mathania GTPP	140	Rajasthan
8.	Dhuvaran CCPP	106.62	Gujarat
9.	Kuttalam GTPP	100	Tamil Nadu
10.	Lakwa WHU ST	38.00	Assam
11	Karaikal CCGT	100	Pondicherry
Private Sector			
12.	Pedapuram CCGT	78	Andhra Pradesh

1	2	3	4
13.	Vemagiri-I CCPP	370	Andhra Pradesh
14.	Konaseema CCGT	445	Andhra Pradesh
15.	Gautami CCGT	464	Andhra Pradesh
16.	Jegurupadu Extn. CCGT-I	230	Andhra Pradesh
17.	Hassan CCGT	189	Karnataka
18.	Kaninminke Gas Project	108	Karnataka
	Total	3306	

[English]

Missing of DD Files on Army Serial

2691. SHRI P. R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "DD files on Indian Army serial go missing" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated the May 6,2002;

(b) if so, the details and facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether there have been allegations of several irregularities;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any inquiry has been initiated so as to ascertain the circumstances under which the concerned file got misplaced; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and action taken against the officials responsible for such serious lapse?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Prasar Bharati has informed that their file relating to the programme entitled 'Jazba' produced by M/s Creators Group, New Delhi, based on Indian Army is not traceable.

(c) and (d) A complaint was received from the Central Vigilance Commission against Sh. Upender Sood of M/s Creators Group and Doordarshan Officials which, inter-alia, alleges irregularities in, conversion of the category of the programme 'Jazba' from sponsored to commissioned, increase in the rate of each episode and release of advance to the producer by Doordarshan.

(e) and (f) Prasar Bharati has informed that an inquiry into the matter has been initiated. Necessary action as per Rules will be taken against the officials found responsible for lapse, if any, after completion of the inquiry.

Development of Visual Technology

2692. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has been developing a technology to enable the Indian Military and Security forces to see clearly in pitch dark;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this technology is likely to be developed?

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

(b) Thermal Imager system has been developed as one of the Electro-Optical Sensors for Naval Ship. It has been tried out and it works upto range of 12 km. Another system is being developed specifically for NAG Missile for ground as well as for air roles.

(c) Due to some critical technologies involved, full scale indigenous development may take another five years.

[Translation]

Pilferage of Petrol and Diesel from Depots of HPCL

2693. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether incidents of theft of a large quantity of petrol and diesel from depots of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited were reported during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of estimated cost and the quantity of such petrol and diesel theft as on date;

(c) the steps taken to check recurrence of such incidents in Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) There was one instance of theft of Motor Spirit (MS) on 10.12.2000 from Tank Wagon placed at Railway siding at HPCL's RAIRU Depot, under Bhopal Regional Office. A quantity of 5967 litres of MS valued at Rs. 61,698 was lost.

(c) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) and Oil Industry have strongly taken up the issue with police and local District Administration. 10 people suspected of involvement were arrested by police and 2000 litres MS recovered and a case has also been registered.

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

[English]

Inter-Departmental Transfers in PSUs

2694. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan of introducing inter-departmental transfers in Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a): No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The management of PSUs enjoy autonomy in respect of appointment, transfer, promotion, etc., of their executives and employees. As regards Board level posts, MOU signing companies have powers to transfer Functional Directors from one charge to another in consultation with the Secretary of the administrative Ministry and with the prior approval of the Minister.

Touch Screen Information Facility in Railway Stations in Karnataka

2695. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway stations in Karnataka which have been provided with "Touch Screen" information facility; and

(b) the railway junctions in Karnataka proposed to be covered with computer based "Touch Screen" information facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Two Railway stations namely Bangalore City and Bangalore Koramangala have been provided with "Touch Screen" type Passenger Operated Enquiry Terminal (POET).

(b) Passenger Operated Enquiry Terminals (POET), similar to the touch screen terminals, are proposed to be provided at 11 locations over Karnataka. These stations are: Bangalore City, Bangalore Cantt, Bangalore Indira Nagar, Yeswantpur, Malleswaram, Bangalore Koramangala, Bangalore Banasankari, Bangalore Jayanagar, Bangalore Vijayanagar., Mysore and Mangalore.

Reduction of NTPC Units

2696. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to sell some units of NTPC to mobilize additional resources;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have adopted any criteria for the selection of such units; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) There is no proposal at present.

(b) to (d) In view of the above, do not arise.

[Translation]

Power Projects of North East

2697. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether various power projects of the North-East have been held in abeyance due to local problems;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are considering to provide power from new projects for the use of local people; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Dhansiri Hydro Electric Project (20 MW) being executed by Assam State Electricity Board in Assam and Loktak Downstream Hydroelectric Project (90 MW) being executed by the National Hydro-electric Power Corporation in Manipur are being held up due to law and order problems and adverse security environment. In addition, Tipaimukh Hydro Electric Project (1500 MW) in Manipur on which detailed investigation and pre-construction activities are proposed to be taken up by the North East Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) is facing opposition from the section of the local people apart from the adverse security environment in the area.

(c) and (d) Power to be generated by all new projects in the North Eastern Region will first meet the requirement of the region and only surplus power will be exported outside the region.

Problem of Reservation being Faced by People of Rajasthan

2698. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any concrete steps to solve the problem of reservation being faced by the people of Rajasthan due to inadequate reservation facility; and

(b) if so, the names of trams in which passengers are getting the facility of "Tatkal Sewa Reservation"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Provision and expansion of reservation facilities is a continuous process. In order to provide reservation facilities to the people of Rajasthan, Computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS) facility has been provided at 31 locations in the State of Rajasthan from where passengers can book seats/berths in any train in any class on first-come-first-served basis.

(b) At present, Tatkal reservation facility is available in 16 trains which pass through Rajasthan. A list of these 16 trains is enclosed as statement.

Statement

S.No.	Train No. and Name	From	To
1	2	3	4
1.	2915 Ahmedabad-Delhi Ashram Express	Ahmedabad	Delhi
2.	2916 Delhi-Ahmedabad Ashram Express	Delhi	Ahmedabad
3.	2955 Mumbai Central-Jaipur Superfast Express	Mumbai Central	Jaipur
4.	2956 Jaipur-Mumbai Central Superfast Express	Jaipur	Mumbai Central
5.	2977 Ernakulam-Jaipur Marusagar Express	Ernakulam	Jaipur
6.	4707 Bikaner-Bandra Terminus Ranakpur Express	Bikaner	Bandra Terminus
7.	4708 Bandra Terminus-Bikaner Ranakpur Express	Bandra Terminus	Bikaner
8.	6508 Bangalore-Jodhpur Weekly Express	Bangalore	Jodhpur

1	2	3	4
9.	6509 Ajmer-Bangalore Weekly Express	Ajmer	Bangalore
10.	6510 Bangalore-Ajmer Weekly Express	Bangalore	Ajmer
11.	6125 Chennai Egmore-Jodhpur Weekly Express	Chennai Egmore	Jodhpur
12.	9007 Bandra Terminus - Jaipur Aravali Express	Bandra Terminus	Jaipur
13.	9008 Jaipur- Bandra Terminus Aravali Express	Jaipur	Bandra Terminus
14.	9105 Ahmedabad-Delhi Mail	Ahmedabad	Delhi
15.	9615 Delhi Sarai Rohilla-Udaipur Chetak Express	Jaipur	Udaipur
16.	9616 Udaipur-Delhi Sarai Rohilla Chetak Express	Udaipur	Jaipur

[English]

Expansion of Tamil Programmes

2699. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the External Services Division (Tamil) broadcasts Tamil Programmes for 45 minutes every day on South Asian Tamils;

(b) whether the Government are aware that this programme has become popular in Tamil Nadu due to general nature of the programmes appealing to all the Tamils; and

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to broadcast it to enable the lakhs of Tamils in and around Delhi to enjoy the programme?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Prasar Bharati has informed that there is no such proposal at present.

Cases under Land Ceiling Act

2700. DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up special courts to speed up cases under the Land Ceiling Act for distribution of excess land among the landless poor; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

The Government of India has already repealed the Urban Land (Ceiling & Regulation) Act 1976 through the Urban Land (C&R) Repeal Act, 1999 with effect from 11.1.1999. The Repeal Act is in force in the States of Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan and all the Union Territories (NCT of Delhi, Pondicherry & Chandigarh). The Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976 is still in force in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Orissa, Maharashtra and West Bengal.

Land acquired under the Act vests with the State Governments and they can dispose of such land, as per provisions contained in Section 23 of the Act.

As regards distribution of ceiling surplus land in rural areas and the setting up of special courts for this purpose, the subject matter falls within the domain of the State Governments/U.T. Administrations.

[Translation]

Issuing of Age Certificates to Senior Citizens

2701. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is contemplating to issue age certificates to all senior citizens who do not possess age certificate though they are eligible to get rebate in fares being senior citizens;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Issuing of certificate of age or date of birth is not the function of Railways.

Funds for FM Radio Stations

2702. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether 133 F.M. Radio Stations sought to be commissioned out of which only 122 were actually commissioned and Rs. 4.41 crore became unproductive due to wrong selection of site;

(b) if so, whether Rs. 17 crore was spent for purchase of equipment before the land was acquired, resulting in non-utilisation of funds;

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

(d) the steps taken/to be taken to punish the guilty and to prevent such recurrent in future?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) No. Sir, Out of 133 F.M. Radio Stations targeted to be commissioned, 125 projects have been commissioned and the remaining 8, have been completed and are awaiting commissioning. Prasar Bharati has informed that the figure of Rs. 4.41 crores pertains to the FM project at Tirupati. The site for Tirupati project was selected with due care but the project was delayed due to delay in obtaining approval from other agencies for installation of associated equipment. The project has been commissioned.

Prasar Bharati has informed that action for procurement of long delivery items is taken in advance by AIR, in order to cut the overall execution time available in acquisition for site and construction work. Prasar Bharati has reported that acquisition of site often gets delayed as sites offered by State Governments are subsequently withdrawn or not found technically suitable.

(d) Does not arise.

Programmes in Tribal Languages

2703. DR. JAYANT RONGPI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any policy to increase and improve programmes on Tribal languages on DD / AIR;

(b) if so, the steps taken / to be taken in this regard; and

(c) the time by which all the Tribal Languages shall have programmes in Doordarshan and All India Radio?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati has informed that All India Radio Stations and Doordarshan Kendras are already broadcasting / telecasting programmes in local dialects and tribal languages. Introduction and improvement of programmes on AIR Stations and Doordarshan Kendras / Regional Channels is an on going process.

Power Reform

2704. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have earmarked Rs.40,000 crore to assist power reforms in States for the next five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether an agreement has been signed with the States in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP), now known as the Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme (APDRP), was introduced in February 2000 with the sole objective of initiating a financial turn around in the performance of the State owned power utilities. This programme envisages upgradation of transmission and distribution network (below 33 KV or 66 KV) in selected distribution circles (both urban and rural) in all the States in the country. An amount of Rs.40,000 cores is expected to spent for implementation of this programme are proposed to be released to the States for the identified schemes as additional Central Plan Assistance.

The following States have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Power for undertaking rsforms and restructuring in a time bound manner:

Southern Region

1. Karnataka
2. Andhra Pradesh
3. Tamil Nadu
4. Kerala

Western Region

5. Gujarat
6. Madhya Pradesh
7. Goa
8. Chhattisgarh
9. Maharashtra

Eastern Region

10. Bihar
11. Jharkhand
12. West Bengal
13. Orissa

Northern Region

14. Uttar Pradesh
15. Uttaranchal
16. Haryana
17. Punjab
18. Himachal Pradesh
19. Rajasthan
20. Jammu and Kashmir

North Eastern Region

21. Assam

In addition to the above, the State Electricity Boards/ Electricity Departments of the States of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram have signed Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the Ministry of Power for undertaking reforms in the power sector and for achieving defined milestones as per agreed schedules. Other States are in the process of finalizing the MoA.

Foreign Companies involved in Exploration in North East

2705. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of foreign companies or the agencies involved in Oil and Gas exploration in the North-East;

(b) the on-going exploration sites in the North-East;

(c) whether the Barak basin is within the purview of exploration; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) At present, four foreign companies, namely, M/s Tullow India Operations Ltd., M/s Canaro Resources Ltd., M/s Centurion Energy International Inc., and M/s Hardy Exploration & Production India Ltd., are involved in exploration activities in North-Eastern region.

(b) In addition to the exploration activities undertaken by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) within their areas of operation in North-Eastern region, Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) have been signed with private/joint venture for four exploration blocks, viz. CR-ON-90/1 falling in the States of Assam and Mizoram, AS-ONN-2000/1 falling in the State of Assam, block AAP-ON-94/1 falling in the States of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, and AA-ON-7 in the States of Assam and Nagaland in the region.

(c) and (d) The Barak Valley is the part of Cachar area of Assam and Assam Arakan basin, PSC for exploration block 'CR-ON-90/1' in the Barak Valley has been signed with the consortium of Essar Oil Ltd., Hindustan Oil Exploration Company Ltd. and Tullow India Operations Ltd. on 30.6.1998, in which exploration work is in progress.

National Policy for Solar Energy Distribution

2706. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the remote villages in India, specially at the sea coasts or otherwise under-developed require solar energy support at a subsidized cost for atleast two points of light in their hutments or houses;

(b) if so, whether any allotment has been made for such subsidy, State-wise;

(c) whether any national policy for solar energy distribution to the poorest in our country in the remote areas has been evolved; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) to (d) The Government is encouraging the use of solar energy based lighting systems all over the country, especially in rural and remote areas, forests and hilly regions, deserts, islands and coastal areas. The Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) Programme of the Ministry for the promotion of solar home lighting systems, solar lanterns, street lighting systems and stand- alone village level power plants is being implemented through the state renewable energy development agencies, a few non-governmental organizations and some public sector undertakings. Under this programme, all categories of individual beneficiaries and non-commercial organizations are eligible for central subsidy through these programme implementing organizations. The pattern of the central financial assistance during 2001-02 and the eligible categories of beneficiaries is given in statement-I. The guidelines for the 2002-03 programme have yet not been announced. The details of the funds released, State-wise, during the Ninth Plan under the SPY Programme are given in statement-II.

It is estimated that there are about 18000 census villages located in remote and difficult areas of the country which can not be electrified by extension of the conventional power grid. It is proposed to electrify all such villages through non-conventional energy sources such as solar, biomass and small hydro power. During the Tenth Plan, it is proposed to electrify 5000 such villages, including 4,000 through solar energy systems. Financial assistance will be provided to state renewable energy agencies, NGOs and other participating organizations for carrying out this task.

Statement-I

Pattern of Financial Assistance (FA) and Eligible Categories of Beneficiaries for the 2001-2002 SPV Programme

A - Pattern of Financial Assistance (FA)

A1 - For General Areas.

S.No.	SPV System	Central Subsidy	Service Charge
1.	Solar Lantern	Rs.1300/- (fixed)	Rs.100/-
2.	Home Lighting Systems/ Solar Home System	Rs. 5,500 or 50 % of ex-works cost, which ever is less	Rs.200/-
3.	Street Lighting System	Rs.11,000 or 50 % of ex-works cost, which ever is less	-
4.	Power Plants & Other Systems	Rs. 1,80,000 /kWp of PV Array Capacity or 50 % of the ex-works cost of the project, which ever is less.	Rs. 10,000/-

A2 - For North - Eastern Region, including Sikkim

S.No.	SPV System	Central Subsidy	Service Charge
1	2	3	4
1.	Solar Lantern	Rs. 3,000/- or 90% of ex-works cost, which ever is less	Rs. 100/-

1	2	3	4
2.	Home Lighting / Solar Home System	Rs. 10,000/- or 90 % of ex-works cost. which ever is less	Rs. 200/-
3.	Street Lighting System	Rs. 20,000/- or 90 % of ex-works cost, which ever is less	–
4.	Power Plants & Other Community Systems	Rs. 3,50,000 / kWp of PV array Capacity or 90 % of ex-works cost, which ever is less	Rs. 10000/- (for power plants)

B - Eligible Categories of Beneficiaries for Central Subsidy

SPV System	Eligible Category of Beneficiaries
Solar Lanterns	All Categories of individual beneficiaries & non profit institutions / organizations. No individual would be given more than one solar lantern
Home Lighting System / Solar Home Systems	All Categories of individual beneficiaries & non profit institutions / organizations. No individual would be given more than one system
Street Lighting Systems	All categories of non-commercial institutions / organizations, State Nodal Agencies, Electricity Boards, Panchayats, Zilla Parishads and DRDAs.
SPY Power Plants / Other Systems	All categories of non- commercial institutions / organizations, State Nodal Agencies, Electricity Boards, Panchayats, Zilla Parishads and DRDAs.

Statement-II

State-wise funds released under SPV Demonstration and Utilization Programme during Ninth Plan

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	State / UT	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Andhra Pradesh	0	165.44	54.90	67.20	109.41
2	Arunachal Pradesh	10.4	31.20	22.57	18.53	0
3	Assam	21.6	70.42	22.87	55.14	1.25
4	Bihar	25	245.54	369.72	6.20	0
5	Chhattisgarh	-			197.00	8.70
6	Goa	0	0.85	1.45		0
7	Gujarat	6.37	104.68	81.60	300.30	69.75
8	Haryana	104.96	175.68	183.93	239.70	170.81
9	Himachal Pradesh	70.22	167.23	321.53	130.50	133.94

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10	Jammu and Kashmir	40.47	163.12	335.94	72.85	27.36
11	Karnataka	7.13	46.30	41.80	74.78	106.97
12	Kerala	0	102.65	208.35	321.19	812.84
13	Madhya Pradesh	59.9	93.00	25.45	-	12.26
14	Maharashtra	23.25	21.00	18.30	29.75	38.70
15	Manipur	0	30.80	43.28	Nil	44.75
16	Meghalaya	7.5	18.60	8.36	58.00	0.60
17	Mizoram	7.84	24.03	15.74	165.55	19.95
18	Nagaland	0	5.23	7.25	8.68	-
19	Orissa	45	271.86	300.98	31.86	61.00
20	Punjab	64.35	274.40	237.05	54.53	35.13
21	Rajasthan	134.2	480.64	315.12	182.24	474.22
22	Sikkim	0	7.41	2.66	0.19	36.92
23	Tamil Nadu	0	49.76	19.70	75.66	53.80
24	Tripura	25.69	83.19	66.35	107.48	112.40
25	Uttar Pradesh	656.3	866.96	368.00	502.88	563.00
26	Uttaranchal	-	-	-	208.60	92.75
27	West Bengal	212.19	173.05	385.74	336.86	643.05
28	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	10.15	-
29	Chandigarh	3.47	20.61	4.15	0.80	10.53
30	Delhi	0	0	7.20	13.71	0.83
31	Lakshadweep	0	4.00	11.90	64.00	17.75
32	Pondicherry	2.59	1.70	2.62	Nil	3.78
33	Others (BHEL, BEL, CEL)	0	0	51.84	180.42	281.30
	Total	1528.43	3699.35	3536.39	3514.75	3943.75

DD Competition with Private Channels

2707. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the plan targets submitted by her Ministry for Ninth Plan was reduced from Rs. 6134.95 crore to Rs. 2843.05 crore by the Planning Commission;

(b) if so, the effects by the downward revision of plan targets in countering the competition posed by private broadcasters;

(c) whether the Doordarshan has gone beyond the private channels which have become more popular with the masses; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by her Ministry to regain the lost viewers and to make DD more favourable over the other channels?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The reduction in the Plan allocation resulted in revision of Plan targets. However, Doordarshan made all efforts to expand its coverage. DD-I network coverage was expanded from 86.9% of the population and 71.6% of the area of the country (as on 1.4.1997) to 89.6% and 77.5% respectively, at the end of the 9th Plan. Doordarshan is a public service broadcaster and covers many genres and themes in its programmes, while private satellite channels are primarily driven by commercial considerations.

(d) Doordarshan has taken various steps to enhance its viewership by revamping its formats, concentration and approach. Doordarshan is augmenting the infrastructure for production and removing the procedural bottlenecks, thus facilitating the process, for production of quality programmes.

Cancellation of Loan by World Bank

2708. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has threatened of cancelling of loan package for building wide power transmission system by the public Sector Power Grid Corporation Limited;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the impact-on the project in the event of cancellation of loan by World Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) POWERGRID signed an agreement with World Bank on 13th June, 2001 for a loan of US$ 450 million (Power System Development Project-II) for implementation of its various schemes including the scheme for establishment of a Backbone Telecom Network. While the other schemes for which the loan has been approved by the World Bank are under implementation by POWERGRID, the scheme for establishment of Backbone Telecom Network is at an advanced stage of investment approval. In the meanwhile, World Bank have intimated POWERGRID that if the decision of award of contract for the telecom component of the Power System Development Project-II is not taken within the bid validity period, the Bank would have to consider mis-procurement under the general conditions applicable to loan agreements. This would mean that the contracts in question would not be financed by the Bank and the corresponding amount would be cancelled from the loan. World Bank has, however, been requested to permit extension of the bid validity by 3 months.

(c) In case, the World Bank loan of US$ 117 million allocated for the telecom project of POWERGRID does not become available to POWERGRID, the benefits of deemed export status and concessional custom duty would not be available to the project resulting in higher cost of the project.

Joint Exercise with USA

2709. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI:

SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any joint military exercise between India and USA was held in Alaska during April-May, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the US Army whose Winter Warfare, School is based in Alaska is keen to share its special expertise with the Indian Army;

(d) if so, whether any agreement has been reached between the two countries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) No joint military exercise was held in Alaska in April-May, 2002 between India and USA.

(c) to (e) No agreement has been reached between US and India on such type of defence cooperation.

Rail Bus Transit System in National Capital Region

2710. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to introduce a new Rail Bus transit System in the National Capital Region (NCR);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the year in which the Rail Bus Transit System is being introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. National Capital Region Planning Board, under Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation has made a proposal to introduce Rail Bus Transit System in National Capital Region. Ministry of Railways has agreed in principal to share 1/3rd of the cost of the scheme. In the first phase following three corridors have been identified:-

(I) Shahdara - Sahibabad - Ghaziabad

(ii) Minto Bridge - Tilak Bridge - Sahibabad

(iii) Dayabasti (Patel Nagar) - Bijwasan - Gurgaon

Since the proposal is in its initial stage, no date for its completion has been fixed.

[Translation]

Computeristion of Metropolitan Courts

2711. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the metropolitan courts are proposed to be computerised soon; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir. A Pilot Project of Computerisation of City Courts in the four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai has been started and funds for the first phase have already been released to the respective State Governments.

(b) In Delhi, the project is being implemented by the National Informatics Centre and full estimated amount of Rs.4.93 crore has been placed with the NIC. The computerisation of city courts in the four metropolitan cities is expected to be completed during the year 2003-2004.

[English]

Coaching Services

2712. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expenses on coaching services during 1999-2000 were left uncovered by actual receipts from coaching services against 1998-99;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the comparative figure of receipts from coaching services during the last three years;

(c) if so, the amount of receipts from the coaching services during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002; and

(d) the steps taken to improve the performance of coaching services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) In both the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000, the expenses allocable to coaching services were left uncovered by actual receipts from coaching services.

(b) and (c) Railways incur losses in coaching services mainly in Second Class (Ordinary), Sleeper Class, Suburban services and other coaching services (parcel, postal, catering services) as these segments of Railway traffic are carried at charges less than the operational costs on social consideration. Comparative figures of receipt from coaching services for the previous years are:

Year	Coaching earnings (Rs. in crores)
1998-1999	9503.76
1999-2000	10719.13
2000-2001	11629.86
2001-2002	Not yet available; due for compilation by December 2002.

(d) Steps, taken to improve revenue from coaching services, include waiting list analysis and attaching additional coaches, intensive ticket checking and increase in counters and putting Self Printing Ticket Machines (SPTM). In addition, constant efforts are made to cut down expenditure. Some rationalisation of passenger fares have been made in the Railway budget for 2002-03.

Public Interest Litigation

2713. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Interest Litigation have served any useful purpose;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that facilities to file PILs are being misused; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent such misuse?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) Since public interest litigation is usually entertained by court for purposes of redressing the grievances of the downtrodden masses, public injury, enforcing public duty, protecting social rights and vindicating public interest, it has to some extent served the purpose of helping the poor and underprivileged for getting justice.

(b) In order to prevent misuse of public interest litigation, the Supreme Court has recently laid down certain guidelines in Raunaq International Ltd. Vs. I.V.R. Construction Ltd. (AIR 1999 SC 393) and Malik Brothers Vs. Narendra Dadhich & Others (1999(5) SCALE 212) which are as follows:

(1) The public interest litigation should not be merely a cloak for attaining private ends of a third party or of the party bringing the petition.

(2) The court should examine the previous record of public service rendered by the organization bringing public interest litigation.

(3) Before entertaining a writ petition and passing any interim orders in such petition, the court must carefully weigh conflicting public interests. Only when it comes to a conclusion that there is overwhelming public interest in entertaining the petition, the court should intervene.

(4) Even when public interest litigation is entertained, the court must be careful to weigh conflicting public interests before intervening.

(5) The party on whose instance interim orders are obtained has to be made accountable for the consequences of the interim order. In appropriate cases, the petitioner asking for interim orders should be asked to provide security for any increase in costs as a result of delay or any damages suffered by the opposite party in consequence of any interim order. Stay orders or interim order if passed must be moulded to provide for restitution. If the public interest litigation fails, the public must be compensated for the delay in implementation of the project and the cost escalation resulting from such delay on account of the interim order.

(6) If the court finds that in the grab of public interest litigation, actually an individual's interest is sought to be carried out or protected, it would be the bounden duty of the court not to entertain such petition.

(7) The court should restrict the flow of cases in the name of public interest litigation, otherwise traditional litigation will suffer and courts of law, instead of dispensing justice will have to take upon themselves administrative and executive functions.

(c) In view of the above guidelines prescribed by Supreme Court regarding Public Interest Litigation, no measures are intended to be taken for prevention of misuse of Public Interest Litigation at the moment. In fact, it is for the courts to ensure that frivolous litigations in the name of Public Interest Litigation by persons having vested interests are not entertained.

Coal based Power Projects by NTPC and TNEB

2714. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether NTPC and Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB) are jointly working on a coal based power project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any other similar plans in view of the disappearance of fossil fuels due to over use all over the world;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to reduce pollution from coal based energy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) NTPC and Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB) have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 12.7.2002 for establishing a 1000 MW coal based power project at Ennore in Tamil Nadu as Joint Venture, subject to techno commercial feasibility and bankability of the project, etc. This is the only joint venture that has been conceived till now.

(c) to (e) Thermal Power units are required to comply with the statutory control of pollution as prescribed by the Government from time to time. Coal, however, would continue to be the main fuel for power generation in India and for the Tenth Plan, out of the target of about 41,000 MW, about 18,300 MW would be coal based.

Opening of LPG Agencies in North Eastern States

2715. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received by the Government for the opening of LPG agencies in North-Eastern States including Sikkim alongwith the number of applications disposed of by the Government and the time by which the remaining applications are likely to be disposed of;

(b) the actual requirement of LPG agencies to cater the needs of the people of these States; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to fulfil the needs of these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) As on 1.6.2002, 69 LPG distributorships have been commissioned by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) in North-Eastern States, out of 144 locations planned earlier by OMCs under various Marketing Plans. It is expected that after the commissioning of these distributorships, North-Eastern States would be adequately covered to cater the needs of people.

Transfer of Diesel/Petrol Pumps

2716. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of diesel/petrol pumps transferred within the State of Uttar Pradesh specially in Kheri (Lakhimpur) during each of the last three years and current year;

(b) the number of applications lying pending for transfer of diesel/petrol pumps;

(c) the time by which these diesel/petrol pumps are likely to be accorded permission; and

(d) the policy formulated for transfer of diesel/petrol pumps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) 201 retail outlet dealerships have been reconstituted in the State of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years and the current year. Year-wise break-up is as follows:

Year	No. of retail outlets reconstituted
1999-2000	47*
2000-2001	85
2001-2002	59**
2002-2003 (April-June, 2002)	10
Total	201

* Includes one case of reconstitution of retail outlet in Kheri, Lakhimpur.

** Includes two cases of reconstitution of retail outlet in Kheri, Lakhimpur.

(b) At present, 48 applications, are pending with the oil marketing companies for reconstitution of retail outlet dealerships.

(c) The time taken for conveying the approval to the reconstitution of the dealerships depends on the dealers' complying with all the requirements of the guidelines laid down by the Government.

(d) The Government have issued guidelines delegating the authority for reconstitution of retail outlet dealerships/SKO-LDO dealerships/LPG distributorships to the Oil Marketing Companies. The main features of the guidelines inter alia include:

(i) Reconstitution will not be allowed before three years from the date of commissioning and subsequent reconstitution not before three years thereafter, except under the following conditions.

Compassionate Grounds

Death of a proprietor or partner(s)

Within the family

(ii) New partner(s) must satisfy multiple dealership norms and generally satisfy other criteria for normal selection, such as, age, educational qualification, income, etc.

(iii) The existing partner(s) will retain majority share.

(iv) For dealerships belonging to SC/ST category, the incoming partner should also be from amongst SC/ST. Wherever an SC/ST dealer has married a non-SC/ST, reorganization for inclusion of spouse, who is non-SC/ST may also be permitted.

(v) In case of partnership firm, if one or more partners wish to withdraw, remaining partner(s), may be permitted to reconstitute the firm, subject to the remaining partner(s) being acceptable to the corporation. The exiting partner(s) must retain majority share and the newly inducted partner(s) will not be permitted to have majority holding.

(vi) The incoming partner(s) should not be convicted for any criminal offence or moral turpitude

(vii) Deserving cases, which cannot be decided by the Oil Marketing Companies as per policy, may be referred to the Government for decision.

[Translation]

Construction of Road Over Bridge Near Meghnagar Railway Station

2717. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be please to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to construct an overbridge across the Ahmedabad Highway near Meghnagar railway station in Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said project is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) No, Sir. However there is a level crossing 60B in Meghnagar yard which has traffic density of less than one lakh TVUs ((TVU - a unit obtained by multiplying the number of road vehicles with the number of Trains passing over the level crossing in 24 hours) hence does not qualify for replacement by Road over bridge on cost sharing basis.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Investment by Contractors of Jubilee Pumps of Haryana and Punjab

2718. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of contractors of Jubilee Pumps of Haryana and Punjab invested the working capital to run the pumps;

(b) whether the corporations are releasing supplies to these pumps specially belonging to IBP through advance payments by contractors;

(c) if so, the time by which these contractors shall be given/reimbursed the cost of working capital; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a), (c) and (d) The labour contractors of Jubilee Retail Outlets (JROs) are not required to make any investment towards working capital.

(b) In the case of the JROs of the IBP Co. Limited in the State of Haryana and Punjab, the labour contractor has to deposit the full value of the products (MS & HSD), indented for by him at the retail selling price as the security deposit.

In the case of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited, the labour contractors are required to provide bank guarantees or the deposit value of the products towards security.

In the case of the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, supplies are made to the JROs on stock transfer basis, and no payment is collected from the labour contractors.

In the case of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, the products supplied to the JROs are owned by the Corporation.

Generation of Power in Andhra Pradesh

2719. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that power generation at Srisailam in Andhra Pradesh has come to a halt due to fall in water level in the Srisailam reservoir;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to restore power generation at Srisailam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The generation at Srisailam Hydro Electric power station owned by AP Power Generation Corporation in Andhra Pradesh was stopped on 12th July, 2002, as the reservoir level has gone below the minimum draw down level (MDDL).

(c) According to Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corporation Ltd., Government of Andhra Pradesh is taking up the matter with the Government of Karnataka for release of water from Narayanapur for building up the Srisailam reservoir level and restoring the power generation.

Earning from Railway Property

2720. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total income realised by the Government by leasing out of the Railway lands and railway properties including the canteens and shops at railway stations during the last three years, zone-wise;

(b) whether the Southern Railway has made any decision to provide more leased shops to private parties; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the expected income likely to be earned therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) The details of amount realised by Railways by leasing out the land and properties including canteens and shops at Railway stations during the last three years are as under:

(In Crore Rs.)

Railway	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
Central	6.38	13.56	17.12
Eastern	3.54	5.97	18.80
Northern	11.79	55.24	104.69
North Eastern	9.34	17.51	16.34
North-east Frontier	1.50	2.99	38.13
Southern	9.02	14.72	21.62
South Central	3.75	21.15	17.89
South Eastern	2.66	5.51	11.25
Western	14.14	18.82	22.67
Total	62.12	155.47	268.51

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Serial on Saint Namdeoji Maharaj

2721. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make a serial on the enlightened and national level Saint Namdeoji Maharaj who hailed from Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan has been telecasting programmes on the life of 'Saint Namdeoji Maharaj' from time to time, especially on the occasion of his Anniversaries.

[English]

Launching of DTT in Bangalore

2722. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Doordarshan is planning to launch a more elaborate form of Digital Terrestrial Transmission (DTT) in Bangalore;

(b) if so, whether there is any planning for 10 channels on the DTT platform;

(c) if so, whether the Doordarshan is considering to invite private channels to come on board;

(d) if so, whether the transmitter is in the process of being set up; and

(e) if so, the time by which the DTT in Bangalore is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Doordarshan proposes to setup a digital transmitter at Bangalore.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Action to set up the transmitters would be initiated after the scheme is approved. Since the Tenth Five Year Plan has not been finalized so far, it is not possible to indicate a definite time frame.

Demands of Rigs against Exploration Inputs

2723. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any possibility of inflated demands of rigs against the basic exploration inputs; and

(b) if so, the need of rigs against the background of reduced PEL/ML areas of the PSU's due to NELP concept?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) After the first and second round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), the area wherein exploration has been undertaken by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) under Petroleum Exploration Licences (PEL) has in fact increased. Also the production area under Petroleum Mining Leases (PML) being operated by ONGC has also gone up. While ONGC has assessed its requirement of rigs considering the extent of its exploratory and production acreages, as also capacities of its own rigs; OIL does not have any plans at present for procurement of rigs.

Diversion of Funds to other Zones

2724. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from Kerala Government regarding diversion of expenditure allotted for specific project by Southern Railways during the last three years;

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

(c) the decision taken thereon?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Austerity Measures

2725. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the year wise expenditure incurred under various heads such as publicity, advertisements, hospitality, catering, opening ceremonies, seminars conference, tours (including foreign visits), STD and ISTD telephone bills, electricity bills, especially the electricity bills, of air conditioners and coolers in various departments and undertakings under the Ministry during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to launch any drive to cut down the expenditure being incurred under the said heads;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(b) and (c) The instructions issued by the Ministry of Finance on austerity measures are being followed strictly.

(d) Does not arise.

LPG Bottling Plant in Jharkhand

2726. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether LPG bottling plants are far away from Palamu district of Jharkhand;

(b) if so, whether the Government have any proposal to set up an LPG bottling plant in Palamu district of Jharkhand; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) At present, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are having LPG bottling plants at Jamshedpur, Ranchi and Hazaribagh in Jharkhand State. Further, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) is in the process of commissioning a LPG bottling plant at Bokaro with the capacity of 22 TMTPA.

(b) and (c) OMCs have 130 TMTPA bottling capacity in the State of Jharkhand as on 1.4.2002 which is adequate to meet full packed LPG demand of the State and in view of this, there is no proposal for setting up of a LPG bottling plant at Palamu District of Jharkhand.

[English]

Status of Durgadwani Power Project

2727. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the Durgadwani Power Project in the Sundarban areas of the West Bengal;

(b) the funds allocated therefor; and

(c) the date of commencement of work on the project and the time by which the project is proposed to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The Detailed Project Report of Durgadwani Tidel Power Project proposed to be set up at Durgadwani Creek in Sundervan area of West Bengal with 3.6 MW capacity has been prepared by West Bengal Renewable Energy Development Agency (WBREDA) and submitted to Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources. No fund has been allocated for this project so far. The project could be taken up for implementation after getting all the clearances. The completion period of the project from the date of commencement of work as envisaged in the project proposal is 36 months.

Speedy Disposal of Remand Cases by Courts

2728. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Electronic Video Linkages Facility will be helpful for speedy disposal of remand cases by the courts;

(b) if so, whether there was a live demonstration of interaction of the court with the under-trails at Hyderabad in 2002;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose this video conference of under-trails throughout the country;

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

The Electronic Video Linkage facility will be helpful in speedy disposal of remand cases by the courts. It will, inter-alia, reduce the cost of transportation of undertrials besides addressing the security issues connected with the production of undertrials in courts.

(b) An experimental demonstration of the proposed video linkage facility was organised on 10.03.2000 connecting the premises of Chanchalguda central prison with the National Informatics Center at BRKR Building opposite to the Secretariat which was simulated as a court for the purpose of demonstration.

(c) No, Sir. The Central Government is implementing a Pilot Scheme of Computerisation of City Civil Courts in the four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai which includes provision of video conferencing. All State Governments are expected to implement similar schemes in their jurisdiction from their own resources.

(d) In Delhi, the project is being implemented by

the National Informatics Centre and full estimated amount of Rs.4.98 crore has been placed with the NIC/NICSI. The project has also been started in three other metropolitan cities of Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai and funds for the first phase of the scheme have already been released to the respective State Governments.

Paradeep Oil Refinery

2729. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the land losers for the oil refinery at Paradeep have received compensation for their land; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Indian Oil Corporation Limited has released the entire amount of Rs.57.5 crore including Rs.17.2 crore towards land acquisition charges to the State Government of Orissa for payment of compensation to the land losers, whose land has been acquired for the oil refinery project at Paradeep.

Nagpur Railway Station Yard Project

2730. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed "Nagpur Railway Station Yard Remodelling Project" has been started;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the railways propose to develop Ajani Railway Station as alternative and second station for Nagpur city; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Details of works to be undertaken are as under:

- Extension of Platform No.1 & 3 to accommodate 26 coach train.
- Extension of Platform No.4 to accommodate 22 coach train.
- Extension of Platform No.5 & 7 to accommodate 21 coach train.
- Extension of Platform No.6 to accommodate 24 coach train.

Along with other miscellaneous related facilities such as, provision of pathway in yard, extension of cover over platform, watering arrangement for extended portion, extension of washing siding and washable apron, construction Drivers and Guards lobby, construction of Store room, Vacuum Exhauster room and drains in yard.

Contract for extension of Platform Nos. 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7 including extension of cover over platform, washing siding, extension of washable apron etc. have been awarded and work has been commenced.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Family Court in MP

2731. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the financial assistance is being provided for the construction of building of Family Court in District Court, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the proposed amount demanded by the Government of Madhya Pradesh;

(c) the amount provided or proposed to be provided by the Union Government; and

(d) the share being provided by the State Government for the construction of the said building?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has demanded Rs. 179.83 lakh for recurring expenditure on Family Courts in the year 2002-2003. Steps are being taken by Government of Madhya Pradesh to finalise construction of seven Family Court buildings at the seven Divisional Headquarters of the State including at Jabalpur.

(c) and (d) An amount of Rs. 70 lakh from Plan side and Rs. 35 lakh from Non-Plan side is proposed to be released during 2002-2003 to Madhya Pradesh for Family

Courts. The State Governments are to provide the balance of funds for the smooth functioning of the Family Courts during 2002-2003.

Chain Pulling in Trains

2732. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the incidents of stopping the trains by pulling the emergency chains in the various parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government are contemplating to take any concrete measures to check these activities;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) Alarm Chain Pulling without any reasonable and sufficient cause is a punishable offence as persons indulging in this unlawful act are penalised under the Railways Act. Apart from the remedial measures taken to control the avoidable factors responsible for alarm chain pulling, checks are conducted on vulnerable sections in identified trains for minimising this incidence.

(d) Does not arise.

Accident in Simhadri Power Project

2733. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether NTPC is not adhering to its safety norms in respect of its contract workers working on their projects;

(b) if so, the number of contract workers died/ injured and then permanently disabled during the last three years;

(c) the details of accidents occurred at the NTPC site at Simhadri Power Project in Visakhapatnam; and

(d) the compensation paid to their kith and kin?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has detailed General Conditions of Contract (GCC) which is a part of all Contracts signed for execution of project/works. Comprehensive safety clauses are also incorporated in these GCC which the contractors are required to follow to ensure safety of plant, equipment and manpower. Qualified Safety Officers are posted by NTPC to coordinate with the contracting agencies in implementation of safety norms. Contracting agencies also employ Safety Officer for their work areas.

Safety inspection and audits are conducted at regular intervals to identify unsafe conditions/actions and corrective actions are taken accordingly. Safety training and safety awareness programmes are also conducted including the contract labour working at the projects.

(b) The number of accidents occurring in the last three years at Simhadri Project during construction stage is 17. Out of these, 14 were fatal and 3 were minor. There were no permanent disablement injuries in these accidents.

(c) The details of the accidents occurring at Simhadri Power project are as follows:

Agency and Location	Causes
1	2
A. Fatal Accidents	
NEC (HSCL) Sea Water Pump House	While working above sea water, the worker slipped and fell into the sea and died.
Paramjyothi (BHEL) Erection Works of ESP-I	While climbing the ladder, the worker slipped from a height of 9 meters and died.
SPICJEL (BHEL) Boiler-II	The worker fell from about 34 meters Elevation grating floor while returning to job after lunch.

1	2
NBCC Cooling Tower-II	While the worker was operating concrete vibrator, he got electric shock.
SIMPLEX (BHEL) Power House-II BC Axis 21-22	While the worker was fixing shuttering plate 17 meters, he slipped and fell.
NBCC Cooling Tower-I	Collapse of access platform
SIMPLEX (BHEL) Service Building Construction	While the worker was picking up a wooden batten, he got electric shock as he accidentally came in contract with temporary electric installation.
NBCC Cooling Tower-II	While erecting the precast column, accidentally the column fell down and resulted in fatal injury.
KEC (BHEL) Boiler-I	The cage which is used for lifting refractory material by KEC from 0 meter in Boiler-I was snapped and fell on two workers of M/s. L&T, which resulted in fatal injury to one worker and minor injury to the other.
B. Others (Minor injuries)	
SIMPLEX (BHEL) Steel Yard	Fall of foreign particle into left eye of the worker.
UB Engg. (BHEL) Cable Trestle near Service Building	Contract with KV overhead line.
RAGMET (BHEL) Boiler IC-Row	While coming from workplace, the worker slipped.

(d) Compensation according to the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act has been paid in all the cases.

Stations Under MUTP

2734. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all important stations have been covered under MUTP to improve the traffic near railway stations in Mumbai;

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

(c) if so, whether Dadar, Andheri, Malad, Borivali, Chembur and Ghatkopar are given priority; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (d) The improvement of traffic near Railway stations is not within the purview of the Railways. This activity falls under the Road component of MUTP, which is being executed by the Government of Maharastra.

Agreement Between India and Qatar

2735. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

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

(a) whether any discussion was held between India and Qatar to consolidate their energy partnership as reported in the 'Hindu' dated July 17, 2002;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the areas identified for future cooperation by the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF

STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An agreement for supply of 5 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) of LNG for Dahej and 2.5 MMTPA for Cochin have already been signed between Petronet LNG Limited and RasGas of Qatar. The Dahej Project is to be commissioned by 2003. Various issues on the LNG supply and timely completion of the projects were discussed in the meeting held on 15-16th July, 2002.

(c) India-Qatar Joint Commission for Economic and Technical Cooperation periodically meets to discuss the issues of mutual interest of both the countries in the areas of Hydrocarbon, Telecommunication, Civil Aviation, Industry, Manpower, Science & Technology, Culture etc.

Supply of ULSD by Petrol Pumps in Delhi

2736. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names and location of petrol pumps in New Delhi not supplying Ultra Low Sulphur Diesel inspite of obtaining the necessary storage licence etc.;

(b) whether the dealership agreements of such pumps permits the additional HSD facility on their pumps;

(c) whether the Government have still restrained the oil corporations to add HSD facility on these MS retail outlets; and

(d) if so, the time by which the Oil Corporations shall be directed to provide ULSD on all such sites to avoid dead mileage of the motorist?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) There is only one retail outlet of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited i.e. M/s. Navyug Service Station at New Delhi where HSD facilities could not be added inspite of obtaining the necessary storage licence since the oil industry was restrained by Government from adding HSD facility to lone MS outlets.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) There are a number of lone MS and 2/3 wheeler retail outlets in the country where only petrol is supplied. Oil Industry's proposal for permission for addition of HSD to such outlets is under consideration of the Government.

Setting up of Waste Energy Plant of Ghazipur

2737. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to set up a "waste energy" plant at Ghazipur landfill side in Delhi was assigned to private company named Energy Development Ltd.;

(b) if so, whether the project has been shelved;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to restart the plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) Based on a preliminary proposal, Municipal Corporation of Delhi has short-listed M/s. Energy Development Ltd. (EDL) for setting up Waste-to-Energy Plant on Build, Own & Operate basis at Ghazipur landfill site in Delhi.

(b) to (d) The project has neither been approved nor shelved as the Detailed Project Report has not been submitted by M/s EDL for examination in respect of techno-economic and environmental aspects.

[Translation]

Loss Making Production Units

2738. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are several production units under his Ministry which have been incurring financial losses for the last so many years;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the average annual loss suffered by the Ministry on account of these units;

(c) whether the Government propose to allow investment by the private sector in these units; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) No, Sir. The six production units under the Ministry of Railways are in-house production organizations, operating on a "no-profit no-loss" basis. The full cost of production is transferred to the consuming units by way of appropriately fixed transfer prices for the various items that are manufactured.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) These units are only wholly owned by Indian Railways for their in-house captive production. There is no proposal, at present, under consideration for investments by private sector in these units.

(d) Does not arise.

Co-Generation of Power in Private Sector

2739. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is unable to meet the demand of energy;

(b) if so, the steps being taken in this regard;

(c) whether the Government are allowing co-generation in private sector to meet the demand;

(d) if so, whether some state electricity boards are levying duty on private sector for co-generation of power; and

(e) the total capacity of power produced and captive generation in the country by private enterprise, State-wise, unit-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) The actual power supply position, State-wise/ region-wise in the country during the period April 2001 to January, 2002, indicating the details relating to requirement, availability and shortage of power etc., is given in statement-I.

(b) The Government has planned to make the country self-sufficient in power by the year 2012. The following steps are being taken to achieve this target:

(i) Renovation and Modernisation (R&M) and life extension of existing old and inefficient generating units. Special fund under Accelerated Power Development & Reforms Programme for undertaking R&M schemes is being provided to States.

(ii) Speedy implementation of Reforms & Restructuring in the Power Sector.

(iii) Early stabilization of newly commissioned generating units.

(iv) Reduction in Transmission and Distribution losses.

(v) Promoting energy efficiency and conservation measures.

(vi) Disbursement of loans by the Power Finance Corporation for improving operation and maintenance of thermal power stations under the Accelerated Generation Programme.

(vii) Expeditious implementation of capacity addition programme to enable doubling of the generation capacity by 2012.

(viii) Maximization of inter-state and inter-regional power transfer by construction of transmission links and system improvement and finally leading to formation of the National grid.

(ix) Formulation of hydel policy for exploitation of hydro potential at a faster pace.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government have not imposed levy of such duty. However, the States have their own policies in this regard.

(e) Details regarding the total installed capacity and the quantity of power being generating by captive-cogeneration power plants are not available as, under Section 44 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, the State Electricity Boards give consent to setting up of captive-cogeneration plants by various industries. However, as per information available, as on 31.3.1999, twenty selected industries (having an installed capacity of 1 MW and above) have set up a captive generating capacity of around 13,932 MW in the country which generated 48354 GwHr of power. The details are given in statement-II.

Statement-I

Actual Power Supply Position

(All fig. in MU)

Region/ State/ System	1999-2000				2000-2001				2001-2002			
	Requirement	Availability	Shortage (-) Deficit (+) Surplus	%	Requirement	Availability	Shortage (-) Deficit (+) Surplus	%	Requirement	Availability	Shortage (-) Deficit (+) Surplus	%
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Northern Region												
Chandigarh	1033	1032	-1	-0.1	1072	1068	-4	-0.4	1110	1108	-2	-0.2
Delhi	17635	17141	-494	-2.8	18575	17667	-908	-4.9	19350	18741	-609	-3.1
Haryana	15950	15578	-372	-2.3	17275	16793	-482	-2.8	18138	17839	-299	-1.6
Himachal Pradesh	3125	3115	-10	-0.3	3190	3087	-103	-3.2	3293	3206	-87	-2.6
Jammu and Kashmir	6065	4903	-1162	-19.2	6410	5361	-1049	-16.4	6635	5899	-736	-11.1
Punjab	26335	26164	-171	-0.6	27670	26923	-747	-2.7	28780	27577	-1203	-4.2
Rajasthan	25155	24024	-1131	-4.5	25080	24178	-902	-3.6	24747	24495	-2 50	-1.0
Uttar Pradesh	44525	38800	-5725	-12.9	46295	39556	-6739	-14.6	48332	43545	-4787	-9.9
N.R.	139823	130743	-9080	-6.5	145567	134633	-10934	-7.5	150383	142410	-7973	-5.3
Western Region												
Chhattisgarh									8054	7825	-229	-2.8
Gujarat	51202	46994	-4208	-8.2	53038	47877	-5161	-9.7	53693	47530	-6163	-11.5
Madhya Pradesh	37198	34543	-2655	-7.1	39644	34747	-4897	-12.4	31013	26233	-4780	-15.4
Maharashtra	73498	69002	-4496	-6.1	79527	71184	-8343	-10.5	80489	73438	-7051	-8.8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Goa	1806	1414	-392	-21.7	1766	1576	-190	-10.8	1767	1767	0	0.0
W.R.	163704	151953	-11751	-7.2	173975	155384	-18591	-10.7	175016	156793	-18223	-10.4
Southern Region												
Andhra Pradesh	45835	42832	-3003	-6.6	47792	44055	-3737	-7.8	48394	44302	-4092	-8.5
Karnataka	28201	25851	-2350	-8.3	30242	27490	-2752	-9.1	32556	28493	-4063	-12.5
Kerala	12850	11908	-942	-7.3	13564	12670	-894	-6.6	13334	12349	-985	-7.4
Tamil Nadu	38873	35797	-3076	-7.9	42702	39462	-3240	-7.6	46232	42951	-3281	-7.1
S.R.	125759	116388	-9371	-7.5	134300	123677	-10623	-7.9	140516	128095	-12421	-8.8
Eastern Region												
Bihar	8912	8348	-564	-6.3	9208	8563	-645	-7.0	9370	8992	-378	-4.0
D.V.C.	8464	8668	204	2.4	8368	8510	142	1.7	8319	8312	-7	-0.1
Orissa	10838	11143	305	2.8	11710	12070	360	3.1	12328	12318	-10	-0.1
West Bengal	17951	18298	347	1.9	18787	18958	171	0.9	20670	20575	-95	-0.5
E.R.	46165	46457	292	0.6	48073	48100	27	0.1	50687	50197	-490	-1.0
N.E. Region												
Arunachal Pradesh	119.8	120.7	0.9	0.8	127.7	130.1	2.4	1.9	136.3	134.6	-1.7	-1.2
Assam	2868.3	2918.4	50.1	1.7	3092.9	3332.8	239.9	7.8	3450.5	3452.2	-25.3	-0.7
Manipur	470.5	451.2	-19.3	-4.1	463.9	453.4	-10.5	-2.3	456.5	440.6	-15.9	-3.5
Meghalaya	514.1	540.8	26.7	5.2	563.9	605.2	41.3	7.3	700.1	705	4.9	0.7
Mizoram	220.8	223.9	3.1	1.4	249.7	256.5	6.8	2.7	284.5	278.5	-6	-2.1
Nagaland	205.6	207.8	2.2	1.1	226	231.9	5.9	2.6	260.1	258.4	-1.7	-0.7
Tripura	579.9	590.1	10.2	1.8	574	596.4	22.4	3.9	647.1	612.6	-34.5	-5.3
N.E.R.	4979	5052.9	73.9	1.5	5298.1	5606.3	308.2	5.8	5935.1	5854.9	-80.2	-1.4
All India	480430	450594	-29836	-6.2	507216	467400	-39816	-7.8	522537	483350	-39187	-7.5

Note:Uttar Pradesh in ludes, Uttaranchal, Madhya Pradesh includes Chhattisgarh (1999-2000) & (2000-01) and Bihar includes Jharkhand.

Actual Power Supply Position

(All fig. in MW)

Region/ State/ System	1999-2000				2000-2001				2001-2002			
	Peak Dem.	Dem. Met.	(-) Deficit (+) Surplus	%	Peak Dem.	Dem. Met.	(-)Deficit (+) Surplus	%	Peak Dem.	Dem. Met.	(-) Deficit (+) Surplus	%
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Northern Region												
Chandigarh	180	180	0	0.0	171	171	0	0.0	180	180	0	0.0
Delhi	2850	2498	-352	-12.4	3080	2670	-410	-13.3	3118	2879	-239	-7.7
Haryana	2527	2527	0	0.0	2800	2709	-91	-3.3	3000	2900	-100	-3.3
Himachal Pradesh	618	618	0	0.0	585	585	0	0.0	562	562	0	0.0
Jammu and Kashmir	1210	1004	-206	-17.0	1170	974	-196	-16.8	1209	999	-210	-17.4
Punjab	5029	5029	0	0.0	5004	4904	-100	-2.0	5420	4936	-484	-8.9
Rajasthan	3672	3672	0	0.0	3755	3663	-92	-2.5	3700	3657	-43	-1.2
Uttar Pradesh	6580	5058	-1522	-23.1	7200	6119	-1081	-15.0	7584	6887	-697	-9.2
N.R.	20980	18882	-2098	-10.0	21740	19860	-1880	-8.6	23200	21346	-1854	-8.0
Western Region												
Gujarat	7554	5962	-1592	-21.1	7801	6905	-896	-11.5	8005	6700	-1305	-16.3
Madhya Pradesh	6836	4808	-2028	-29.7	7111	5310	-1801	-25.3	5683	4457	-1226	-21.6
Maharashtra	12075	9747	-2328	-19.3	12535	10596	-1939	-15.5	12265	10726	-1539	-12.5
Goa	260	234	-26	-10.0	296	267	-29	-9.8	316	316	0	0.0
Chhattisgarh									1357	1311	-46	-3.4
W.R.	2486	20333	-4531	-18.2	25614	20710	-4904	-19.1	26510	22024	-4486	-16.9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Southern Region												
Andhra Pradesh	7209	6356	-843	-11.7	8000	6835	-1165	-14.6	8584	6873	-1711	-19.9
Karnataka	4591	3881	-710	-15.5	5037	4371	-666	-13.2	5338	4428	-910	-17.0
Kerala	2386	2169	-217	-9.1	2456	2331	-125	-5.1	2633	2189	-444	-16.9
Tamil Nadu	6446	5640	-806	-12.5	7131	6038	-1093	-15.3	7158	6218	-940	-13.1
S.R.	20424	17832	-2592	-12.7	21929	18777	-3162	-14.4	22757	19201	-3556	-15.6
Eastern Region												
Bihar	1430	1201	-229	-16.0	1470	1263	-207	-14.8	1409	1288	-121	-8.6
D.V.C.	1276	1276	0	0.0	1366	1390	+24	+1.8	1296	1209	-87	-6.7
Orissa	1909	1809	-100	-5.2	1952	1994	+42	+2.2	2132	1977	-155	-7.3
West Bengal	3217	3010	-207	-6.4	3594	3426	-168	-4.7	3614	3414	-200	-5.5
E.R.	7370	7012	-358	-4.9	7727	7490	-237	-3.1	7940	7648	-292	-3.7
N.E. Region												
Arunachal Pradesh	48	45	-3	-5.3	49	49	0	0.0	50	50	0	0.0
Assam	565	556	-9	-1.5	584	579	-5	-0.9	688	618	-70	-10.2
Manipur					92	89	-3	-3.3	98	94	-4	-4.1
Meghalaya	124	126	+2	+1.6	129	129	0	0.0	165	160	-5	-3.0
Mizoram	64	64	0	0.0	74	72	-2	-2.7	75	73	-2	-2.7
Nagaland	49	48	-1	-2.0	52	52	0	0.0	61	58	-3	-4.9
Tripura	126	98	-28	-22.2	136	135	-1	-0.7	156	140	-16	-10.3
N.E.R.	959	932	-27	-2.8	1027	1043	16	1.6	1148	1043	-105	-9.1
All India	72669	63691	-8978	-12.4	74872	65628	-9244	-12.3	78441	69189	-9252	-11.8

Note: Uttar Pradesh includes, Uttaranchal. Madhya Pradesh includes Chhattisgarh (1999-2000) & (2000-01) and Bihar includes Jharkhand.

Statement-II

S.No	Name of Industry	Installed Capacity (MW)	Energy Generation (GWH)
1.	Aluminium	1742	11182
2.	Automobiles	231	371
3.	Cement	1466	3528
4.	Chemicals, Mineral Oil and Petroleum	1993	7091
5.	Fertilizers	1155	4322
6.	Food	115	60
7.	Heavy and Light Engineering	453	263
8.	Iron and Steel	1686	7416
9.	Mining and Quarrying	38	21
10.	Non-Ferrous Metal	424	1187
11.	Paper	599	2205
12.	Sugar	786	1771
13.	Textile	1884	5161
14.	Sub-Total (1 to 13)	12572	44578
15.	Other Industries	1360	3776
	Total (14 to 15)	13932	48354

Ship in Western Coast

2740. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coast Guard find a ship abandoned off in Western coast on July 6, 2002;

(b) if so, the details in this regard along with the name of the country to which the ship belongs;

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

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) (a) to (d) A merchant ship reported sighting of an abandoned merchant ship 'MV Al Murtada' on 3rd July, 2002 in position 84 nautical miles west of Ratnagiri (110 nautical miles south of Mumbai). Coast Guard Ship Vijaya was sailed to monitor the movements of the vessel and boarded her on 6th July, 2002 and subsequently anchored the ship about 5 nautical miles of Devgarh (155 nautical miles south of Mumbai). During the preliminary search of the vessel, two AK 47 rifles with words "ALLAH" and "YUSUF" inscribed in Urdu were recovered. On further rummaging, 3 loaded magazines of AK 47 bore (74 rounds) were also recovered. An explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team of Navy also embarked the ship on 9th July, 2002 to sanitise the vessel of any explosives. None were found. As intimated by International Maritime Bureau the last owner of the ship is Mr. Assem Nidal Beaini, Lebanon.

Enquiries have revealed that the ship had a crew of 16 members which included Somalians-6, Syrians-4, and Lebanese-4 besides 4 Indians. It developed some snag in mid-sea during its journey from Somalia to Dubai and remained floating in mid-sea. On receiving an SOS from the ship, US ship 'Vicks Burg' came to their rescue and airlifted on 16th June, 2002 all the crew members to another vessel 'MV Stolt Spray' which was sailing towards Kandla Port. Finally, the latter ship berthed in Kandla on June 18/19, 2002 and thereafter all the foreign crew members left for their respective countries via Mumbai after completion of immigration formalities through local Shipping Agent at Kandla. All the four Indian crew members on board the vessel Al Murtada have been identified.

Construction of Pipelines by IGL

2741. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has asked the Indraprastha Gas Ltd. to expedite the construction of a 23 km pipeline;

(b) if so, the time by which the said pipeline is supposed to come up;

(c) whether the construction of said pipeline is hampered due to delayed permission from various departments;

(d) if so, the departments which have not accorded permission for the said pipeline; and

(e) the efforts being made by his ministry in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) has informed the Supreme Court through its affidavit dated 12.10.2001 about construction of 23 km. long gas pipeline in Western part of Delhi. The pipeline is scheduled to be commissioned by November, 2002.

(c) to (e) Approval from Defence Authorities and Northern Railways for laying pipeline through their land has not been received. This Ministry as well as the Lt. Governor, Delhi have taken up the matter with Defence Authorities for expediting approval for laying the pipeline through the Defence land.

Sale of Refractory Division's Land

2742. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the management of Burn Standard Co. Ltd. has decided to sell the land belonging to Refractory Division in Raniganj, Asansol and Durgapur, after declaring the closure of Refractory Division;

(b) if so, whether any approval was taken from the State Government in this regard;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there is any provisions, in case of closure of the factory, the land belonging to the factory, may be assumed by the State Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Company has taken decision in compliance with the BIFR decision. State Government's Approval is not required.

(d) and (e) The land being free hold there is no provision for its resumption with State Government.

[Translation]

Use of Credit Cards at Petrol Pumps

2743. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the credit card holders can avail of the facility of buying Petrol, Diesel and other petroleum products on credit from the petrol pumps owned by the Indian Oil Corporation Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the cities in which this schemes has been introduced;

(c) whether the said scheme is proposed to be introduced in all big cities of the country;

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

(e) whether the Indian Oil Corporation Limited is contemplating to provide different services at the petrol pumps to cater to the need of customers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Customers having generally accepted credit cards can buy Petrol, Diesel and other petroleum products through the credit cards from selected retail outlets of Indian Oil Corporation Limited.

(b) Indian Oil Corporation Limited has introduced acceptance of credit cards at its retail outlets for purchase of fuel and lubes. Currently almost all major cities where credit cards have been introduced are covered under the scheme. The list of cities where credit cards are accepted at retail outlets is given in the statement.

(c) and (d) As and when the credit card issuing companies expand their credit card, network to new cities, the same will also be provided at select Indian Oil retail outlets depending on their locations.

(e) and (f) Indian Oil Corporation Limited is contemplating provision of the following services at the selected Retail Outlets:

(i) Convenience Stores

(ii) ATMs

(iii) Pizza Parlour

(iv) Cyber Cafe

(v) Telephone Bill Collection Centre

Statement

List of cities where credit cards are accepted at Indian Oil Retail Outlets

S.No.	Name of the City
1	2
1.	Ahmedabad
2.	Aurangabad
3.	Bangalore
4.	Baroda
5.	Bhopal
6.	Bhubaneshwar
7.	Chandigarh
8.	Chennai
9.	Kochi
10.	Coimbatore
11.	Cuttack
12.	Dehradun
13.	Delhi
14.	Faridabad
15.	Gandhinagar
16.	Ghaziabad
17.	Gurgaon
18.	Hosur
19.	Hyderabad
20.	Indore
21.	Jaipur
22.	Jalandhar
23.	Jamshedpur
24.	Jodhpur
25.	Kanpur
26.	Kolkata
27.	Lucknow
28.	Ludhiana
29.	Madurai
30.	Mangalore
31.	Mumbai
32.	Mysore
33.	Nagpur
34.	Nasik
35.	Noida
36.	Panambur
37.	Pune
38.	Sahibabad
39.	Secunderabad
40.	Thane
41.	Trichinapalli
42.	Thiruvananthapuram
43.	Vishakhapatnam

[English]

Dabhol Power Plant

2744. SHRI J.S. BRAR:

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently the Ministry of Power and

Ministry of Finance have turned down the request of State Government regarding restarting of Dabhol Project;

(b) if so, whether the State Government appealed to NTPC for the revival;

(c) if so, whether financial institutions, IDBI have cooperated in this direction;

(d) if so, the details of offer of the State Government;

(e) the details of conditions of NTPC, IDBI, FIs;

(f) the efforts being made by the Government to save the project;

(g) the impact of failure of Enron in America on Indian Project; and

(h) the details of action plan and its present status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (h) The primary responsibility for finding an amicable solution to the various issues presently surrounding the project lies with the two parties to the Power Purchase Agreement, i.e. Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) & Dabhol Power Company (DPC) as also with the Government of Maharashtra, who have guaranteed the payment obligations of MSEB to DPC. Government of India has agreed to facilitate the revival/restructuring of the project.

2. The Government of Maharashtra has written to NTPC suggesting participation by the Corporation in the equity of DPC. The Government of Maharashtra have also written to the Government of India requesting for the Government/Central Utilities like NTPC to step into the project. A Committee of the Indian Financial Institutions constituted to evolve a road map for restructuring and revival of the Dabhol project has also suggested, inter-alia, the take over of the Dabhol project by NTPC. The proposal was considered by the Government of India as well as by NTPC and the same has not been found to be a feasible option. One of the main problems associated with the project is the high tariff and not the ownership of the project. The high tariff is attributable to high cost of fuel (naphtha), low off take of power by MSEB and fall of the Rupee vis-a-vis the Dollar.

3. NTPC, while disagreeing to take over the Dabhol project, have suggested to the Government of Maharashtra that it would be a better proposition that NTPC's technical services are used on hands-off basis on payment of fees to technically advise / supervise the completion of the project and, if required, for the operation thereof.

4. The Financial Institutions led by the Industrial Development Bank of India, who have substantial stake in the Dabhol power project, have been discussing the matter with all concerned parties to restructure and revive the project. Among other things, the financial institutions are trying to re-start phase-I of the project. The Government of Maharashtra has informed that the MSEB could be asked to start buying power subject to certain conditions being first fulfilled, which include inter-alia, grant of some fiscal concessions by the Government of India, power being sold to MSEB at a price not exceeding Rs. 2.50 per unit (all inclusive), absolving MSEB of any liabilities relating to phase-II of the project and taking up of project by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) etc.

5. The Indian Financial Institutions led by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) have initiated the selection process for identifying new sponsors to replace the present offshore sponsors, who have desired to exit from the project., so that the project can be completed and operations restarted. IDBI has informed that the bankruptcy proceedings relating to Enron Corp., USA, who are one of the main promoters of the Dabhol project, have no impact on DPC or DPC's assets and as such the same may not affect the security interest of the DPC lenders. The new sponsors of the project are proposed to be inducted by way of sale of assets rather than by sale of equity.

Privatisation of EIL

2745. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Employees and Officers Association of Engineers India Limited have urged the Government for some alternatives to the Privatisation of EIL; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Engineers India Limited Employees Association and EIL Officers' Association had submitted letters offering alternatives to privatisation of Engineers India Limited (EIL).

However, subsequently vide letter dated 15.7.2002 EIL Officers' Association informed the decision of its Special General Body Meeting that the Association was no more interested in acquiring 51% equity of EIL, being divested by the Government.

[Translation]

Historical Tourist Spots Connected by the Palace on Wheel

2746. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the historical tourist spots connected by the 'Palace on Wheel' train;

(b) the time table of the train;

(c) the revenues earned by railway from it;

(d) the amount invested in the 'Palace on Wheel' by the Department of Tourism and Railway;

(e) whether the Government have decided to run the 'Palace on Wheel' on metre gauge in Gujarat and Rajasthan; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) The names of the historical tourist spots connected by the Palace on Wheels are Jaipur, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Sawai Madhopur, Chittaurgarh, Udaipur and Agra.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) The revenue earned by the Railways during 1998-99 to 2000-01 is around Rs. 25.63 crores.

(d) The Railways and the Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation (RTDC) invested Rs. 19.60 crores in the Palace on Wheels train.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The spare Metre Gauge rake of the earlier Palace on Wheels, which was running in the Rajasthan sector, was utilized, after the gauge conversion in that sector, to form the Royal Orient Express to run in Gujarat and Rajasthan in collaboration with M/s. Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Ltd. (TCGL). The train has been running since 1995.

Statement

Timetable of the Palace on Wheels

Day	Station	Departure/Arrival	Time
Wednesday	Delhi	Dep.	1830 hrs.
Thursday	Jaipur	Arr.	0200 hrs.
		Dep.	1930 hrs.
Friday	Jaisalmer	Arr.	0815 hrs.
		Dep.	2300 hrs.
Saturday	Jodhpour	Arr.	0700 hrs.
		Dep.	1530 hrs.
Sunday	Sawai Madhopur	Arr.	0400 hrs.
		Dep.	1030 hrs.
Monday	Chittaurgarh	Arr.	1630 hrs.
		Dep.	1830 hrs.
Tuesday	Agra Cantonment	Arr.	0500 hrs.
		Dep.	1100 hrs.
	Bharatpur	Arr.	1330 hrs.
		Dep.	2200 hrs.
Wednesday	Delhi Cantonment	Arr.	0600 hrs.

[English]

Vacancies in Fast Track Courts

2747. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of judges in the Fast Track Courts as a result of which the cases get piled up defeating there by the very purpose for setting up such courts;

(b) if so, the number of vacancies available in such courts, State-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken to fill up all vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) and (b) A Statement of shortage of Judges and vacancies in Fast Track Courts is enclosed.

(c) It is the primary responsibility of the concerned High Court and the State Government to fill up the vacancies of judges in Fast Track Courts in their respective jurisdiction.

The Supreme Court in its Judgement of the 6th May, 2002 in Brij Mohan Lal. Vs. Union of India & Others has directed as below:

" The High Court and the State Government shall ensure that there exists no vacancy so far as the Fast Track Courts are concerned, and necessary steps in this regard shall be taken within three months from today. In other words, steps should be taken to set up all the Fast Track Courts within the stipulated time".

The direction given by the Supreme Court has been communicated to the State Governments for compliance.

Statement

The number of vacancies in Fast Track Courts as on 30.7.2002

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of FTCs Notified	No.of FTCs Working	No. of vacancies
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	70	22	48
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3	3	-
3.	Assam	20	15	5
4.	Bihar	183	110	73
5.	Chhattisgarh	31	23	8
6.	Goa	3	3	-
7.	Gujarat	36	36	-
8.	Haryana	12	5	7
9.	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	43	40	3
11.	Jharkhand	89	30	59
12.	Karnataka	13	10	3
13.	Kerala	27	10	17
14.	Madhya Pradesh	85	36	49
15.	Maharashtra	104	94	10
16.	Manipur	2	2	-
17.	Meghalaya	2	2	-
18.	Mizoram	3	-	3
19.	Nagaland	2	-	2
20.	Orissa	27	19	8
21.	Punjab	6	5	1
22.	Rajasthan	40	40	-
23.	Sikkim	-	-	-
24.	Tamil Nadu	49	30	19
25.	Tripura	3	2	1
26.	Uttaranchal	45	30	15
27.	Uttar Pradesh	206	157	49
28.	West Bengal	46	13	33
	Total	1150	737	413

Modernisation of Bongaigaon Thermal Power Station

2748. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have contemplated to revive, modernize and renovate the Bongaigaon Thermal Power Station (BTPS), Salakati located in lower Assam either by merging it with the NTPC or providing the required fund as a measure of augment economic growth and development in the backward tribal region;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) 4x60 MW units of Bongaigaon Thermal Power Station (TPS) of Assam State Electricity Board (ASEB) have been identified by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for Renovation & Modernisation (R&M)/Life Extension (LE) during the 10th Plan. The ASEB has been asked to get the condition assessment and RLA studies conducted for these units by

some reputed agency and formulate comprehensive R&M/ Refurbishment scheme for implementation. The scheme could be considered for financing at concessional rate of interest under AG&SP (Accelerated Generation & Supply Programme) of Power Finance Corporation (PFC).

National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) was not keen to take over the plant for R&M as well as for its operation as the revival of the plant may not be commercially viable.

Power Reforms

2749. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether private bidders for distribution of power are facing difficulties to collect power dues in the absence of adequate backing from the State Law enforcement authorities;

(b) if so, whether the State Governments are still undermining the reforms process;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to implement the reforms process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Apart from the lack of political will in implementing the reforms in the Distribution sector, the major factors affecting distribution business in India include lack of commercial orientation, excessive Transmission & Distribution losses, distorted tariff policies etc.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to (b) above.

(d) The States have accepted the need for power sector reforms. A consensus was reached in the conference of Chief Ministers/Power Ministers held in March, 2001 on the need to depoliticise power sector reform and speed up their implementation. It was resolved in the conference to achieve break even in distribution in two years time and achieve positive returns thereafter. It was also resolved that State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) would be made functional and tariff petition filed and subsidy may be given only to the extent of the State Government's capacity to pay the subsidies explicitly through budget. The Government of India has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with twenty-one States. The MoUs are a joint commitment of the Centre and the States to undertake reforms in a time bound manner. The State Governments commitment in these MoUs include setting up of the State Electricity Regulatory Commission, 100% metering of 11 KV feeders and all consumers, energy audit, reduction of technical and commercial losses, achievement of commercial viability in distribution etc. Government of India has committed its support through additional allocation of power from Central Generating Stations and financial assistance for strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution as well as for renovation and modernization of thermal and hydel power plants.

Advertisements to Newspapers, Doordarshan and Akashwani

2750. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of advertisements released to daily, weekly and fortnightly newspapers during each of the last three years till date and the amount paid therefor, State-wise; and

(b) the number of advertisements given to Akashwani, DD and Private T.V. channels during the said period alongwith the amount spent thereon, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Details of advertisements issued to daily, weekly and fortnightly newspapers by the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) to newspapers empanelled with it during the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 (upto 26th July, 2002) are given in statements I, II, III and IV respectively.

(b) No advertisements are being issued by DAVP to private T.V. Channels. The details of broadcasts/ telecasts got done by DAVP through Akashwani and Doordarshan during the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 (upto July, 2002) are given in statement V.

Statement-I

The State-wise Break-up of Amount Committed by DAVP for Advertisements released to Daily, Weekly and Fortnightly Newspapers during 1999-2000 (1st April 1999 to 31st March, 2000)

S.No.	Name of State/Union Territory	Dailies (In Rs.)	Weeklies (In Rs.)	Fortnightly (In Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13453384	110153	48639
2.	Assam	8123579	306953	5178
3.	Bihar	15512937	460806	81015
4.	Gujarat	34256234	286896	17820
5.	Haryana	3153470	176454	27111
6.	Himachal Pradesh	2327926	93921	6147
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	1050724[illegible]3	51661	4590
8.	Karnataka	26156747	30570	9107
9.	Kerala	21785917	294152	0
10.	Madhya Pradesh	24219608	4782723	68580
11.	Maharashtra	87704234	232285	0
12.	Manipur	594504	0	0
13.	Meghalaya	1313137	12648	0
14.	Orissa	12478402	344537	0
15.	Punjab	32702917	445889	37488
16.	Rajasthan	34[illegible]63552	1408747	1662522
17.	Sikkim	0	198940	0
18.	Tamil Nadu	32723839	66622	20444
19.	Tripura	2949827	54354	0
20.	Uttar Pradesh	46152408	8505727	1520123
21.	West Bengal	60711627	1115324	330305
22.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	16620	4957
23.	Arunachal Pradesh	455978	9420	0
24.	Chandigarh	19328643	123431	0

1	2	3	4	5
25.	Delhi	174034982	103696134	647459
26.	Goa	1513638	0	0
27.	Mizoram	141675	0	0
28.	Pondicherry	365431	1726	0
29.	Chhattisgarh	5401580	150783	6147
30.	Jharkhand	5255210	28969	9282
31.	Uttaranchal	3076080	807599	68421
	Total	680464709	123814044	4575335

Statement-II

The State-wise Break-up of Amount Committed by DAVP for Advertisements released to Daily, Weekly and Fortnightly Newspapers during 2000-2001 (1st April 2000 to 31st March, 2001)

S.No.	Name of State/Union Territory	Dailies (In Rs.)	Weeklies (In Rs.)	Fortnightly (In Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12631747	21425	26607
2.	Assam	6980372	83550	0
3.	Bihar	17973023	26190	12019
4.	Gujarat	30692118	146057	27494
5.	Haryana	4726250	44810	0
6.	Himachal Pradesh	2398090	31690	10245
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	12050849	22577	0
8.	Karnataka	24748099	8160	0
9.	Kerala	18471373	302215	0
10.	Madhya Pradesh	22729472	969518	24537
11.	Maharashtra	76458813	106775	0
12.	Manipur	539193	0	0
13.	Meghalaya	1111581	8036	0
14.	Orissa	10977938	157384	5840
15.	Punjab	26343638	109006	8331

1	2	3	4	5
16.	Rajasthan	29787932	404406	865610
17.	Sikkim	0	83104	0
18.	Tamil Nadu	45102450	39894	3842
19.	Tripura	2896263	0	0
20.	Uttar Pradesh	43274968	1737110	446953
21.	West Bengal	57970948	275817	174226
22.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	17647	11339
23.	Arunachal Pradesh	339940	0	0
24.	Chandigarh	14787425	13123	0
25.	Delhi	166876557	94629690	389616
26.	Goa	880231	0	0
27.	Pondicherry	480281	0	0
28.	Chhattisgarh	4695238	41916	0
	Total	635924789	99280100	2006659

Statement-III

The State-wise Break-up of Amount Committed by DAVP for Advertisements released to Daily, Weekly and Fortnightly Newspapers during 2001-2002 (1st April 2001 to 31st March, 2002)

S.No.	Name of State/Union Territory	Dailies (In Rs.)	Weeklies (In Rs.)	Fortnightly (In Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16324921	50469	31375
2.	Assam	7808254	88986	0
3.	Bihar	15670449	40268	0
4.	Gujarat	35079010	244620	20598
5.	Haryana	4523466	62411	0
6.	Himachal Pradesh	2601461	44166	7991
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	12985178	12240	6120
8.	Karnataka	24657758	3768	0
9.	Kerala	23259372	11911684	0

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Madhya Pradesh	26006698	829018	13077
11.	Maharashtra	87567547	201972	0
12.	Manipur	1012364	0	0
13.	Meghalaya	1165843	0	0
14.	Orissa	13237454	193756	19352
15.	Punjab	28455653	114500	15913
16.	Rajasthan	30507527	403592	494500
17.	Sikkim	0	162365	0
18.	Tamil Nadu	63275309	99890	19193
19.	Tripura	3228487	0	0
20.	Uttar Pradesh	46034223	2036810	260756
21.	West Bengal	63005375	643685	91748
22.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	20002	2886
23.	Arunachal Pradesh	130012	0	0
24.	Chandigarh	17803822	22360	0
25.	Delhi	233757959	98296097	458321
26.	Goa	1378208	0	0
27.	Pondicherry	541628	0	0
28.	Chhattisgarh	6552086	46823	0
29.	Jharkhand	6335288	0	0
30.	Uttaranchal	5327551	190145	12088
	Total	777930903	104999627	1453918

Statement-IV

The State-wise Break-up of Amount Committed by DAVP for Advertisements released to Daily, Weekly and Fortnightly Newspapers during 2002-2003 (1st April 2002 to 31st March, 2003)

S.No.	Name of State/Union Territory	Dailies (In Rs.)	Weeklies (In Rs.)	Fortnightly (In Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4996098	4599	0

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Assam	2553180	5075	0
3.	Bihar	4391442	4956	0
4.	Gujarat	10790811	2355	0
5.	Haryana	1180087	2498	0
6.	Himachal Pradesh	899725	1726	0
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	4185049	1530	0
8.	Karnataka	7516324	2355	0
9.	Kerala	5731922	31450	0
10.	Madhya Pradesh	6880611	9640	0
11.	Maharashtra	26124475	6069	0
12.	Manipur	402596	0	0
13.	Meghalaya	352789	0	0
14.	Orissa	4297543	128791	0
15.	Punjab	8357856	2049	0
16.	Rajasthan	8608290	5543	0
17.	Sikkim	0	114292	0
18.	Tamil Nadu	19372791	0	0
19.	Tripura	998281	0	0
20.	Uttar Pradesh	13047977	56618	0
21.	West Bengal	18132779	164210	0
22.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	5456	0
23.	Chandigarh	5875052	0	0
24.	Delhi	67754452	31268300	96695
25.	Goa	449738	0	0
26.	Pondicherry	137053	0	0
27.	Chhattisgarh	1781452	11034	0
28.	Jharkhand	1751733	0	0
29.	Uttaranchal	1958450	171672	0
	Total	228480556	32000218	96695

Statement-V

The details of Broadcasts / Telecasts got done by DAVP through Akashwani and Doordarshan during the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001, 2001-2002 & 2002-2003 (Upto July, 2002)

Year	Number of Broadcasts/ Telecasts	Amount (Rs.)
	Akashwani	
1999-2000	25,800 broadcasts in various languages on Primary Channels and CBS Stations of AIR all over the country	1,19,18,706
2000-2001	22,528 broadcasts in various languages on Primary Channels and CBS Stations of AIR all over the country	3,15,14,113
2001-2002	21986 broadcasts in various languages on Primary Channels and CBS Stations of AIR all over the country	3,21,85,150
2002-2003 (Up to July 2002)	8028 broadcasts in various languages on Primary Channels and CBS Stations of AIR all over the country	1,45,73,075
	Doordarshan	
1999-2000	292 telecasts on National Network all over the country	74,87,020
2000-2001	104 telecasts on National Network all over the country	1,65,28,290
2001-2002	479 telecasts on National Network and Regional News all over the country	3,40,87,799
2002-2003 (Up to July 2002)	55 telecasts on National, Network	59,85,469

Cargo Trains

2751. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some time back a cargo train between Mumbai and Kolkata was launched;

(b) if so, the extent to which this cargo train became successful;

(c) whether another cargo train between Delhi and Mumbai has been started recently;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether this type of cargo would reduce the cost of movement of parcel; and

(f) if so, the extent to which the Railway is likely to be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Yes, Sir. A Millennium Parcel Express train was introduced between Turbe (Mumbai) and Shalimar (Kolkata) on 10.11.2001.

(b) The train has a weekly service and has completed 37 round trips since November 2001 fetching an earning of approximately Rs. 3.5 crores.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Another weekly special parcel train has been introduced between Subzi Mandi (Delhi) - Turbe on 06.7.2002 on round trip basis.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. There would be no substantial difference in the cost incurred by the Railways for running such trains. However, the Railways are benefited as they get assured traffic and earnings.

Lawyers Appearing in Family Courts in Routine Manner

2752. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that lawyers are appearing in the family courts in a routine manner against the spirit of the Family Courts Act, 1984;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by the Government to give para-legal training to counsellors serving the Family Courts in order to enable them to assist the judges and guide the parties in reconciliation so that the appearance of lawyers in family courts is eliminated?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) to (c) Section 13 of the Family Courts Act, 1984 provides that no party to suit or proceedings before a Family Court shall be entitled, as of right, to be represented by a lawyer or a legal practitioner. However, the Court may in the interest of justice, provide the assistance of a legal expert as *amicus curiae*.

During its visit to Mumbai in 2001, the Parliamentary Committee on Empowerment of Women noticed that lawyers were appearing in Family Courts in a routine manner. This was pointed out by the Committee on Empowerment of Women in its Fifth Report. Keeping in view the observations of the Committee the matter was clarified to the Government of Maharashtra vide Department of Justice letters dated 28.5.2001 and 27.9.2001.

Clarifications have also been issued to all the State Governments vide Department of Justice letter dated 28.9.2001 forwarding therewith a copy of Supreme Court judgment delivered in W.P. No. 1128/87 - Kanpur Bar Association Vs. Union of India and others.

Model Family Courts Rules framed by the Department of Justice, in consultation with the States, have been circulated to all the State Governments, UT Administrations and High Courts vide Department of Justice letter dated 16.1.2002 to ensure uniformity in the Family Court Rules framed by various State Governments.

As regards giving para-legal training to counsellors serving the Family Courts, it is for the State Governments to make such arrangements.

Amendment in Law in Case of Hit and-Run Accidents

2753. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Law Commission has proposed some amendments in the country-old law in case of hit-and-run accidents;

(b) whether despite specific Supreme Court guidelines on road safety, the road accidents are not curbed;

(c) whether the Government is going to accept the proposed amendments on outdated law;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Amendment in Electricity Bill, 2001

2754. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposals from the Government of Rajasthan suggesting certain amendments to the Electricity Bill, 2001 during October, 2001;

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

(c) whether the proposal has been examined in details and suggested amendments incorporated in the proposed Bill;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be approved and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) The Electricity Bill, 2001 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 30th August, 2001 and referred to Standing Committee on Energy on 31st August, 2001 for examination and report. The Standing Committee has invited comments from different stakeholders on the provisions of the proposed legislation. Various stakeholders including the Government of Rajasthan have given their comments to the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee on Energy has not submitted its report so far.

[Translation]

Purchase Orders to HEC Ranchi

2755. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the value of the purchase orders received by the H.E.C. Ranchi during each of the last two years and till date;

(b) the details of purchase orders, purchase-wise;

(c) whether these purchase orders are much less as compared to previous year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) The value of purchase orders received by HEC, Ranchi:-

(Rupee In Crore)

2000-01	2001-02	2002-03 (upto June, 2002)
197	146	24

(b) The details of Orders purchase-wise:-

(Rs. In crores)

Sector	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03 (upto June, 2002)
Steel	50.40	37.00	8.80
Mining & Coal	44.50	49.00	9.00
Railways	30.00	13.00	3.50
Defence	14.00	2.00	-
Others	58.10	45.00	2.70
Total	197.00	146.00	24.00

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The reasons for less orders are continued recessionary trend in the steel & coal sectors which are the main customers of HEC. For improvement of order booking, the company is making efforts to enter new areas of business like reconditioning/refurbishing/annual maintenance contracts of shovels and machine tools, and more thrust on procurement of orders for spares. As and when the company has sought such assistance, the Ministry has also approached the user Ministries/Departments for placement of orders on HEC.

[English]

Allocation of Vacancies

2756. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the basis on which the number of vacancies are allocated to Regional Recruiting Offices in the States for 'enrolment in the Defence services;

(b) whether there is any quota of States for recruitment in the Defence Services;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;

(d) whether there has been any problem in getting adequate number of right candidates for Defence forces;

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to attract the Youths to Defence Services; and

(f) the number of vacancies likely to be filled up during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) (a) to (f) In Air Force and Navy, recruitment is done on all India merit basis and vacancies are not allocated State-wise. In Army, Fixed Class vacancies are allocated as per the fixed class share of the State based on the demographic pattern of population and all India all class vacancies are allocated as per the Recruitable Male Population (RMP) of the State. There is no specific quota for any State as these vacancies vary from year to year based on the wastage rate and new raisings, if any.

There has been no problem in getting adequate number of candidates for enrolment as Personnel Below Officer Rank (PBOR) in Army, Sailors in Navy and Airmen in Air Force. However, some problem is being faced in getting candidates of desired calibre in adequate numbers for the Officer ranks in all the three Services viz. Army, Navy and Air force. To improve the intake of officers, the recruiting activities and service profile of officers etc. are being given wide publicity through media-advertisements, internet and other modes of public contact. Results of these moves have been encouraging.

The approximate number of vacancies, including Officers, likely to be filled up in Army, Navy and Air Force in the current year is as under:-

(i)	Army	96,503
(ii)	Navy	4,000
(iii)	Air Force	4,965

Moving Block System

2757. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are considering introduction of "Moving Block System" instead of the traditional "Absolute Block System" with regard to freight movement;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the distinction between the two systems;

(c) whether such a change would lead to a massive increase in line capacity; and

(d) if so, the details of the advantages of this system?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Reservation Facility to Passenger

2758. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide Reservation facility to passengers travelling upto 200 kms. on cheaper rates in the long distance trains having reservation quota from various stations and where many reserved seats lie vacant from the starting point;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Introduction of "Time Limit" for Disposal of Cases

2759. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan of increasing working hours in Law Courts to the public and finish the backlog of pending cases;

(b) whether the Government also propose to reduce Court holidays and draw a plan to limit adjournments granted by Law Courts;

(c) whether the Government plan to introduce a "Time Limit" for disposal of cases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) to (d) The working hours in the Supreme Court and High Courts are regulated by the rules framed by the respective Courts. According to available information, the Supreme Court of India works for 222 days in a year; all High Courts in the country normally have 210 working days in a year and the number of working days as well as working hours of the District/Subordinate Courts are regulated by the concerned High Court.

The question of curtailing/discontinuing the vacations in the Courts has been considered by the Government recently. The Department of Justice in July 2001 had invited the views of the High Courts regarding the number of working days in the High Courts and the curtailment of their vacations. Replies have since been received from 14 High Courts. The High Court of Uttaranchal has increased the number of its working days in a year from 210 to 224 and the High Court of Karnataka from 210 to 214; Chhattisgarh High Court has stated that the question of increasing the working days will be taken care of while preparing the calendar for the next year. Jharkhand High Court has no objection to increase the number of working days. Other High Courts have not favoured increase in the number of their working days in a year.

The First National Judicial Pay Commission (FNJPC) has recommended 36 hours of judicial work per week along with six working days in a week for the Subordinate Courts. The FNJPC has also recommended that till such time as the arrears are brought down to manageable limits, the court vacations should be cut down by 15 days in a year. These recommendations have been forwarded to High Courts and State Governments by the FNJPC and the Central Government for necessary action.

The Civil Procedure Code has also been amended and the amendments have been brought into force with effect from 1.07.2002, which inter alia, limit the number of adjournments which can be granted to a party to three,

provide for speedy process service by speed post, courier services, fax or e-mail, authorize the court to fix time limit for oral arguments and provide for a number of other measures aimed at ensuring expeditious disposal of cases.

LPG Agencies and Petrol Pumps by Private Sector Companies

2760. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of private sector companies which are actively operating for L.P.G. dealership and petrol pump business in the country since April, 2002; and

(b) the Government's control on such companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Under Parallel Marketing Scheme (PMS), some of the private companies like M/s. Bharat Shell Limited, M/s. SHV Energy India Private Limited, M/s Caltex SPIC India Limited, M/s ELF Gas India Limited and M/s Reliance Petroleum Limited have been marketing LPG through their own distributors in the country for last few years. In addition to this, Government have granted authorisation to market transportation fuels in respect of two private companies i.e. M/s. Reliance Petroleum Limited & M/s. Essar Oil Limited.

(b) All the private sector companies are required to meet requirement of various Control Orders and other such statutory obligations.

Firing on AN-32 Transport Aircraft

2761. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to reply given to USQ No. 4066 on April 18, 2002 regarding firing on AN-32 Transport Aircraft and state:

(a) the conclusions of the inquiry;

(b) whether India has lodged any protest to Pakistan in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The Court of Inquiry has revealed that the AN-32 aircraft of Indian Air Force strayed across the Line of Control due to navigational error. All necessary steps have been initiated to prevent a recurrence of such errors.

Power Generation from Biomass and Cogeneration

2762. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Programme on Biomass Power/Co-generation from Bagasse has been started;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the quantity of power generated from these materials;

(c) whether 273 MW and 210 MW power are likely to be harnessed from Biomass and Co-generation respectively;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to improve the generation of power from Biomass and Bagasse?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Programmes on Bagasse Co-generation and Biomass Power were initiated during the 8th Plan. The Programmes provide for Central Financial Assistance for various types of projects, and promotional incentives for preparation of Detailed Project Reports, training, awareness creation etc. Biomass Resource Assessment Studies are also being supported to assist in project development.

A total capacity of 420 MW has so far been installed under the Programmes comprising 280 MW from Bagasse Co-generation in sugar mills and 140 MW from Biomass Power projects.

(c) and (d Bagasse Co-generation projects of 299 MW capacity and Biomass Power projects of 189 MW capacity are under implementation and are scheduled for commissioning within the next two years. A target of 700 MW has been fixed for the 10th Plan and a goal of 3000 MW is envisaged for 2012.

(e) The States have been requested to introduce conducive policies and provide remunerative Power Purchase Agreements for Bagasse Co-generation and Biomass Power projects. Soft loans are provided by Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA). Other

Financial Institutions have also been requested to finance these projects on favourable terms. Biomass Resource Assessment efforts are being intensified with a view to estimate the potential in various States and to identify suitable locations where adequate biomass is available for setting up of these projects. Efforts will be made in the 10th Plan to remove various bottlenecks and accelerate the exploitation of the potential for generation of surplus power in cooperative and public sector sugar mills.

Delay in Completion of Rail Project

2763. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have suffered avoidable loss of Rs. 7.50 crore on account of delay in the completion of gauge conversion project (Metre gauge to Broad gauge of Yeshwantpur-Baiyyappanahalli-Salem section) over Southern Railway including the provision of a bye-pass at Yeshwantpur;

(b) if so, whether the C&AG have held the Railway Administration responsible for commencing the work without completing the land acquisition formalities;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal to fix the accountability and responsibility of the persons concerned for causing loss of money to the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However C&AG in their Report of 2002 have taken up this issue. The delay is not considered due to system, procedural or individual lapse and it is beyond Railway's control.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

(e) No individual has been considered responsible.

Development of Drink by DRDO

2764. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI:

SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether DRDO has developed a drink for the soldiers keeping round the clock vigil on snow covered mountains and it does not freeze even at a temperature of minus twenty degree;

(b) if so, whether the said drink has been tested;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the said drink is being supplied to the soldiers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(c) The drink prepared by Field Research Laboratory (FRL), Leh has been tested in adverse field conditions of Siachen Glacier as well as in laboratory testing and it does not freeze upto minus 20°C.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The technology of the drink has been transferred to M/s Compact International Private Limited. The firm has got the contract to supply 27,000 litres of the drink quarterly to the Army. So far they have supplied 54,000 litres of the drink.

Demand of Diesel and Petrol

2765. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the demand of diesel and petrol for Agriculture, Transport and Industrial sector at present; and

(b) the share of indigenous sources in meeting the demand of diesel/petrol at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The total consumption of petrol and diesel for the year 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 are as under:

(Figures in TMT)

Product	2000-2001	2001-2002 (Provisional)
Petrol	6613	7026
Diesel	37958	36654

Estimated Sector-wise share of Diesel inclusive of both retail and direct sales during 2000-2001 is estimated to be as under:-

Sector	Estimated % Share
Transport	58.5
Agriculture	19.8
Power Generation	6.8
Industrial Applications	8.3
Others/Miscellaneous	6.6

(b) Availability of Petrol/Diesel from indigenous sources is adequate at present to meet the entire demand.

[Translation]

Funds for NCEs to Madhya Pradesh

2766. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided by the Union Government to the Government of Madhya Pradesh under the development of Non-Conventional Energy Sources during the last three years, head-wise and year-wise; and

(b) the locations in hilly and inaccessible areas of Madhya Pradesh where work is going on with the central assistance for generating power from the non-conventional sources of energy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) Ministry of Non-conventional. Energy Sources is implementing various programmes based on Non-conventional energy sources such as solar, wind, small hydro and biomass for development of Non-conventional Energy throughout the country including in the hilly and inaccessible areas of Madhya Pradesh. The details of funds provided under various Non-conventional energy programmes during last three years, year-wise to the State of Madhya Pradesh is given in the statement. No project for generation of power from Non-Conventional Energy Sources is under implementation in hilly and inaccessible areas of Madhya Pradesh.

Statement

Details of funds provided under various Non-conventional energy programmes during the last three years, year-wise to the State of Madhya Pradesh

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Programme	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
1	Solar Power	29.62	00.00	20.00
2	Biomass Power	79.00	91.00	54.00
3	Wind Power	0.78	1.20	00.00
4	Biomass Gasifiers	10.54	00.00	00.00
5	Solar Thermal	1.20	0.25	7.78
6	New Technology	12.35	00.00	2.35
7	Special Area Demonstration Programme	00.00	5.92	11.68
8	Biogas	597.00	459.98	200.84
9	Improved Chulha	75.00	7.50	00.00
10	Integrated Rural Energy Programme	106.63	106.62	81.57
11	Woman & Renewable Energy Development	00.00	0.30	1.53
12	Energy from Waste	190.19	0.28	00.00
13	Solar Photovoltiac Programme	25.45	0.00	12.26
	Total	1127.76	673.05	392.01

[English]

Oil Reserves in North Eastern States

2767. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any petrol reserves in North-Eastern States and Sikkim alongwith the number of pumps installed to pump out petrol in those States;

(b) whether any zones were constituted on exploration work for petrol with joint venture;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) the break up of share of such ventures along with loss suffered by the Government, if any, in the exploration work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) As on 1.4.2002, ultimate reserves of oil in the North-Eastern States belonging to National Oil Companies and private/joint venture companies are about 344 Million Metric Tonne (MMT). No hydrocarbon reserves have been established so far in the State of Sikkim. A total of 853 wells are on production in the North-Eastern States as on 1.4.2002.

(b) to (d) Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) have been signed for four exploration blocks with private/joint venture companies in North-Eastern States, as per the details given below:

Sl.No.	Block	States	Consortium	Participating interest
1.	AA-ON-7	Assam and Nagaland	Assam Company Ltd.	35%
			Canaro Resources Ltd.	35%
			Centurion Energy International Inc.	30%
2.	AAP-ON-94/1	Assam and Arunachal Pradesh	Hindustan Oil Exploration Company Ltd. (HOEC)	80%
			Oil India Ltd. (OIL)	10%
			General Fibers Pvt. Ltd.	10%
3.	CR-ON-90/1	Assam and Mizoram	Essar Oil Ltd.	55%
			HOEC	20%
			Tullow India Operations Ltd.	25%
4.	AS-ONN-2000/1	Assam	Reliance Industries Ltd.	90%
			Hardy Exploration & Production India	10%

No loss has been suffered by the Government in exploration work.

Joint Venture Participation in Andhra Pradesh

2768. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tata Power and BSES are to buy power distribution network in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the modalities of power distribution have since been finalised; and

(d) the extent of its participation in Joint Venture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) No such modalities of joint venture in power distribution have been worked out by Andhra Pradesh Government.

Exports Orders from Foreign Countries

2769. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are getting orders for rail coaches and rail engines from the foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, item-wise and country-wise;

(c) the total income generated from these orders;

(d) whether the Government have any plans for expansion of the rail coach factories and ICF, Chennai to meet the demand of domestic and foreign orders; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Yes, Sir. Export of rolling stock is made by the Indian Railways through RITES and IRCON, the two PSUs under the Ministry of Railways. They make marketing efforts of sale/lease of rolling stock manufactured by the Production Units of the Indian Railways. Specific countries have been allotted to RITES and IRCON to avoid duplication efforts. They are, at present, in touch with Vietnam, Spoornet (South Africa), Thailand, Sudan, Colombia and Mozambique for the export of locomotives, coaches and power packs.

(b) The details of engines and coaches, exported during the last three years are as under :-

Year	Country	Coaches	Locomotives
99-2000	USA	-	Two old MG steam Locomotives.
	Myanmar	-	Ten old MG diesel Locomotives.
2000-01	Bangladesh	-	Five BG diesel Locomotives.
	Vietnam	Seventy two MG Coach bogies	-
2001-02	Bangladesh	-	Five BG diesel Locomotives.
	Sri Lanka	-	Two BG diesel Locomotives.
	Malaysia	-	One 2300 hp MG diesel Locomotive.
	Vietnam	-	Five 1350 hp MG diesel Locomotives.

(c) The total income generated from the above orders is Rs.7658.50 lakh. In addition, 35 old YDM4 Diesel meter gauge locomotives have been given on lease to the following countries:-

(i) Malaysia - 25 (Through IRCON)

(ii) Tanzania - 10 (Through RITES)

Annual earnings are Rs. 682.5 lakh.

(d) There is no plan for expansion of the existing manufacturing capacity either of ICF or RCF as it is adequate to meet the present requirements of Indian Railways as well as the export market.

(e) Does not arise.

Progress of New Power Project of Maharashtra

2770. SHRI ANANT GUDHE:

SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently reviewed the progress of ongoing and new power projects proposed in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years in terms of physical and financial targets project-wise and year-wise;

(c) the reasons for delay in clearance of these projects; and

(d) the details regarding revised schedule for execution of new power projects in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Power had organized a 'National Conference on Capacity Addition during the 10th Plan and Advance Action for the 11th Plan' on the 8th and 9th of July, 2002. Each individual project scheduled for commissioning in the 10th Plan was discussed in the Conference in order to make an assessment of the critical issues.

The details of ongoing thermal and hydro projects during the last three years in Maharashtra in terms of physical and financial targets are as follows:

Name of Project/ Capacity (MW)	Commissioning Schedule		Estimated Cost	Status / Reasons for Delay
	Original	Actual		
Hydro				
Project under construction				
Ghatghar PSS (2x125 MW (State Sector)	1995-96	2004-05	Rs.1184.60 crore	All civil works are in progress. Delay in land acquisition and award of RCC dam and Power House works
Thermal				
Project under construction				
Dabhol CCGT Ph.II (1444 MW) (Private Sector)	2000-01	-	US$1868 M	Commissioning of Dabhol Ph. II is dependent on resolution of issues/ disputes regarding project.
Project where construction is yet to start				
Parli TPS Extn. St. I (250 MW) State Sector	02/2005	05/2005	Rs. 1053.90 crore	The investment approval has been accorded by Planning Commission on 9.2.2001. Land acquisition work is in progress. Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) is yet to decide on the implementation of this project.

As far as Pataiganga (447 MW) and Bhadrawati (1082 MW) projects are concerned, the Godbole Committee set up by Government of Maharashtra has recommended that Maharashtra State Electricity Board defer all Power Purchase Agreements with Independent Power Producers and re-examine them in accordance-with a Least-Cost Plan.

(d) No new project proposal in the State of Maharashtra is pending in Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for Techno-economic Clearance.

Requirement of Materials

2771. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the estimated requirement of material in Depots is based on Anticipated Annual Consumption (AAC) and any irregular issue lead to incorrect AAC vis-a-vis purchases;

(b) if so, the number of cases of incorrect computation of material were detected in the Railways that led to extra purchases during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken in the direction of right computation of material ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) As per the laid-down procedure, estimated requirements of materials are based on Anticipated Annual Consumption decided on the basis of trends of consumption giving due weightage to the production and maintenance schedules. Well laid-down procedures & norms are followed which do not permit any irregular issues and thus the question of incorrect AAC vis-a-vis purchases does not arise.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Implementation of Fast Track Courts

2772. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the fast track courts scheme was implemented;

(b) the reasons for establishments of fast track courts;

(c) the amount released by the Finance Ministry so far to various States for fast track courts;

(d) whether some States have not submitted the utilisation certificates so far:

(e) if so, the details of those States and reasons

for delay in submission of utillisation certificates by them; and

(f) the steps being proposed by the Government to streamline the timely submission of utilisation certificates by the States?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) The Central Government accepted the recommendation of the Eleventh Finance Commission as per O&M dated July 26, 2000 and sanctioned the fast track court scheme for implementation.

(b) The Fast Track Courts were established to substantially bring down the pendency in district and subordinate courts, particularly the long pending Sessions Cases & cases involving undertrials who have been in jails for a longtime.

(c) So far, the Ministry of Finance has released Rs.196.89 crores to various States under the fast track court scheme.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The States of Assam, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Kerala, Manipur, Mizoram, Sikkim and Tamil Nadu have not submitted their Utilisation Certificates.

(f) The State Governments are being constantly persuaded to submit the utilisation certificates to the Ministry of Finance under intimation to the Department of Justice.

Electoral Photo Identity Cards in Karnataka

2773. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are still 1.36 crore voters in the State of Karnataka yet to be provided with photo ID cards;

(b) if so, whether the Election Commission has taken up the massive task of issuing Electors' Photo Identity Cards (EPICs) in Karnataka; and

(c) if so, the time by which all the voters in the Karnataka are likely to be provided with photo identity cards?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir. According to the Election Commission, after the revision of rolls with reference to 01.01.2002 as the qualifying date, there are approximately 1.36 crore residual electors in the State of Karnataka who are to be issued Electors' Photo Identity Cards.

(b) The Election Commission has informed that it has been making efforts for providing Electors' Photo Identity Cards to all electors in the State of Karnataka. The Commission has asked for further Action Plan for preparation and issue of Electors' Photo Identity Cards from the Chief Electoral Officer of Karnataka and to increase the coverage of such Cards to at least 85% to 90% by the end of the year 2002. The programme has already been resumed in Bangalore City and 19 districts of the State. The Chief Electoral Officer has adopted usual publicity measures and produced a short film on EPIC to be shown on television for increasing public awareness.

(c) The Election Commission has further informed that with the current efforts, substantial progress could be achieved by the end of the year 2002.

Proposals Submitted by Kerala

2774. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Kerala has emphasized the rail transport needs of the State with the Union Government with specific reference to the new projects/facilities, ongoing works and Railway Safety Fund etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) A memorandum was submitted by the Chief Minister of Kerala to the Ministry of Railways in December, 2001 in respect of projects/works in Kerala.

Demands contained in the memorandum and action taken on them are at the statement.

Statement

Position of Points raised in the Memorandum presented by Chief Minister, Kerala to Ministry of Railways in December, 2001

S.No.	Projects / Works	Action Taken
1	2	3
New Railway Lines		
1.	Angamali-Sabarimala	The work is already included in the Budget. Final location survey is in progress. An outlay of Rs.10 crore has been provided for the work during 2002-03.
2.	Kottayam-Erumeli	The work has already been included in the Budget and necessary clearances have been obtained. Final location survey and detailed planning has been taken up. An outlay of Rs.0.01 crore has been provided for the work during 2002-03.
3.	Kuttipuram-Guruvayoor	The work is already included in the Budget and will be taken up after obtaining necessary clearances for which action has been initiated.
Doubling of Railway Lines		
1.	At least Rs. 150 crores for doubling of Mulanturutti-Kayankulam (via Kottayam railway line during 2002-03)	Doubling of single line is taken up when the carrying capacity of the line is saturated, keeping in view the traffic requirement. The doubling of Ernakulam-Mulanturutti has been taken up as phase-I of doubling of Ernakulam-Kayankulam. The work is in progress and an outlay of Rs.3.68 crore has been provided during 2002-03. The doubling of remaining section may be considered in future as and when the need arises.
2.	Doubling of Ernakulam-Kayankulam (via Alapuzha)	The doubling is not considered necessary at present from traffic point of view.
New Railway Stations/facilities		
1.	New Railway Station at Nedumbassery	A new Railway station at Nedumbassery near Cochin is not considered necessary at this stage.
2.	Satellite Railway Station at Trivandrum - Rs. 10 crores for 2002-03	The work of 2nd Coaching Terminal at Kochuveli has been included in the Budget 2002-03.
Other Projects		
1.	Crossing station at Mavelikkara-Chengannur-5 crore	The crossing station is not considered justified.
2.	Crossing station at Parasala-Nemom	Parsala included in the budget 2002-03 but was Nemom not considered justified from traffic point of view.

1	2	3
	Adequate Funding for Ongoing Works	
1.	Early completion of ongoing doubling works (Rs. 125 crores) Mangalore-Shoranur line (committed target dated 31-03-2003) Ernakulam-Kayankulam (via Kottayam) (Rs. 50 crores)	On Mangalore-Shoranur section, out of 307 km, doubling of 161 km has already been completed. 50 km is targeted for 2002-03 and balance for 2003-04. Regarding Ernakulam-Kayankulam remarks have already been given at point no.2 of Doubling plan head.
	Electrification (30 Crores)	
1.	Ernakulam-Trivandrum BG line, by 31-03-2004	The work is in progress.
	Gauge Conversion (10 Crores)	
1.	Quilon-Shenkottai-Virudunagar (35 km)	The work is in progress. Final location survey in the ghat section has been completed. Earthwork and bridges have been taken up on Tenkasi-Virudunagar and Tirunelveli-Tiruchchendur section. An outlay of Rs.25 crore has been provided for this work during 2002-03.
	New Trains	
1.	The weekly-Thiruwanthapuram- Mangalore-Thiruwanthapuram Express via Alappuzha may be converted as daily	Examined, but not found feasible due to operational and resource constraints.
2.	A new daily train may be introduced in the sector Mumbai-Kozhikode	Examined, but not found feasible due to operational and resource constraints.
3.	Electric Trains on Thrissur-Ernakulam sector	Examined, but not found feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

Permission for Construction of Road Over Bridge

2775. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has sorted out differences with MMC and the Government of Maharashtra over the piece of land in Naval Dockyard (Civil) Colony, Kanjur Marg, Mumbai;

(b) if so, whether permission to construct ROB at LBS Marg has been granted;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) A meeting was held on 16.5.2002 between officers of Ministry of Defence and Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai. The Ministry of Defence conveyed its in principle decision to transfer 3518 Square meters of land at Naval Dockyard (Civil) Colony, Kanjur Marg, Mumbai to the Municipal Corporation, Mumbai for construction of Road Over Bridge at Lal Bahadur Shastri Marg Junction subject to transfer of Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai's land at Worli to Ministry of Defence. The valuation report of the land from Municipal Corporation, Mumbai has since been received and a final decision will be taken in consultation with officers of Mumbai Municipal Corporation.

Family Courts

2776. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

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

(a) whether the Government are planning to open at least one family court in each district to dispose of pending family disputes relating to marriage, maintenance of children and aged parents as reported in The Hindu dated July 17, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of family disputes cases pending with various family courts at present;

(d) the number of family courts functioning at present; and

(e) the time by which more family courts are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) and (b) The Parliamentary Committee on Empowerment of Women in its Fifth Report on "Functioning of Family Courts" has recommended that steps should be taken to set up Family Courts in every district of the country. On the basis of recommendation made by the Parliamentary Committee on Empowerment of Women, all the State Governments/U.T. Administrations have been requested to set up atleast one family court in each district to dispose of pending family disputes relating to marriage, maintenance of children, etc. excluding aged parents.

(c) As per available information, 1,12,797 family disputes were pending with various Family Courts as on 4.3.2002.

(d) At present 96 Family Courts are functioning in the country.

(e) Establishment of more Family Courts is a continuous process. However, 24 more Family Courts are likely to be set up during 2002-2003

Mandatory Quota for SC/ST/OBC

2777. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prasar Bharati has hired a private agency to advertise, screen and short list candidates for 21 posts as news readers and anchors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the mandatory quota for SC/ST and OBC has been formally advertised; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that it has engaged 21 newscasters/anchors, on contract basis for a period of one year through a private agency.

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

Damages to Rail Service

2778. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to recent flood and heavy rains in various parts of the country particularly in Assam and Bihar, rail services were affected and railway property damaged thereby;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government for early restoring of rail services and repair of damaged rail property?

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

(b) and (c) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

(b) and (c) Information is maintained Zone-wise and not State-wise. Railway Zone-wise details of affected rail services and damages to Railways due to floods and rains during the current year's monsoon are as under.

Railway	Section	Location at Kilometerage	Date of occurrence of breach / traffic suspension	Extent of damage	Restoration status
1	2	3	4	5	6
Central	(i) Kalyan-Lonavala	(i) 59/3-8, 62/13-14 & 68/17-18	(i) 26.6.2002	Wash away of ballast / earth from Railway track. The point machine and impedance bonds were also damaged at Kalyan and Ambernath stations.	(i) Restored on 26.6.2002
	(ii) Kalyan-Igatpuri	(ii) 78/10-3	(ii) 26.6.2002		(ii) Restored on 26.6.2002
Eastern	(i) Kiul-Gaya	(i) 16/3-4	(i) 5.7.2002	(i) Bridge no. 31 was breached	(i) Restored on 6.7.202
	(ii) Kiul-Gaya	(ii) 20/0	(ii) 5.7.2002	(ii) Erosion of banks of both the approaches of bridge no. 40	(ii) Restored on 6.7.2002
	(iii) Kiul-Gaya	(iii) 38/9-10	(iii) 6.7.2002	(iii) Erosion of banks of both the approaches of bridge no. 92	(iii) Restored on 7.7.2002
	(iv) BKP-Rajgir	(iv) 26/6-7	(iv) 6.7.2002	(iv) Approaches of bridge no. 80 were damaged.	(iv) Restored on 8.7.2002
North Eastern	(i) Darbhanga-Raxual	(i) 93/7-8, 4-6, 91/11-92/5 & 90/11-12	(i) 24.7.2002	(i) Ballast washed away and formation damaged in a length of 30 km and upto 1 m depth. Crib of bridge no. 47 washed away.	(i) Restored on 26.7.2002
	(ii) Sakri-Jhanjharpur	37/8-9, 38/8-11 & (ii)Jhanjharpur Yard	(ii) 23.7.2002	(ii) Ballast washed away formation damaged. Entire Jhanjharpur yard is flooded.	(ii) Formation repaired on 26.7.2002. At rest of the locations restoration work is affected either due to heavy current of flood water or due to water logging.
	(iii) Jhanjharpur-Nirmali	(iii) 62/6-63/6 & 65/0-67/6	(iii) 22.7.2002	(iii) Bank has cut in different stretches. Ballast washed away and track is in hanging position at km 65/0-67/6.	(iii) & (iv) Restoration work held up due to water logging.
	(iv) Jhanjharpur-Laukaha Bazar	(iv) 10/1-2 & 10/11-12	(iv) 23.7.2002	(iv) Water is flowing with heavy current and breached formation in about 50 m length.	
	(v) Saharsa-Forbesganj	(v) 150/15-16	(v) 26.7.2002	(v)Track and formation damaged in 15m length with depth upto 3m.	(v) Restoration work in full swing.
Northeast Frontier					
	(i) North Lakhimpur-Murkongselek (MG)	(i) 355/13-356/2	(i) 20.5.2002	(i) The railway formation on the Gogamukh approach of temporary pile br. no 347/C washed away for 140m length	(i) Restoration work can be taken up only on complete receding of floods in October, 2002.

1	2	3	4	5	6
	(ii) Rangiya-Rangapara North (MG)	(ii) 8/11-9/1	(ii) 23.7.2002	(ii) In a stretch of 25m, formation was got washed away upto 0.75m depths.	(ii) Restoration work can be taken up only when floodwater recedes.
	(iii) Lumding-Badarpur Hill (MG)	(iii) 15/2-6	(iii) 6.7.2002	(iii) Heavy incessant rain caused landslide- blocking 250 m of formation involving approximately 2,40,000 cum of earth mixed with boulders.	(iii) 90% of restoration work has been already completed.
	(iv) Baraigram-Dullabcherra (MG)	(iv) 47/1-50/0	(iv) 21.5.2002	(iv) Flood water of river Longai flowing through the breached marginal bund over-topped railway track.	(iv) Restored on 23.5.2002
	(v) Siliguri Jn-Alipurduar Jn	(v) 383/7-8	(v) 1.7.2002	(v) Floodwater of river Ghish washed away Alipurduar end approach bank behind abutment of br. no. 91 upto 30m including damages to guide/marginal bund.	(v) Restored on 9.7.2002
	(vi) Dharmanagar-Kumarghat	(vi) 72/3-5	(vi) 22.7.2002	Heavy incessant rain caused landslide blocking 48m formation involving approximately 1500 cum of earth.	(vi) Restored on 25.7.2002
South Central	Londa-Vasco Da Gama	106/2-4	14.6.2002	Boulders and Earth of about 80 cum fell on track over a length of 2 TPs obstructing through running.	Restored on 16.6.2002
Western	Virar-Surat	5 locations at different locations	26.6.2002	(i) Arch Bridge No. 144 (3x12.2m) at km 99/24-26 between Palghar & Boisar had collapsed (ii) Wing wall of bridge no. 203 collapsed. (iii) Sprandral wall of bridge no 223 was damaged. (iv) Minor breaches at two locations between stations Kelve Road and Sanjan on Virar-Surat section. (v) Signalling equipment like point machine, track circuting equipment and signalling cables were damaged in Mumbai area. Besides OFC cable & associated equipment were damaged near Arch bridge No. 144 which had collapsed. (vi) Minor damages were also caused to the overhead Electrical Traction Equipment.	Restored on 6.7.2002

Purchase of Wooden Sleeper

2779. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a contractor supplied 14390 wooden sleepers (2000 cums) between May 1989 and January 1990 valuing Rs. 95 lakh and taken away the full payment thereof based on certificates issued by sleeper passing officers of South Eastern railway;

(b) whether the vigilance wing and executive engineer (track) of south eastern railway in August/November 1990 found the sleepers of rejectable variety;

(c) if so, whether departmental action has been taken against the sleeper passing officer, but no action has been taken against the supplier, who is connivance with railway officials, supplied poor quality of Malaysian wooden sleepers except banning business with the firm for three years; and

(d) if so, the measures proposed to be taken/ have taken to deal firmly with errant suppliers and railway employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) M/s B.N Padia were awarded a contract by Railway Board in 1987 for supply of 14390 Nos (2000 cums) of imported Malaysian Balau Wooden Spl. sleepers. As per contract conditions, 100% payment for 13,305 Nos (1854 cums) amounting to Rs. 95.07 Lakh was released against Post Inspection certificate issued by Sleeper passing Officer of S.E. Railway. An amount of Rs. 8,39,382 and Security Deposit of Rs. one lac, deducted earlier from running bills, is still lying with the Railways for final clearance.

(b) During May 1990, S.E. Railway Vigilance Wing seized 8367 Nos of Wooden sleepers out of 14390 Nos of sleepers. Thereafter, a joint inspection was carried out in three different spells, where 1435 nos. of wooden sleepers were rejected by Vigilance. An amount of Rs. 8,39,382/- available with Railway was retained by Railway for recovery against rejected sleepers.

(c) Concerned Sleeper Passing Officer and Staff involved have been charge-sheeted and appropriate disciplinary action taken against them.

(d) Regarding action against M/s B.N. Padia, the case was investigated by the Zonal Railway Vigilance and, based on the recommendations of the vigilance, the firm was black-listed for indulging in malpractices, and the concerned Railway officials were taken up under DAR.

[Translation]

Purchase of Land by IOCL in MP for Retail Outlets

2780. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM:

SHRI SURENDRA SINGH BARWALA:

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL:

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ:

SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:

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

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation Limited has purchased land for its retail outlets in Madhya Pradesh from actual land owners during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the total number of retail outlets for which land has been bought through Power of Attorney;

(d) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has banned General Power of Attorney for sale-purchase of land for the last four years;

(e) whether the IOCL has got the land purchased for the said retail outlets registered in its name;

(f) if so, whether the said company had made payment to the concerned department in respect of all the General Power of Attorney cases; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) During the last three years, i.e., from 1999-2000 to 2001-2002, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) had, in 52 cases, purchased land from the actual land owners for development of retail outlets in the State of Madhya Pradesh. Year-wise break-up was as follows:

Year	No. of land purchase cases
1999-2000	26
2000-2001	19
2001-2002	07
	52

In addition, during 1999-2000, IOCL also purchased land in 3 cases through Power of Attorney given by the land owners.

(d) Government is not aware of any such ban.

(e) IOCL has got the land registered from time to time as and when purchased.

(f) and (g) The fact of purchase of land through Power of Attorney was brought to the notice of the registration authority concerned of the State Government by IOCL. This fact has also been incorporated in the registered Sale Deed, which has the endorsement of the Sub-Registrar.

[English]

TRP Ratings of Sports Channel of Doordarshan

2781. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sports channel of Doordarshan has black future and its TRP ratings are lowering day by day;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of advertising revenue generated by sports channel since its inception every year; and

(d) the measures to be adopted by sports channel to compete from other sports channel?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No Sir. Prasar Bharati has informed that ratings of all the channels including DD Sports channel are dynamic and vary from time to time, depending upon the programmes telecast.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Prasar Bharati has intimated that the advertisement revenue from the Sports Channel during the last three years is as under:

1999-2000	Rs. 89.68 crores
2000-2001	Rs. 71.99 crores
2001-2002	Rs. 69.83 crores

(d) Prasar Bharati has intimated that it is the constant endeavour of Doordarshan to acquire telecast rights of sports events with high viewer interest and improve the content and presentation of DD-Sports Channel.

Hike in Crude Oil Prices

2782. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the comparative figure of hike of international crude prices and hike in petrol and diesel prices by the Government during the period 2000 and till date;

(b) whether the benefit of decrease in international crude price was passed on to the consumers during the past two years; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The price of crude oil in the international market and the consumer price of petrol and diesel in Delhi during the period 1.4.2000 to 31.3.2002 were as follows:

Date	Price of Brent crude oil ($/barrel)	Consumer price in Delhi	
		Petrol (Rs/Ltr.)	Diesel (Rs/Ltr.)
1st April 2000	23.62	26.07	14.56
1st April 2001	23.40	28.75	17.06
1st April 2002	26.02	26.54	16.59

(b) and (c) The Government reduced the consumer price of petrol and diesel on 12.1.2002 and again on 1.3.2002. With the dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism, the pricing of petrol and diesel has become market determined with effect from 1.4.2002.

Exploration by ONGC in Gujarat

2783. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ONGC has found enough stock of heavy crude oil in Mehsana District of Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether the ONGC proposes to use enhanced oil recovery technique for the exploration of heavy oil;

(c) if so, the proposed output of heavy crude oil from the oil-fields of Mehsana district; and

(d) the time by which the actual exploration work is likely to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Over the project field cycle of 20 years, four fields, namely, Lanwa, Balol, Santhal and Bechraji in Mehsana district are likely to contribute over 30 Million Metric Tonne (MMT) of heavy crude oil by using the Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) scheme.

(d) EOR schemes in Balol and Santhal fields have started on commercial scale. The Pilot projects in Lanwa and Becharji fields have also begun. Lastly, in Lanwa field the Pilot project for Compressed Steam Stimulation will be undertaken by January, 2003.

Provision of NCES in Bodoland Territory in Assam

2784. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposals to create necessary infrastructure of Non-Conventional Energy Sources in order to provide power connectivity in the Bodo-Tribal dominated areas within the Bodoland Territory in Lower Assam;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far in this regard along with the allocation and release of funds during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) to (c) Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has not received any proposal to create necessary infrastructure of Non-Conventional Energy Sources in order to provide power connectivity in the Bodo-Tribal dominated areas of lower Assam. However, a project for installation of 400 solar home lighting systems for the houses for the Bodo-Tribal Women Families in the Sonitpur District of Assam has been sanctioned to Assam Science Technology and Environment Council at a total cost of Rs.40.80 lakhs. The project is under implementation.

Integrated Rural Energy Programme

2785. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of works undertaken / proposed to be undertaken under the Integrated Rural Energy Programme during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002; and

(b) the funds earmarked under the programme during the said period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) The Integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP) provides for preparation and implementation of area-based block level IREP plans and projects through which energy needs of the block are sought to be met in the most cost-effective manner. IREP consists of a Central Sector Component and a State Sector Component. Under the Central Sector Component, the Centrally Sponsored Scheme provides for capacity building in the States through the setting up of state and district / block level IREP cells, as well as training and extension activities for which grants-in-aid are provided to the States, based on the matching funds provided by the respective States. The State-wise Central Financial Assistance provided under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of IREP during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 is given at the statement. These funds were utilized for partial support to IREP staff at the state and district / block level IREP cells, as well as for various training and extension activities. The State funds were utilized for the promotion of various rural energy systems, including renewable energy and energy efficient devices, for meeting different energy needs in the IREP blocks.

Statement

State-wise Central Financial Assistance (CFA) provided during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002

(Rs. in lakh)

State/UT	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	34.71	22.22

1	2	3
Arunachal Pradesh	13.39	7.19
Assam	13.95	14.75
Chhattisgarh	-	19.70
Gujarat	-	27.37
Haryana	28.33	32.38
Himachal Pradesh	56.95	57.68
Jammu and Kashmir	12.11	-
Karnataka	40.21	86.13
Kerala	64.93	33.60
Madhya Pradesh	106.62	81.57
Maharashtra	-	2.50
Manipur	25.45	12.72
Meghalaya	20.53	22.53
Mizoram	15.61	7.80
Nagaland	9.46	-
Orissa	28.71	1.00
Punjab	14.48	2.50
Rajasthan	11.15	24.47
Sikkim	3.50	-
Tamil Nadu	-	1.50
Tripura	7.07	9.56
Uttar Pradesh	74.02	74.42
Anaman and Nicobar Islands	3.60	-
Chandigarh	1.15	2.36
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1.15	-
Delhi	3.61	-
Pondicherry	4.22	8.44

Expansion of Ticket Selling Activities in Cities

2786. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have any plans to expand their ticket selling activities in all cities in the country;

(b) if so, the inhibitions and restraints for the Railways to sell tickets through computerised systems in highly populated cities;

(c) whether Railways have formulated plans to set up such booths in Hyderabad, Secunderabad and Vijaywada;

(d) if so, the time by which such booths are likely to be started functioning;

(e) whether unemployed youth will be involved in such commercial activity; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Expansion of ticket selling activities is a continuous process and every year computerised reservation system (PRS) is opened at 60-70 locations through out the country. Provision of computerised reservation facilities is capital intensive and also involves significant recurring expenditure to operate these services. These services are, therefore, provided at the stations registering a reservation related workload of more than 100 transactions per day, District Headquarters, important tourist stations and other important cities as per availability of Budget. For improvement in unreserved ticketing, a pilot project is being launched for developing Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) in Delhi area shortly.

(c) and (d) Except for normal expansion, no separate and specific plans have so far been drawn for Hyderabad, Secunderabad and Vijayawada.

(e) and (f) In view of answers to (c) and (d), question do not arise.

SC's Order on Poll Reforms

2787. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Government may evade SC order on poll reforms" appearing in the Times of India dated June 6, 2002;

(b) if so, whether the order of the Supreme Court on poll reforms are not implemented by the Government;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of changes proposed to make in the poll reforms?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) No, Sir. The Times of India dated 6th June, 2002, New Delhi edition does not seem to contain the news item referred to in the part (a) of the Question.

(b) to (d) In this context, it may, however, be stated that the Government had discussed the matter with the political parties on 8.7.2002. There was unanimous view in the said meeting that only Parliament had the power to legislate on this matter. The meeting also felt that there was need to curb criminalisation in politics by enacting suitable legislation in consultation with the political parties. A draft of the Bill has been circulated to the political parties to ascertain their views.

Renewable Energy Resources Potential

2788. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure incurred by the Government on the publicity/awareness programme among rural masses for the better use of renewable energy sources particularly biogas, wind and solar energy; and

(b) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to launch extensive awareness programme for rural masses for better use of renewable energy sources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has incurred an expenditure of about Rs 5.80 crores during the financial year 2001-2002 on the publicity/ awareness programmes in the country including rural masses for the better use of renewable energy source particularly biogas, wind and solar energy.

(b) The Ministry has launched extensive awareness programmes in the country including rural areas for better use of renewable energy sources. Under the programmes electronic, print, exhibitions and outdoor media involving Radio programmes, advertisements in newspapers, publicity materials; mobile exhibition vans, hoardings/kiosks/ bus back panels, song & drama, etc. are used for creating extensive awareness of renewable energy sources.

Leakage of Secret Defence Information

2789. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents come to the notice of the Government regarding leakage of Secret Defence Information by serving/retired Government Officials during the last two years and first half of current year;

(b) whether such incidents are on the increase;

(c) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to curb this menace and to weed out such anti-national persons involved in leaking Defence secrets to the enemy;

(d) whether the Government are considering to bring forward any legislation for stringent punishment and attachment of property of persons involved in such incidents as a deterrent; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Nineteen such incidents have come to the notice of the Government.

(b) to (e) No, Sir. Appropriate actions have been initiated against all such personnel under the Official Secrets Act/IPC. Government have taken several security measures and steps to tone up its intelligence network to check such nefarious activities and to ensure that such incidents do not occur in future. Some of the steps taken in this regard include deployment of additional Surveillance Teams in conjunction with IB to carry out checks; deployment of additional security troops for access control within the Defence Security Zone; deployment of electronic equipment to tone up security measures; security briefing to civilian Gazetted/non-Gazetted officers every month to apprise them of Departmental Security Instructions and to make them security conscious. Senior Officers of the Ministry/Service Headquarters/Inter Service Organisations have also been given briefing by IB officials on complete security scenario and preventive action to be taken. It is not in public interest to disclose further details.

Oil Companie's Stake in MRPL

2790. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have asked the Petroleum PSUs to have majority stake in MRPL;

(b) the reasons for refusing to take the majority stake by HPCL;

(c) the details of role of HPCL and its future plans on MRPL;

(d) whether IOCL has now agreed to take over majority shares of MRPL; and

(e) if so, the details of plans to settle this issue of MRPL and, its ownership?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) At present, HPCL and AV Birla Group (ABG) have equal holding in MRPL (37.38% each). There is a proposal for financial restructuring of MRPL by way of a strategic partner initially buying the stake of ABG in MRPL.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGCL) has shown interest in acquiring stake in MRPL which is presently under study by the Government.

[Translation]

Depots of Oil Companies in Tribal Areas

2791. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the location and capacity of depots of Public Sector Oil Companies situated in tribal areas;

(b) whether the local people are being benefited from such undertakings in tribal areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The location and capacity of depots of Public Sector Oil Companies situated in Tribal areas are as follows:

S.No.	State	Location	Tankage (in Kilolitres)
	(Indian Oil Corporation Limited)		
1.	Nagaland	Dimapur	10933
2.	Madhya Pradesh	Jayant	14689
3.	Chhattisgarh	Bisrampur	9144
4.	Maharashtra	Panewadi	22700
5.	Orissa	Jeypore	35
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	Leh	3600
7.	Jharkhand	Tatanagar	6624
8.	Jharkhand	Namkum	17812
9.	Jharkhand	Dhanbad	3063
10.	Sikkim	Rangpo	1680
11.	Arunachal Pradesh	Dolmukh	6510
12.	Mizoram	Vairengte	1502
13.	Manipur	Imphal	6760
14.	Meghalaya	Barapani	6252
	(Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited)		
15.	Maharashtra	Panewadi	290100
16.	Maharashtra	Borkhedi	18137
17.	Jharkhand	Tatanagar	4456
18.	Jharkhand	Ranchi	4124
19.	Jharkhand	Dhanbad	4528
20.	Sikkim	Rangpo	490
	(Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited)		
21.	Jharkhand	Tatanagar	3750
22.	Jharkhand	Ranchi Road	3150
23.	Orissa	Semiliguda	182
24.	Chhattisgarh	Jagdalpur	350

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Local people are benefited by way of timely availability of petroleum products, direct/ indirect employment opportunity in activities arising out of the depot operations such as, haulage contract, security contract, transport contract etc. Also, various community welfare activities are carried out in such areas for upliftment and benefit of the tribal areas.

(d) Does not arise.

Facility of Travelling upto 200 kilometers

2792. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways provide that facility of Travelling upto 200 kilometers to the poor people who earn their livelihood by vending items in the trains by charging a quarterly fare between fifteen to twenty five rupees;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the division-wise number of the persons getting benefits of the said facility; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Trainside vending of catering items only is permitted to authorised vendors by issuing travelling authority (other than tickets) in selected trains as a passenger facility.

[English]

Disability Pension

2793. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether disability pension granted to members of the Defence Services is less than one-third that granted to civilians;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The disability pension admissible to the Armed Forces personnel and the civilian personnel are not comparable. The Armed Forces personnel are given disability pension on slab basis with reference to the rank. The slab system was considered more beneficial to the majority of the Armed Forces personnel discharged from the service on account of disabilities.

[Translation]

Increase in Civil Cases

2794. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amendment is being made in laws and the court proceedings for resolving the problem of increasing the number of cases in the civil courts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken for the immediate disposal of the cases;

(d) whether the consent of the advocate/ associations has been taken in this regard; and

(e) whether the Chief Justices of the High Courts have been consulted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Act, 1999, and the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2002 have been brought into effect as per the Government notification dated 1st July 2002. The two Amendment Acts in Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 provide, inter-alia, fixing time frame for submission of written statement, early examination of witnesses by Commission, restriction of number of adjournments to three to a party to a suit and delivery of judgment within 60 days after the hearing is over. As many laws adopt the procedure prescribed under the Civil Procedure Code, the amendments to the Code will have a much wider salutary effect on reducing delays in courts.

(c) Both the Government and the Judiciary are concerned with the quick disposal of pending cases. Various steps have been taken by the Government for speeding up the disposal of these cases. These include simplification of rules and procedure on the basis of the advice and recommendations of expert bodies like the Law Commission, the Malimath Committee etc.; Fast Track Courts are being set up for the expeditious disposal of long pending sessions cases and cases involving under-trials who have been in jails for a long time.

(d) Yes, Madam. The various Bar Associations

had been consulted and their views were taken into account before amendments, were made in the Civil Procedure Code.

(e) The Chief Justices of the High Courts were consulted through the Chief Justices Conference held in 1997 with regard to original version of the Code of the Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1999 i.e. Bill of 1997.

[English]

Disinvestment of Oil Companies

2795. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has approved or otherwise the Management of the Companies of Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited had approved disinvestment of their own unit;

(b) if so, whether these companies had made any efforts for having operation in abroad either directly by themselves or through joint venture to expand India's base of operation to earn more foreign exchange; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to privatise Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL). Regarding Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), the Government have taken an in-principle decision to disinvest in HPCL and BPCL through strategic sale.

(b) and (c) IOCL has established a wholly owned subsidiary, Indian Oil (Mauritius) Limited, in Mauritius for developing infrastructure facilities for marketing of petroleum products. IOCL has also initiated steps for entering Sri Lankan petroleum sector for pursuing business opportunities. HPCL has promoted an upstream company, Price Petroleum Company Limited in joint venture with ICICI Limited and HDFC Limited for production of crude oil in India and abroad.

Testing and Development Facilities for Automobile Sector

2796. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to upgrade the testing and development facilities for the automobile sector;

(b) if so, whether the automobile industry had submitted an A&D blue print involving an expenditure of Rs.1044 crore to the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have examined the blue print;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government also propose to utilize a part of the fund collected as cess; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Yes, Sir. Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) has submitted a report on the present and future testing requirements of industry. The report envisages, inter-alia, upgradation of existing facilities, setting up of independent testing centers in South & North India, an independent proving ground/test track to meet the requirements of industry. The estimated cost for such facilities is of the order of Rs.1480 crore spread over a period of 8 years.

(f) and (g) The project is proposed to be partly financed with the cess funds. Efforts are also being made to tap other possible sources of funding like plan allocation, funding from multilateral agencies, contribution from the industry etc.

Demand and Production of Natural Gas

2797. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the demands and production of Natural Gas during the last three years;

(b) the target achieved during the said period; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the target in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The demand/allocation and production of natural gas during the last three years are given below:-

Year	(in Billion Cubic Metre (BCM)	
	Demand/allocation	Production
1999-2000	37.34	28.45
2000-2001	43.18	29.45
2001-2002	43.50	29.71

(c) To increase the domestic production of oil and gas, several important steps have been taken which include the following:-

(i) to improve the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes; in particular Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGCL) has taken up 15 fields for this purpose at an estimated investment of about Rs. 10,000 crore, which would also help in accelerating oil production from these fields.

(ii) to increase exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). Under the first and second rounds of NELP, Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) have been signed for 47 blocks. Offer of 27 exploration blocks under NELP-III has also been announced in March, 2002 with bid closing date as 28.8.2002.

(iii) five contracts were signed on 26.7.2002 for the blocks awarded under the first round of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) offer.

(iv) to explore in new areas, especially in deep water and difficult frontier areas, as also explore in the deeper layers of the producing fields.

(v) to develop faster the newly discovered fields and to step up the use of new technologies for seismic surveys, work over, stimulation operations, drilling of wells etc. in producing areas.

(vi) to acquire acreages abroad.

Apart from these steps, in order to augment the gas availability, Gas Authority of India Ltd.(GAIL) is looking at opportunities to import gas from abroad through pipeline.

Purchase of Store Items

2798. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the store items which are no longer useful for the purpose for which they were obtained by the consuming departments on Railways are called "Scrap item" and such scrap material is disposed off by auction at throw away prices;

(b) if so, whether the assessment of requirement of store items is not effected judiciously and items are purchased at whims and fancies;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for declaring the store items useless; and

(d) the steps taken not to purchase such store items in excess of their requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Material which are no longer useful are termed as scrap and include released unserviceable Permanent Way materials, Condemned rolling stock, unserviceable and obsolete materials of different kind which cannot be utilised after repair or renovation, empties, turning, boring, cut-offs, end of metal, sweeping, foundry ashes etc.

However, such scrap items are sold at the best possible prevailing market rates through public auction/ Tenders.

(b) No, Sir. The assessment is done scientifically taking all possible factors on fluctuation in demands and then only the purchase is done for yearly requirements most judiciously.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Progress of Ongoing Projects of NCES

2799. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received the progress of ongoing projects/schemes under the Non-Conventional Energy during the last three years;

(b) If so, the details thereof in terms of physical and financial targets set and achieved year-wise and State-wise in general and Maharashtra in particular;

(c) the details of action plan finalised for Maharashtra for the current year along with targets set in general and Vidarbha Region in particular, scheme-wise; and

(d) the details of new proposals received from Maharashtra and action taken thereon along with fresh policy initiations taken/ under consideration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry is implementing various programmes based on non-conventional energy sources such as solar, wind, small hydro and biomass for development of non-conventional energy throughout the country, including the State of Maharashtra. The details of physical achievements and funds released during the last three years, State-wise, including in the State of Maharashtra, are given at statement I and II.

(c) and (d) Various non-conventional energy programmes such as biogas, improved chulhas, solar photovoltaic, solar cooker, energy parks, integrated rural energy programme, wind power, biomass power, biomass gasifier, solar power, small hydro power and waste to energy etc. are already being implemented in the State of Maharashtra, which also includes Vidarbha Region of the State. The Ministry does not allocate State-wise targets except for biogas, improved chulhas and solar photovoltaic programmes, which are under finalisation for the year 2002-03. Ministry has received new proposals from the State of Maharashtra under solar photovoltaic, small hydro power, energy parks and waste to energy programmes for consideration during 2002-03. These proposals will be considered on merit depending upon techno-economic feasibility and availability of funds.

Statement-I

State-wise physical achievements made during last three years (1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02) under various programmes of the Ministry.

Sl.No.	State/UT	Wind Power Programme			Solar Photovoltaic Power			Small Hydro Power		
		1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
			(MW)			(kWp)			(MW)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Andhra Pradesh	26.30	3.80	0.70	-	175.00	100.00	9.60	32.10	11.90
2	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	Assam	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
4	Bihar	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.01	-	
5	Goa	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-
6	Gujarat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	Haryana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
8	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.00	25.70	3.56
9	Jammu and Kashmir	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8.11
10	Karnataka	14.60	10.40	24.00	-	-	-	18.40	-	14.55
11	Kerala	-	-	-	25.00	-	-	-	21.00	-
12	Madhya Pradesh	4.10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
13	Maharashtra	50.30	110.60	209.40	75.00	-	-	24.00	3.00	2.00
14	Manipur	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-
15	Meghalaya	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16	Mizoram	-	-	-		-	-	6.40	3.00	-
17	Nagaland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16.00
18	Orissa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
19	Punjab	-	-	-	100.00	-	-	4.50	2.30	1.00
20	Rajasthan	2.00	5.30	8.80	-	-	50.00	0.55	-	-
21	Sikkim	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22	Tamil Nadu	45.60	41.90	44.90	-	-	-	-	0.70	2.10
23	Tripura	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
24	Uttar Pradesh	-	-	-	-	100.00	-	0.20	1.30	6.00
25	West Bengal	-	0.50	0.60	-	-	25.00	-	-	-
26	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
27	Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
28	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
29	Daman and Diu	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30	Delhi	-	-	-		-	-		-	-
31	Lakshwadeep	-	-	-	100.00	100.00	200.00	-	-	-
32	Pondicherry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
33	Chhattisgarh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
34	Jharkhand	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	Uttaranchal	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-
36	Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	142.90	172.50	288.40	300.00	375.00	375.00	65.66	89.10	65.22

MW = Mega Watt; kWp = kilo watt peak.

State-wise physical achievements made during last three years (1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02) under various programmes of the Ministry

Sl.No.	State/UT	Biomass Power			Biomass Gasifier			Energy from Wastes		
		1999-2000	2000-01 (MW)	2001-02	1999-2000	2000-01 (KW)	2001-02	1999-2000	2000-01 (MW)	2001-02
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Andhra Pradesh	1.00	41.7	47.50	3630.00	1650.00	100.00	4.70	-	4.25
2	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	Assam	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	Bihar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-
5	Goa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	Gujarat	-	-	-	-	370.0	7070.00	-	-	0.45
7	Haryana		-	-	-	-			-	- -
8	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	
9	Jammu and Kashmir	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	Karnataka	26.00	26.60	12.00	10.00	300.00	500.00	1.00		-
11	Kerala	-	-	-	-	5.00	100.00	-	-	-
12	Madhya Pradesh	-	-	-	-	200.00	2.70	-	-	
13	Maharashtra	-	-	15.50	200.00	500.00	-	-	1 00	0 90
14	Manipur		-	-		-	-	-	-	-
15	Meghalaya	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-
16	Mizoram	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-
17	Nagaland	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-
18	Orissa	-	-		-	-	-		-	
19	Punjab	-	2.00	-	-	4.00	-		-	-
20	Rajasthan	-	-	-	-	-		-		-
21	Sikkim	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
22	Tamil Nadu	-	-	8.00	120 00	1700.00	-	0.03	-	0 20
23	Tripura	-	-	-	-	-	1000.00	-	-	-
24	Uttar Pradesh	24.00	-	-	-	560.00	660.00	-		-
25	West Bengal	-		-	30.00	500.00	1685.00			

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
26	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
27	Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
28	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
29	Daman and Diu	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30	Delhi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31	Lakshwadeep	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
32	Pondicherry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
33	Chhattisgarh	-	-	6.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
34	Jharkhand	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	Uttaranchal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
36	Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	51.00	70.30	89.00	3990.00	5825.00	11115.0	8.43	1.00	5.80

MW = Mega Watt; KW = kilo watt;

State-wise physical achievements made during last three years (1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02) under various programmes of the Ministry

Sl.No.	State/UT	Family type Biogas Plants			Community/Institutional/ Night Soil biogas Plants			Improved Chulhas		
		1999-2000	2000-01 (Nos.)	2001-02	1999-2000	2000-01 (Nos.)	2001-02	1999-2000	2000-01 (Nos.)	2001-02
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Andhra Pradesh	19718	21223	20068	0	9.00	1.00	2.45	1.50	1.57
2	Arunachal Pradesh	201	300	297	0		-	0.01	0.00	*
3	Assam	67	147	10	0	-	-	0.02	0.02	0.00
4	Bihar	480	584	519	0	-	-	0.04	0.02	0.05
5	Goa	162	95	72	0	-	-	0.05	0.03	0.02
6	Gujarat	10045	8131	7759	10	9	7.00	1.00	0.98	1.06
7	Haryana	2138	2253	2027	0	-	-	0.55	0.63	0.63
8	Himachal Pradesh	809	692	568	0	-	-	0.07	0.01	*
9	Jammu and Kashmir	-	-	-	0	-	-	0.49	0.30	0.03
10	Karnataka	18290	25025	27719	0	-	-	0.55	0.53	0.43

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
11	Kerala	1123	1265	1417	2	25	27.00	0.34	0.41	0.37
12	Madhya Pradesh	14434	13606	10454	0	-	3.00	0.48	0.01	-
13	Maharashtra	13682	11827	10277	32	33	33.00	1.09	1.02	0.40
14	Manipur	112	146	17	0	-	-	0.02	0.04	0.01
15	Meghalaya	75	80	100	2	2	-	0.00	0.00	-
16	Mizoram	300	400	442	0	-	-	0.06	0.05	-
17	Nagaland	73	315	165	0	-	-	0.07	0.09	0.02
18	Orissa	8420	11701	13929	0	5	6.00	1.50	1.96	2.13
19	Punjab	5938	5365	5484	50	50	34.00	0.75	0.42	*
20	Rajasthan	1012	804	505	7	7	4.00	0.69	0.32	0.30
21	Sikkim	181	202	250	0	-	-	0.05	0.05	0.05
22	Tamil Nadu	1453	2009	2125	4	3	-	0.62	0.67	0.61
23	Tripura	205	215	231	0	-	-	0.06	0.05	0.12
24	Uttar Pradesh	9296	9590	9678	121	42	48.00	2.49	1.57	1.45
25	West Bengal	16015	15360	13860	6	10	3.00	3.76	2.93	3.25
26	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2	-	-	0	-	-	0.01	0.01	0.01
27	Chandigarh	0	-	-	0	-	-	0.00	0.00	-
28	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	1	-	-	0	-	-	0.00	0.01	0.01
29	Daman and Diu	0	-	-	0	-	-	0.00	0.00	-
30	Delhi	0	-	-	1	20	-	0.00	0.00	0.01
31	Lakshwadeep	0	-	-	0	-		0.00	0 00	*
32	Pondicherry	0	-	-	0	-		0.04	0.04	0.04
33	Chhattisgarh	-	-	3000	-	-	8.00	-		0.18
34	Jharkhand	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*
35	Uttaranchal	-	-	634	-	-	15.00	-		0.00
36	Others	44445	39571	34384	168	195	225.00	4.42	2.81	0.93
	Total	168677	170906	165991	403	410 00	414.00	21.67	16.45	13.67

State-wise physical achievements made last during three years (1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02) under various programmes of the Ministry.

Sl.No.	State/UT	Solar Photovoltaic Pumps (Nos.)			Windmills (Nos.)			Aerogenerators (KW)			Solar Cooker (Nos.)		
		1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	1999-2000	2001-01	2001-02	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	Andhra Pradesh	123	16	2	1				-		137	168	
2	Arunachal Pradesh												
3	Assam	-	-			-							
4	Bihar	4	12						-				
5	Goa	1					-		-		57	37	
6	Gujarat	1	3	2	86	57	71			-	3898	6000	8090
7	Haryana	20	26	36					-		34	505	710
8	Himachal Pradesh			-						-	633	570	510
9	Jammu and Kashmir		1										
10	Karnataka	69	31	2	6	-		8	-				
11	Kerala	64	119	21	12	12						-	
12	Madhya Pradesh	9	6		-						2666	84	52*
13	Maharashtra	20	14	4	7		8	25		29.3	950	1137	1892
14	Manipur												
15	Meghalaya	-	5		-		-						-
16	Mizoram	-		-									
17	Nagaland	-	-		-				-		-	-	-
18	Orissa	1				-					51	29	-
19	Punjab	12	508	247	-						831	4200	
20	Rajasthan	1	9	18	-							100	-
21	Sikkim			-	-					-		-	
22	Tamil Nadu	77	69	-	12	8			16.5				-
23	Tripura				-	-	-		-	-	30		-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
24	Uttar Pradesh	53	12	-	-	-		-	-	-	2100	2100	2145*
25	West Bengal		1								804	1014	538
26	Andaman and Nicobar Islands				2								
27	Chandigarh			5				-					
28	Dadar and Nagar Haveli												
29	Daman and Diu												
30	Delhi	8	2	6									
31	Lakshwadeep												
32	Pondicherry	2	4							5			
33	Chhattisgarh		-	-				-	-	-			-
34	Jharkhand								-				
35	Uttaranchal	-		1	-					-		-	
36	Others	-	-	-							3049	1941	1100
	Total	465	838	344	126	77	79	33	16.5	34.3	15238	17885	

State-wise physical achievements made during last three years (1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02) under various programmes of the Ministry

Sl.No.	State/UT	Solar Photovoltaics Power											
		1999-2000				2000-2001				2001-02			
		SLS Nos.	HLS Nos.	SL Nos.	PP kWp	SLS Nos.	HLS Nos.	SL Nos.	PP kWp	SLS Nos.	HLS Nos.	SL Nos.	PP kWp
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	Andhra Pradesh	139	192	6123	0	64	0	5070	0	210	48	8236	-
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	241	972	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	500	-
3	Assam	0	252	175	0	0	271	66	0	0	400	0	-
4	Bihar	50	201	7450	0	0	100	200	0	32	225	2500	-
5	Goa	1	0	6	0	9	20	229	0	29	0	163	-
6	Gujarat	20	282	3679	0	242	1367	13066	0	50	682	4891	-
7	Haryana	76	1647	4788	0	95	1034	3438	0	100	5191	7205	-
8	Himachal Pradesh	271	2450	4227	0	300	2470	2097	0	175	1535	1352	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9	Jammu and Kashmir	30	3739	700	0	0	1188	0	40	0	1162	3977	-
10	Karnataka	0	0	0	0	123	1004	2867	0	171	3124	3569	6
11	Kerala	26	1112	5671	0	35	569	2966	0	10	5622	5329	40
12	Madhya Pradesh	77	49	740	0	33	35	250	0	145	3	713	-
13	Maharashtra	55	89	663	0	160	144	1153	0	100	317	2259	-
14	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	600	483	-
15	Meghalaya	0	50	495	0	0	0	0	0	0	220	1675	-
16	Mizoram	49	136	1177	0	0	0	23	0	0	0	2250	-
17	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	135	95	0	0	0	0	-
18	Orissa	2346	192	411	0	137	525	1063	3	47	1097	1655	-
19	Punjab	89	600	3765	15	511	320	2730	0	200	0	1500	-
20	Rajasthan	213	5775	37	0	467	6425	2612	25.8	0	7442	2015	-
21	Sikkim	0	50	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	150	400	-
22	Tamil Nadu	84	19	1675	0	110	50	2690	0	150	400	4500	-
23	Tripura	0	40	3065	0	120	160	6740	0	300	600	3863	-
24	Uttar Pradesh	0	6176	7703	0	0	13924	11025	0	400	10113	1569	-
25	West Bengal	37	2049	83	75	45	5607	200	139	151	11367	191	-
26	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	19	0	9	0	12	1	104	0	12	14	258	-
27	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	50	300	0	0	125	600	-
28	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	-
29	Daman and Diu	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	-
30	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	939	0	0	375	1000	10
31	Lakshwadeep	11	0	3000	0	24	0	1400	0	47	13	53	-
32	Pondicherry	0	0	57	0	0	0	25	0	0	0	28	-
33	Chhattisgarh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	363	1157	848	-
34	Jharkhand	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	
35	Uttranchal	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	0	2000	4500	-
36	Others	0	0	0	0	0	6	10851	0	0	470	9074	-
	Total	3593	25341	56721	90	2487	35405	72199	207.8	2692	54552	77156	56

SLS = Street lighting systems; HLS = home lighting systems; SL = sloar lanterns; PP = power plants; kWp = kilo watt peak

State-wise physical achievements made during the three years (1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02) under various programmes of the Ministry

Sl.No.	State/UT	Energy Parks			Integrated Rural Energy Programmes		
		1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	1999-2000	20001-01	2001-02
			(Nos.)			(Nos.)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	1	1	2	32	32	32
2	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	10	10	10
3	Assam	1	-	-	21	21	21
4	Bihar	-	-	-	56	56	56
5	Goa	-	1	-	5	5	5
6	Gujarat	4	1	1	25	25	25
7	Haryana	3	1	4	38	38	38
8	Himachal Pradesh	6	-	-	45	45	45
9	Jammu and Kashmir	4	3	-	28	28	28
10	Karnataka	-	-	1	42	42	42
11	Kerala	-	-	1	44	44	44
12	Madhya Pradesh	-	2	3	85	85	85
13	Maharashtra	2	-	6	37	37	37
14	Manipur	3	-	-	19	19	19
15	Meghalaya	-	6	-	16	16	16
16	Mizoram	4	-	-	11	11	11
17	Nagaland	5	-	-	25	25	25
18	Orissa	-	2	2	45	45	45
19	Punjab	-	1	4	40	40	40
20	Rajasthan	-	2	4	36	36	36
21	Sikkim	-	3	-	4	4	4
22	Tamil Nadu	-	1	4	21	21	21
23	Tripura	-	5	-	6	6	6
24	Uttar Pradesh	-	2	8	115	115	115

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
25	West Bengal	-	3	-	34	34	34
26	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	2	0	5	5	5
27	Chandigarh	1	-	0	1	1	1
28	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	-	-	0	1	1	1
29	Daman and Diu	-	-	0	1	1	1
30	Delhi	1	-	1	5	5	5
31	Lakshwadeep	-	-	0	1	1	1
32	Pondicherry	-	-	0	6	6	6
33	Chhattisgarh	-	-	-	-	-	-
34	Jharkhand	-	-	0	-	-	-
35	Uttaranchal	-	-	5	-	-	-
36	Others	-	10	0	0	0	0
	Total	36	46	46	860	860	860

Statement-II

State-wise funds released during last three years (1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02) under various programmes of the Ministry.

Sl.No.	State/UT	Biogas			CBP/IBP/NBP			Improved Chulha			Solar Power		
		1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	Andhra Pradesh	7.45	6.16	4.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.49	1.86	1.75	0.00	0.00	1.30
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.05	0.08	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	Assam	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	Bihar and Jharkhand	0.11	0.08	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Goa	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	Gujarat	1.97	1.40	2.99	0.17	0.13	0.05	0.75	0.54	0.38	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	Haryana	0.83	0.31	0.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.49	0.72	0.68	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	Himachal Pradesh	0.53	0.15	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.03	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	Jammu and Kashmir	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
10	Karnataka	2.56	8.75	6.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.19	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11	Kerala	1.17	0.37	0.50	0.16	0.28	0.37	0.30	0.18	0.40	0.11	0.00	0.25
12	Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh	5.97	4.60	2.92	0.00	0.10	0.16	0.75	0.08	0.15	0.30	0.00	0.20
13	Maharashtra	4.88	4.41	2.72	0.43	0.33	0.80	0.68	0.96	0.60	0.00	0.00	0.00
14	Manipur	0.14	0.12	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
15	Meghalaya	0.09	0.00	0.37	0.06	0.08	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16	Mizoram	0.29	0.00	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17	Nagaland	0.16	0.09	0.00	0.07	0.10	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18	Orissa	4.29	2.77	5.07	0.07	0.00	0.08	1.48	2.11	1.82	0.00	0.00	0.00
19	Punjab	1.13	1.17	2.31	1.17	1.06	0.69	0.38	0.72	0.43	1.67	0.24	1.20
20	Rajasthan	0.20	0.11	0.07	0.07	0.10	0.20	0.24	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.05	0.84
21	Sikkim	0.19	0.12	0.10	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.13	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
22	Tamil Nadu	0.87	0.69	0.45	0.11	0.04	0.04	0.52	0.60	0.97	0.00	0.00	0.00
23	Tripura	0.11	0.09	0.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.17	0.46	0.00	0.00	0.00
24	Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal	2.71	2.60	1.60	2.30	0.86	1.96	1.05	0.88	0.01	0.16	1.09	0.13
25	West Bengal	7.15	5.52	4.09	0.52	0.14	0.12	2.65	4.15	0.88	0.05	0.17	0.08
26	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.60
27	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
28	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
29	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.90	0.11	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31	Lakshwadeep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.05	2.20	5.55
32	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
33	Others	15.94	17.38	16.02	2.06	2.01	1.24	9.30	3.82	5.76	0.11	0.00	0.00
	Total	59.50	56.97	51.96	7.50	6.12	5.85	19.60	17.72	14.53	3.65	3.75	10.15

CBP/IBP/NSP = Community /Institutional / Night Soil based Biogas Plants

State-wise funds released during last three years (1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02) under various programmes of the Ministry

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Small Hydro Power			Biomass Power			Biomass Gasifier			Energy from Waste		
		1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	Andhra Pradesh	2.11	1.28	3.76	3.57	8.02	10.15	0.33	0.58	0.06	0.60	0.10	0.00
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.36	15.23	0.04	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.08	0.81	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	Assam	1.80	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	Bihar and Jharkhand	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.12	0.04	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	Gujarat	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.13	0.06	0.32	0.03	0.15	0.56	0.25	0.00	0.20
7	Haryana	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.04	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	Himachal Pradesh	1.42	2.75	3.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	Karnataka	0.81	0.02	2.55	5.30	4.49	1.84	0.61	0.20	0.38	0.00	0.00	0.00
11	Kerala	0.00	0.01	0.06	0.05	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00
12	Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.79	0.91	0.54	0.10	0.00	0.00	1.90	0.00	0.00
13	Maharashtra	0.34	0.01	1.25	6.05	0.74	0.07	0.01	0.21	0.00	1.55	3.60	0.74
14	Manipur	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.72	0.00	0.00	0.00
15	Meghalaya	0.03	0.29	1.08	0.04	0.02	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16	Mizoram	2.18	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17	Nagaland	0.00	0.34	2.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.24	0.47	0.00	0.00	0.00
18	Orissa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.04	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19	Punjab	0.85	0.01	0.04	3.13	0.08	7.67	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.04	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21	Sikkim	3.53	6.32	4.42	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
22	Tamil Nadu	0.49	0.00	0.34	2.89	1.81	0.28	0.02	0.11	0.23	0.37	1.06	0.81
23	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.10	1.03	0.44	0.00	0.00	0.00
24	Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal	0.21	2.67	0.85	0.07	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.11	0.20	0.00	0.00	7.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
25	West Bengal	1.41	1.99	3.52	0.07	0.06	0.09	0.20	0.02	0.84	0.00	0.00	0.00
26	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	7.91	2.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
27	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
28	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
29	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.05	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.28	0.24	0.10
31	Lakshwadeep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
33	Others	5.03	0.05	1.02	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	20.52	27.03	43.41	22.61	16.49	21.60	1.50	2.92	6.95	4.96	5.00	9.35

State-wise funds released during last three years (1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02) under various programmes of the Ministry

Sl.No.	State/UT	Wind Power			Solar Photovoltiac			IREP			SADP		
		1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	Andhra Pradesh	0.06	1.92	1.92	0.55	0.67	1.09	0.00	0.35	0.22	0.17	0.02	0.05
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.23	0.19	0.00	0.05	0.13	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.39
3	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.23	0.55	0.01	0.12	0.14	0.15	0.04	0.01	0.28
4	Bihar and Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.70	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.13
5	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.03	0.00
6	Gujarat	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.82	3.00	0.70	0.00	0.28	0.27	0.08	0.03	0.05
7	Haryana	0.02	0.00	0.00	1.84	2.40	1.71	0.16	0.57	0.32	0.09	0.04	0.14
8	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.22	1.31	1.34	0.57	0.12	0.58	0.08	0.00	0.08
9	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.36	0.73	0.27	0.06	0.40	0.00	0.03	0.08	0.00
10	Karnataka	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.42	0.75	1.07	0.20	0.65	0.86	0.02	0.00	0.03
11	Kerala	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.08	3.21	8.13	0.18	1.07	0.34	0.00	0.00	0.47
12	Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.25	1.97	0.21	1.07	0.00	0.82	0.00	0.06	0.55

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13	Maharashtra	1.88	0.02	0.96	0.18	0.30	0.39	0.24	0.25	0.03	0.08	0.00	0.25
14	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.43	0.00	0.45	0.25	0.21	0.13	0.05	0.00	0.05
15	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.58	0.01	0.16	0.16	0.23	0.00	0.18	0.35
16	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.16	1.66	0.20	0.17	0.09	0.08	0.05	0.03	0.00
17	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.09	0.00	0.05	0.29	0.00	0.04	0.03	0.08
18	Orissa	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.01	0.32	0.61	0.92	0.14	0.01	0.00	0.04	0.34
19	Punjab	0.04	0.00	0.00	2.37	0.55	0.35	0.26	0.11	0.03	0.00	0.03	0.16
20	Rajasthan	3.76	4.89	2.88	3.15	1.82	4.74	0.19	0.04	0.24	0.00	0.05	0.12
21	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.37	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.08	0.08
22	Tamil Nadu	0.29	0.03	0.00	0.20	0.76	0.54	0.14	0.07	0.02	0.06	0.02	0.18
23	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.66	1.07	1.12	0.05	0.74	0.10	0.01	0.12	0.15
24	Uttar Pradesh and Uttranchal	0.00	0.03	0.00	3.68	7.11	6.56	1.18	0.00	0.74	0.04	0.05	0.24
25	West Bengal	0.23	0.24	1.71	3.86	3.37	6.43	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.40
26	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.07	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.03	0.00
27	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.01	0.11	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.03
28	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
29	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30	Delhi	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.07	0.14	0.01	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.50
31	Lakshwadeep	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.64	0.18	0.01	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.04	0.05	0.05	0.08	0.01	0.00	0.00
33	Others	1.39	1.57	1.67	0.52	1.80	2.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.21	0.17
	Total	7.79	8.73	9.15	35.36	35.15	39.44	6.31	6.00	5.33	1.00	1.25	5.30

IREP = Integrated Rural Energy Programme; SADP = Special Area Demonstration Programme

Widening Golibar Road

2800. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has accepted the request of MMC and the Government of Maharashtra to widen the Golibar Road near Sarvodaya Hospital, Ghatkopar (West) in Mumbai; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

CAG's Observations on CPSUs

2801. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Comptroller And Auditor General of India has painted a dismal picture of the performance of Central Government public sector undertakings:

(b) if so, whether according to the CAG report, only 142 such companies of the 368 under its audit jurisdiction earned profits during 2000-01;

(c) whether according to the report, 115 PSUs suffered losses;

(d) if so, the main reasons for their losses;

(e) whether the Union Government have considered the CAG's observations on PSUs; and

(f) if so, the action taken against the loss suffering PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) As per information provided by office of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India, 142 companies earned profits and 115 PSUs had suffered losses out of 263 companies (excluding deemed Government Companies) during the year 2000-01. These companies made a net profit of Rs. 17876 crore as per account according to Appendix-I of the CAG's Report No.1 of 2002 during this period.

(d) The reasons for losses are enterprise specific. However, some of the reasons in general include inherited sickness in case of taken over units from the private sector, obsolete plant and machinery, outdated technology, low capacity utilisation, excess manpower, financial resource crunch, high input costs, heavy interest burden, weak marketing strategies, economic recession, managerial problems etc.

(e) and (f) Enterprise specific steps are taken by the administrative Ministries/ Departments/ Management of such PSUs to improve their performance which is a continuous process. Some of the steps include managerial and financial restructuring, formation of joint ventures, upgradation of technology, modernization of plant and machinery, cost control measures, rationalization of manpower, improved marketing strategies etc. as the case may be.

Supply of LPG in Rural Areas

2802. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rural areas of the States are being neglected in supply of LPG;

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

(c) the remedial measures the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have planned to set up 1,247 LPG distributorships exclusively for rural areas and out of these 260 rural distributorships have already been commissioned. After commissioning of these distributorships, it is expected that rural areas will be adequately covered with LPG distributorships.

Bifurcation of Eastern Railways

2803. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of political parties met him to discuss the Eastern Railway bifurcation issue;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the discussion held therein alongwith the outcome thereof; and

(c) the final decision taken or likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c): Yes, Sir. Delegations of various political parties have met and have given their views for and against the reorganisation of Railways along with their memoranda. Notifications for operationalising the new Zones have already been issued. Decision remains same.

[Translation]

Rail Line Between Barwadis and Cheermeeri

2804. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM:

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government have conducted survey for laying of rail lines between Barwadis and Cheermeeri;

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

(c) the time by which the work on the said project is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) The survey for restoration of line from Barwadih to Chirmiri is in progress. Further consideration would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

[English]

Banning on Hawkers to Sell eatables at Delhi Railway Station

2805. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring Multi-national companies to sell eatables at Delhi Railway Stations and other big railway stations; and

(b) if so, the efforts being proposed by Railways to get quality food at a reasonable price to poor stratum of travellers?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Amount Spent on Non-Conventional Energy

2806. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by the Government directly/ indirectly on the production of non-conventional energy during the last three years;

(b) the energy produced by the various units of non-conventional energy during the said period; and

(c) the various methods used for producing non-conventional energy in the country during the said period, method-wise, quantity-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources had provided a total amount of Rs.839.28 crores as Domestic Budgetary Support under various non-conventional energy programmes during the last three years i.e. 1999-2000 to 2001-02.

(b) and (c) The Ministry is implementing wide-ranging programmes based on non-conventional energy sources such as solar, wind, small hydro and biomass for generation of energy in the country. Details of estimated energy generation from non-conventional energy sources during last three years i.e. 1999-2000 to 2001-02 are given in the statement.

Statement

Details of energy generated from Non-conventional energy sources during last three years i.e. 1999-2000 to 2001-02

S.No.	Systems	Energy Generated (Million Units)
1.	Wind Energy	4975.00
2.	Biomass Power	1068.00
3.	Biomass Co-generation	2860.00
3.	Biomass Gasifier	209.83
4.	Solar Power	2.16
5.	Small Hydro Power	12296.00
6.	Solar Photovoltaics	49.50
7.	Urban and Industrial Wastes	121.00
	Total	21581.49

Crude Oil Production by ONGC

2807. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has increased crude production in May and June, 2002 as compare to the production of crude in the corresponding period of the last year;

(b) the basic reasons for the inability of ONGC to increase crude production;

(c) whether ONGC has not properly maintained the health of the oil wells;

(d) if so, whether faulty engineering and bad management has led to depleting oil in the wells;

(e) if so, the action initiated against the technical personnel responsible for this bad management; and

(f) the details of the specific action initiated on persons or sections responsible for damaging oil wells under operation during the last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The crude oil production of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) for the period May-June, 2002 stands at 4.347 MMT, 13.4% higher than for May-June, 2001.

(b) The crude oil production target of ONGC for the year 2002-03 at 25.90 million metric tonne (MMT) is higher than the actual production of 24.708 MMT in 2001-02.

(c) to (f) ONGC has made all efforts to properly maintain the health of its oil fields and has also maintained the proper health of the reservoirs, in general.

Sale of Shares by IOCL to ONGC

2808. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

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

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation Limited has decided to sell their shares in the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation and the Gas Authority of India Limited;

(b) if so, the number of IOC's share in these two companies and the value of each share as on date against the purchase price; and

(c) the reasons for selling its stake and the amount to be fetched as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. A proposal has been received from IOC to sell its equity stake in GAIL and ONGC.

(b) The number of IOC's share in ONGC and GAIL and the value of each share against the purchase price are given below:

Name of Company	No of shares of IOC (in crore)	Purchase Price (Rs./share)	Market Value as on 26-7-2002 (Rs./share)
ONGC	13.7	162.34	347.00
GAIL	4.08	60.00	73.35

(c) IOC is interested to monetize its investments in order to reduce its borrowing from the market. The amount which may accrue from this proposed sale will depend on a number of factors including market conditions prevailing at the time of sale.

Kandla-Bhatinda Pipeline

2809. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a series of decisions taken by Indian Oil Corporation Limited are likely to affect adversely the use of pipelines by Petronet;

(b) if so, whether the decision of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited to use the Kandla-Bhatinda pipeline for transporting crude instead of the Vadinar-Kandla pipeline will cost Petronet dearly;

(c) if so, the reasons for IOCL to change its earlier policy to sue the Vadinar-Kandla pipeline;

(d) whether the Government have approved such a decision of IOCL; and

(e) if so, the details of impact of this decision of IOCL on profitability and sue of capacity of Petronet?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (e) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has decided to convert Kandla-Panipat section of their Kandla-Bhatinda Pipeline to crude oil services with effect from July, 2004. The decision is likely to have an impact on the use of Vadinar-Kandla Pipeline of Petronet from July, 2004.

IOCL is a Navratna company and such decisions are taken by its board on commercial considerations.

[Translation]

Reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

2810. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received requests from Hon'ble Members of Parliament/Organisations for making provision of reservation for Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes in Supreme Court and High Courts of the country during the last three years and till date; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/ being taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) and (b) Representations are received from time to time demanding representation of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in the Higher judiciary. Appointments of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts are made under articles 124 and 217 of the Constitution of India respectively which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. There is no proposal currently under the consideration of the Government to reserve posts for SC/ST for appointment as Judges of the Supreme Court of India and High Courts.

Government encourages representation of SC/ST, women and other Backward classes in the appointment of Judges and, accordingly addressed letters to the Chief Ministers of the States and the Chief Justices of the High Courts from time to time requesting them *inter-alia* to locate suitable candidates from the Bar for appointment as High Court Judges. They were last reminded on March 15,2002.

Acquisition of Land for Jabalpur-Gondia Gauge Conversion Work

2811. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh provided required land for gauge conversion of Jabalpur-Gondia railway line;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which work is likely to be started from Jabalpur (M.P.); and

(d) the target fixed for completion?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The final location survey has already been completed and land acquisition has been processed.

(d) No target date of completion has yet been fixed.

[English]

Profit of Refineries

2812. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of public sector refineries making profits in the country;

(b) whether any private sector refineries are operating in the country; and

(c) if so, the comparative cost and profit analysis of the public and private sector operations of the refineries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The details of public sector refineries running in profit are as under:-

(i) Koyali Refinery of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)

(ii) Mathura Refinery of IOCL

(iii) Panipat Refinery of IOCL

(iv) Chennai Refinery of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (CPCL)

(v) Narimanam Refinery of CPCL

(vi) Mumbai Refinery of Hindustran Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL)

(vii) Visakh Refinery of HPCL

(viii) Mumbai Refinery of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)

(ix) Kochi Refinery of Kochi Refinery Ltd.

(x) Numaligarh Refinery of Numaligarh Refinery Limited

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The comparative cost and profit analysis of private sector refinery is not available with the Government.

Performance of NCC

2813. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently reviewed the performance of National Cadet Corps (NCC) Scheme in the country, particularly in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the NCC Scheme is being restructured to meet the changed perception; and

(d) if so, the details of the action plan drawn therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No review of the performance of National Cadet Corps Scheme including that in Gujarat, has been carried out recently;

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

(c) and (d) Presently, there is no proposal of restructuring of NCC Scheme pending with the Government.

Growth of Capital Goods Industry

2814. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the report captioned "Policy issues hamper capital goods industry-CII" appearing in the 'Hindu' dated July 14, 2002;

(b) if so, whether the capital goods industry delegation met him on the issue;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to accelerate growth of capital goods industry?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Union Budget 2002-2003 has made specific allocation for some of the major schemes in the area of construction, housing, steel and cement sector. Plan Budget for 2002-2003 has been increased by 20% compared to the previous year. Rationalization of duty structure has been done by introducing single rate of CENVAT at 16%, which applies to most goods. On the custom side, the policy is to move to a peak rate of 20% within three years. Government has announced that by the year 2004-05, there would be only two basic rates of Customs duty, namely, 10% covering generally raw materials, intermediate and components and 20% covering generally final products.

The present status and constraints faced by the Capital Goods Industry were presented before the Minister for Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises in a CEOs Round Table on Capital Goods held on 29.7.2002. The decisions taken in pursuance of the Round Table Conference include setting up of Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) for resolution of issues concerning various Ministries for development and growth of the Capital Goods Industry and setting up of Task Force on export for giving a thrust to the export activities.

Private Companies to Operate LPG Agencies

2815. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to allow private sector companies to operate LPG agencies in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Private

sector companies are already allowed to market LPG including operating of LPG agencies in the country under Parallel Marketing Scheme (PMS).

Railway Safety Fund

2816. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways Rs.17,000 crore Special Safety Fund would be judiciously used for speedy replacement of age old systems and skill upgradation;

(b) if so, whether statistics show about two thirds of rail accidents take place due to human failure and mistakes;

(c) if so, the extent to which this Special Safety Fund has been utilised so far to check the rail accidents;

(d) the concrete steps taken to finalise for its implementation; and

(e) the extent to which the rail accidents have been reduced since then?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) A non-lapsable 'Special Railway Safety Fund' of Rs.17000 crore has been set up to wipe out the arrears in renewal of over-aged assets such as track, bridges, rolling stock and signalling gears etc. within a fixed time frame of 6 years.

(b) Yes, Sir. About 84% accidents take place due to human errors, including failure of road users to take precautions while negotiating manned and unmanned level crossings.

(c) Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF) has been set up with effect from October 2001 and allocation to the tune of Rs.1400 crore was made in the Revised Estimate for the year 2001-02. In the year 2002-03 (Budget Estimate) an amount of Rs.2210 crore has been provided.

(d) and (e) As the renewals and other identified works to be undertaken under SRSF are likely to be completed by 2006-07, subject to availability of funds, the quantification of reduction in the number of accidents is not feasible at present.

Demolition of Old Bridges

2817. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have received representations to carefully weigh the decisions to demolish old rail bridges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some representations are pending with the Railways for consideration of better use of old rail bridges;

(d) if so, the details of such representations; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Some representations have been received for retention of old & abandoned rail bridges to be used as road bridges. Details and present status of such bridges are as under:

(i) Old Godavari Bridge at Kovvur - Rajahmundry over river Godavari in South Central Railway- Railways has decided not to dismantle the bridge and it is to be maintained as a monument by the Railways at the cost of the State Government.

(ii) Bridge No. 1248 over river Ganga near Balawali on Moradabad Saharanpur section of Northern Railway - Railways had decided to hand-over the bridge to the State Government of U.P. subject to a formal proposal being received from the State Government. However, the State Government of U.P. has not found the bridge suitable for road traffic on technical considerations.

(iii) Bridge No. 50 on Mansi - Saharsa section of North Eastern Railway - State Government of Bihar has been requested to forward a formal proposal in this regard and also to give their consent for retention of the bridge on usual terms & conditions.

(iv) Bridge No. 73 and 75 (old Vasai Creek Bridges) on Churchgate - Virar Mumbai Subrban section of Western Railway - Public Works Department, Government of Maharashtra has been advised to carry out detailed technical investigation but no response / formal proposal has yet been received from the State Government.

Railway Loss

2818. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways lose money on passenger services across the country;

(b) whether the Railways lost about Rs.4,514 crores in 1999-2000 on passenger services;

(c) whether the survey conducted in this context has revealed that such losses have been caused due to concessional fares extended to various sections of people including railway employees;

(d) if so, the details of the sample survey; and

(e) the efforts made to remove the first priority in reservations to such concessional ticket beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Losses on passenger and other coaching services during 1999-2000 were Rs.4,582.71 crore.

(c) No such survey has been conducted by Railways.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The reservation system does not accord priority to any passenger. However:

(i) A reservation quota of two berths in sleeper class of all trains running on non-suburban sections has been earmarked for handicapped persons performing their journey on handicapped concessional ticket. The person accompanying the handicapped person as escort is also provided accommodation out of this quota.

(ii) In respect of senior citizens, while there is no earmarked quota, there is a provision in the reservation system to reserve lower berths for Senior Citizens and Handicapped persons automatically even if they do not give their choice. provided lower berths are available at the time of booking. In respect of general passengers, also, lower berths are allotted if they give their choice in the requisition form at the time of booking, provided the same are available.

The above facilities have been provided on humanitarian considerations.

Raksha Mantri Sahayata Kosh

2819. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any separate fund available with him viz. Raksha Mantri Sahayata Kosh;

(b) the purpose of such Kosh; and

(c) the guidelines issued by the Government to use the said fund?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) There is no fund with the Defence Minister, named "Raksha Mantri Sahayata Kosh". However, there is a non-public fund with Raksha Mantri called "Raksha Mantri Discretionary Fund" (RMDF). The purpose of the fund is to provide financial assistance to ex-Servicemen and their dependants in penury and having no other source of income.

(c) The guidelines issued by Ministry of Defence on this fund are as under:

(i) **Assistance to old infirm ex-Servicemen/ widows of ESM: Rs.** 1,000/- per month for two years.

(ii) **Marriage of daughters of ex-Servicemen/ widows in penury: Rs.** 8,000/-.

(iii) **Repairs of house for ESM/widows in penury: Rs.** 10,000/-.

(iv) **Medical treatment: Depending on the nature and gravity of ailment, subject to a maximum of Rs.** 15,000/-.

(v) **Grant for children education :** Rs. 100/- p.m. per child for maximum of three children up to XII standard.

(vi) **Other cases in respect of ESM/Widows in penury:** (Like natural calamities, accidental death or where Raksha Mantri/Raksha Rajya Mantri feels that the case deserves sympathetic consideration) - No single transaction to exceed Rs. 15,000/-.

Prospects for Film Industry

2820. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state.

(a) the details of the Indian films produced during the last three years with the help of foreign funding partially or wholly;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to check and monitor any illegal inflow of foreign funds into Indian Entertainment Industry;

(c) whether the Government have any plans to stop the fast declining film industrial prospects and to encourage Indian film Industry which feeds directly and indirectly to millions of daily workers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) As the film industry in India is in the private sector, Government does not have any information on the details of Indian films produced with foreign funding partially or wholly.

(b) to (d) Checking of illegal inflow of foreign funds is governed by relevant laws and is handled by the law enforcement agencies. Government has, however, facilitated access of the film industry to institutional finance by including "Entertainment Industry including films" as an 'approved activity' under 'industrial concern' in the Industrial Development Bank of India Act 1964, which has made it possible for Industrial Development Bank of India to finance projects of the film industry. In addition, the Reserve Bank of India has issued guidelines to commercial banks to facilitate the financing of film related projects. Government has also removed restrictions on foreign direct investment in films to promote legal inflow of foreign funds.

Petrol Pumps in Rajasthan

2821. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petrol pumps of various oil companies which were deserted from the partnership in Rajasthan during the last three years;

(b) whether the rules governing partnership have not been adhered to; and

(c) if so, the number of such cases noticed in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) During the last three years (1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002), in the case of three retail outlet dealerships, partners have resigned from partnerships. In two of these cases, the dealerships have been reconstituted, and in the remaining case, pending reconstitution of the firm, a temporary dealership has been granted to the remaining partners.

Setting up of National Grid

2822. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government for setting up a National Grid to transfer surplus power from one region to another; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) At present, Indian power system is divided into five regional grids and within each region strong inter-connection and well developed regional grids are in position. In order to extend the benefit of generation resources all over the country and to transfer surplus power across regions, the Government is working on a plan to develop a National Power Grid connecting all the five regional grids with a strong transmission network. The various transmission components of the National Power Grid are targeted to be realized in a phased manner, by the end of 11th Plan period. The total investment required for the central transmission system in the next 10 years is estimated to be of the order of Rs. 77,000 crore, of which about Rs.47,000 crore would be required for the projects involving inter-regional transmission system and Rs. 30,000 crore for regional transmission schemes for power evacuation and system strengthening.

Production of Pirated VCDs/CDs

2823. SHRI AMBAREESHA:

SHRI G. PUTTASWAMY GOWDA:

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of film producers and film personalities have approached to the Government to provide them relief in view of a large scale production of pirated VCDs and CDs in the country which put them on a loss;

(b) if so, the estimated pirated VCDs and CDs seized by the Government as on June 30, 2002;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to bring a comprehensive Bill to make the crime of piracy non-bailable and punishment more stringent;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (e) This Ministry has been receiving representations from the film industry from time to time, regarding the need of anti-piracy measures. Enforcement of the Copyright Act 1957 lies with the State Governments through the police. Ministry of Human Resource Development, the nodal Ministry for copyright matters, has asked States/Union Territories to set up separate copyright enforcement cells or special cells in the Crime Branch to exclusively look into copyright offence cases. Ministry of Human Resource Development has also stated that piracy is already a non-bailable offence under the Copyright Act. This Ministry does not maintain statistics regarding the seizure of pirated CDs etc. which is basically the concern of the police authorities.

[Translation]

Benefit to Film Industry

2824. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Film Sector has been given the status of an industry;

(b) if so, the names of the film producers taken benefit of the scheme;

(c) the details of eligibility of the individuals or institutions benefited from the said scheme, and criteria laid down rules and policies for registration etc.;

(d) the number of the film producing units covered under the said criteria listed or registered so far by the Government;

(e) whether all skilled, semi skilled and unskilled employees of the film producing units are likely to get benefit; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Under the Industrial Development Bank of India Act, 1964 Section 2 (c) (xvii) "Entertainment Industry including films" has been included as an 'approved activity' under 'industrial concern'.

(b) Both IDBI as well as RBI have formulated schemes/guidelines specifically for financing of films. The banks and financial institutions implement the schemes. The Ministry does not maintain details such as the names of beneficiaries and particulars of loans etc.

(c) As per RBI guidelines, Public Sector Banks may finance production of films of producers with good track record subject to certain conditions. The RBI guidelines state that ordinarily producers are required to bring in at least 25% of the project cost as promoters contribution and also tie up with the distributors and receive advances as per usual practices to cover 35% to 40% of the budget. It has thus been stipulated in the guidelines that bank advances would be for the balance requirement of 35% to 40% of the cost. However, in deserving cases where the Banks are quite comfortable with the project as well as the background of the producers, the financing can be increased upto 50% of the project cost on merits.

Under IDBI's scheme financial institutions are to initially focus on financing film production activity of corporate entities. While there is no upper limit for sanction, the minimum quantum of assistance would normally be not less than Rs.20 million. The quantum of assistance would not exceed 50% of the budget, the debt - equity ratio would not exceed 1:1 and the promoter's contribution has to be at least 30 per cent of the estimated budget and can be raised in the form of advances from distributors against sale of territories music/video rights etc. The period of repayment of loan would not exceed two years and loans would be sanctioned against various forms of securities specified in the scheme.

(d) Film producing units are not registered by this Ministry.

(e) and (f) The Cine Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1981, as well as Cine Workers and Cinema Theatre Workers (Regulation of Employment) Act 1981 administered by the Ministry of Labour, are applicable to the film sector employees whereby welfare schemes are administered or legal protection against exploitation is given to cine workers who fall within the scope of these Acts.

[English]

Orders for Purchases

2825. DR. B. B. RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways finalise the purchase/ procurement orders from the suppliers of L-1 bidders;

No statutory power cuts were enforced in Karnataka during June, 2002. However, three phase power supply to agriculture sector/rural areas has been restricted to 8 hours per day.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The allocation to Karnataka was enhanced by 60 MW from unallocated quota of Central Sector stations in Southern Region and by 50 MW from unallocated quota in NTPC stations in Eastern Region with effect from 4th May, 2002. Karnataka was also advised to tie-up with NTPC for supply of 100 MW from Kayamkulam gas station.

Minister of Power is also holding a meeting of Power Ministers of the States at New Delhi on 5.8.2002 to review the situation arising out of inadequate rainfall in the country and to prepare an action plan to meet the shortfall in hydel generation.

High Court Benches

2828. SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of States where the High Courts Bench or Benches other than the Principal seat of the High Court has been established;

(b) the names of the States where the principal seat of High Court has not been established as yet;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Union Government have received any request from the Government of Gujarat to establish High Court Branch/separate High Court at Rajkot; and

(e) if so, the time by which the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY) : (a) The permanent Benches of High Courts, away from their principal seats, have been established in eleven States viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c) There is no separate High Court for Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Haryana, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura, and all Union Territories except Delhi. Principal Seat of High Courts are set up if there is a separate High Court.

It is not necessary that every State should have a High Court.

(d) and (e) The Government of Gujarat has requested for setting up a Bench of the High Court at Rajkot. The Chief Justice of the High Court has, however, opined that it would not be in the interest of the institution to have a Circuit Bench of the High Court at Rajkot.

Sale of Land by BSCL

2829. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government agreed to hand over the Lalkoti and Raniganj No.2 Refractory units of BSCL to the Government of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay in handing over the units to the State Government by the Union Government;

(c) whether the land held by BSCL is lease-hold land during Nationalisation and the lease-hold right stood transferred to the Union Government;

(d) if so, whether with the title of the land remaining with the State Government, the Union Government can sell the land to the private parties for non-industrial purposes without handling over the land back to the State Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) While there has been discussions, no such decision has been taken in the matter.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. It is a free-hold land and the right to sell it is available to the BSCL.

[Translation]

Development of Solar Energy in Rural Areas

2830. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether setting up of bio-gas plants with the help of animal dung, wind mills for drinking water and

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in some cases the advise of Central Vigilance Commission has been violated and purchase orders were not awarded to the L-1 bidders;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government to follow the rules laid down in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Railways tenders are decided on the basis of well laid-down rules, procedures and guidelines wherein bulk orders are placed on lowest technically and commercially acceptable bidders only.

(c) No such case of violating the advice of Central Vigilance Commission has come to the notice of this Ministry.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Tender and Auction System

2826. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway is aware of the fact that rivalry among the bidders for getting supremacy over the tender and auction system causes serious breach of peace and incident of murder in the area of Railway Divisions;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Rail authority to prevent such incidents;

(c) whether Rail Authority propose to black list those contractors who have records of committing anti-social activities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Sir, the Railways are aware that there is rivalry among the bidders like any other business but this rivalry and the auction system have not caused serious breach of peace and murder in the Railway Divisions. However, the following incidents have been brought to the notice of this Ministry.

1. In the year 2000, there was an incident of manhandling amongst the bidders at Pandu Stores Depot on 28.9.2000. In this connection officer incharge/ Jalukbari Police Station registered a case No.288/2000 U/S 353/506/ 34 IPC against two persons.

2. In the year 2001 on 19.9.2001 in the premises of the office of the DRM /Varanasi an unknown person fired 5 to 6 rounds in the air from his pistol to terrorise other bidders and fled away on a motor cycle. No casualty or loss to property was reported. A case vide Crime No.243/ 2001 U/S 506 IPC was registered at Police Station, Sigra.

(b) In areas vulnerable to such acts, the services of GRP/Civil Police are requisitioned for maintaining peace during opening of tenders/auction.

(c) and (d) There is a provision to black-list bidders who do not follow the procedure laid down by the Railways and are liable to be debarred from that particular auction.

Shortage of Power in Karnataka

2827. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Karnataka is facing acute shortage of power and load shedding has increased tremendously throughout the State particularly in the rural areas;

(b) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested the Union Government to come to the rescue of the State by providing power from the Central Grid; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The power supply position in the State of Karnataka in the month of June, 2002 and during the period April-June, 2002 is given below:-

Energy (MU)	June, 2002	April-June, 2002
Requirement	2194	7717
Availability	1957	6797
Shortage	237	920
%	10.8	11.9
Peak (MW)	**June, 2002**	**April-June, 2002**
Peak Demand	4545	5289
Peak met	3559	4346
Deficit	986	943
%	21.7	17.8

irrigation and running of autovoltic cell with solar energy have become essential for the development of the rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose a nation-wise scheme in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing schemes concerning deployment of biogas plants, water pumping wind mills and solar photovoltaic systems for meeting the energy needs of rural and remote areas. Under these schemes, a total of 33.68 lakh family type biogas plants, 793 water pumping wind mills, 4.8 lakh solar lanterns, 2.23 lakh solar home systems, 46,000 solar street lights and 4,500 solar pumps have been deployed so far in different parts of the country. In addition, 3.8 MW capacity of photovoltaic power plants and other systems have been set up for various applications including provision of lighting in about 2,500 villages and hamlets.

During the 10th Plan period, a total of 10.0 lakh biogas plants, 800 water pumping wind mills, 5.0 lakh solar lanterns, 2.5 lakh solar home systems, 8,000 solar pumps and about 6 MW capacity of other photovoltaic systems are proposed to be deployed in the country. In addition, 4,000 unelectrified census villages are to be energized with solar photovoltaic systems during the 10th Plan.

[English]

Sailors' Provident Funds

2831. SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH:

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Sailors Provident Funds are being maintained by the Defence organisations;

(b) whether attention of the Government has been drawn wherein almost Rs.100 crores have been lost in the gilt scam of about 26000 Indian Sailors Provident Fund saving;

(c) if so, whether this matter has been investigated by the Government;

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

(e) if not, whether the Government propose to investigate the matter; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir. There is no fund by name 'Indian Sailors Provident Funds' maintained by the Defence Organisations. Subscriptions to the Provident Fund of the Sailors of the Indian Navy is credited to the Armed Forces Public Provident Fund which is common to the three Services.

(b) to (f) The issue raised in part (b) of the Question does not pertain to the Indian Navy. As such, parts (c) to (f) of the Question do not arise.

[Translation]

Transfer Policy of Employees

2832. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the transfer policy of Railway in respect of its officers/employees;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the fact that employees/officers posted at Mumbai Central Railway Stations and Uttar Pradesh's Varanasi, Mughal Sarai, Jaunpur City, Lucknow, Kanpur, Allahabad, Azamgarh and Mhow railway stations have been violating transfer rules and they are posted at one place for a long period;

(c) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(d) the time by which the employees/officers are likely to be transferred according to the rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Railway employees holding sensitive posts and who frequently come into contact with public and/or contractors/suppliers are required to be transferred every four years. In order to avoid large scale dislocation of staff, periodical transfers are, as far as possible, effected without involving a change of residence of the staff concerned, so long as the fundamental objective of such transfers can be achieved by transferring such staff to a different location in the same station or to a different station in the same urban agglomeration. However, staff detected to be indulging in malpractices or having figured in substantiated vigilance

cases are required to be transferred on inter-divisional/ inter-railway basis.

Similarly, tenure of posting of officers working on the Zonal Railways in the same post should not exceed four years. No fixed tenure has been prescribed for stay at a particular station.

(b) to (d) The above transfer policy is applicable to officers and employees working on all Zonal Railways including Mumbai Central Railway Stations and Uttar Pradesh's Varanasi, Mughal Sarai, Jaunpur City, Lucknow, Kanpur, Allahabad, Azamgarh and Mhow railway stations. It may not always be possible to transfer all those who complete four years stay at a place or seat in one go. In such cases, staff are transferred in a phased manner as considered administratively feasible. Periodical transfer of employees/officers is a continuous process.

Shifting of Army Camps from Red Fort

2833. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Tourism and Culture has urged upon his Ministry to shift army camp located in the Red Fort, Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons behind the said request; and

(c) the reaction of his Ministry thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) There has been no request from Ministry of Tourism and Culture to shift Army camp located in the Red Fort, Delhi. However, on the request from Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Army has proposed to hand over rampart and wall quarters, under occupation of Army to ASI. 8 shops at Red Fort under control of Army, are also proposed to be handed over to ASI after the unauthorised occupants of these shops are evicted.

[English]

Decontrol in Prices of Natural Gas

2834. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision for decontrolling natural gas prices by proposing to do away with the ceiling price binding on PSU gas suppliers;

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

(c) whether this proposal is still under consideration of the Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Government has laid down a long-term policy for development of hydrocarbon sector which, inter-alia, also provides phased deregulation of hydrocarbon sector and phased dismantling of Administered Price Mechanism. In line with the above policy, the natural gas prices should be market determined. However, no decision has been taken in the matter by the Government. While deciding the issue all factors including impact of price revision on other sectors has to be taken into account and no firm time schedule for taking such decision can be indicated at this stage.

Restructuring of NTPC and PCI (CAPS)

2835. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ICICI and SBI caps jointly studied each and every aspect of restructuring exercise and gave a report recommending the appropriate model of restructuring NTPC Limited and PCI Limited;

(b) whether the Government have approved the recommendations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) M/s. ICICI and SBI Capital markets were engaged as consultants to study the financial engineering of the Central Power Sector Undertakings with a view to enabling them to leverage larger resources for investment. The consultants observed various alternatives. On considering their observations, NTPC has engaged AT Kearney Consultants for undertaking a study with the objective of positioning NTPC as a premier and competitive power utility of

international standard. The study is in progress. Meanwhile, some of the CPSUs have decided to explore the possibility of entering the capital market with a public issue of equity.

Demands of Station Masters Association

2836. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a whether the All India Station Masters Association, New Delhi had threatened to go on strike from 00.00 hrs. of July 18, 2002 for 48 hours by stopping all trains at all stations for a minute;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the demands of the railway station masters; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) All the demands of the Station Masters have been thoroughly examined by the Ministry of Railways, but the same have been found to be either unjustified or not feasible for acceptance. The detailed reasons in this regard, underlying each of the demands, have been repeatedly explained by the Ministry of Railways during conciliation proceedings held by the Regional Labour Commissioner (Central), New Delhi on 04th and 05th April 2002 and again on 11th June 2002 and through a letter issued on 03rd July 2002. The Regional Labour Commissioner (Central) also duly conveyed the reasoned stand of Ministry of Railways, on the demands, to the representatives of All India Station Masters' Association.

Statement

(b) The strike proposed by the All India Station Masters' Association on 18-07-2002 for 48 hours had been stayed by the Hon'ble High Court, Madras, ad interim on 15-07-2002 in response to a Miscellaneous Writ Petition No. 2508 of 2002 filed by one Dr. S.D. Rajadevan. As regards the demands of the railway station masters, the same are as under:

Item 1: Vacation of victimisation.

Item 2: Supervisor to be placed above the supervised.

Item 3: Uniform Allowance.

Item 4: Payment of NHA & NDA in terms of OTA.

Item 5: (A) Essentially Intermittent classification should be abolised in the case of open line staff.

(B) the working hours be reduced to 40 hours a week in the case of continuous workers and 30 hours a week in the case of intensive workers.

Item 6: Train Superindends Posts shall be exclusively reserved for Station Masters.

Item 7: Draft uniform avenue of promotions free from lateral entry at any level by direct recruits.

Item 8: Scrap selection for Grade to Grade promotions.

Item 9: Station Masters also be headquarters only at Junction, major and important Stations as in the case of other categories.

Item 10: Statutory Bonus in addition to the present PLB continued as 'incentive bonus'.

Item 11: To check attributing human errors as reason in the case of accidents resulting due to system failure.

Vacancies in Zonal Railways

2837. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies in each Zonal Railway as on March 31, 2001 and March 31, 2002;

(b) the number of appointments on compassionate grounds affected in the various Zonal Railways during 2000-2001 and 2002;

(c) the number of casual labourers absorbed in service in the various Zonal Railways during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002; and

(d) the number of workers recruited from the open market to the services in each of the Zonal Railways during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (d) The details are given below:-

		Railways									
		Central	Eastern	Northern	North Eastern	Northeast Frontier	Southern	South Central	South Eastern	Western	Total
Railway-wise vacancies as on	31.03.2001	10047	15543	9921	6101	9854	11402	11386	23034	9854	107142
	31.03.2002	13374	17229	11275	6521	9514	13025	11987	24964	11850	119739
Compassionate grounds appointments effected in the year	2000-2001	1260	833	1611	366	605	759	964	1202	934	8534
	2001-2002	1058	842	1824	262	964	775	1009	1238	1148	9120
Number of casual labours absorbed in the year	2000-2001	14	Nil	6	Nil	Nil	Nil	251	27	Nil	298
	2001-2002	63	Nil	15	Nil	Nil	Nil	347	2	Nil	427
Number of workers recruited from the Open Market in the year	2000-2001	1511	766	434	144	218	588	630	750	1075	6116
	2001-2002	1142	249	490	136	505	527	755	913	212	4929

[Translation]

Propagation of Policies and Programmes

2838. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to propagate the policies and programmes during 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 till date; and

(b) the details of such booklets, books and journals related to issues of national importance published and distributed during the last year in the country and abroad to provide latest and correct information about India to the citizens of the country and foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Prasar Bharati and all the media units of this Ministry have been engaged in disseminating information, regarding the policies and programmes of the Government among the public in their own different ways.

All India Radio and Doordarshan broadcast/telecast programmes such as documentaries, plays, discussions, talks, interviews, jingles etc. to inform people about various schemes and policies of the Government.

Press Information Bureau (PIB) gives multimedia publicity to propagate the policies and programmes of the Government by way of press releases and communiques, photo publicity, press briefings, press conferences, press tours, etc.

Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) brings out printed publicity material like posters, brochures, booklets, leaflets; release advertisements in newspapers, put up hoardings/ wall paintings and organize photo exhibition to publicize the schemes and programmes of the Government.

The Publications Division and the Research, Reference and Training Division seek to disseminate valuable information and documents on the multifaceted culture of our country through their various publications.

The Directorate of Field Publicity (DFP) and the Song & Drama Division utilize inter-personal communication for taking the Government policies and programmes especially to rural areas through their field units/ troupes, by way of film, ,bows, live song and drama programmes, elocution contests, group discussions and seminars etc.

Films Division is devoted to the production and distribution of documentaries and news magazines, featurettes for the purpose of publicizing Government policies and programmes through theatrical circuits and mobile units of DFP etc.

(b) The details of books and journals published and distributed by the media units during the last year is given below:

Directorate of Advertising & Visual Publicity:

S.No.	Title of the job	Publication	Languages
1.	Community Food & Nutrition Ext. Units	Folder	13
2.	Rashtriya Mahila Kosh - Self Help Group	Book	13
3.	Self- Helping Group Development Scheme	Booklet	Bilingual
4.	Information Education & Communication Strategies for Sectoral Reforms	Booklet	Hindi
5.	National Social Assistance Prog.	Folder	13
6.	Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana - Drinking Water Scheme	Folder	13
7.	Ensure Nutrition of Girl Child		14
8.	Guidelines of Management for Children	Folder	11
9.	Swaran Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana	Folder	13
10.	Central Rural Sanitation	Folder	13
11.	O.R.S.	Booklet	11
12.	New Goals New Initiative	Folder	Hindi & Eng.
13.	New Goals New Initiative	Booklet	13
14.	Panchayati Raj	Folder	13
15.	Accelerated Rural Water Supply	Folder	13
16.	Gagar Mein Sagar	Booklet	Hindi
17.	Gram Vikas Programme	Booklet	13
18.	Guidelines on Sectoral Reforms	Booklet	English
19.	Strengthening a Stronger Scientific Temperament in the country	Booklet	11
20.	Rashtriya Nirman Mein Shramiko ki Mahatvapuran Bhumika	Folder	Hindi
21.	Schemes for Women at a Glance	Folder	Hindi & Eng.
22.	Empowering people with Information	Booklet	11
23.	Easuring Probity in Public Life	Folder	11
24.	Commitment for Elimination of Child Labour	Booklet	11
25.	Schemes for the Benefit of Common Man	Booklet	13

Publication Division:

English

1. Press in India 2000.
2. Empowering the Indian Women.
3. Patel Memorial Lecture 1999 Democracy, Ecology and Culture: The Indian Experience.
4. Hare Krushna Mahtab (BMI).
5. Press in India 2001.
6. India 2002.
7. The Mighty and Mystical Rivers of India.
8. C. Rajagopalachari (BMI).
9. Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy (BMI).
10. Subhash Chandra Bose.
11. Prime Minister - Atal Bihari Vajpayee - Selected Speeches Vol. III.

Hindi

1. Bharat Ke Rashtriya Udyan.
2. Bhartiya Puratatva: Ek Parichey.
3. Aam Nagrik: Adhikar Aur Suvidhaen.
4. Bharat Ke Samachar Patra - 2000.
5. Bharat - 2002.
6. Bharat Ke Samachar Patra - 2001.
7. Pradhan Mantri - Atal Bihari Vajpayee - Chune Huve Bhashan Part III.

Regional Languages

1. Jawahar Lal Nehru - A Pictorial Biography (Urdu).
2. Composers (Classiqui Mausikar) (Urdu).
3. 1857 (Urdu).
4. Bharat Chodo Andolan (Punjabi).
5. Shaheed Kartar Singh Sarabha (Punjabi).
6. An Outline History of India People (Assamese).
7. Swami Vivekananda (BMI) (Punjabi).
8. Jyoti Prasad Aggarwal (BMI) (Assamese).
9. Indian Press Since 1955 (Tamil).
10. Common Man's Guide to Rights and Facilities (Tamil).
11. Festivals of India (Tamil).
12. Citizens and the Constitution (Tamil).
13. Dr. S. Radhakrishnan (Tamil).
14. Ganga Dhar Rao Deshpande (Marathi).

Research Reference and Training Division:

Reference / Background Papers were released on the following subjects:

In English

1. World Health Day
2. Earth Day
3. International Day of the Family
4. Cyber Crime
5. Consumer Rights for Women
6. Human Rights Education
7. Pulse Polio
8. Books for All and All for Books

In Hindi

1. Paryavaran Saptah
2. Upbhokta Adhikar Vs Mahilayen
3. Panchayatiraj Vyavastha Vs Mahilayen
4. Mahila Shiksha
5. Bharateeya Mahilayen Vs Van Aandolan
6. Bharat Me Mahila Adhikarikta
7. Manavadhikar
8. Mahilaon Ke Adhikar (Grameen Kshetr)
9. Varthaman Bharateey Paryatan
10. Upbhokta Sanrakshan

Power Projects in Bihar

2839. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of power projects including hydel power projects given approval by the Union Government in Bihar State during the last three years;

(b) the funds allocated by the Union Government for these projects; and

(c) the time limit fixed for completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The details of power projects given approval by the Union Government in the State of Bihar during the last three years are as under:-

Name of Project	Capacity (MW)	Estimated Cost	Date of grant of Techno-economic clearance (TEC) by Central Electricity Authority (CEA)	Likely date of commissioning
Barh STPP (NTPC)	3x660	Rs. 9092.93 crore	28.09.2001	Unit-I - 60 months from investment approval. Subsequent units at an interval of 10 months.
Kahalgaon STPP St.II (NTPC)	2x660	Rs. 5862.77 crore	23.11.2001	Unit-I - 60 months from investment approval and Unit-II - 70 months from investment approval.

[English]

Value System in Media

2840. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a need for a value system in the media is felt;

(b) whether the Government have noticed any decline in the value upheld and pursued by the media;

(c) if so, the details about the Government's ovservations; and

(d) whether the Government propose to lay on any code of ethics or have constituted any committee to go into the matter and evolve such a code?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) The Press Council of India, a self regulatory body for Press, has been established for the purposes of preserving the freedom of the Press and maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and news agencies. Section 13(2)(b) of the Press Council Act, 1978 enjoins upon the Press Council to build up a Code of Conduct for newspapers, news agencies and journalists in accordance with high professional standards. The Press Council has accordingly brought out a publication 'Norms of Journalistic Conduct' which covers principles and ethics with regard to journalism and also guidelines on reporting the specific issues of public and national importance.

The Prasar Bharati, an autonomous organisation, adheres to explicit Broadcast and Advertising Codes. Satellite channels, transmitting programmes through cable networks, are required to adhere to the programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the provision of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995

In sanctioning the films for public exhibition, the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) is strictly guided by the principles and guidelines laid down by it.

Slow Pace of Power Reforms

2841. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Planning Commission observed slow pace in the power sector reforms in its recent report on the working of the State Electricity Boards;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed by the Government to accelerate the pace in power sector reforms in the light of the recent observations of the Planning Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission in its Annual Report (2001-02 on the Working of SEBs has observed that the sole objective in launching of the reforms in 1991 was to mobilize private sector resources for power generating capacity addition. At the end of the decade, it is seen that the additionality through independent power producers is woefully short of expectations. Against the target of 2810 MW in the 8th Plan, the actual achievement was around 1430 MW. In the 9th Plan period against the targeted capacity addition of 17588 MW through private sector projects, the achievement in the private sector was only 5061 MW resulting in a shortfall of 71.2%. The main reasons for the shortfall in capacity addition programme of private sector projects are: delay in financial closure of the project and the absence of adequate arrangements for ensuring payment security due to poor financial position of most of the SEBs.

(c) A consensus was reached in the Conference of Chief Ministers/Power Ministers held in March, 2001 on the need to depoliticise power sector reforms and speed up their implementation and that the real challenge of reforms lies in distribution sector. It was resolved in the conference to achieve break even in distribution in two years time and achieve positive returns thereafter. It was also resolved that State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) would be made functional and tariff petition filed and subsidy may be given only to the extent of State Government's capacity to pay the subsidies explicitly through budget. The Government of India has been signing Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with States reflecting the joint commitment of the Centre and the States to undertake reforms in a time bound manner. These require the States to set up SERCs, undertake energy audit through full metering, reduce transmission and distribution losses and attain commercial viability. In reciprocation to the efforts of the States to achieve agreed milestones, the Central Government has committed assistance including allocation of additional power from unallocated share from Central Generating Stations, funds under specific programmes/ schemes etc. The MoUs are now being fleshed out into MoAs with clearer and more specific milestones as the reform programme in the State is acquiring concrete shape. 22 States have been covered by this exercise till now.

The Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme (APDRP) is designed to finance specific projects in identified distribution circles for a quick turn around and creation of centres of excellence. Initially, 63 circles have been taken up for development as centres of excellence on the basis of well designed Detailed Project Reports (DPRs). The programme is being extended to cover concentrated loads and towns with population of over 1 lakh where work on preparing DPRs has been initiated. The base line data of DPRs is crucial for evaluating the results of the programme which is aimed at improving quality of supply as well as controlling theft and improving the financial health of the sector. This programme also includes an incentive scheme aiming at actual cash loss reduction by SEBs/Utilities. Under this scheme, there is provision for grants by the Ministry of Power to SEBs/Utilities for actual loss reduction.

So far States of Orissa, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi have unbundled their electricity boards. 21 States have notified constitution of State Electricity Regulatory Commissions and 12 State Electricity Regulatory Commissions have passed tariff orders which reflect a trend towards tariff rationalisation.

Government of India has recently approved a scheme for securitisation of dues owed by the State Electricity Board to CPSUs. The scheme provides that 60% of the interest/surcharge on the delayed payments as on 30.9.2001 would be waived off and the rest of the dues would be securitised through tax-free bonds issued by the respective State Governments. There would also be incentives to the States for timely payment of current dues. Default in making current payments shall attract, inter-alia suspension of funds under APDRP. With the Securitisation of past dues by the State Government and the creation of the discipline of full payment for current supplies, the raising of the requisite resources from the market for the ambitious capacity addition programme of the CPSUs would become feasible. The State Governments can also use this to give their power utilities clean balance sheets to enable them to fully access markets for funds to finance their investment programmes.

Export of Films

2842. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the total revenue earned on the export of

cinematographic films, feature films and motion pictures from India;

(b) whether the export of Hindi and Tamil films abroad both as film rolls as well as CD's has been on the increase during the last three years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) According to information received from the Indian Film Exporters Association, the revenue earned from film software for the year 2001-2002 is approximately Rs.900 crores.

(b) and (c) According to information received from Indian Film Exporters Association, there is hardly any export of CDs from India. Information available with the Association regarding export of prints of Hindi films for the last 3 years is given below:

1999-2000	3079
2000-2001	2187
2001-2002	2154

Information regarding Tamil films has not been made available by Indian Film Exporters Association.

Amendment in Section 4(B) of People's Representation Act 1951

2843. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have contemplated to provide special safeguard to No.5 Kokrajhar (ST) Parliamentary Constituency on the line of Dipu (ST Hills) Parliamentary Constituency; Sikkim Parliamentary Constituency and Lakshadeep (ST) Parliamentary Constituency by way of amending Section 4(B) of the People's Representation Act of 1951 restricting the outsider candidates to contest elections from the said ST Parliamentary Constituency as a measure of protecting political rights given to the Plains Tribal People of Assam;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The proposal is not feasible.

Corruption in Railways

2844. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are a number of areas which are prone to widespread corruption in the Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to curb/check revenue leakages;

(c) the number of revenue leakage cases that have come to light and the action taken thereon during each of the last three years;

(d) whether instead of strictly implementing the guidelines issued or making provisions of strict norms there still remains a wide gap to check the prevailing corruption; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to make the norms and guidelines effective?

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

(b) Does not arise as far as areas of widespread corruption are concerned. Railways have a regular system of carrying out checks in areas prone to revenue leakages.

(c) The number of revenue leakage cases that have come to light during the last three years are as under:-

Years	No. of cases
1999	3,561
2000	4,668
2001	4,108

Prompt action is taken for recovery of the requisite amount besides action for suspension/banning of business with the erring firms wherever applicable as per extant instructions and departmental proceedings against the officials found responsible for the lapse, if any.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

12.20 hrs

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at twenty minutes past Twelve of the Clock.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please hear me.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please hear me.

...(Interruptions)

12.21 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Sunder Lal Tiwari and some hon. Members came and stood near the Table)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH CENTRAL): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, appointment of hon'ble minister is prerogative of the Prime Minister and hon'ble President has administered oath to him, therefore, these people are in, a sense, disrespecting the hon'ble President. *...(Interruptions)* Your leader in Rajya Sabha has endorsed his appointment then do you people not follow your leader in Rajya Sabha. *(Interruptions)* People in Rajya Sabha are there to make a way out. *...(Interruptions)* Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, why are the people out here not agreeable? *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you please hear me, Shri Mohan Rawale?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Speaker is having a discussion with the leaders to find out a solution for this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 12.45 hours.

12.22 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till forty-five minutes past Twelve of the Clock.

12.47 hrs.

(The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Forty Seven minutes past twelve of the Clock)

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to tell the Members here that I am allowing Shri Prabhunath Singh to speak on the issue on which discussion was initiated here in the House.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, BIHAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had spoken to you in your chamber. You said that I did not earrborate what I stated and you had answered me that you would allow me after I am able to produce the evidence in favour of my statement. I withdraw my statement for time being and I shall produce the evidence before you tomorrow. I hope you would allow me to speak on the issue of already theft of idol. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, This is not proper. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let me talk to him.

Any issue in the House can be raised provided it is given with sufficient substance. Any Member can raise any issue and if I am convinced that the issue deserves to be raised, I will definitely permit. But in the meantime, as you have said, if you are expressing your apologies on the issue that you have raised, then the matters can be resolved. Am I right?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (LATUR): Sir, you had suggested that this matter should be resolved and enough indication was given by the Chief Whip of the Congress Party as to what can be done in the matter. In spite of that, if any hon. Member is making irrelevant allegations, unsubstanted allegations, it does not raise the prestige of this House and if that is allowed such kind of allegations

can be made with substance against the Member. If this is allowed against one Member, it should be allowed against other Members also.

You have very rightly said that it has to be convincing to you and we believe in your judgement and we abide what you have said. Yet, we would like to warn the Member that if untoward, unnecessarily unsubstantiated statements are made, they shall be asked to face substantiated allegations against them also.

MR. SPEAKER: Right

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (SOUTH DELHI): Mr. Speaker Sir, you had stated to resolve the matter. It was stated in Rajya Sabha yesterday, it was also talked about here in the House. We have to say so many things to them. It would have been better had the Deputy leader of Opposition not given the warning. Better he warns his Members who keep leveling unsubstantiated and undemocratic charges. We want such charges should be levelled only if permission is given by you. There is also rule in this regard that a prior notice should be given before leveling any charges against any Member or Minister. First they should submit the notice to you and you find it convincing enough then you can allow them. Otherwise no charges should be leveled. We are fully agree to it, therefore, he has withdrawn his statement and he would make the statement tomorrow with necessary evidence. But saying that. ...*(Interruptions)* I would also like to make a point here that the Members of the Congress Party and other political parties who keep on making all kind of charges without any supporting evidence, is not proper. They should have patience and be restrained. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, leader of opposition has used the word 'warning', therefore, I would like to say something in this regard. The Deputy leader of opposition while making his speech said that he would like to warn the hon'ble Members. We would like to make our point. ...*(Interruptions)* Are we their party's Members; shall they warn us; can they expel us from the Party. He should warn the Members of the Congress Party; why are they issuing warning to us? We are ready to accept their challenge. He should not use this kind of language otherwise he will have to listen my warning daily. We are prepared to accept each and every challenge of theirs.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Jaipal Reddy.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: We are discussing an important issue in the House. Please co-operate. After all, we want to transact the business in the House.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (MIRYALGUDA): Sir, we thank you for the initiative you have taken. Today, we are not discussing the rules afresh. The Member concerned made certain comments which were objected to by the Members and faulted by the Chair, and the Member wanted to withdraw those remarks. Sir, is there anything called 'conditional withdrawal', 'qualified apology'? We do not have to remind the House of our rights. Every Member has his rights. So, if the apology is to be accepted by the Chair or by the House or by the Members who objected to his remarks, the apology must be graceful and it should be unqualified. It should not be linked to some condition ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: We have not sought any pardon and we are not prepared to seek any apology for that thing. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He is withdrawing his remarks.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (KHAJURAHO): Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is ready to apologize. If he has kind of this attitude then what they can expect from us...*(Interruptions)* He is not following your order...*(Interruptions)* He is not following your instructions. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jaipal Reddy is on his legs. Let him complete.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, no Member needs to refer to the rules in this connection. The remarks made by the Member earlier in the day were faulted by the Chair, objected to by the Members. There is a general sense in the House. He must pay heed to that general sense in the House and withdraw the remarks in an unqualified way. There should be no conditional or qualified apology. Sir, we would like to state in all humility that he has not complied with your directive. Therefore, we cannot be expected to be satisfied with that kind of withdrawal, with that kind of apology. I request him, through you, Sir, to gracefully withdraw his remarks without any conditions.

MR. SPEAKER: Let me make it clear that the whole issue started because the hon. Defence Minister was obstructed while replying to a Question asked in the House. I am indeed happy that the Opposition, particularly the Congress Party leaders also agreed that on this issue, we can discuss the matter. My desire has been that this issue is pending for a long time. It can be resolved. It would be in the interest of proper conduct of the House. Therefore, we have also thought of meeting this evening and discuss the issue.

If we can satisfy each other - we means, the Opposition and the Ruling Party - the remark, which has created this problem, can be also removed. So, with this intention, the whole exercise by me was started. The intention is that in this very important House, the supreme body of Legislature in the country, we conduct the business in the best possible manner. I hope that everybody will agree with this.

Regarding the words which were used by Shri Prabhunath Singh while participating in a discussion, he has agreed to withdraw the words. This is not a conditional withdrawal. The only thing is that whatever allegation he wants to make, if it is as per rules, he can give a notice.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: So it was a discussion between me and him. He can always give me a notice. I will go through it. I will see the documents which he has got and if I am convinced, he can raise the issue.

As rightly said by Shri Shivraj Patil, if your Party also wants to raise certain issues, you are also allowed to raise those issues.. In the meantime, he has withdrawn his words.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: No, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit in all humility that the Member in this context should withdraw without any qualification.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I have not permitted you. Please sit down. I have allowed Shri Jaipal Reddy ji to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I would not speak without your permission.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jaipal Reddy, what I am bringing on record is that he has withdrawn the words.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: We want to differ from you. We would like to beg to submit to you that his withdrawal was so heavily qualified and it was full of such innuendoes and insinuations that it is not a withdrawal. If that is to be considered an apology, then the word will undergo a change. Therefore, you kindly direct him to withdraw the remarks that he has made earlier in the day unconditionally. Let him withdraw unconditionally.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (GOPALGANJ): How can he instruct you? *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: How can he direct you, Sir?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Will you all please sit down? There are two parts of the issue. One part is that he has asked my permission to come with a notice if he has enough documents.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let me complete. That is what we discussed. To that I have said all right.

Now another question is that in the House he has already said that he has withdrawn.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, he has withdrawn and I am bringing it on record. In your presence he has withdrawn the words.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Sir, I will take half a minute. With all humility at my command, I may remind the House that there was a debate. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: These four Members are to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: No, no, I shall certainly give the opportunity to you.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there was a debate on Gujarat in the last Session. Our leader was speaking here. The Treasury Benches objected to a remark made by Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar. The Deputy-Speaker gave a direction to Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar to withdraw it. Our leader directed Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar that it is Parliament and its dignity is supreme. He stood up, expressed his unqualified apology and the remark was withdrawn.

13.00 hrs.

That was how we stood by Parliamentary traditions. Today, if I have understood you correctly, your observation was that if there was something wrong in the proceedings from this side or from that side, you would examine it and delete appropriately. But in the case of Shri Prabhunath Singh, he should withdraw his remarks without any condition. He has said that he is withdrawing his remarks on an assurance. *...(Interruptions)* Is it a dignified way? *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY (BUXAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you raised the issue and he turned it into a controversy. I would like to bring into your kind notice that the Health Minister had to reply but he has not been allowed to give reply to questions. Truth is that the leader of the Congress Party in Rajya Sabha had accepted and thereafter his replies were heard but here in Lok Sabha two months have passed but the Defence Minister is not being allowed to give his replies to the questions in the Question Hour. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI (REWA): If his replies are not being heard then, will such a language be used. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chaubey ji, please sit down. I have not allowed you to speak.

[English]

If you want to speak one sentence, please speak one sentence and sit down. If you want to give a lecture, I cannot give you the permission.

[Translation]

I have allowed Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra ji to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether or not the Congress Party have any coordination in both Houses of Parliament. Here both are pitted against each other. Whether Shri Manmohan Singh interects with Smt. Sonia Gandhi or not. In fact real issue is something else. *...(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Defence those Minister in the year 1996, had moved a proposed that those not born in India should not occupy important positions in the country. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I am not able to get what you are saying.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: If this is the way they behave, how can we be expected to co-operate? *...(Interruptions)*

13.03 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Sunder Lal Tiwari and some other hon. Members came and stood near the Table)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

13.03¼ hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Fourteen of the Clock.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

MR. SPEAKER: I put it on record that Shri Prabhunath Singh has unconditionally withdrawn the words. Therefore, I go ahead with the further business of the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Papers to be Laid on the Table of the House.

14.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Solvent, Raffinate and Slop (Acquisition, Sale, Storage and Prevention of use in Automobiles) Amendment Order, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 470(E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th July, 2002 under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5898/2002]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Sir, on behalf of Dr. Ballabhbhai Kathiria, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):-

(1) Memorandum of Understanding between the HMT Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5899/2002]

(2) Memorandum of Understanding between the Engineering Projects (India) Limited and the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5900/2002]

14.02 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

AND

BILLS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA - LAID

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:

(i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2002 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 30th July, 2002."

(ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Petroleum (Berar Extension) Repeal Bill, 2002 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 30th July, 2002."

(iii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 30th July, 2002 agreed without any amendment to the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Validation of Electricity Tax) Act and Other Laws (Repeal) Bill, 2002, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 18th July, 2002."

(iv) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 30th July, 2002 agreed without any amendment to the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2002 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 9th May, 2002."

(v) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 30th July, 2002 agreed without any amendment to the Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2002 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 15th May, 2002.

2. Sir, I lay on the Table two Bills as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 30th July, 2002.

1. The Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2002.

2. The Petroleum (Berar Extension) Repeal Bill, 2002.

14.03 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Twenty-Seventh Report

SHRI NIKHILANANDA SAR (BURDWAN): Sir, I beg to present the Twenty-Seventh Repot (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

MR. SPEAKER: We go to the Calling Attention. Shri H.D. Devegowda to raise the matter.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI): Sir, I have given a notice for Adjournment Motion. *...(Interruptions)* That notice should prevail over other works. I will only mention the subject and ask for your observation that the Government has taken a stand against the minority educational institutions. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Banatwalla, please wait for a minute. Let me bring it on record that Shri H.D. Devegowda is not present in the House. Therefore, the Calling Attention notice is dropped. On this issue, there is no other notice. There is only one notice.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (GOPALGANJ): Mr. Speaker, Sir, please listen to me for a minute. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (ULUBERIA): Sir, I have given a notice. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have received three notices of Adjournment Motion. One is from Shri Ramji Lal Suman. The second one is from Shri G.M. Banatwalla and the third notice is on growing attack on the media. I have received these three notices of Adjournment Motion. I am not in a position to admit these notices. But since the issues are important, I can allow the Members to speak tomorrow, as a special case, during the 'Zero Hour'. I am not in a position to admit them for various reasons.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (BARAMATI): The Adjournment Motion is for today's Business. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: They will give fresh notices tomorrow for Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, I have given notices for the past two weeks. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Sir, during the last few months after the Gujarat riots, as media covered the Gujarat riots effectively, the Government started attack on the media. So, I have given an Adjournment Motion to raise it in the House. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Banatwalla, your matter is *sub judice.*

...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, it is not a *sub judice* matter. I am not going into the merit of the matter. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Therefore, I am permitting you to speak about it tomorrow in the Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, there is no question of *sub judice.* I am not going into the merit of the matter at all. The Government has taken a stand against the minority educational institutions in the Supreme Court. *...(Interruptions)* This stand is against the policy. *...(Interruptions)* The Government must revise its stand. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Therefore, you can make your request to the Government tomorrow during the 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was not present Yesterday. In this house honourable Finance Minister announced to waive repayment of loans upto Rupees fifty thousand of the persons who have been affected by drought but people of the entire north Bihar are badly affected by floods. People of the entire northern Bihar viz. Of Gopalganj East Champaran, West Champaran, Shivhar, Sitamari, Muzaffarpur, Khagariya, Darbhanga etc. have been affected by floods. There the position has gone worse due to drought and the drought has spared none. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. There is no 'Zero-Hour' today.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD (DARBHANGA): Though there has not been much downpour in northern Bihar this time, despite that such situation has arisen there and lakhs of people are affected.. We had given a notice in this regard. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, I know that the issue is important. Shri Kirti Azad, tomorrow you will be permitted to speak. Today there is no 'Zero Hour'.

[Translation]

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA (MUZAFFARNAGAR): Same is the situation in Uttar Pradesh, which is hit by drought and due to which the farmers are not able to irrigate their fields and consequently they have been badly affected. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If you want Zero Hour discussion, let the house run its course smoothly and that will enable us to have as much discussions during 'Zero Hour' as we like. Instead what you have in mind is to first disturb the 'Zero Hour' and take up the Zero-hour-discussions later on.

[English]

If the Members want to do the business, the business should go on continuously. If the business goes on continuously, a number of issues can be raised. Let us decide today that at least tomorrow we shall take up the Zero Hour very seriously.

Shri Deve Gowda was not here when his name was called, but since he has come now, I would like to permit him to go ahead with his Calling Attention Notice.

[Translation]

I am saying to all the members and not to you only.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the Government discriminates, then whom should we speak to if we will not speak in this house. You are our custodian, our guardian. It is good and a matter of happiness if drought and flood affected persons get relief but if the Government will not provide any facility to the people dying due to floods, then where will we go and speak to?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I know, but you are aware that, unfortunately, today the work could not be carried out and, therefore, you lost the opportunity. But tomorrow I shall definitely give you a chance to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHANJHARPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question raised by honourable Raghunath Jha is a very serious question. The flood situation is so menacing that lives and property of lakhs of people is in danger. Crores of people of entire northern Bihar are staying on the high-rise land the embankments. Drinking water is not available there. There is a crisis of drinking water there. Even foodgrains and relief have not been made available there. This is what I want to say. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Devegowda ji. You please keep standing and speak out. I am going to allow you to raise this issue tomorrow. I cannot allow you right now. Tomorrow I will definitely allow you. Now you please sit down?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: The situation of starvation has arisen there. It is the responsibility of the Government. Will this Government adopt a policy of discrimination? It is discriminatory to northern Bihar. The Government should think about the victims of flood. It is injustice. It is not a good thing. The Government should take up the problem of flood in the house seriously. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have not stood up so far and as such I was worried as to what has happened. Really speaking, the issue of floods in Bihar has also come up before me. It is a very serious issue. You know that today Zero Hour could not be taken up. Tomorrow I am ready to take up this issue in the beginning but all of you should not raise any political issue tomorrow and only then we will be able to discuss the issue of floods in Bihar.

SHRI G.M BANATWALLA: First of all my issue has to be taken up.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, please sit down. I am sorry, I would not be able to permit you now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will you permit me to speak tomorrow, Sir? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY (CANNANORE): If you permit me, Sir, I have to raise a very important issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Tomorrow you will be the first to be called and thereafter we shall take up the other issues.

Now, Shri Deve Gowda.

14.09 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Problems being faced by coffee growers in Karnataka due to Collapse of price in international market

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA (KANAKPURA): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Commerce and Industry to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

> "The problems being faced by coffee growers in Karnataka due to collapse of price in the international market and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to the Calling Attention Motion given by the hon. Member of the House, I seek your permission to make the following statement.

At the outset, I would like to inform the hon. Members of the House that no incident of suicide by coffee growers has been reported.

Urgent attention has been drawn by the hon. Member towards the problems being faced by the coffee growers in Karnataka due to fall in the price of coffee. In this regard, I am giving some background of the coffee price situation and details of steps taken by the Government of India for the benefit of coffee growers in the country.

The Coffee prices in India are largely influenced by the New York Exchange for Arabicas and London Exchange for Robustas. The domestic prices of Indian coffee during the last four-five years both for Arabica and Robusta have been higher than the international prices of the two varieties. This is despite the fact that 80 per cent of the coffee is exported.

In recent times the international coffee prices have fallen due to surplus of production in the producing countries overtaking consumption in different parts of the world. The price fall has affected all the coffee producing countries including India. The Indian coffee growers are not getting the same prices today as they were getting two-three years ago. Even so, the domestic prices of coffee are higher than the international prices.

In the context of the current crisis faced by the coffee growers, the Government of India / Coffee Board have taken a number of steps for the benefit of the coffee sector which include interest relief, financial assistance to Indian coffee exporters for reducing the handling costs, waiving of penal Interest to the tune of Rs. 9.84 crore on the developmental loans, rescheduling of crop loans of coffee growers and a package of relief by the commercial banks and NABARD under the direction of the Reserve Bank of India. This package envisages all types of outstanding coffee loans as on 30th June, 2002 and not classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPAs), will be consolidated into a single term loan namely Special Coffee Term Loans (SCTL) 2002. The repayment schedule of the SCTL will range between seven to nine years including an initial repayment holiday (moratorium) of two years, subject to review thereafter. During the moratorium period, the banks will charge one per cent less interest on SCTL.

The Government of India have also undertaken several steps to increase domestic consumption of coffee. In this direction, the Government of India / Coffee Board has taken initiative to encourage procurement and marketing of coffee by Indian Coffee Marketing Cooperative Limited (COMARK) in collaboration with cooperative societies, namely National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) (Amul) etc.

14.13 hrs.

(SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA *in the Chair*)

During the Tenth Plan period, the Coffee Board would be implementing a number of plan schemes supported by suitable financial incentives for development of coffee sector, to improve productivity and quality of Indian coffee to achieve competitiveness in the global markets. The Coffee Board has been allocated a sum of Rs. 300 crore during the Tenth Plan period, as against Rs. 124 crore during the Ninth Plan for implementing coffee developmental schemes.

Sir, the Government of India is fully seized of the problems being faced by coffee growers and is taking all

suitable ameliorative measures to protect the interests of the Indian coffee growers. I am hopeful that the steps taken by the Government of India would bring about a positive impact on the plight of the growers and improve the situation in the coming days.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: Madam Chairperson, I would like to ask certain clarifications from the hon. Minister of State for Commerce and Industry. You have stated in para 2 on page 2 as follows:

> "procurement and marketing of coffee by Indian Coffee Marketing Cooperative Limited (COMARK) in collaboration with cooperative societies, namely National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) (Amul) etc."

May I know what is the rate fixed for the procurement of the coffee seeds from the growers? I would request you to kindly make a note of the points as I do not want to repeat again.

What is the procurement price fixed to purchase the coffee seeds from the growers? I want to know whether the co-operative societies have agreed to extend their co-operation to COMARK for procurement, whether the National Dairy Development Board has also agreed to co-operate in this connection to improve the situation in procurement and marketing and, similarly, whether the other organisation, Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation has also agreed to co-operate. That is what he has said in his statement,. Have all these organisations prepared to co-operate with COMARK? At what rate is procurement going to be made? Has he called the representatives of all these four organisations and discussed at his level?

Secondly, they have taken certain steps and asked the Coffee Board, with the co-operation of institutional finances, to give certain relief measures. I would like to know whether the relief measures proposed by the Government of India, that is, the Ministry of Commerce have been implemented according to the advice given by the Ministry of Commerce. Madam, I would like to just bring this to the notice of the hon. Minister, with your kind permission. A new package, what they call Special Coffee Term Loan (SCTL) 2002, is offered. Seventy five per cent of the previous loan should be deposited and then, they can avail of this benefit. Are the farmers in a position to pay 75 per cent of the loan to avail of the benefit of this so-called Special Coffee Term Loan? Are they capable enough to pay? The whole matter is that there is total collapse of the coffee industry because the international market is such. I would like to quote. In 1997, the price of 50 kilograms of Arabicas was Rs. 5,375. Today, its price is Rs. 1,870. The price of Robustas in 1997 was Rs. 1,309. Today, the price is Rs. 476. See the plight of the growers.

He has said that they have taken certain measures which are going to help them. An allocation to Coffee Board has been increased to Rs. 300 crore in the Tenth Plan from Rs. 124 crore in Ninth Plan. It is only for certain measures to improve the quality and to improve the production. I do not want to repeat all those details, but I would like to know whether these steps, which they have proposed, are going to bail out the coffee growers at the present juncture. That is the issue now.

I do not want to take up almost all the issues which he has mentioned in his statement. The hon. Minister has said that no incident of suicide has been reported, but I must say, because I know full well the present situation of the coffee growers, that 130 people have committed suicide in Karnataka. An Expert Committee was constituted and the Expert Committee has also given its Report to the Government of Karnataka. I do not know who has given this report that nobody has died. If the hon. Minister wants to have the names of those families who have suffered and who have died, I can give those names. At the outset, he has said that nobody has committed suicide. One hundred and thirty people have died including the people who were well engaged in the plantation crops and other crops.

Brazil has provided a 12-year reprieve for debt repayments and lower interest rate to farmers on all debt repayments. The quantum of relief they have given is 600 million dollars. In Vietnam, the Central Bank has ordered credit institutions to halt collection of loans and also not to levy interest on coffee growers for the next three years.

In Colombia, the Government has approved a debt relief package approximating about 270 billion pesos to restructure the coffee growers' loans. In Mexico, a bail out plan worth US $ 209 million and a Minimum Support Price Scheme have been introduced. What is it that you have done? Have you made any attempt to fix the Minimum Support Price? You have not fixed the procurement price. At what rate, is COMARK going to purchase. The market has totally collapsed. At what price, they have to procure and wherefrom will they get the money or who is going to finance them? Will you kindly enlighten us on all these things?

You said that the Coffee Board has given a relief package by way of waiving the penal interest to the tune of nine crore rupees. This waiving of penal interest does not

[Shri H.D. Deve Gowda]

pertain to either the previous year or the last two years, when the prices have fallen. It does not pertain to this period. This waiving of penal interest pertains to the developmental loans taken by various small holders, which have been pending for the last twenty years. It is in that connection that the penal interest has been waived. This waiver is not for the current period, when the international prices have collapsed. This penal interest to the tune of nine crore rupees has been pending for the last twenty years: these arrears are due from various defaulters. This has not at all helped the farmers.

In Karnataka, what is the loan which a fanner has taken? He has taken a loan of Rs. 18,000. In Kerala, in respect of small farmers, the loan component is about Rs. 8,000 and Rs. 12,000. In Karnataka, the farmer has taken a loan of Rs. 22,000 for Arabica, and Rs. 18,000 for Robusta. This loan component was fixed by the Technical Committee where the Coffee Board is also a party. It has not been done on an *ad hoc* basis by the banks or the financial institutions. Based on the recommendations of the Technical Committee where the Coffee Board is also a party, they have decided to provide financial assistance up to Rs. 22,000 for Arabica and Rs. 18,000 for Robusta. The package that the Government proposed through the Coffee Board is not at all going to bail out these growers. Seventy per cent to eighty per cent of the growers are small holders and Scheduled Caste people having one hectare, two hectares, three hectares, four hectares or five hectares of land. Their condition is very precarious. Will you kindly enlighten us on these points that I have raised?

The other thing is that you have to waive the entire interest component. It will not be a heavy burden on the Government. To bail out UTI, you have given Rs. 500 crore yesterday. Your goodself, Madam Chairman, has mentioned this yesterday while participating in the debate on Supplementary Demands for Grants. You have provided Rs. 500 crore to bail out UTI. To revive a bank, you have given Rs. 1,500 crore, and to another bank, you have given Rs. 1,300 crore. So far as these poor farmers are concerned, where 80 per cent are small holders, the Government has only waived the penal interest to the tune of nine crore rupees on the developmental loans pending for the last twenty years. It is a peanut. I think, irrespective of party affiliations, Members of the House should form a Farmers' Forum and try to fight it out. The farmers are not beggars. The House should collectively fight out this battle.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (GOPALGANJ): Yes, we are ready.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: It does not matter, whether you are a Congress Member or a BJP Member. The whole House should take up this issue.

Will you kindly enlighten the House on the issues that I have raised? The first point is to waive the entire interest component. The second point is about the procurement price that you are going to fix for COMARK, particularly with the cooperation of the organisations that you have mentioned in your Statement. Thirdly, how much money are you going to provide to COMARK?

The Karnataka Government has asked for a soft loan. Some of my friends here should not mistake me when I say that the financial condition of the State of Karnataka is just like any other State Government. All States are running on borrowed money. The Finance Minister knows this, and no State is an exception to this. Almost all the States today are living on borrowed money. The same condition is also there in Karnataka. The Karnataka Government cannot pay Rs. 250 crore or Rs. 300 crore to procure these coffee seeds.

Can you not give a soft loan of about Rs. 300 crore to Karnataka or to COMARK? I am not pleading for any one State. You have given the Minimum Support Price in four or five States to procure wheat and paddy. I am not going to grudge it. I have myself given the bonanza to Punjab, when I was in the office. There is no question of any discrimination from my side. When you are spending so much of money for procurement of wheat and paddy, whether it is from Western Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab or Andhra Pradesh, how much money have you given for procurement of such grains from Karnataka? When I say so, nobody should mistake me that Deve Gowda is discriminating one State against another.

The other day, I raised the issue of sericulture growers, but no decision has been taken till today. The Chief Minister along with all other party leaders met the Prime Minister and other Ministers. What is it that you people have done? What exactly the Government wants to do on some on the issues that I have raised? Please let me know about this. I want a categorical answer from the hon. Minister of State.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please give me a minute.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): I want to seek a clarification regarding coffee growers of Kerala. There are thousands and thousands of coffee growers in Kerala.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I am just saying something,

please give me a minute. There is only one name listed, but the hon. Speaker has permitted two or three Members to raise questions, as a special case. But I do want to say that you will only raise questions and you will not make any speeches. That is all.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I fully agree with the sentiments expressed by him. Under the said circumstances, the coffee growers in India are facing a crisis. This is not the first time that this matter was raised. This matter was raised even before, and the problems of the growers were brought to the notice of the Government several times. Not only that, when the Amendment to the Coffee Act was discussed, these issues were specifically pointed out to the Minister concerned, who was piloting the Bill. I have raised all these issues, but so far, no remedy came from the Government side. There is no Minimum Support Price for coffee growers. Before that, before Independence, coffee growers were under the mercy of the Government or its projects. After Independence, you have amended the law and given the freedom for the coffee growers to sell at whatever price is available to them. That was a good thing to do.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please ask your question.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: So far, there is none to look after them. You have not even fixed up the Minimum Support Price for the coffee growers, who are producing a very sweet drink. All of us drink toffee. Are we not human beings? Do you not have any feelings in your minds that poor farmers in the mountain areas are cultivating it? You go and drink coffee, but you do not feel anything of these people for a moment. Everybody will run up to the coffee counter to drink coffee, but no one feels that this is the product of poor coffee growers in the mountain areas. You do not care for them. They are starving for months, but nothing has been done for them. Are we not human beings? You must, at least, realise that these people are put to great difficulties. Therefore, why do you not introduce Minimum Support Price for these coffee growers? Is it possible? The Coffee Board cannot do anything they are helpless. So, I would request you to bring in some measures by which they shall have the Minimum Support Price so that the coffee growers may grow coffee without starving themselves. Please answer this question.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I think, we should also raise the price of coffee which is being sold here.

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF (BANGALORE NORTH): Madam, Chairman, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I would not like to dwell on the points already made by Shri Deve Gowda. I would like to know from this Government as to why they are so blind to the cause of certain States particularly in sectors where the farming community is being affected. Shri Deve Gowda has already mentioned it and the Government of India is also aware about the condition of sericulture. They are aware as to how the silk industry is suffering and how the farmers, who are associated with the silk industry, are suffering.

Madam, Chairman, today we are discussing the plight of the coffee industry. Government is earning foreign exchange by way of export of coffee. It is an exportable commodity. But the Government is only allowing the middlemen to make money without coming to the rescue of the coffee growers and labourers. It has been rightly pointed out by Shri Deve Gowda that when the Government run institutions commit mistakes and runs into losses, the Government pumps in thousands of crores of rupees to restore the health of those industries. Why could the Government not do the same thing in regard to the farming community? The farmers are helping this country to earn foreign exchange.

Madam, Chairman, I would like to know, is this a Government for the traders or the growers? I would like to have a categorical answer to this question from the hon. Minister. Are you helping the traders or the growers? This is the whole problem with this Government.. This Government is completely blind to the cause of the farmers and they are playing into the hands of the traders.

Madam, Chairman, I would like to know whether the Government would appreciate the problems being faced by the farmers and also take steps to waive off the interest component and also give a moratorium to interest for the farmers till such time the market conditions improve and the coffee growing industry becomes viable. I would like to know whether the Government has the political will to help the farming community, whether it is Sericulture, or coffee or any other commodity in any part of the country.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (KOLAR): Madam, Chairman, I have given a notice.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: As a special case you are being allowed to ask a question.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Madam, Chairman, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I would like to inform this House that last week, the hon. Chief Minister of Karnataka along with the leaders of various political parties and also with Union Ministers Shri Ananth Kumar and Sh. Basangouda R. Patil led a delegation and apprised

[Shri K.H. Muniyappa]

Minister about three important issues, namely, Coffee, Sericulture and Arecanut. These three are commercial crops. These three crops account for 75 per cent of our exports. This subject comes under the Ministry of Textiles and the Ministry of Commerce. Both these Ministries together would have to solve this problem.

Madam, Chairman, I would not like to go into the problems being faced by the farmers engaged in sericulture. We have explained it in details only in the last week. I would like to make a few points on price stabilisation. About two lakh growers are suffering today. Ninety eight per cent of the growers are small and marginal farmers and most of them belong to the Scheduled Castes community and the backward communities. Every year they produce about three lakh metric tonnes of coffee. Eighty per cent of what they produce is exported. They are engaged in production of coffee for the last 35 years. Coffee is produced even in Kerala.

The exports made in the last 100 years. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Muniyappa, please ask your question. Do not make a speech. This is a Calling Attention.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Please allow me two minutes, Madam. I will explain the problem.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: This is not a speech. In that case, I am sorry I will have to call the Minister for reply. Please ask your question. The facts have all been placed before the House. You please ask the question.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: The hon. Minister is young and energetic. He has to come to .the rescue of coffee growers.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: He is a coffee drinking Minister, I presume!

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: They have paid Rs.640 crore in the form of duty to Government of India, and paid Rs.178 crore as Excise Duty. The Excise Duty, Customs Duty, State Duty, all put together, they have paid Rs.997 crore to the State Government and the Central Government. I request the hon. Minister for two-three important things to solve the problem of the coffee growers. The two-year moratorium should be increased to five years and the rescheduling of loans done for a period of seven years should be extended to ten years on all loans-term loans, purchase loans, loans given under the Special Coffee Term Loan Scheme.

We have earlier said that moratorium should be allowed for two years. That is not sufficient. It should be allowed for five years without stipulation of repayment of 75 per cent, a Shri Deve Gowda suggested. The interest outstanding on the loans should be waived and the Government should come forward to solve the problem.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You are making a speech, you are not asking questions.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: I am asking questions, Madam.

Hon. Chief Minister of Karnataka led a delegation and gave a representation to the hon. Minister. The Minister has given some relief but that is not sufficient. May I know from the hon. Minister whether, to solve the problem, he will increase the moratorium period to five years; reschedule the loans to ten years; and provide an amount not less than Rs. 200 crore for price stabilisation, in order to save coffee industry and farmers of Karnataka and Kerala?

SHRI M. MASTER MATHAN (NILGIRIS): Thank you, Madam Chairman. Hon. Deve Gowda has said that the coffee-growers are reeling in debt and they should be given proper facilities to pay their debts. Similarly, I am also facing the same problem in regard to tea-growers.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please do not go into tea now because this is a Calling Attention on coffee. I cannot allow this to become a roving discussion. You bring another Calling Attention motion on that.

SHRI M. MASTER MATHAN: It is a burning problem concerning the tea farmers.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: If I allow this, it will become a discussion on something else. Okay, Mr. Minister, you look into the problem of tea farmers also.

SHRI M. MASTER MATHAN: Madam, it is a burning problem.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Yes, I know. But we cannot have a roving discussion. If I do it, then we will have arecanut, coconut and the something else.

SHRI M. MASTER MATHAN: All these matters are related, Madam.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (ADOOR): Tea and coffee are together, Madam.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP

RUDY): Madam, Chairman, I have taken note of all the points made by the former Prime Minister, hon. Deve Gowda, Shri Jaffer Sharief, Shri Radhakrishnan, and Shri Muniyappa. I can understand the sentiments involved in this question.

I would like to go into the background of this. Shri Deve Gowda could feel the pain of these farmers, and certainly I am aware that the situation is not as good as it should have been. Madam, with your permission, if we go into the background of coffee, I have specific details which can indicate that till the year 1992, I would repeat till the year 1992, the international prices of coffee were higher than the domestic prices. Since 1992, for sometime the international coffee prices and domestic prices were almost the same.

Then, there was a turn around, and the international prices of coffee went down while the domestic prices of coffee went up. And, that had happened during the period when the hon. Member Shri H.D. Deve Gowda was the Prime Minister.

You may ask this question: "At that point of time when the international prices were higher, how did the farmers get more remunerative price?" I would like to mention - if you recall the figures - that in the year 1996, 1997 and 1998, the coffee had the highest price in the international market as well as in the domestic market. In the year 1998, the price of Arabicas was Rs. 107 a kilo while the price of Robustas was Rs.64 a kilo. The domestic price then was Rs. 130 a kilo for Arabicas and Rs. 83 a kilo for Rubustas

Today, if we have to state for these months, Madam Chairperson, in January, 2002, it had just come half. The international price is just Rs. 54 a kilo for Arabicas and Rs. 25 a kilo for Robustas. For the domestic price, which is still higher, it is yet half what it was getting in 1996-97. It is Rs. 64 a kilo for Arabicas and Rs. 37 a kilo for Robustas.

Now, the basic question here is that we have to accept that in the international market, there is a surge, maybe for whatever reasons. If you permit me, I would like to quote the reasons which are obvious. There is a surge in the international market. The production has gone up. The consumption, which in the year 1992 was 100 per cent, has come down. This could be possibly because the domestic demand in various countries has come down. It could be possibly also because there has been a recession and the consumer demand has come down. I do not have the figures to indicate but there is an increase in demand for several beverages and aerated drinks.

Now, all these factors have combined to see that there is a reduction in demand in the world market along with newer countries coming into the world market with over-production.

Now, as far as the Government of India is concerned, this is the background in which the prices have fluctuated, and there is no procurement price fixed for that. I will talk on that subject later. But before that, I would like to state here as to what steps were taken. I have given to understand that these steps are not being treated as measures. But I think, they are showing results. The Coffee Board in itself has given interest relief in scheme in the year 2000-01 with an outlay of Rs. 4.5 crore and five per cent interest relief has been given to the small growers on the working capital and the crop loan. At the same time, for the exporter, high costly relief to 50 paise per kilo has been given to sustain the export, which has mounted to around Rs. 3 crore.

Madam, Chairperson, the Government of India has waived the penal interest to the tune of Rs. 9.84 crore on Development Loans given by the Coffee Board. The Board is not charging compound interest on Development Loans now. Most important is that the Government of India has raised the tariff from 75 per cent to 100 per cent in coffee. Notwithstanding that, the coffee has been placed on the Sensitive List and we are using all tariff and non-tariff barriers which may be there to protect our own domestic market.

As far as loans and restructuring of banks and financial institutions in Government are concerned, last year the commercial banks had re-scheduled the crop loans and given fresh loans as well. I would like to mention here - because it relates mostly from Members of Parliament from Karnataka - that Rs. 200 crore were re-scheduled in the State of Karnataka alone. I would repeat that Rs. 200 crore of bank loans were re-scheduled in the State of Karnataka alone. Thereafter, the Government of India, under the new RBI norms, announced a new relief measure that all types of loans - short, medium, large, and restructured loans which are not NPAs - would be given Special Coffee Term Loan.

I would like to state here what the Special Coffee Term Loan is. In this, the term loan would be repayable in the period of seven to nine years. We are aware that there is a demand to make it 15 years but it is not possible now. During the moratorium period, banks will charge less than all the Scheduled Bank rates. If the farmers, who have availed the loan, are able to pay back 75 per cent, the rest 25 per cent would be permitted to be re-scheduled, and they would be allowed to use the loan facility again. Apart

[Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy]

from taking various measures, the general steps which the Government of India has taken are: to try to make it more competitive, quality improvement, water augmentation, more agricultural research, extension and arrangement of credit and finance, back up support like seeds and support to productivity. We are also going in for training the farmers and for giving them enough support to see that our coffee growers are able to bring out internationally marketable coffee which is required in USA.

I can understand the position when our hon. former Prime Minister Shri Deve Gowda has mentioned that other countries had been extending more support. We can say that we are in a better position in giving the facilities and support, which are given by any other country.

As far as the minimum support price is concerned, we have to go into the background of this. Where does the Government come in for minimum support price? This is a perennial product. When we talk of minimum support price for other cereals, it is when we talk about the food security of any country. If we do not provide minimum support price to regular crops, then there is a possibility, in that situation, that the farmers may shift to other varieties of crops and there can be a possibility of food shortage in the country. That is why, minimum support price is given to certain crops which are cereals and other major grains. The Government cannot provide MSP for perennial crops like rubber because it is not possible for any Government to provide MSP for crops like this. So, there is no fixed price for them and there are situations when the procurement is made, at times, the procurement price is very high. So, there is no point in fixing the MSP.

There are other issues which have been brought in here.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: What about the interest rates?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: I have mentioned about the waiving of interest.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: The compound interest is not more. Basically, the normal interest rate is more. That is what we are requesting you to do.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: This is what I have mentioned. I think, you failed to follow.

A delegation from Karnataka met the hon. Prime Minister. One of the few demands that have been put was moratorium or rescheduling of re-payment to 10-15 years. It is not possible at the moment. We have just introduced this scheme. We will see what are the results, and that can be reviewed later.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I just want to inform the Minister. I faced a similar situation when I handled this during 1985-87. I found that the Brazil and Colombia formed a common cartel to give support to their young gardens which were far superior to our Indian garden. Thereafter, we re-planned the whole thing (a) to do quality campaign of the Indian coffee in the international market, (b) to have a new market access to break the cartel of Brazil and Colombia and (c) to provide additional support to our young garden to improve productivity.

If the situation has changed now, I have no comments to make. But if the situation went back to that stage, I would like to ask whether you would take up that initiative.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Vietnam has also entered the market in a big way.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: I would just like to say about these countries.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: If the hon. Minister would yield, I would like to say this. In his statement, at para (2) in page 2, he mentioned categorically that the Government of India have also undertaken several steps to increase domestic consumption of coffee. We do not know what steps it has taken to increase the domestic consumption. He further said that in this direction, the Government of India, Coffee Board has taken initiative to encourage procurement.

How is it taken? What is the rate? He has come out with that issue of 'procurement', through COMARK. He must tell us at what rate they are going to procure. If the minimum support price is going to be given only for the traditional crops, then coffee is going to be spoiled in two days. The Government gives nearly Rs.4,500 crore worth subsidy to exporters of rice and wheat, but not for growers.

I do not want to take much time of the House. Farmers' issue can be discussed separately, if all of us are interested in bailing out the farmers. But we have to see what is the procurement price that you are going to give to COMARK today, with the assistance of other organisations.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, you said that you are going to procure. He wants to know the price at which you are going to procure.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Just a minute, Mr. Radhakrishnan. You may please sit down. You are confusing the Minister even more. Please let him complete.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: I will conclude in 2-3 minutes. A direction was given by the Commerce Ministry and the Reserve Bank of India, and you have made certain attempts, I must say. Shri Maran is not here; but he has made some sincere attempts.

I am not going to make any comment but even your efforts have not yielded results. The cooperative societies are not prepared to oblige and waive the loans. If the loans of coffee-growers are waived then there are other crops also for which they are demanding loan waiver. This is the position of the State Governments. That is why you must take the entire responsibility and take a decision to abolish or waive the entire loan. It is not a question of penal interest. I do not want to repeat it here but they are such chronic loans, which are there for the last 20 years. It comes to about Rs.9 crore for the whole of the coffee growers of Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu. There is no profit for the coffee growers. The produce is going to help the traders and not the growers. To prove this, I would like to quote from January 2002 issue which says: "44 paise for the retailer, five paise for grower, 30 paise for export, 17 paise for shipping and 79 paise for roasting and processing." So, the grower will get only five per cent.

The report claims that the high street coffee shops are making record profit while the third-world coffee producers are living in extreme poverty. This is not my Report. It is January 2002 Report. I am not merely asking for the waiver and re-scheduling of penal interest. You have referred to re-scheduling of Rs.200 crore but it is done only by a few banks and not all the banks. You have to examine it case-by-case. The Chairman Coffee Board wants to review it case-by-case. They are not wholly going to accept the recommendations made by the Ministry of Commerce. Cooperative societies are not ready. I would list out some of the points which the Minister can note down. You may not be able to answer them right now. You may call the Coffee Board Chairman, the Deputy-Governor of Reserve Bank and some of the other top executives of financial institutions and take a decision on the basis of certain issues which, I am going to raise.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You can send them to the Minister in writing. Please do not raise them here.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: This is the only platform where I can raise them. I do not want to take the trouble of going to any Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You can write to him giving all the points.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: I am prepared to send a note. Just to save the valuable time of the House, I have no objection in it. But cooperative societies are not ready. Full interest and not the penal interest has to be waived. The condition, that further loan will be advanced only if they repay 75 per cent of the loan, should be removed. The loan which they get is only meant for coffee production and not for other infrastructural reforms.. These are some of the major issues which are going to kill the coffee growers. I am going to send the list of their demands. The Government should give a categorical assurance to call the Deputy-Governor of Reserve Bank and the top executives of other financial institutions to discuss the matter with them. I do not want to make any allegation against anybody. About 80 per cent of the farmers are small farmers out of which 35 per cent belongs to the Scheduled Castes. Madam, you must be knowing it since you come from that area. I do not want to take undue advantage in raising the matter just because you are in the Chair. My only request is to please save the farmers.

I demand constitution of a National Commission on Agriculture. I think there is no National Commission. I remember, Shri Sivaram was heading the National Commission earlier. So, the National Commission on Agriculture should be constituted and all the matters pertaining not only to coffee but also coconut, sericulture; and so on should be reviewed in light of the adverse impacts of WTO. Otherwise, they are going to kill the farmers. Nobody can save the farmers of this country. My blood boils to see all these things.

Please tell the Prime Minister to constitute a National Commission for Agriculture and review the whole thing in the light of WTO's adverse impact.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, would you like to respond?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Madam, I have been educated further because I am not from a coffee growing area. So, what he has talked is an education for me.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: But the question which he raised is about the price at which the procurements will take place.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Madam, I would again say that the price is not fixed. He has talked about COMARK which procures at market price. So, this is an established mechanism and there is no intention to change it at the moment.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: I have asked you to give a soft loan to COMARK. You want to give Rs.500 crore for bailing out UTI. So, can you not give it Rs.200 crore soft loan?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, I assure you that we will look into your suggestion.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: A great and mighty Government cannot give a soft loan of Rs.200 crore to the farmers.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, we will definitely look into your suggestion.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: As the hon. Minister has assured me, I thank him very much. If he can keep up his promise, I thank him very much.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You call a meeting and have a detailed discussion.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Yes. That is correct.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now, the House will take up Matters under Rule 377.

14.57 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to lay rail line between Bilaspur and Mandla in Chhattisgarh

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (BILASPUR): Madam Chairman, the Government of India has completed the survey for laying a new railway-line between Bilaspur and Mandla in Chhattisgarh state. Due to non-commencement of work of laying track in the absence of approval the general public is disappointed. Above said survey report should be sent to the planning commission and sanction to lay the new railway-line should be accorded during the current Budget session which would provide work and job opportunities to the poor workers and thousands of educated unemployed and give them financial support. The railways will get the job of transportation of land and coal which in turn would add to the proceeds of the Chhattisgarh-state and the residents of Chhattisgarh would have the transportation facility.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to accord sanction for laying new railway line between Bilaspur and Mandla.

(ii) Need for early commissioning of Bokaro and Navinagar Thermal Power Stations

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (GIRIDIH): Bokaro Thermal Power Station has been incurring losses to the tune of nearly 3.5 crore rupees every month following the closure of its 'A' plant for about two years thereby affecting the fortunes of thousands of its personnel. Although hon'ble Union Minister of Power visited the site but due to the lengthy and cumbersome bureaucratic procedures, the case is not getting a speedy disposal.

In the same manner, the case of construction of Navinagar - Thermal power station, which was included in the Eleventh Five Year Plan as a profit making report oriented project .on the recommendation of the hon. Minister, has been lying pending for about last fifteen years and Government of Bihar are also willing to extend requisite co-operation in the construction. So, this should be included in the current five year Plan on priority basis.

Thus I request the Government to take immediate and necessary action to revive Bokaro Thermal Power Station and Navinagar Thermal Power station at the earliest.

(iii) Need to expedite construction work of Doordarshan building at Gorakhpur, U.P.

YOGI ADITYA NATH (GORAKHPUR): Gorakhpur, the place of penance of Great sage Guru Gorakh Nathji in Uttar Pradesh embodies in it the historic and religious significance and a unity among diversities. A Doordarshan Centre was set up in the great city of Gorakhpur in November, 1984. Ever since this centre is being run from the rented building. The coverage of this centres extends upto districts man, Azamgarh, Balia, Deoria, Kushinagar, Basti, Siddharth Nagar, Maharaj Ganj and Kabir Nagar in eastern Uttar Pradesh in addition to some parts of southern border of Nepal and eastern part of Champaran of Western Bihar.

About five acres of land costing 84 lakh rupees was purchased in 1984 in Raptinagar. Inauguration of the Centre has already been done by the then Union Minister of state for Information and Broadcasting on 1st July, 1998 but no progress has been made in the construction of the studio-building thus far even after a long wait.

I therefore, request the hon. Minister of Information

and Broadcasting to release the funds to facilitate the construction of studio and accommodation for the personnel at the Centre at Gorakhpur without any more delay.

15.00 hrs.

(iv) Need for early completion of construction work of Sardar Sarovar Project, Gujarat

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (DHANDHUKA): Sardar Sarovar Project is entering the important phase of its completion and Sardar Sarovar Narmada Corporation has also been trying to get finances for the project from banks and financial institutions since long back. Leading banks in the country have shown their willingness to invest capital in this scheme but as per the new guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India, any party or firm approaching any bank or financial institution for loans, for investment in infrastructure can draw only 25% out of its capital Fund and 50% in case of being a joint venture. Maximum funds are needed for infrastructural investment but as per the instructions of RBI as cited above, required funds could not be made available for the projects.

I would like to demand from the hon. Minister of Finance through the House to revise the instructions issued by the RBI to ensure release of required funds for completion of this multipurpose scheme so that the benefit of this important people oriented, scheme could accrue to the people of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra.

(v) Need for alround development of Bihar after its bifurcation

SHRI RAJO SINGH (BEGUSARAI): Madam Chairman, Sir, the undivided Bihar was lagging behind all other states in terms of most of the criteria of economic development like education, per capita income, standard of living, communications and transportation related infrastructure. Post division era in Bihar is going to be more alarming from social and economic points of view. For example, the rate of urbanisation in Bihar in post division era is only 10.76 percent whereas it was 13.14 percent in pre division Bihar while the all India percentage of urbanisation is 25.71 percent. As a result divided Bihar is almost rural in it's characteristics. Apart from this in the absence of any big industry and lack of business and commerce, the entire economy of divided state of Bihar would depend completely on agriculture. Bihar is the most backward state even in the field of literacy because there was 38.55 literacy in the undivided Bihar and it has came down to 37.50% only whereas it is 52.51% at national level. Condition of women and rural literacy is far more disappointing as it stands at 16.26% and 32.94% respectively. Post division Bihar is already quite backward in terms of social economic infrastructure facilities such as wealth, education electricity, roads, irrigation and market etc.

15.03 hrs.

(DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

I would like to draw attention of the Union Government to the above said points and resolve them as early as possible.

[English]

(vi) Need to divide the country into two different standard time zones

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM (NAGALAND): Sir, in India, sun rises nearly two hours earlier in the east than on the western-most tip of the country which stretches between 80 degrees East longitude and 97.5 degree East Longitude that is, from Arunachal Pradesh to Gujarat with a gap of nearly 20 degrees of longitude which is two hours of difference in time.

The city of Allahabad which stands at 82, degrees East longitude is taken as the Standard Time of the whole country.

Our human body starts working actively early in the east compared to the west and it is a sheer waste of the prime time when the sun rises at 4.30 a.m. and the people generally go to office at 10.00 a.m. The people in the western sector enjoy more natural light and leisure time in the evenings while in the east, people do not have enough day light in the evening and the night falls much earlier than those living in the west of the country. Specially for people in the eastern zone, a great lot of man-hours are simply wasted.

I, therefore, demand to the Government of India that the country be divided into two time zones. One zone should be in the East from Arunachal Pradesh to Bihar to be one hour ahead called Eastern Indian Time and the other half in the West from Uttar Pradesh to Gujarat to be one hour behind that, which could be called as Western Indian Time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is a very good suggestion.

(vii) Need for restoration of Azimganj-Nasipur rail line in West Bengal

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (BERHAMPORE, WEST BENGAL): Sir, Azimganj-Nasipur are the two railway stations situated on either side of the river Ganges, which were linked before Independence period for transporting goods by the Railways. After the Independence the railway line was left abandoned for various reasons. Again during the last year's Budget proposal, restoration of the said railway line was mooted. But no amount of money has been sanctioned to continue this project in this year's Budget. The connection of those areas by railways will help to boost the tourism given the historical importance of the District Murshidabad. Further more, it will help mobilise logistic support to the Army in the hour of need. The convergence of these two lines will considerably reduce the distance of Delhi from the Districts of Nadia, Murshidabad, Birbhum etc. This particular rail link also helps to reduce the distance to the North India considerably. Hence, I would urge upon the Railway Ministry to reconsider the proposal given in the last year's Budget.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only the text will go on record.

(viii) Need to effectively implement Reservation Policy for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH (NAGAR KURNOOL): The Government of India was kind enough to amend some of the OMs passed by DoPT in respect of implementation of reservation in services.

Though it is very long time since the amendments were made, the implementation is not being carried on yet in Public Sector Enterprises and Postal and Communication Ministries.

In the recent past in PSUs like BHEL at Hyderabad and other Public Sector Enterprises, the provisions were denied with the plea that they have not received any communications from the DoPT.

So, I request the Government of India, through you, Sir, to implement the Reservation Policy in its true letter and spirit and also see that the amendments introduced through OMs are implemented so as to ensure that SCs/STs, and the weaker sections of the society are no longer deprived of their constitutional rights.

(ix) Need to provide financial assistance to Government of Uttar Pradesh to meet the situation arising out of drought conditions in Bundelkhand region of the State

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN (BANDA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the drought like situation has arisen due to inadequate rains in June-July 2002. Almost the entire North India has been affected by drought. Farmers could not sow the Kharif crops and the seeds which have sown have also failed to germinate. Districts in the Bundelkhand region of the Southern part of Uttar Pradesh are the worst affected ones. The adjoining area of Madhya Pradesh is also reeling under drought. The Kharif crops like jwar, bajra, maize, urad, moong, arhar and paddy have been damaged. Even if it rains now, there is no possibility of good crops as there has been inordinate delay in sowing these Kharif crops.

The already existing drinking water crisis in Bundelkhand region has further worsened due to failure of rain.

I, therefore, request the Union Government to provide necessary funds to the State Government for undertaking relief work in the Bundelkhand region and to provide irrigation and drinking water facilities.

(x) Need to set up industrial units in public sector in Krishnagiri Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu

[English]

SHRI V. VETRISELVAN (KRISHNAGIRI): I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the Krishnagiri Parliamentary Constituency of Tamil Nadu whose entire area is the most backward area of the State. Sir, no industrial development has so far been made in this area despite having all basic facilities and amenities and also good climate as in other industrially developed areas of the country for the establishment of industrial projects. There are about 2 lakh educated unemployed in Krishnagiri constituency who are being depressed in the absence of job opportunities. By establishing industrial projects, especially in public sector, their future can be secured. Besides this, natural calamities like drought have also played havoc leaving the people of this area to struggle for their livelihood. Hence, there is a need of effective steps to be taken for the development of this area and to establish industries in this area so that people of this area may not be deprived of the job opportunities.

I would request the Government to establish some public sector industrial project there.

(xi) Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Bihar for providing basic amenities at tourist centres in the State

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (GOPALGANJ): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are several tourists places in Bihar relating to Buddha, Jain and Sikh religion among which Rajgir, Pawapuri, Nalanda, Bodh-gaya, Vaishali, Parma Harmandir Sahib and Kesariya are worth-mentioning. In fact, Rajgir, Bodh-gaya and Nalanda are the most important from the religious point of view for the followers of the Buddha religion all-over the world. If the super fast and safe modes of transportation are made available to reach there and also the modern accommodation facilities are provided there, then these could be brought at par with the most popular tourists places. Modern communications and transport facilities should be provided there and infrastructure facilities relating to tourism like hotels, recreation parks, golf-course etc. should also be developed. These places should also be connected with places like Kushi Nagar, Sarnath and Lumbini in Uttar Pradesh and Nepal where Buddhist monuments are located by road and air services. Therefore, necessary funds should be provided to the State Government for the purpose.

(xii) Need to ensure smooth functioning of Neyveli Lignite Corporation

[English]

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY (CHIDAMBARAM): The Neyveli Lignite Corporation has not paid adequate attention to the interest of the people who gave lands for the Corporation to establish. The people who gave lands were promised with adequate compensation and also employment for their eligible wards. I have been taking up this matter for the last three years in vain and with no result. Besides, I am receiving many representations that there are rampant irregularities in the administration along with the production. I would like to request the Government of India, through you, Sir, to ensure smooth functioning of NLC and the steps be taken to set the things right.

(xiii) Need for early completion of construction work of N.H. 7 passing through Butibori, Hinghanghat, Jam, Nagpur and Kamptee in Maharashtra

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR): Sir, the execution of road work on the National Highway No. 7 (under the Golden Quadrilateral scheme) passing through Nagpur city is moving at a snail's pace. Some of the important sectors to be covered are Butibori to Hirnganghat to Jam and Nagpur to Kamptee and the construction of the railway overbridge at Butibori. However, only a small portion of the road from Nagpur to Butibori (36 kms.) has been completed and the work of four-laning of the remaining portions is yet to be taken in hand (approximately 38 kms.). This is hampering the smooth movement of the traffic on this industrially developed Nagpur sector. The construction of four-laning the Kamptee-Kanhan bypass (16.40 kms.), part of outer ring road, and the stretch from Butibori to Jam need not be linked with the overall implementation of the Golden Quadrilateral scheme targeted to be completed by 2007. Further some steps need to be taken prohibiting people from getting into litigation, getting the stay and thereby delaying the implementation of the project.

I would urge upon the Government to have the work on these sectors as also the construction of a railway overbridge at Butibori to be taken in hand by changing the priorities and completed within the shortest possible time.

(xiv) Need to protect the interest of powerloom/handloom weavers particularly in Bhagalpur, Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH ROY (BHAGALPUR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the powerloom/handloom weavers of my constituency and for that matter of entire state of Bihar are facing the problems of serious unemployment and starvation due to removal of quantitative restrictions on the foreign goods. The powerloom/handloom sector which provides employment to more than 10 lakhs weavers' families is lying closed. Due to import of silk textiles and yarn from Korea, Japan and China and continued smuggling of these items have badly affected the domestic industry and market. I, therefore, request the Union Government to take concrete measures to bail the domestic industries and also ameliorate the pitiable condition of the weavers.

15.17 hrs.

[English]

COAST GUARD (AMENDMENT) BILL

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now the House will take up item no. 8. The time allotted for this item is one hour. Shri George Fernandes.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we protest against piloting of this Bill by Shri George Fernandes. So, we are walking out. ...*(Interruptions)*

15.17¼ hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi and some other hon. Members left the House.)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGLY): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he cannot move the Bill. So, we are walking out in protest.

15.17½ hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Rupchand Pal and some other hon. Members left the House.)

15.17¾ hrs.

(At this stage, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and some other hon. Members left the House.)

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): Mr. Deputy Speaker; Sir, I beg to move:

> "That the Bill further to amend the Coast Guard Act, 1978, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The Coast Guard (Amendment) Bill, 1996 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 26th November, 1996. It was referred to the Standing Committee on Defence on 29th November, 1996 and the Report of the Standing Committee was presented in the Rajya Sabha on 22nd April, 1997.

The Rajya Sabha referred the Bill on 4th August, 1997 to the Select Committee of the Rajya Sabha, which considered the Bill and submitted its Report to the Rajya Sabha on 24th November, 1997. The Rajya Sabha passed the Bill on 17th July, 2002.

With a view to bring the provisions of the Coast Guard Act, 1978 in conformity with the provisions of the Army Act, 1950, the Navy Act, 1957 and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, it is proposed to amend the Act to provide, *inter alia*, the following, namely:-

(i) Inclusion of the rank of *Pradhan Yantrik* in the definition of the expression "subordinate officer".

(ii) Making the punishment for the offence of desertion more deterrent.

(iii) Increasing the time limit within which the trial of the offender should begin where more time is spent in investigation of an offence or the commission of an offence comes to light after a long gap of its occurrence.

(iv) Increasing the existing time limit during which trial of personnel ceasing to be subject to the Act shall commence.

(v) Providing for punishment of officers below the rank of Commandant by the Director-General, Coast Guard and other authorities for expeditious trial of such officers for the offences which are of less serious nature.

(vi) Regularisation of absence of personnel punished with mulcts (fine imposed for an offence) of pay and allowances.

(vii) Admissibility of reports of certain scientific experts as evidence in trial proceedings.

The recommendations of the Select Committee were:

(a) Clause 3 - Amendment to Section 25 (2)

(i) The term "desertion" should be re-defined explicitly specifying the kinds of desertion and also the punishment commensurate with the severity and nature of desertion.

(ii) The attempts to commit any offence of desertion be covered under the existing Section 45 of the Coast Guard Act; and

(iii) The forfeiture of pay, pension, gratuity, allowances, etc., should not include the pay, pension and gratuity already paid.

The first two recommendations was examined in the Ministry and were not found acceptable. The third recommendation has been accepted.

In clause 4, amendment to Section 51(1) lays down the limitation period of three years for conduct of trial against an offender. It was proposed to specify the commencement of period of limitation for conducting such trial. In this regard, the Select Committee had recommended that different period for offences based on severity be laid down as defined in Section 468 CrPC. This recommendation has not been accepted since the crux of the amendment is to lay down the commencement of period of limitation similar to Sections 469 and 470 of the CrPC.

Further, similar provision also exists in the Army Act,

1950, the Navy Act, 1957, the Air Force Act, 1950, the National Security Guard Act, 1986 and Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force Act, 1992.

Clause 5 - Amendment to Section 52(2) - Section 52(2) lays down time limit for conduct of trial against the offender after he has ceased to be in service. At present, an offender can be tried for an offence within a period of six months after his retirement. This was proposed to be extended to three years. The Select Committee had recommended to reduce this period to two years. This has been accepted.

The Bill was withdrawn in the first place for the following reasons. The matter was considered by the Ministry of Law and Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs in November, 1998, who advised to withdraw the Bill and to introduce a fresh Bill in view of the amendments suggested by the Select Committee. The Government, accordingly, decided to withdraw the Bill and introduce a fresh Bill that would be prepared after examining the suggestions of the Select Committee. The CCS approved the proposal to withdraw the Bill on 4th September, 2001. The Bill was withdrawn and reintroduced on 28th November, 2001.

I would request that the Coast Guard (Amendment) Bill, 2002, as amended by the Rajya Sabha, be taken up for consideration.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Coast Guard Act, 1978, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

SHRI K. MALAISAMY (RAMANATHAPURAM): Sir, this is the amendment envisaging certain changes in the existing provisions after having seen what are all the deficiencies and what are all the anomalies which can be made up by means of a few insertions on the one side and changes on the other. By and large, I am able to see that they have come out with certain changes that are quite relevant. Not only that, they are in conformity with the provisions of the other .armed Services, namely, Border Security Force or Navy. What I could see is that this is the youngest armed service, when compared to the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, BSF etc., You are introducing so many changes by bringing into certain constraints and compulsions to this Service whereas whatever service privileges or benefits available for them are not at par with other Services. What I am trying to say is that they are doing a wonderful service throughout the length and breadth of the country. The entire coastline is to the extent of 7,600 kilometres. Coming specifically to Tamil Nadu, the coast line distance from Chennai to Kanyakumari is 16,000 kilometres. The entire coastline and the economic zones are being safeguarded by the Coast Guard with slender resources in terms of manpower and equipment besides lack of intelligence wing. They are not only called upon to do their task in the peace time, but also during the war time. No doubt, their task is so arduous and their resources are limited, besides, there are several constraints, still the Government is expecting them to safeguard the off-shore security and safety on the one side and to prevent piracy, smuggling, etc. on the other. Government also want them to assist the other enforcement agencies and not only that Government is employing them during the time of rescue measures also.

If I could read a statement as to what all they have done in terms of contrabands seized in one year, in terms of poaching and trawlers apprehended, in terms of repatriated Sri Lankan refugees, in terms of Pakistani goods exchanged, in terms of illegal immigrant infiltrators exchanged, etc. As such their tasks are varied and substantial.

In this Amendment Bill several provisions have been brought. They are extending the period of three years for taking disciplinary action, enabling to award deterrent punishment for desertion in the case of Navy; extending the period of limitation to initiate the proceedings in the commission from three years to the date on which the report is given or, the date on which the identity of the person is known.

Then again for unauthorised absence, they want to effect new arrangements in par with other Services some more scientific experts have also been taken as one in the line of evidence. When all these amendments are proposed to equate with the provisions of other Armed Services, Coast Guard Service conditions are not equated with other armed Services. It is to be considered. They are also forced to accept on that concept. But whether their service conditions, whether their promotional avenues, whether their pensionery benefits, their salary and other emoluments perquisites are equated with that of BSF or Navy, etc. Coast Guards are very akin with Navy personnel while why there should be discrimination.

From my knowledge, I am given to understand that their services are not equated with that of the other Services and there is a sea of difference between the period of promotion from one rank to other. As far as the responsibilities are concerned, though they are doing excellent service, they are not all well reckoned and rewarded. The Government while proposing this kind of

[Shri K. Malaisamy]

changes shall take care of all these aspects also. This is what I want to highlight and insist.

For example, in Tamil Nadu, as a result of infiltration of LTTE through Tamil Nadu coast, Coast Guard Services are considered to be very essential but the problem is that they are well equipped to counter LTTE. LTTE are so quick, they have speed boats. Not only that, are they come well equipped, with most sophisticated weapons like AK-47, SLR, etc., but our Coast Guard is still having the age-old obsolete weapons, old vessels. In fact, the LTTE has never fought with our Coast Guards at ali so far.

If they do it, they can destroy our vessels in no minute. With all that, Coast Guards are taking a risk to defend our coastal lines and you want to guard our coastal lines.

As far as men and materials are concerned, they are not well equipped. On the other hand, they should be strengthened and replenished depending upon the need and requirement of the present day. While replenishing and modernising the weapons and equipments, you may kindly think about the latest technology with which others are faring. That is my number one suggestion.

As I have already said, the service conditions of these people warrant very deep study so that they are boosted morally and their services are further enhanced and made attractive. Please examine how they can be equated with other Services.

Thirdly, you kindly develop and expand scientific lines corresponding to the latest technology. A perspective plan is required to augment the force.

Finally, Sir, you should establish a global link for global maritime distress search and service satellite. Unless you have that kind of a link, I do not think the purpose is really served. These are my random thoughts. You kindly do something concrete for their Service.

As Defence Minister, you have visited Rameswaram and other places in Tamil Nadu. You know the area. It needs special protection and surveillance in the wake of LTTE activities. Kindly see that some concrete action is ensured always.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, BIHAR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this a very technical bill. Therefore, a long speech is not needed on this bill. In fact, this bill should have been passed without a discussion on it. However, I would like to conclude after giving a suggestion.

We will have to keep in mind the importance of the role played by the coast guard. They have to face several kinds of risks and they have to defend a very long sea-boundary. They have to deal with an outfit like the LTTE on the one hand and they have also to tackle the smugglers trying to sneak through the sea-routes, on the other. During the war times, their role becomes all the more important. In such a situation, we will have to strengthen the coast guard. On the one hand, we should provide them more and more sophisticated arms and at the same time we should also increase the number of out-posts. If the number out-posts are increased and they are provided with sophisticated arms, only then they could be strengthened and our coastal line could be protected. We have no objection to giving stringent punishment to the offenders. The coast guard personnel are not being given the same facilities which are being given to the employees of the three wings of the armed forces. Since they have to perform rigorous duties, therefore, they should also be provided with better facilities.

With these words, I conclude.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, discipline is the basic element of the armed forces, And the Government have introduced this bill to strengthen the coast guard. I strongly support the Coast Guard (Amendment) Bill brought forward by the hon. Minister.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I Want to request the Government that our maritime boundary is very long. The manner in which we have strengthened, modernised and equipped the CRPF, BSF, ITBP or CISF with sophisticated arms to guard our northern borders, so that they can face any eventuality, in the same manner, we should also modernise our coast guards and they should also be provided with the sophisticate arms. Oceanography should also be included in their curriculum for study. Sometimes they have to face cyclones and tornadoes while on duly on the sea. And they protect our ships from these cyclones and tornadoes at the risk of their lives or they go out on their patrolling boats to arrest smugglers or pirates. The task of arresting Sri Lankans or Chinese fishermen who enter our sea-waters illegally on their trawlers, is also accomplished by them. They also prevent infiltrators who try to infiltrate into our country by sea-routes. Therefore, the patrolling boats which they have should be well equipped with sophisticated arms and they should also be provided submarines. I have come to know in Kerala as to how our coast guard personnel intercept Indonesian or Chinese

trawlers which enter our sea-waters surreptitiously for fishing. In view of this, the services of coast guard are very important.

I therefore, request the Government through you that they should also be given pension facility, facilities available to ex-servicemen and other facilities available to the personnel of other armed forces while in service or after retirement. Their service-conditions and pay-scales should also be improved. A disciplined person cannot be a fugitive. If he becomes a fugitive, what sort of punishment should be given to him, reports of exports should also be taken into account and as our Defence Minister has just said that seven amendments have been made to the original Act of 1978. Everything possible should be done for maintaining discipline and for that matter, creating awareness and alertness.

Keeping in view the importance of services provided by the coast-guard and also our long sea-boundary, I would like to urge the Hon. Minister that he should strengthen the coast-guard and if they are strengthened, our sea-boundaries would also be safe and secure and we can also ensure smooth movement of our ships including commercial ones. These amendments have been brought in to remove anomalies in the old Act and also to strike a balance in relation to whatever has been provided in the Navy Act, Army Act, BSF Act and criminal Procedure Code: I , therefore, request the Hon. Minister to take into account the positive side of the above Acts. I am of the view that the Defence Minister is a sensible person and he will certainly look into the service-conditions and pay-scales of the coast guard personnel. I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank all those members who took part in this debate. Dr. Malaysami referred to certain things which we have been planning to change for a long time and we have been working towards this. Our Coast Guards are not that large in number. We have a strength of about 5000. The total budget they have is also not so big. Their capital budget is of Rs. 296 crores and revenue budget is of Rs. 273 crores. It is a fact that ours is a 7600 kilometer long coastal border and it involves a budget of about Rs. 550 crores. I know how difficult it is for them to protect such a long border.

During the last four years we have tried to improve their condition and to provide them the kind of modern arms and boats they need. But we have not been able to do in tune with their requirements. The only reason for this is that we cannot outflow the budget provided for that force. It is not proper to link the amendments we are bringing in the law to the facilities etc. of the Coast Guards, because the law just intends to further strengthen the issue of discipline. This law has nothing more than that.

I would like to apprise the House that the changes or modifications we are bringing about in them is this much that we also want to bring the Coast Guard at par with the Army, the Navy and the Air Force in respect of rules of discipline, because in the eyes of people, the Coast Guard's duty is restricted to just protecting the coastal border, whereas the reality is something else. Of late when tensions grew with Pakistan and we had to deploy our forces, we had to complement the Navy with the Coast Guard by putting it under the Navy at that time. When the situation eased and the Navy retreated, the Coast Guard once again resumed their own duty. But whenever a situation arises and tensions mount, the Coast Guard joins the Navy. It therefore, becomes imperative to make a common rule of discipline for them all. This law limits itself upto this much.

Shri Prabhunath Singh ji is not here in the House at present. He had talked of creating some new posts in his speech. In January last we made a plan to create 12 new posts, but we could not do it with the required pace because it was not possible for want of funds. But three centres out of them will be ready soon on the Western bank because we witness so many activities there. Especially in the areas of Rann and Kutch and to the south of this area, not only smuggling is done but with it goes the trade of narcotics also. Besides, there is a trade of weapons also. In view of all this, we are busy fortifying the Western Bank, and as soon as some funds are allocated, we will be in a position to complete that work.

I think it is imperative to mention here a job done by the Coast Guard. This story is one and half a year old. It could not be found out as to where the pilots went with the pirated Japanese ship named Alondra Rainbow. This continued for so many months. Hon. member Shri Malayasami said that there should be an arrangement at the international level to cope up with such problems in a centralised way. Such an arrangement is there by virtue of which our Coast Guard came to know of the missing ship of Japan. This ship was searched for in the whole world but it could not be found. The history is that once a ship was pirated, it was never tried to trace the same. But our Coast Guard did this miracle. Alondra Rainbow was plying with another name, its colour was changed, it was thoroughly altered but they identified it and caught it. At the time of seizing it when they resorted to using weapons etc. then

[Shri George Fernandes]

we were compelled to call the Navy also. The Navy and the Coast Guard caught the ship in a joint operation and handed it over to Japan. This made the Japanese people so glad that it became an issue of discussion there.

When I visited Japan as Minister of Defence, I met no person from the Prime Minister, Defence Minister and Minister of External Affairs to anybody who did not discuss this. Since then at least 7 or 8 countries have invited the high officials, especially the trainers of our Coast Guard to train them and help them to raise their own strong Coast Guards. This is the ability of our Coast Guard. We are proud of the whole country. I would not like to say anything more on this issue.

Shri Nitish ji said that Bihar has nothing to do with ocean but the fact is that the number of people of Bihar in the Coast Guard and the Navy is much higher than the number of people of any other state. This is a very difficult job and they have to be on the sea sometimes for weeks, sometimes for months and only they know of the situation they have to face there. The people of Bihar are masters of this situation, so both these services have the highest number of people from Bihar.

I once again thank the hon. members. Professor Sahib has talked of discipline, I have brought that very question of discipline in the form of a law before this House. It should have been brought quite earlier but it has come quite late. I request the House to accept the same.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (KALAHANDI): Sir, I would like to ask a clarification from the hon. Minister.

While replying, the hon Minister has mentioned about stumbling of Coast Guard in the West Coast. I come from Orissa, which is in the East Coast. There are so much of illegal immigrations from Bangladesh. There is poaching of the prawn from our Indian waters on the Orissa Coast. ...*(Interruptions)*

Therefore, I plead with the Minister, through you, Sir, to have another chowkie at Gopalpur port and Dhamra port. So much of poaching is going on by trawlers of Thailand and the South-Eastern countries that it is also disturbing the ecological balance of that sea coast and it is also in violation of the CRZ zones. The CRZ zones are being violated. So, I would like to have a specific reply from the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I have noted down everything the hon. member has said here and we will take whatever action is required in this regard.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Coast Guard Act, 1978, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill. The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 11 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 11 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

15.52 hrs.

NATIONAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we shall take up item No.9 - National Cooperative Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill. Shri Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the bill further to amend the National Cooperative Development Corporation Act, 1962 (as passed by the Rajya Sabha) be taken into consideration."

This bill kept on coming to and going from this House for quite long and after a long time the bill further to amend the said Act was passed by the Rajya Sabha in 1962. In 1985 it came from the Rajya Sabha to the Lok Sabha, then to the Standing Committee and then to the Cabinet Committee. When passing through the Planning Commission, this bill has come to us, we now intend to make it extensive by making amendments in it.

We want to bring the co-operative at par with everything in this era of globalization and liberalization. The small cooperative workers, the weaker sections, the farmers, the small and marginal farmers, the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes, the minorities, the women and the working class-a large number of such people work in our cooperative society. They have to face various types of difficulties in their work. We give them loans on the guarantee of the State Governments, this has a lot of difficulties and they find it difficult to work. By removing all these lapses we are making it extensive in such a way that we could directly give loans to the cooperative society or any packs under them which are capable in the eyes of NCDC and are competent and working well, without any guarantee of the state Government or the Central Government in order to further strengthen their business.

This bill will benefit us in many sectors. We shall go ahead in providing facilities to those who work through the cooperatives in various service sectors such as tourism, transport, hospitals, health care, education, insurance, hotels, restaurants, maintenance and repairs, communications, food, publication, printing, rural housing, alternative resources of energy etc. this is a very beneficial bill and is useful to the poor, the villages, the farmers and the common masses. This is lying pending for a long time. Time is short, so I would urge the hon. members to pass it soon so that we could serve the people through N.C.D.C. If we pass it without discussion, it would be better. Let us pass it so that we could help the poor in advancement of their business.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the bill further to amend the National Cooperative Development Corporation Act, 1962, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (AMBALA): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Amendment Bill regarding cooperatives introduced by hon. Minister. The importance of Cooperatives has increased immensely in the present scenario. Approximately 180 million people are associated with the cooperative movement in the country. More than 3 lakh 53 thousand cooperative societies are functioning with a share capital of Rs. 7000 crore and a working capital of Rs. 80,000 crore. Cooperative Movement has gradually widened its network in the country. Today 30 percent of the Public Distribution System functions through Cooperatives. Likewise 43 per cent of the total Agriculture loan is given through Cooperatives. Similarly, approximately 35 percent fertilisers are distributed through these cooperative societies. Cooperatives have worked miracles in the production of sugar. At present cooperative institutions are running in the 63 percent area earmarked for sugar production. Similarly, this system is functioning even in the area of yarn production.

Today, India has become the biggest producer of milk in the world. Approximately 70 million tonne of milk is produced in our country. Large benefits have been accrued to the poor families, marginal farmers having meagre holdings though this cooperative system.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I remember when the then President of the United States Mr. Bill Clinton visited India. I would like to cite an example related to the cooperative movement.

He was taken to a village of Rajasthan called Nagala by our hon. Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He was then told about the functioning of Women Cooperative Society. And one of the educated women of the Cooperative Society thus briefed him:

[English]

"Mr. Clinton, we have deposited enough money in our cooperative societies that if America needs a loan we can give that loan to America."

[Translation]

Upon this, Mr. Bill Clinton acknowledged the card and society's membership saying that he would carry the card alongwith him to the US and keep it there in the White House. It is our cooperative System which has worked wonders that even foreigners coming to India have acknowledged its progress by leaps and bounds. Otherwise such was the image of our country that whenever any Indian leader used to go abroad then cartoons in their newspaper will depict them as international Fakir who come to seek charity and they should be given something in the name of God as they might have come to ask for foodgrains or funds."

[Shri Rattan Lal Kataria]

16.00 hrs.

I would like to congratulate Atal Behari Vajpayee's Government which not only worked in country's... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rattan Lal ji, it is four 0' clock now. We have to take up 193. You can continue tomorrow.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: The extent of benefits accrued to us through Cooperative System today. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rattan Lal ji, how much time do you need more?

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Whenever I am in tempo you interrupt me. Please give me 15 minutes more. I still have to say a lot more about it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Sir, I am on my legs. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Jha, I am able to contain him.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Discussion under Rule 193 has to be started at 4 o' clock. Please continue it tomorrow.

16.02 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Disinvestment of Public Sector Undertakings

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up discussion under Rule 193. Two hours have been allotted for this discussion.

Shri Prabodh Panda is to initiate the discussion. Shri Panda, you normally sit in the front, but now, you are sitting in a back row.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (MIDNAPORE): Sir, I rise to initiate a discussion regarding disinvestment of public sector undertakings. In fact, it is an opportunity of a thorough review of the disinvestment policy of the Government of India, the Government of the day with a view to see proper implementation of this policy.

Sir, in this regard, I want to raise a few questions. First, what is the purpose of disinvestment? Why does the disinvestment spree of the Government continue? The selling of family silver by the Department of Disinvestment is reaching its peak with the proposal of raising Rs. 51,300 crore to-mop up to Rs. 26,500 crore by sale of stakes in VSNL, ONGC, IOC, NTPC and GAIL, the five blue chip companies, highly profit-making PSUs and to mop up another sum of Rs. 24,800 crore by strategic sale in eight other public sector undertakings - within the current fiscal year. The Approach Paper of the Tenth Five Year Plan envisages a figure of Rs. 78,000 crore from the sale of Government's equity in PSUs during 2002-2007.

The annual target for the fiscal year 2002-03 is Rs. 12,000 crore. During the current year the Government proposes to disinvest about 32 enterprises, namely, Air India Limited, Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd., Bharat Opthalmic Glass Ltd., Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd., Braithwaite & Co., Burn Standard & Co., Engineers Indian Ltd., Engineering Project (India) Ltd., Hindustan Cables Ltd., Hindustan Copper Ltd., Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd., Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd., Hindustan Salts Ltd., Indian Airlines Ltd., Madras Fertilizers Ltd., MECON Ltd., Minerals & Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd., National Fertilizers Ltd., Naticnal Aluminium Company Ltd. (NALCO), National Instruments Ltd., Shipping Corporation of India Ltd., Sponge Iron India Ltd., State Trading Corporation of India Ltd., Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd., Tyre Corporation of India Ltd., Maruti Udyog Ltd., India Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd., Bharat Heavy Plates and Vessels Ltd., NEPA Ltd., Instrumentation Control Valves Ltd., India Tourism Development Corporation. Why are they not proposing to disinvest Government of India Limited itself!

Sir, my second point is, what type of industries are being chosen for disinvestment? Industries have been classified into two categories - one, profit-making industries and two, loss-making industries. It was said that loss-making industries are a liability and so they would be sold out. If that be the case, their why has the Government chosen to disinvest only profit making PSUs that have huge cash reserves at their disposal? Why have the Government put on block only such geese who lay golden eggs? This is not understood. This policy should be done away with. We should have an in-depth discussion on this. I would not like to go into the details and would not like to name the profit making PSUs. It is very much known to

everybody. Many hon. Members of this august House as well as the hon. Minister know some of the things but many things are unknown to us.

Sir, my question is, for whose benefit is this process of disinvestment being undertaken? For whose good is it being done? Is it good for the country? Or, is it good for the monopolistic forces in this country?

Sir, I would like to mention the case of VSNL here. This of course is good for the economy of the Tatas as they have paid Rs. 1,145 crore to gain control of it and then withdrew Rs. 1200 crore to invest in one of their group of industries, the TTL.

But how is it good economics for the nation? Of course, it is good economics for the Tatas. It is amazing to know that the Ministry and the Minister himself had failed to notice that VSNL had a bank balance of over Rs.1,200 crore which the buyers could fully utilise!

Now the classification has been changed. In a written reply to an Unstarred Question in Rajya Sabha on 29th April, 2002, the Minister Shri Arun Shourie mentioned that decisions of disinvestment are based on considerations like classification of industry as strategic or non-strategic. Earlier we were thinking that disinvestment was done based on classification of industries as profit making and loss-making. Now, the understanding has been changed and it is told that the new theory is based on the concept of strategic and non-strategic. But it is not understood as to which are the strategic PSUs and which are not. How to differentiate as to which industries are non-strategic and which are strategic? What is the criterion followed to classify industries in such a manner? Are not industries like steel, oil, power, defence or ordnance factories, coal, textiles, to be considered strategic? Why are they taken as bodies for disinvestment? The Minister should clarify as to what is strategic and what is non-strategic from the point of view of disinvestment. We should have a clear understanding on these things. This august House should discuss these aspects of the issue. Disinvestment cannot be done based on the whimsical decisions taken by the Department of Disinvestment. It is a very important issue and it should be discussed.

My third point is, what is the methodology for going in for disinvestment? What is the methodology to assess the value of the industries in question? In most of the cases it is revealed that the industries are drastically underrated. BALCO is a clear example. With a large number of cash-rich profit-making PSUs slated for disinvestment this fiscal year, the Government must draw up proper guidelines to ensure that those entities are not disinvested in a manner which helps the private sector firms in acquiring them with a view to making huge amounts of money by resorting to asset stripping.

A nation progresses by enhancing its assets; a nation becomes progressive by enhancing its industries and all its assets. Nowadays, the Government of India, and in particular the Department of Disinvestment and the Minister himself, are selling the assets of our nation. I say asset stripping is going on.

Sir, my submission is that our nation has yet to go a long way, particularly in the area of industrial development. There is a plenty of scope of investment in various sectors of economy. There is no dearth of investment opportunities for private enterprises even if PSUs are not handed over to them on a platter.

Sir, we are told that many PSUs are failing in efficiency. But let me say that efficiency is not the monopoly of the private sector of our country. We have a lot of PSUs which are very efficient and competent enough. We cannot deny this fact. If the private sector, if the monopolists want to develop themselves, let them start a fresh enterprise and compete with the public sector.

So, again, I would like to underline that efficiency is not the monopoly of the private sector. A large number of private entrepreneurs in the country are hardly efficient to compete with their foreign counterpart. Can we deny it? We are talking about the efficiency of the private sector! What is our experience? It is known to us. It is a very sad experience which we have gathered about.

Sir, there are many capitalist countries which are running their public sector enterprises very successfully, which are giving good competition to the private sector. Private sector often leads to asset stripping.

Sir, a former World Bank Chief Economist Stigliz has criticised the Washington consensus of IMF policies. Please allow me to quote a few lines. It has come in the *National Herald* of 25 June, 2002, where it is written:

> "Former World Bank Chief Economist Stiglitz is no socialist, but that does not bar him from criticising the Washington consensus of IMF policies."

Let me also quote what Stiglitz said. He said:

> "Liberalisation was supposed to move workers from

[Shri Prabodh Panda]

> low to high productivity job. In all too many countries, it moved them from low to zero productivity jobs - unemployment. This is a recipe, not for growth, but for increasing poverty. The problems of Britain's rail privatisation and California's electricity deregulation have stripped bare the dangers of neo-liberal policies even in the best of circumstances."

Sir, again I am quoting as to what Nobel Laureate Joseph Stiglitz pointed out regarding the Russian privatisation. He said:

> "A few oligarchs garnered billions, but they did so by stripping assets rather than creating wealth. Russia's capital market liberalisation led to vast capital flight, not the promised flow of investment. While the State gave away the nation's jewels, it could not pay pensioners their miserable allowances."

Sir, we are facing these dangers. So, we cannot underestimate or undermine this fact.

Sir, in the beginning itself, I had raised the question as to what their purpose is about disinvestment. It was told that their, purpose of disinvestment is for the social sector; for allotting more money for the development of social sector.

16.20 hrs.

(SHRI P.H. PANDIAN *In the Chair*)

But, Sir, this side is very sad. The money allotted out of the Consolidated Fund of India to the social sector this year is not up to the mark. I must say that it is a sad picture. What purpose will be served with this indiscriminate disinvestment? It seems that this Government is facing fiscal deficit, revenue collection deficit and budget deficit and only to overcome that deficit it is pursuing this disinvestment policy unabated. It seems to me that the Government is guided by the philosophers. Members might be knowing about the old Charraka philosophy.

Yaaret Jivet Sukham Jivet
Rinam Kritwa Ghritam Pibet
Bhasmi bhootasya Dehasya

The main idea of the philosophy is, so long you live you live happily by borrowing. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): You have missed one line. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: This Government knows that it will not come to power again. It seems it is not optimist to retain power next time so, it is going to sell the Family Silver as much as it can. I demand a total review of this policy as it is in contravention of the main spirit, the essence, of our Constitution. It is in blatant contravention of our self-reliant economic policy. It is not a small thing which should be taken in a casual manner. We should have an in-depth discussion on this. Our country is proud of our self-reliant economy. The key to our self-reliant economy is the State sector, the PSUs. But the Government of the day is continuing with its policy to sell out everything, all the assets and wealth of our country. This has not only weakened our self-reliant economy but it will certainly weaken the strength of our sovereignty.

So, I demand an in-depth discussion on the matter. I think the Government should think over it in the interest of our nation. It should strengthen our already weak economy. I only hope that the Government will review the whole disinvestment policy. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST): Mr. Chairman, Sir, once again we are discussing re-birth and again we deliberating upon disinvestment. Pandaji said something about re-birth and Rambhauji reminded him that a line was missing. You can imagine what connection communists can have with re-birth, culture and religion.

[English]

Hon. Chairman Sir, an advertisement has appeared in yesterday's newspaper which says:

> "Wanted Directorate of Disinvestment. Engagement of an Adviser for disinvestment in a chemical company."

Then all the details have been given that they want to disinvest their equity shareholding to the extent of 44.26 per cent and rest of the details are given therein. Then it says that interested parties may visit the website.

[Translation]

I welcome the move made by Mr. Arun Shourie for developing a decent professionalism and would urge hon. Priya Ranjan Dasmunshi that if their State Governments want to help the Central Government in its best efforts, bring in professionalism then we should make concerted efforts to welcome those State Governments.

[English]

This advertisement has been given by the Government

of Punjab to disinvest its 44.26 per cent shares held by the Punjab Alkalis and Chemicals Limited. It is a Government undertaking. Of course, it is a good beginning. Sir, different ruling parties in different States have to think about it. They have to accept the change in economic system.

[Translation]

You can take the example of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat and several other states in the context of disinvestment.

[English]

One must think why we need privatisation. I think it is better to think. Many times, we argue - whether it is disinvesment or privatisation - any economic expert - would argue that there should be optimum utilisation of national resources. Which way one has to go, that depends upon the person? Whose property is it? After all it is the national property and if it is not properly utilised by one person or by some executive or bureaucrat - you and I do not run the company - it should be handed over to another set of persons. With some changes, if we can have belief and optimum utilisation, I think, one must appreciate that. That is why, we need disinvestment. Who runs the company? It would be some executive or some professional or some bureaucrat.

Sir, yesterday only, we have passed Supplementary Demands for Grants. As we all know, some major provisions have been made. One such provision is regarding loan of Rs.720 crore to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited by the Department of Telecommunication, Government of India.

Another major payment is of Rs.500 crore to the UTI and Rs. 186 crore to Indian Iron and Steel Company. There are 145 companies under Bharat Refractories Limited. ...*(Interruptions)* I will come to VRS. Today, I do not want to score points. Another payment is to the Central Bank of India which is Rs.681 crore. These are different types of payments. All are not arising out of VRS. There may be one or two cases under VRS. It may be due to bureaucratic or the executive or the professional management depending on how it has worked and that is why, Government is contributing. For UCO Bank, the amount is Rs.1665 crores. I am not blaming anybody. These are facts. We have passed this yesterday. At whose cost? The amount towards Tyre Corporation of India comes to Rs.100 crore and in the case of Hindustan Paper Corporation, it is Rs. 445 crores. Why are we making payments? What for? Are all of them due to VRS? At least, sometimes

[Translation]

we should talk rising above party lines.

[English]

Many times, in economy, we discuss the meaning of profit-making. We have discussed it sometimes. Were the Government companies making profits? Yes, till yesterday, they were making profits in telecommunications. What is happening now and what is going to happen? Which mobile many of us or a majority of us are using? They do not go in for Government mobile phones. They do not go in for cellular phones of the PSUs. What about the family persons, colleagues and the workers?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR.): I am using two Government phones, one is of the MTNL and the other is of the BSNL. ...*(Interruptions)* You are going to kill both of them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am using the phone provided by the Parliament.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Somnath ji is a very nice person.

[English]

You are in Delhi and I understand the position in Delhi. But I want to enquire as to what the families are doing. When we ask family persons, colleagues and our fellow professionals.

[Translation]

They tell us we will go for best service.

[English]

We cannot compel the people. Why should we compel the customers and the common men?

[Translation]

Which is the profit making company these days, profit s earned by a company having monopoly when a little competition begins. What is the fate of the profit making companies.

[Shri Kirit Somaiya]

[English]

I will give you the figures of the net profit earned in respect of various sectors. In oil sector, the profit earned is 39.52 per cent and it is 16.19 per cent in the power sector. The position of insurance sector is 3.41 per cent and that of telecommunications is 9.94 per cent.

Sir, what is the meaning of profit-making concern?

[Translation]

Where there was a monopoly there was profit. UTI had its monopoly till 1998 and was earning profit.

[English]

In 1998, we opened the mutual fund industry and it was treated at par with others.

[Translation]

What is the situation today. 17 companies have entered in insurance sector. You can imagine the situation after 5 years. Who will buy these loss making units, which have been referred to BIFR would they be waiting till they become profit making company.

[English]

It is all right that Shri Arun Shourie has taken over charges.

[Translation]

But the people who were there before him for the last seven years, which loss making unit was sold by them and for how much?

The Minister who was in charge at that time did also work with responsibility. The disinvestment process was pushed ahead by him. How it was done.

[English]

I think we have discussed it many times.

[Translation]

Disinvestment was pushed ahead through Mutual Fund and other ways. The CAG Report reveals our position. Rs. 72, 182 crore is the amount of direct investment made by the Govt., Rs. 34,920 crore is the loan amount whereas Rs. 11,999 crore was provided for subsidy during the year 1999-2000. I can read out further figures.

[English]

What is the status? Out of 256 Government companies, 87 companies have completely eroded their equity investment. I would like to read further. The aggregate losses amount to Rs. 31,184 crore as on 31.3.2000.

[Translation]

I can read out all the figures but what is the use of that?

[English]

The number of PSUs suffering losses in 1997-98 was 104. Paid up capital is Rs. 21,000 crore and net losses Rs. 8,000 crore.

[Translation]

Thorough you, I would like to submit in the House that we have adopted an economic system in our country.

[English]

In 1991, we have changed. In 1995, we have changed. You cannot have both the things.

[Translation]

I have said it in the House on several occasions.

[English]

What should we do?

[Translation]

We should create an atmosphere, we should interact and hold discussions.

[English]

We need transparency. We need accountability. Priorities must be fixed. The State Governments, the Central Government and the PSUs should come together and should have a common strategy.

[Translation]

The present situation is like that those who are ruling in the states are sitting in the opposition at the centre and vice-versa. The Members of State Legislative Assemblies who may have allegiance with the BJP or with the parties which are part of the NDA at the centre do indulge in criticism there.

[English]

I think what is needed is disinvestment or privatisation or optimum utilisation of our resources.

[Translation]

I would like to request my colleagues from the Congress Party that they should not have a oscillating stand because...

[English]

Congress is the major opposition party.

[Translation]

They talk of national interest. They have 100 years old history. They should be talking with the ruling side on this subject.

[English]

We should have an open mind. If any correction is needed, we must be ready. The ruling party should also accept that.

[Translation]

We should chalk out the strategy, jointly. Today when Maharashtra, Gujarat or any other Govt. come forward to disinvest good PSUs in the market, the other parties also come out to find out shortcomings and faults in them and create an atmosphere against them by giving wider publicity in the press. It is but natural that there is some vested interest these PSUs are concerned.

[English]

He may be a supplier; he may be a purchaser; he may be an executive; he may be a corrupt official; he may be anybody; or he may be a corrupt politician, may be involved or connected with that transaction.

[Translation]

He creates an atmosphere to sabotage that.

[English]

Knowingly or unknowingly or due to ignorance. We also become apart of that.

[Translation]

We became a part of that. I would like to submit here that this may either the disinvestment process is halted or the required cost is not realised.

[English]

Day before yesterday, Shri Arun Shourie was discussing about this. He said, if we get Rs. 12,000 crore, the Finance Ministry can earmark Rs. 5,000 crore or Rs. 7,000 crore for restructuring.

[Translation]

What I have read suggests that there are two cases of VRS whereas the rest of the seven cases are of restructuring.

[English]

The other fund will be diverted for restructuring.

[Translation]

We can use the rest of money for social welfare works like setting up a hospital or dispensary or constructing roads or providing water facility in villages. The Hotel corporation of India is there, all right. I am a Member of Parliament but if my brother goes out somewhere he will like to stay in some private hotel.

[English]

Before selecting or going for ITDC etc.

[Translation]

He would prefer to go to the hotel where he gets better service.

[English]

The common people feel so.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Shri Ananth Kumar is very fond of Ashoka Hotel. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Sometimes what happens is this. Many times we mix up politics with the economy.

[Translation]

We make the mistake of mixing economics with politics

[English]

When I am speaking, I am appealing to all of you. In Karnataka, sometimes, if they are taking a good step, the BJP should support it. So, that is why we should think above party line.

[Translation]

I would like to say you one thing.

[English]

I would appeal to the hon. Members not only from

[Shri Kirit Somaiya]

that side but also from this side also that there should be a common language and thinking. No differences of opinion should be uttered in public.

[Translation]

I welcome any move of disinvesting a particular PSU, but some executives of that PSU have vested interest. They want to float public issues simultaneously.

[English]

Government should ask for an explanation from him. It is the duty of the Govt.

[Translation]

That is why I say that when we discuss something. We should do so in a broader perspective, as we did in relation to MTNL.

[English]

My Government was opposing , it. It was our concept. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. There are four Members from your party to speak.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: I will not take more than five minutes.

[Translation]

I would like to say about the offer of 20 percent that the 20 percent offer should be for small investors.

[English]

I proposed it many political parties supported that concept. One Ministry opposed it.

[Translation]

It said that it might be beneficial or loss incurring.

[English]

We are confused. The Finance Ministry says like this.

[Translation]

Small investors will derive benefit out of that. The strategic investment which should have been made in other Ministry is now expected to be made. The interested parties thought that it might be loss incurring.

[English]

Then the Government took the decision.

[Translation]

No, let there be 20 per cent open offer.

[English]

What is the net result.

[Translation]

I was giving example that day.

[English]

I think we must think jointly.

[Translation]

Suppose IPCL has the stake of Rs. 40 and the small investors have their stake of Rs. 240, the small investors can boost the market up. They are getting six times more of their money. In ITC Rs. 1555 is being given against Rs. 150 crore. The small investors are going to get Rs. 770 crore against their net value of the same amount. That is why I think that we need to consider this subject in a broader perspective. I do not want to go into the details but our total investment.

[English]

What is the PE ratio? The hon. Minister is having better figures with him about that.

[Translation]

But when we compare that if there is a monopolistic system in one industry then its price earning is good, but in case there are other four competitors, their PE ratio automatically comes down.

[English]

We have seen it in Telecommunications. Hotel Industries and in many other industries.

[Translation]

I would appreciate Delhi Govt., if it gathered courage.

[English]

My party made an effort. They wanted to make some experiment.

[Translation]

The Delhi Govt. wants to hand over the power distribution to private players in Delhi.

[English]

What should we think of it?

[Translation]

I do not support that, nor do I oppose that, but we must create a platform system there healthy debates could be held.

[English]

I make an appeal to my fellow party people, fellow party Members and particularly to the Congress Party people that we should consider it above party lines.

[Translation]

We should consider it in a broader perspective. Lastly I would like to say that I can give many examples of foreign countries. I can give the examples of China and UK.

[English]

What has happened in BALCO?

[Translation]

I can give that example also. I can also give the example of profit and production position in Modern foods as to actually

[English]

Whose property is it?

[Translation]

At times the hon. Members are under the illusion that they are the custodian of the country, the society and the property of the country. The society is above the Govt.

[English]

I may differ with some business houses or some issues.

[Translation]

At times one say that why Mr. Ratan Tata or the Tata Group should own the VSNL. Do they have less money to support themselves and for making tours?

[English]

I am not talking about any particular business house. There are several business houses in India.

[Translation]

The society and the country is not built up only by politicians or the industrialists. The social activists and the common masses do also contribute in this process. Govt. is a small part of the society. The fact, however, remains that Ratan Tata has shown his interest in the VSNL.

[English]

What was the objective?

[Translation]

What did that mean? That did not mean that he had to walk away in the foreign country after taking over the VSNL.

[English]

He wanted to do something for the country.

[Translation]

It hardly makes any difference to the Tata Group whether it takes over the aforesaid companies or not.

[English]

I can quote several other industries here.

[Translation]

Therefore, at times I think that in a bid to score points against one another, even the good industrialists became the subject of criticism and the professional management of good executives are attacked, so in the last I would like to request you that when investment that is.

[English]

The privatisation is for the optimum utilisation of our national resources.

[Translation]

By doing so let us create a positive atmosphere in the country which would be beneficial for the entire country and then would be ensuring the welfare of the society in a better way.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will not take much time today because my young friend, Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia will deal with the subject more effectively. I will confine myself only to a few policy matters.

First, I would like to say that I am sorry that I cannot

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

agree with him with all his economic understanding, knowledge, wisdom and global approach. He asked as to why both the parties cannot sit together. I am going to disappoint him on this point also because the Congress Party will never sit with the BJP to organise the loot of the nation. We have to maintain our difference, ideologically, politically and economically.

Sir, whenever the debate on disinvestment takes place in this House, the Members from the Treasury Benches ask only one question. Who introduced the disinvestment policy in the country? When they get into more trouble, then they ask: Is it not the Congress Party which tried to initiate the process? They say that they are simply following the policy initiated by the Congress Party and implementing it. I do agree that during Dr. Mamnohan Singh's tenure as the Finance Minister, in his several Budget speeches and other economic policy pronouncements, he did lay emphasis that the time has come, in the mixed economic concept of India, to respond to global economic challenges and to ensure the commencement of market economy. We said that we might have to restructure and have a look at the whole issue once again and disinvestment might be necessary. I do not deny that. We have been accursed for that. Even the Left Parties, whenever they widen their difference with the Congress Party, they widen it not on the issue of secularism, but certainly on economic issues. I respect their position.

Sir, the Government led by Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao assumed office in an atmosphere where our economy was totally in shambles and our country was almost in a mortgage. I remember that when I approached Dr. Manmohan Singh for sanction of US$ 3000 to hire the services of a football coach from abroad, he said that he could not give me even US$ 500. So, I knew the difficulties he faced and the pains he suffered. He, perhaps, tried to approach the whole issue in a new direction.

Sir, we discussed this matter in our party. We made a self-introspection on this issue and even there was a serious fight within the Congress Party to address the whole issue once again.

The Congress Party, since its inception, has been addressing such economic issues time and again. I quote what we said:

> "Disinvestment and privatisation would be carried out in accordance with clear policy priorities and transparent modalities, not as an assault on the public sector but in the interest of ensuring the Congress heritage of mixed economy, reflect changing requirements and evolving imperatives with commanding emphasis to protect the interests of the public sector who are emerging to contribute in the vital core areas of the nation."

Which are the vital core areas of the nation? Your Government even ignored the recommendations of the Rangarajan Committee. That Committee identified six vital areas: coal and lignite, mineral oil, arms and ammunition, Defence equipment, atomic energy, radio-active minerals and railway transport. Your Government in 1999-2000 further reduced it to three core sectors: arms and ammunition, allied items of Defence equipment and atomic energy except in areas like generation of nuclear power and railway transport.

My most important submission today, through you, to the Government is that in a situation like this, we are fighting cross-border terrorism, in a situation like this, our entire national security system is on test by the threats posed today by Pakistan, but maybe tomorrow by somebody else. I do not like to name the nation. At that given point of time, while you consider that Defence and Defence equipment should not be touched, can the defence of India be considered as a core sector delinking the oil sector and the petroleum sector?

What was the background of nationalisation of Burmah-Shell and other companies by Shrimati Indira Gandhi after the Bangladesh liberation war with Pakistan? Do you know the background? I want to enlighten my friend. At that time, Shri Arun Shourie was not in this House. But as a prudent journalist, he has knowledge and capacity to follow the process of the nation in those days. One of the basic points was that during the war with Pakistan, the then Government headed by Shrimati Gandhi felt it logical and discussed in a meeting of the Cabinet that private oil company operators-through their depots did not cooperate with the Defence authorities in time. She took a courageous stand. This is a core sector linked with the supplies for Defence. We cannot leave it into the hands of a few private individuals to operate as they like and she nationalised it. Today, is it not more pertinent and prudent? While you are fighting insurgent forces in the North- East, and fighting crucial things as a nation against the terrorists, anything may come up. The Parliament is there to support the Government in a sector like oil. I come back to the Government equity at the time of nationalisation of IBP and Hindustan Petroleum? What was there? The Government equity on that date was less than Rs. 40 crore and 28 crore, respectively. Today, the equity expanded to the tune of Rs. 20,000 crore and Rs. 24,000 crore. Do you want to say that it is our failure? It is sweat, dedication and commitment of the people in the oil sector.

I am not questioning anybody's *bonafides*. As a matter of policy, is the Government not considering it at this moment? On the one hand, we have not settled our problems with China. But on the other hand, the USA is trying to have a theatre between India and Pakistan every now and then. The missile defence trategy of Mr. Bush is posing a new question because we are a nuclear nation.

The nation is united. All the parties would fight terrorism till the end of the problem. We shall protect our sovereignty. At this juncture, you want to privatise part-by-part ONGC, part-by-part Gas Authority, part-by-part the prestigious BPL, the HP and the Indian Oil. Who would give the guarantee to keep a depot in the North-East? Once the process starts, Shri Shourie, the process is not ended. But it accelerates.

I am sorry to say that if there is any shortcomings on the part of Congress Policies, just a linency, with all the emphasis at my command, on behalf of the Party, I say, we have reviewed the whole issue, re-addressed the whole issue and we think at this hour that a strategic sector like petroleum should not be put into the basket of disinvestment in the manner they are doing. It will be lost, it will pose a threat to our national security one day.

We have gone through the investment they have made. My friend, Shri Kirit Somaiya was asking what profit they have earned. I would like to know what profit has been earned by the private companies of France and the US. I can tell with authority, the Minister of Petroleum knows the facts and he can defend me, our oil companies are performing better than the multinational companies of France, Germany and the United States. Should I place the papers before you and let there be a debate on that. This is a time when we shall encourage our public sector to go in for joint ventures abroad to go and bring more money to India instead of their doing disinvestment.

Only today morning, the hon. Minister replied to a question, how ONGC has accepted challenging projects abroad, to the tune of an investment of Rs.8000 crore. At a time when Prime Minister says that the country's defence is first and last, when the Deputy Prime Minister says national security cannot be compromised, when the Parliament says, it is with the Government, at that time, the Disinvestment Minister thinks petroleum sector should be touched, ONGC's equity should be shed. How much money they need? They need Rs.12,000 crore. They are getting Rs.5,000 crore, Rs.1,200 crore straightaway from Burma Oil and Engineers India and if they just shed 10 per cent equity to the market share not to a company, only of ONGC, I am saying you get another Rs.5,000 crore. That makes Rs.6,200 crore and the money that they accumulated is not yet enough to meet their Rs.12,000 crore and they are jumping to get Rs.26,000 crore. Who do they want to please?

Therefore, will the Government consider along with defence and nuclear installations of atomic energy and railway transport, they want oil sector and power, of course, to be taken in that basket as a policy matter and nothing personal. I just request to the Government that this issue is very vital, the property, the structure, the expertise that was build by Indian engineers through *Tel Bhavan* at Dehradun to all the head offices of this oil company will go waste. I feel proud not because it is a *Navrattana* but because they are all Indian guys. They developed the technology and now the Government is leaving it to the private and anybody can come and enjoy it. Take today the 25 per cent stake, extend your hands for 50 per cent at the end of the day, we are dead. It is madness. I say, this is not disinvestment, this is madness. Stop this madness.

My friend, Shri Kirit Somaiya was telling about Hotel Corporation of India. I will not go into individual cases. But, yes, there are sick hotels or poor management. You do restructuring. A new word has come, 'restructuring'. But did the BPL ask a single penny from this Parliament that give us a penny to restructure BPL till date? Did HP ask, did Indian Oil ask, did ONGC ask for a single penny. I need an answer from the hon. Minister. They did not ask for a single penny for their own. They are making their earnings from their own and giving it to the nation.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: They are prepared to raise money from the market.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Yes, they are prepared to raise money from the market. Yet the Government feels that it is to collect money through disinvestment to restructure. Who do they want to restructure? Restructure their Cabinet to make somebody Deputy-Prime Minister or somebody else or restructure what? Oil companies! They do not want a single penny from Shri Arun Shourie or from the hon. Finance Minister to restructure BPL or ONGC. They do not need. Even Shri Ram Naik does not it as a Petroleum Minister. Yet, they are giving a wrong message to the nation that this fund will be utilised for restructuring.

I would ask them not to try to fool the nation and mislead us. They should tell us that they have a problem that they cannot manage the deficit Budget, that they cannot realise the things and that they have to get money and the easy way to get money is to sale the best jewellery in the market.

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

17.00 hrs.

That is a different issue. But you do not need it. What is the market value of Juhu Hotel? Shri Kirit Somaiya has left the House. He is from Mumbai. I am not from Mumbai. I do not know the market price. I think, it is sold for Rs. 150 crore. What is the market value of the land of Juhu Hotel? It is more than Rs. 300 crore. Can Shri Shivraj V. Patil deny it? Can Shri Ram Naik deny it? The land value is more than Rs. 300 crore. You are disposing it for restructuring and calling it as a strategic sale in order to support the Government for Rs. 150 crore. You are calling it transparency. Should we not call it as some kind of a deal? If we smell a rat, should we not question your *bonafide*? You can realise what is the market value of the land and forget about the structure. We say this as 'loot'.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, since Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia will deal with this subject at length, I do not want to take much time of the House. I would like to quote the Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee. You must have some respect to these Parliamentary Committees. Shri Arun Shourie, never think that all less intelligent and less capable people are working in the Standing Committee. We may not have won Magsaysay award as you have won. We may not have the dynamic capacity to dispose of all the properties in one stroke. But in the Standing Committee, distinguished Members work together and at the end, they came to this conclusion. In this Standing Committee, your Party Members were also there. It says:

> "The Committee are of the firm opinion that the Government should come out with a categorical policy statement that the Indian Oil Corporation shall not be privatised during the next 15 to 20 years. Further, the Committee, therefore, recommend that there is no need for disinvestment of BPCL and HPCL."

You have no respect to the observations of these Committees. You have no respect to the capacity and output of these companies. You have no respect to the national security angle, which is linking with the oil sector. You are simply thinking that all these things should be done. You are having only one latch that the Congress Party has started it. I say with authority: 'Yes, when we were in difficult times, we did approach this issue in a microscopic manner without anticipating the danger and the advantage that you will exploit'. We assure the House that we are going to bring back the health of the public sector, who are contributing to the nation in a better height, in the order as Shrimati Indira Gandhi dreamt. The Indian National Congress is going to change and reshape the entire economic approach of the nation. We will once again bring the rails, which were derailed, to the rail track.

Therefore, I appeal to the Minister and to the entire Government, through you, Sir, to spare the oil sector. Please do not try to bum your own finger. You may please Shri Vajpayee and Shri Advani and say to them: 'I have done the job. I brought you money'. After 10 or 15 years, Shri Arun Shourie may not be here and I may not be here but the future generation, sitting on this side or that side, will have to lament, and others, who are in the private sector, will dictate terms.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) Mr. Chairman, Sir I compliment Shri Dasmunsi for his intervention which has focussed some of the major topics which I also wanted to mention.

Sir, we should be celebrating 55 years of our Independence within a few days, within a fortnight. We are suffering from acute unemployment in this country. After 55 years, the paradox is that young people have no faith in the future, they have no opportunities for earning their livelihood. We have no Ministry of Employment in this country instead we have a Ministry of Disinvestment in this country.

Sir, as a sort of policy announcement of the NDA, which is a motley combination of opportunist alliance, they assured of one crore jobs every year.

I was trying, to go through his concoction, but nothing is mentioned about providing jobs. He is working overtime to earn money for this bankrupt Government which is carrying on with these anti-national and anti-people policies, and in the process - I am charging - that it is creating more unemployment, more penury for the people. You are surrendering yourself to the big multinational companies. They are being dictated by some masters. Of course, I need not name them. They are all well known.

The Minister has been promoted, to the Cabinet rank for his great achievement. I do not grudge. I am happy. We know him. So long as he was a journalist *per se*, simpliciter he was quite acceptable to everybody. But he is now fighting for disinvestment with great gusto and he is carrying on with his dismantling campaign. He considers himself to be the only effective Minister here. He is the self-appointed advisor to all - to his Party, to his allies, to the private sector, to his colleagues in the Cabinet. Everyday Shri Ram Naik is getting advice, right and left punches, from him. He was carrying on with a spree until he met more than his match in Shri Pramod Mahajan. He had to halt until they

were summoned by the Deputy Headmaster or the *de facto* Headmaster, Shri L.K. Advani. He had chastised both. I do not know who was more chastised. Now there is a quietness. There is no problem.

Have you seen this, Sir? We had also seen in the paper that he was very keenly expecting his reward, the Finance Ministry.

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): This is uncalled for. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: It was expected. You were not expecting. People expected.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: You are making a remark that I am acting as a self-appointed advisor to everybody. This is unbecoming of you.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I will prove that. Why do I say that? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: What is this? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I will prove it. You have patience. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE): He was adjudged as the best Minister by 50 editors of this country. You should also know this information. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, recently, last July, three articles appeared in a newspaper under the name of Shri Arun Shourie who is holding a position in the Cabinet. I would like to know, in what capacity he wrote those articles. Has he not criticised the functioning of his Government? He has criticised the functioning of the Public Sector Undertakings of which different Ministers are presiding today. Has he not criticised the Hotel Corporation? There is a Minister of Tourism. He has criticised many other sectors. ...*(Interruptions)* You listen to me. You answer during your time. Do not interrupt me.

I said he is behaving like a self-appointed advisor to everybody. He is giving advice to the State Governments. He has criticised them. In what capacity you have criticised? ...*(Interruptions)* This is too much. That is why, he has not been promoted further. Therefore, I take the strongest objection to this. I would like to know this from different Ministers under whom the PSUs are there. What are their responses to this?

Is there any malfunctioning in the PSUs under one or the other of the Ministers? Shri Arun Shourie is not heading any PSU. So, who is responsible for this? Who is accountable? Who will answer in Parliament? Who will take a decision for sale? This is what we would like to know. What is the role of the different Cabinet Ministers? Shri Ram Naik, have you not a sense of responsibility? Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil, you have taken over a very important Ministry. I would like to know from the hon. Minister in what capacity he wrote those articles. Was it on behalf of the Cabinet?

He is giving us lectures on what is happening in West Bengal. Who has asked for his lectures? Which are those concerns that have gone to the BIFR? All of them were taken over much before we came to power, during the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, because it was felt by the then Congress Government that these important units should not be a allowed to be closed down. So, workers' interest, of course, was there. There is nothing to be ashamed of; workers' interest has to be protected. They are producing the wealth. It has now become a matter of derision or ridicule. If we talk of the workers, it is a matter of ridicule according to you. What is more important is how much money you get. Human life has lost all relevance in this country. You are glibly talking of VRS; you are not talking of giving even one employment to anybody. You do not feel ashamed of yourself.

Why are we raising this issue here? It is because serious concerns have rightly been expressed. So, we shall do it. We are being told of efficiency. Here is a book. This is titled *Policy and Procedures, Department of Disinvetment, Government of India*. He did not have the courage even to present it in the House. It was distributed to us through the Publication Counter. No discussion was ever desired by the Government on the floor of this House. The great efficiency of the Department, which is now a Ministry could be seen from the fact that not even a date or month or year is mentioned to indicate when it was published. It could be utilised in any way. This is the efficiency we find. Nobody knows this is the policy of which date or which year. You may kindly see this. It has the same advisorial and holier than thou attitude. It reads:

> "Political parties have developed a practice in India of doing one thing when and where they are in power and opposing the same thing when and where they are out of power."

This is Mr. Arun Shourie's foreward. Everybody is behaving, according to him, in a manner which is not consistent with probity or sincerity. He abuses everybody. This is the foreword.

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

17.14 hrs.

(Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya in the Chair)

The justification is given in Chapter XII, page 35. They say that the whole policy has been developed by them because of the WTO compulsions. According to them, it has made it imperative that the public sector is privatised at the earliest, failing which it will soon fall sick and find it extremely difficult to survive in the new competitive environment. I would like to know, which among the profit-making units would have fallen sick. Where is the finding? Where is the study made that VSNL, Indian Oil Corporation, HPCL, BPCL, NALCO and CMC would have fallen sick? According to you, that is the justification for the announcement of your Disinvestment policies and programmes. They say resources currently dumped, blocked in non-strategic PSUs should, therefore, be released as soon as possible through sale of Government's stake in such PSUs for redeployment in this sector. Where have they been redeployed? In which sectors have you redeployed them? You have to tell the country and to this House which are the industries where you have redeployed the resources. "We should also ensure that there is no further flow of resources to these PSUs and more PSUs are formed with non-strategic sector".

Now, according to this Book, the logic, the rationale for privatising or not privatising is not based on whether it is making profit or loss, but whether it is in a strategic sector or in a non-strategic sector. Therefore, according to them, profit or loss is meaningless. Then, why did you differentiate the *Navaratnas*? Why did you mention with great gusto that here we have the *Navaratnas*. We shall strengthen them.

Which concerns were there in India when we became independent? Let him name them. Without Steel Authority of India Limited, without these oil companies, even in the financial sector, even in the insurance sector, they have all now been privatised. The small banks had gone into liquidation. A number of private banks had gone into liquidation. The banks had to be nationalised because this country was in great throes of financial crisis. We supported it. Then comes insurance. We were told that milk and honey start flowing as soon as it is denationalised. Where is the market? Who has got the honey, if at all the honey has come? We were told that there would be no dearth of resources thereafter. What has happened? All of them, even my friends in the Congress Party have supported it with great gusto. They felt that the whole country's financial resources would jump up. Where are those funds? For how many years have we denationalised the insurance? Wherefrom the money is coming? Therefore, now all these talks about strategic and non-strategic sector are there. Which is strategic and which, is non-strategic? How is it decided?

The hon. Member, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has said that they mentioned only three items-Defence, Atomic Energy and the Railway transport. As rightly pointed out, whether coal and lignite are not strategic materials for us. What about oils? What about steel? In this country, in a developing country, steel has no strategic value. What is meant by strategic? You have given an official definition. On what basis is this done? They have not even accepted their Expert Committee's report.

Sir, it has been rightly asked what is the criterion for deciding what is a strategic sector? Who has decided this? Is it that because you have decided that it has become a holy cow and we cannot touch it?

Sir, this is an immediate and essential requirement that this be reviewed. Even the Standing Committee has given its views. This is very easy to say that the public sector is a loss-making, inefficient one, and monies are being blocked here and return is not coming and as if the only panacea of this country is to have private sector in every matter. Then, why have you kept 26 per cent or whatever percentage in BSNL? You could have got much more money. According to you, strategic or non-strategic is essential. It is not question of profit-making, which is not essential. According to you, if it is non-strategic, sell it. Why have you kept some interest? You would have got more money. What is the basis of it? I would not have quarrelled so much if there had been a proper case-to-case study of the loss-making units. We have been saying openly in this House that if some loss-making unit can never be revived because of obsolescence of technology, because there is no demand for its product or because it is otherwise not possible to run it, try to re-deploy these workers and close it down. We do not mind that. We requested Shri Narasimha Rao for a case-to-case study. We have requested Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee repeatedly for a case-to-case study. Take the workers into confidence. Take the Governments concerned into confidence. Discuss with them. Nobody would like to unnecessarily use funds for some concern which can never be revived. But that was never done. It is also not done and they say we do not have to bother whether it is a profit-making or non-profit-making. We find out a non-strategic sector, we just appoint some adviser or some consultant, etc. and say, well, we are very transparent and we have arrived at these figures. Kindly see the wonderful valuation that is being done and how they are being sold. The profit of BALCO was Rs.55 crore, it was

sold at Rs.826 crore, and admittedly, there is no valuation of the entire assets. In 10-15 years, its profit would have been sufficient. The profit of CMC limited was Rs.25 crore; it has been sold for Rs.152 crore. Of course, VSNL takes the cake. Its profit was Rs.I,778 crore; it has been sold at only twice the figure, that is, at Rs.3,600 crore. IBP's profit was Rs.54 crore; it is sold at Rs.1,152 crore. All these few years, there has been sufficient profit. Even then, how are you deciding about these profit-making units? These are all *Navaratnas*. They have taken a decision and we are patting on the back that wonderful achievement has been made. Now BPCL and HPCL are coming under the axe. Now he is not agreeing. One Ministry is not agreeing with the concerned Ministry. The concerned Ministry is the Petroleum Ministry. The Ministry of Petroleum is suggesting what is to be done, but you are saying, no. Because some sort of a Cabinet Committee is there, they overrule the concerned Ministry and this important oil sector will go or there will be disinvestment? I would like to know what is your intention - privatisation or disinvestment *per se*. You are achieving privatisation through disinvestment. You call it disinvestment, if not the Ministry of Privatisation. Disinvestment for what purpose? Just to raise some funds. Can it be only for the purpose of utilising the funds? There is no proper policy.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Somnathji, the subject is very important and you are speaking well but we have time constraint.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: This is the pang of it, Sir. I may not be treated as a great champion of workers that everybody in this House is!

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I am not stopping you. You are a Senior Member.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: But, Sir, what is happening to this country? Everyday these people are coming - coming to everybody, I am sure - saying: "Try to save us. What is our fault? What have we done? Are we not Indian citizens? Who is thinking of us?" Under VRS, you get some money and get away. If you do not accept it, you are a criminal, almost anti-national. This is the atmosphere that is being created in this country. If you oppose VRS, you are anti-national. Who is deciding the fate of these people? Only one Department will decide the fate of these people and I cannot say, coming here with the support of these people, that this is against the interests of the country!

Sir, the Standing Committee of Ministry of Finance is there which has some very eminent Members like Shri Kirit Somaiya, Shri Kharabela Swain, Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay, Shri Trilochan Kanungo. Members of all Parties are there. Shri S.S. Ahluwalia, who does not believe in keeping quiet is in this Committee. The Committee has members like Shri Dina Nath Mishra, Shri Parameshwar Kumar Agarwalla and Shri Sanjay Nirupam - the best brains of the Government combination are there. This Committee have, unanimously in April this year, filed this report expressing their deep concern at the real absence of any policy and about the lack of transparency and about the utilisation of the receipts. They said:

> "The Disinvestment proceeds are to be utilised for providing restructuring assistance to PSUs, safety net to workers, reduction of debt burden and additional budgeting support for the Plan, primarily in the social and infrastructure sector."

I would request the hon. Minister to please give us the figures of how much money you have utilised for restructuring assistance to PSUs out of the sale proceeds. How much have you provided for safety net to workers apart from VRS payments? What have you done to reduce the debt burden of this country? You have been incurring liability of debts indiscriminately and now these assets of the country are being sold to pay your interest liability and to meet your debt burden charges. For your failure, for your mishandling of the economy you are using this money. How much have you given for this and how much additional budgeting support for the Plan have you given? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE): Mr. Chairman, Sir, what does he want to say about transparency? ...*(Interruptions)* He has mentioned that we have opposed transparency.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Kharabela Swain, please sit down.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, will he repeat what we have told about transparency?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has appreciated you.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: He has also taken my name.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I said you are an eminent Member of the Committee. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I am a member of that Committee. I am asking Shri Somnath Chatterjee to please read what we told about transparency. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (BASIRHAT): Your name was mentioned as an eminent Member. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Kharabela Swain, when your turn comes you can speak. Please take your seat.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, in the same report itself, to which this distinguished Member was a party, it says:

> "The 'Disinvestment Policy and Procedure' states that due to interest payments, wages and salaries of Government employees and subsidiaries, the Government is left hardly with any surplus for capital expenditure on social and physical infrastructure such as basic education etc."

When asked if the objectives of disinvestment have been achieved, what was their reply? It is very important. What was the commitment to the country when you took up disinvestment as a policy for the utilisation of the resources? The reply given before the Committee was:

> "The disinvestment proceeds are deposited in the Consolidated Fund of India like any other receipt of Government of India. The expenditures out of the Consolidated Fund of India include outlays for infrastructure sector, restructuring of public sector enterprises, social sectors like education, health and family welfare etc. The expenditure incurred for these purposes was much higher than the receipts from disinvestment.

It has been said in the Budget speech that they were expecting Rs. 12,000 crore from disinvestment during the year and they have got only five thousand and odd crores of rupees. They said:

> "An amount of Rs. 7,000 crore out of this will be used for providing restructuring assistance to PSUs".

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: What did I ask and what is it that he is reading? Mr. Chairman, Sir, you please see this. Probably he very much believes in the communist theory that an untruth told ten times will become a truth. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Kharabela Swain, the hon. Member is not yielding. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, this is what he is doing. What is it that I am asking and what is it that he is reading? I asked about transparency. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down; otherwise I will have to say that nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, these days anything can be said on the floor of the House at any time.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: And for any length of time. That is how you proceed. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Shri Shourie, I do not want your lecture. You reply when you get your turn. Enough is enough. Please keep quiet. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, he is questioning the integrity of the hon. Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I have never questioned. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: But he should prove. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Swain, you speak when your turn comes.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (THANJAVUR): Whenever a senior leader, irrespective of who that leader is, is raising the issue, he is disturbing. This is not fair. ... *(Interruptions)* He is a senior leader. ... *(Interruptions)* This is not good. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Does a senior leader has any right to mislead the House? Shri Palanimanickam, I am very sorry. Senior leaders do not have any right to tell an untruth or mislead the House. Senior leaders do not have the right to mislead the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not allowing you.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Shri Palanimanickam, he took my name. He has mentioned about the Report of the Committee of which I am a Member....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Take your seat please.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Somnath Chatterjee, you have already taken half an hour. Please conclude now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, when I speak, you give me also half an hour. I also represent a 182-Member Party. You also give me the same time. *...(Interruptions)* If he speak for half an hour, I can also speak for half an hour. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Sir, he is dictating to the Chair. This is not fair. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I am a Member of the House. I have right to speak. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Chair is to decide and not you.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He has got some sort of allergy in himself. We know. We treat him in that fashion. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would request you to please conclude.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, let me complete this sentence. I have a lot more things to say. However, some people are not accustomed to hear them.

Sir, before the Standing Committee, it was stated by the representatives of the Department:

> "Since disinvestment proceeds are deposited in Consolidated Fund of India, there is no way to estimate how they have been spent."

Therefore, you have no material to say that. Then, how can you say that this is the policy, this is the object for utilisation of the proceeds, when you yourself say that it is not possible to find it out. How do you say that?

Sir, I am reading the recommendations of the Committee. It says:

> "One of the objectives of the disinvestment policy is to ensure spending on social and infrastructure sectors such as basic education, primary health and family welfare. However, the Committee find that there is no system to ensure that he funds thus received are utilized for these sectors. In their opinion, since the proceeds are deposited in the Consolidated fund of India, the Government may change its priorities later on and utilize the proceeds in any other sector. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Government should put in place a system to ensure that a good portion of the sale proceeds from the PSUs disinvestments is actually spent on the social and infrastructural sectors as was envisaged in the objectives of the disinvestment."

Again, it is mentioned in a unanimous Report. What is less transparent? What more can be accused of lack of transparency?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Serious complaints have been made about asset valuation, about the choice of bidders. Of course, we know how IPCL has gone to some concern here and how the allegations, charges and criminal proceedings against them have been ignored.

Sir, I wish you could give me five minutes more. I could have shown here what sort of political expediency was adopted for the purpose of allowing a particular business house to participate in the tender.

Sir, am I not, as a citizen of this country, entitled to ask as to what was the crime of NALCO and its workers? They were making a profit to the tune of Rs. 500 to Rs. 600 crore every year. They have tremendous resources. They did not ask for a single penny.

Sir, the Government did not even remember that VSNL had Rs. 1200 crore as resources and could spare that amount in cash. It was sold at a lesser value. Where is the accountability? There is not even a Consultative Committee attached to this Ministry. There is no accountability. The Finance Ministry finds little time to deal with the reports of the Standing Committees. There is no accountability anywhere. The Government does not discuss about a single unit and the interest of the workers is finally being jeopardised. The Government does not even consult the trade unions. They have no right.

Sir, for whose benefit is this policy? We charge that this is nothing but selling away the valuable assets and properties of this country because they are not able to meet their Budgetary demands and they cannot make both their ends meet and at the same time they are totally unconcerned.

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

Sir, was not the experience of Enron a lesson to them? The Government gave guarantees. After all sorts of enquiries, drum beating was going on about Enron. What has happened because of that guarantee? Why did you give the guarantee? You gave the guarantee because it was a private sector.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is a very vast subject. You please Co-operate.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, it is very true that it is a very wide subject. We cannot do justice to a debate on this subject that has started at 4 o' clock.

Sir, this is nothing but a deliberate sale of the assets and properties of this country. I would like to particularly refer to the profit-making units. It is not a question of re-structuring. I can understand about the loss-making units. We would have been prepared to sit with them and decide as to how best this could have been done. But now loss-making units and profit-making industries have no relevance and what they say is it is irrespective of being strategic or non-strategic. On that artificial definition, a totally inadequate definition of strategic sector, they are omitting the oil sector, they are omitting the steel sector and they are omitting the power sector and shipping sector. Why is it so? These all are important sectors. The result is that when this is being done, the hon. Minister very happily refers to all these because he has written elaborately about the misdeeds in the hotel industry. What action has been taken against his Cabinet colleague whose name has been openly mentioned? How is he enjoying the benefits of the Government hotels for his personal use? What has been done? Have you held him responsible? Shri Ram Naik, you are the biggest victim of his policies because you are presiding over the oil sector in this country and this policy would be continued. So, I hope, you would show the spirit of Shivaji for a while.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have not got that time because I do not represent a Party with 182 drum beaters! But these are vital issues. I would like the hon. Minister to reply to them and not run away like his Deputy Prime Minister who did not answer the questions on Gujarat.

Sir, therefore, I demand that there should be a thorough revision of this dangerous anti-national policy of disinvestment and the hush-hush manner in which it is being carried out. I do not know where this Ministry of Disinvestment is. I do not know in which *Bhawan* it is located. However, it does not matter. It must be there in some *Bhawan*. I do not know what is happening in the corridors of that *Bhawan* where this Ministry is located. But the interest of this country is at stake today. The people demand, the workers of this, country demand that this policy should immediately be scrapped and jettisoned. This is our demand on behalf of the teeming millions of this country.

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH (ELURU): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this subject of disinvestment of PSUs is very important. This policy was initiated in the year 1991-92. There is an investment of Rs. 2,50,000 crore in the PSUs and we had borrowed substantial sums of money for this from both inside the country as well as from abroad. .

We have borrowed substantial sums of money within the country as well as from outside and they have to be paid back. The return on these public sector undertakings has been very low. Something has to be done in this regard. Even the profit that some of the undertakings have been making were mainly due to the regime of administrative prices. It is because of that they are able to make a contribution.

When this policy was adopted in 1991-92, the primary objective of the Government was to see that Indian economy gained strength, and the performance of the public sector undertakings was strengthened. The industries were categorised as week, medium and strong units. Today they are categorised as strategic, non-strategic and core sector units. In the core sector come the space, atomic power and defence units. These units have to be maintained absolutely by the Government irrespective of the other conditions that are prevailing.

Today, when we discuss this issue of disinvestment, we have to look at the present condition of our economy and the requirements of the country today. Today in the country, we can see the situation with regard to our Defence forces, the problem of drought, and various other problems. At the same time, we would like to see as to how far we can run these industries efficiently in the larger interest of our economy.

Though this policy was adopted in 1991-92 in a very ambitious way, we have been able to achieve the targets for only three years. In 1991-92, about Rs.3000 crore worth stake was disinvested. In 1994-95, about Rs.4800 crore was done. In 1998-99, Rs.5000 crore was done. Overall, in ten years the Government was able to disinvest its stake only to the tune to Rs. 18,638 crore. It shows that the gap between the targets and the achievement is very wide.

Right now we feel that the targets set under this programme are very important. Within the Disinvestment Department a Committee should be created which should

be in a position to ensure that disinvestment is done in a proper way at a proper time. The stock markets are fluctuating. It has to be seen which stock is better to disinvest and what is the best time to disinvest. All these things have to be very carefully considered.

Another important thing is transparency. It has to be seen as to how to make the whole process more transparent. When the Government decides to disinvest in a particular organisation, the name of the organisation, the number of shares to be sold and all other details must be made public. Opportunity should be given to everybody to see as to what is the best price that can be realised.

The third thing that needs to be done is to see as to what we are going to utilise these disinvestment proceeds on? The activities on which these proceeds are to utilised is very important. It has been said that these proceeds will be mainly used for restructuring the public sector enterprises, strengthening the social sector activities like education, health and family welfare. Some of these things are very important. The disinvestment proceeds must be invested in those sectors because budgetary support available to look after those sectors is not sufficient. So, disinvestment proceeds must be utilised on these sector.

It should also be seen as to what should be done to VRS. When a sick unit has to be closed down, we have to see that enough provision is made for offering VRS to its employees. Where it is possible to privatise the units, we should invite companies which are in a position to manage them better. We have to analyse things very clearly. As Shri Somnath Chatterjee has said, we have to look into two aspects - efficiency of the future management and the interest of the workers. All these things should be taken into consideration before you take decision on what you are going to do. So, I feel that setting up an Experts Committee is very important to go into all these aspects. If the experts feel that some public sector units can perform well with some help, they should be helped. The other day I happened to see the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, and the Bharat Electronics Limited. Some of these units which are performing extremely well require more money for R&D activity. Such units should be given more support. In those units which are doing extremely well, we need to make improvements. Some of the units which are suffering from several problems and which are impossible to be revived need to be wound up but it has to be seen that the workers of those units are taken care of.

Sir, we are now importing Rs. 80,000 crore worth of oil from outside. We have to develop our internal resources. Our balance of payment position is very bad. We have to see as to how we can improve the Indian oil development so that we utilise the funds, utilise the technology. Now, whether ONGC or some other organisation does it, but we have to find a way out. We have to concentrate and utilise these funds efficiently in the larger interest of the country.

Sir, today we are producing not even 25 per cent to 30 per cent of our oil requirement, and 70 per cent of it is being imported. So, we have to see how we are able to develop those sectors which will be in the interest of our country. Foreign exchange for this is more important.

We have to take into account the serious drought conditions also. Due to severe drought conditions, several States are in difficulty. We have to see that funds are utilised properly. Similarly, in the field of public sectors units, we have also to see that whether the funds are required, and, if so, they are utilised for the purpose or not.

In our State, Andhra Padesh, some of the units which were very inefficient in the hands of the Government, after being transferred into the private sectors, have been able to improve. They have done a substantial amount of work. That is why we have to identify - whether it is a States sector unit or the Central sector unit - as to what are the benefits that will accrue if it is disinvested. We have to see how we can utilise the units by disinvesting in the larger interest of the nation. We have to see how money can be utilised for the best purposes.

Sir, some friend said about the IPCL and IBP. How their market has been improved substantially, everybody knows. We have gained substantially there. That is what we should do. We have to see that the debts do not increase, even though our requirements and social obligations are increasing. Poverty alleviation is the most important thing for the upliftment of the people of our country. So, by looking at the larger interest of the country as a whole, disinvestment process can be done. Here, services of experts should be utilised. The Cabinet Committee which identifies the cases should take proper care and see carefully which are the things that they have to do.

They have the target of about Rs. 51,000 crore for the next three years. I do not know the exact amount they are thinking of. This is as per the figures I have got with me. If they are looking at it, they should see what are the types of utilisation that we require for various purposes, and how we can be able to do it. They should identify which sector has to be done and how it has to be done. They have to do all this with concentration.

[Dr. B.B. Ramaiah]

The strategy of their policy should be to see how can we be able to develop on the question of disinvestment. In some organisations, there is management deficiency. There are some organisations where there is no top management at all. Now, they have to see that those top management is filled up immediately, who would see as to how improvement could be made in those organisations. They should try to do it as early as possible.

So, disinvestment must be done in a proper and in a guided manner. Transparency is the most important point. Nobody should doubt about what we have done. It is to be very clearly understood that what we are doing is in the larger interest of the people, and we are doing is in the best way. Proper procedure should be followed so that nobody can even criticise the way we are doing it. That is why I say that the point of transparency is the most important point.

I am sure that the hon. Minister, Shri Arun Shourie and also the other team of people will consider all these aspects and take care of everything. I am also sure that they would take all the precautions in moving ahead the process of disinvestment which was started in the year 1991. We know that it had not been going on in a proper way. But I think, now if they want to do it, they can do it by adopting all the proper procedures, utilising the right methods. I am sure, they will take care of each and everything while doing it.

With these few words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH (MACHHLISHAHAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the concept of the Government should be that of a welfare state Government and this is what every government tries to do. Industries were set up under the public sector in 1956 with a view that Government would set up industries in rural areas and unemployed persons would get employment and that area would also get developed. The aim behind setting up industries in the public sector was also that if the Government would manufacture goods, the goods would not be costly despite the fact that main aim of the private companies is to earn more and more profits because when the Government also undertakes manufacturing of goods there would be competition and the Government would made available goods to the public at cheaper rates. Today, the question that I would like to ask the BJP people, who are in power now, is that when they were in the opposition, they used to give the slogan of 'Swadeshi' and as soon as they assumed power, they turned foreigners completely. Three points are important in relation to disinvestment, viz., whether the public sector companies are being disinvested, or privatised or sold off. My direct allegation is that what the people holding high positions are going to do? Will they made our country slave again or will they sell it of? They are selling all the companies one by one. Rather, I would say that the Department of Arun Shourie is neither a Disinvestment Department nor it is a department of privatisation, it is rather a sell off department which is on a selling spree. People are levelling allegations from all quarters be it the 'BALCO' or 'Maruti' or 'Hotel' deals or any other deals. For example, the valuation of 'BALCO' was Rs. 5000 crore but it was sold off for Rs. 500 or Rs. 550 crore only. Now the entire Government is in the dock. People holding high positions are under pressure of the foreigners. This is not privatisation, it is rather complete foreignisation. Why are they on a selling spree? I want to know from the Hon. Minister through you as to what is the reason for disinvestment. The Government should have retained 51 percent stake. Remaining 49% or say 20 or 25 percent shares could have been given to foreign companies. Then we could have said it disinvestment as a company was incurring losses and in order to make the company viable, its the shares were given to the private people. But the Government says that the money realised through disinvestment would be utilised for the development of villages, eradication of poverty and developmental works. I want to ask them as to how much money so realised has been utilised to bring about improvement in the power sector. They are utilising this money for meeting their own expenditure and making up the Budget deficit.

There is a maxim that a worthy father accumulates assets but if his son is unworthy, he will squander away all his assets. He will sold his entire property including jewellery and all other things. The outcome of the sell off by this Government would be known just five years later when this country would become economically bankrupt. They are selling public sector companies just for their own benefit. I have serious reservations about this disinvestment procedure. I am not levelling any allegation against any minister or any other particular person. I am directly blaming the entire Government. I want that this Government should come out with an explanation on this issue and should set up a judicial committee as to ascertain the real value of these assets. You have sold Government hotels at throw-away prices and there was no transparency. These deals were concluded in a confidential manner. If at all these hotels were to be sold it should have been done only after proper valuation. But the Government says that there hotels were sold through open bidding to the highest bidder. But was it proper to have sold a thing worth ten crore rupees

for just two crore rupees? I want to cite the example of a hotel at Khajuraho. It was sold merely for two crore rupees. If you evaluate the real value of the land of the hotel, it would work out to approximately fifty crore rupees. Should I not say then that it was sold through brokers? Now, the middlemen have their easy access to the Government who are selling our country, are hand in glove with foreign companies. Middlemen form abroad have also found their entry in our country and they are influencing the Government. The Government is under the full influence of the foreigners. What was the need to sell the Maruti? How much profit the Maruti was earning and when the workers of Maruti were sitting on relay-hunger strike. The 'Suzuki' does not listen to us. The day when public sector undertakings would be in the hands of the multi-national companies, will the Government have any control over them? I want to know this from the Government. The Government sets up public sector enterprises so that people could get employment. The Prime Minister says that employment would be provided to people every year, but people are being rendered jobless in this manner. So many people are on the verge of starvation. The Maruti company has fired all the workers. One worker approached me, who was going to commit suicide, because he was not getting job anywhere. The Government is not providing any means of livelihood. The Government should rather set up more companies. When all the public sector companies would be sold off, then an item which is being sold at Rs. 2/- at present, the private companies would sell the same item at the rate of Rs. two thousand. Thus, they would earn lakhs of rupees and would bleed this country white. My allegation is that this Government wants to sell off this country. If Railways are incurring losses these days, should the Railways also be sold off? If the Government of India is resorting to deficit financing, should it also be sold off. I perceive foreign hand in it. Neither the country nor any company of our country is safe in their hands.

Now the Government are going to sell off the Air India. The V.S.N.L. has already been sold out and new it is the turn of M.T.N.L. If this Government remains in power and this trend continues the country is heading towards ruination. There is a need to arrest this trend and create awareness amongst the people.

Sir, today Shri Arun Shourie is not known as the Minister of Disinvestment rather he is known as the Minister of sell out'. The Government have set up a separate department to sell out everything. It has sold out all the public sector companies and it intend to sell out the country as well. ...*(Interruptions)* he is a 'sell out' minister but a learned person. At that I want to tell him that this department was created for privatisation but it was named as department of disinvestment. You are heading towards privatisation and multinational companies. This is not the department of disinvestment, by naming this department as the department of disinvestment, the country is being deceived. This ministry is known as the ministry of Disinvestment, it is not the disinvestment which is taking place rather it is privatisation and selling out of the public sector companies to the foreign countries. You have strayed from the principles, on the basis of which you came to power. You have perhaps forgotten the national pride, Indianess and things like that you have sold out the entire country to America and to the foreign companies. This sell out is being carried out through the middlemen. The foreign brokers have found their entry into our country. A day will come when the people of this country will not be left with gold and silver. There will be no wealth in the country. The east India company started its business in the country before independence and plundered the country and ultimately enslaved the country. The day when the country becomes economically weak the country will face the real danger. You are selling out the assets of the country at throwaway prices for your own benefit and to overcome the budgetary deficit. I am making the allegations in no uncertain terms. These should be got investigated. You are losing ground in every state. I am warning the ministers sitting here in the House that in the next general elections you are going to lose badly. Your strength in Uttar Pradesh Assembly has come down to 98 and here in the Lok Sabha. You will be reduced to half of your present strength. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA (JUNAGARH): What happened in Goa?

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Goa is a small State. In Gujarat, you are going to be wiped out completely. Though Shri Arun Shourie is an honest person but he is working under pressure from certain quarters so he selling out everything. Hence he has become a sell out minister. If an honest person is entrapped you will also be entrapped. Though you are a good human being, learned person but you are under tremendous pressure. The fact remains that some people in the Government or some people who are capable of influencing the Government have come under pressure from the middlemen who are at work in this Government.

Therefore, I would like to say that the process of disinvestment should be discontinued and the disinvestment made so far should be got investigated through a Parliamentary committee or a judicial inquiry should be ordered to go into the entire process.. I cannot agree to selling off of the country. I oppose the disinvestment policy

[Shri C.N. Singh]

of the Government. Being a citizen of this country and being a member of this House I charge this Government with indulging in gross malpractices in the entire disinvestment process.

18.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are fifteen more hon'ble members to speak on this topic and the hon'ble Minister is also to reply. The time of the House may be extended up to 8 0' clock. What is the sense of the House?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (MAYILADUTURAI): Sir, I request you that it is a very important subject. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, U.P.): I request that keeping in view the sense of the House the time of the House should be extended to the extent the House wants to extend it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: In the first instance let us extend it by two hours. If need be, it can be extended farther.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Shri Arun Shourie is present here in the House. He is a writer and we read his articles. I request him to remain present in the House to listen to our viewpoint. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I must confess that I was one of his admirers and I had a very good impression about him. But now, he is not the same Arun Shourie. He is having such a bad company. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have put forth my view point before the House. For the moment the time of the House is extended by two hours. The hon'ble minister is also to reply to the debate. If need be the time of the House can be extended further.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PARBHANI): There should also be arrangements for meal.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: There should be arrangements of meal for the staff members also. Those people serve us and they do not get food. Food is provided only for the members.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, please direct the Minister of Parliament Affairs to arrange food for all the staff as well.

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: It will be better to sit upto the fixed time. Everytime the time of the House is extended and nothing new comes up for discussion. All the members repeat the same thing.

[English]

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I am also devoting as much time as you would like to. Probably, you want to sit upto 8 p.m. today and after that, if more rime is required, then you may take it up tomorrow or day after or as long as you want . ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have extended the time of the House for two hours. It cannot be taken up tomorrow because there will be Private Members' Business.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (LATUR): I think we may not have time tomorrow. We shall have to sit for more time and complete the business today.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: We should stick to the time because to expect that I should reply or anybody from us should go on upto 10 p.m. or 11 p.m. would not be fair. You are the masters of rules. The Chair is the master of rules. If you say that we should conclude by 8 p.m., then give me enough time to reply. If you say that you will finish at 8 p.m. and I should reply next week or whenever you like or we should continue next week, then it is perfectly fine. Otherwise, it is not fair to extend the debate as it happened in the past and - very strong points have been made - there is just no time to reply. And, then you will say that it is already 11 p.m and so, I have to finish it. I am only on that point. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA (KANAKPURA): Since disinvestment is an important issue, we all had demanded a discussion on it. I know that the hon. Minister has to give a comprehensive reply taking into consideration all the views expressed by Members from this side and the other side. You may take your own time. But this discussion cannot be scuttled by fixing the time as two hours from 4 p.m. as it was decided in the Business Advisory Committee. I do not know. Let him reply tomorrow or Monday or whatever time he wants to.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not possible to continue this discussion tomorrow because there is Private Members' Business.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: We do understand the difficulty faced by the hon. Minister and the Members.

But we assure the hon. Minister that we will be sitting here to hear his reply and we will not leave the House before hearing his complete reply This is a very important topic and Members are expressing their views and expressing them very strongly. It would not be proper to ask the Members not to say all that they want to say on the floor of the House.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I am for as much time as the House decides. I very much want that all these facts should be discussed. I only request the House to please allow me to reply to you on another day, like Monday or Tuesday. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will decide it later on. We have extended the sitting of the House by two hours. If it is necessary, we will decide later on.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, if the hon. Minister wants time to go through all the points so as to reply fully, well we will have no objection. But I was sitting in the Business Advisory Committee. Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmun i was also there. We have fixed the business for tomorrow. I find it difficult to find time. Yet the Government side is willing to accommodate, we have no objection. That means the Minister has to discuss this with the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will decide later on. We have decided to extend the sitting of the House by two hours.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: We are prepared to sit one hour more on Monday. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL (BULDANA): Disinvestment of public sector undertakings is a very important subject. It has come again for the discussion in the House. Our Government says that the Government has no business to do business. Hence the disinvestment. The aim behind disinvestment is to make the private partner in the undertaking to collect the money for the overall development of the country. Last time also I opposed this concept of disinvestment. I wish to bring our experience to the notice of the Government. If Government has no business to do business, then it is the duty of the Government to give employment to the younger generation of the country. What is our experience? No new employment has been created. The person who is already employed is losing that employment in the name of VRS or CRS. That is why we are creating more unemployment in the country. That is the fact. I am working among the working class, as the President of so many unions. That is why I have this experience. Wherever disinvestment has taken place, the Government has signed an agreement. The Government has put some conditions that no retrenchment will take place at least for three years unless employees themselves are prepared to take voluntary retirement. But what happens after three years? That is the definite question.

What about new employment opportunities where disinvestment has taken place? Thirdly, is there any Government policy regarding reservations in respect of employment in a particular company where disinvestment has taken place? I think no Government policy is there regarding reservations. I hope the hon. Minister will answer these three questions.

Next, in the financial institutions and nationalised banks, disinvestment is going to take place. There is a huge amount lying with very limited persons, the big-shots of the society. Because of that, a huge NPA is there in all the nationalised banks. What policy will the Government adopt regarding the huge amount lying with the big-shots? These are the questions uppermost in my mind. I would like to know the answers from the hon. Minister.

I will give some sort of suggestions. Ultimately, I am a partner of the NDA Government. A decision has already been taken. Day by day, disinvestment is going on. I would suggest that whatever amount is collected from the private partners in the name of disinvestment, from that a separate fund should be created and it should be utilised for the specific reasons like social security and public utility. This is my suggestion. I think the hon. Minister will reply to whatever questions that I have raised here.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA (KANAKPURA): Sir, this is one of the important issues. We are all very anxious to discuss the Disinvestment Policy. In 1996, we appointed the Disinvestment Commission taking into account the overall picture of the public sector undertakings. Some are profit-making and some are loss-making. We wanted that the loss-making public sector undertakings should not be a burden on the national exchequer. We desired that we should not meet the loss from the General Budget. With this aim, we took a decision to constitute the Disinvestment Commission.

I do not want to take the valuable time of this House. I would only refer to some of the references. The Disinvestment Commission has said:

> "The Government of India set up a Disinvestment Commission whose terms of reference included advice

[Shri H.D. Deve Gowda]

> on the proportion of equity owned by the Government to be now sold for a broad-based public ownership, including sale of equity to workers, small and other investors. It should be noted that the terms of reference permitted the Commission to handle restructuring of the public undertakings where needed only with marginal additions of capital to realise higher prices on the sale of equity."

Sir, I would like to know whether the main object of the Disinvestment Commission which we have constituted and its terms of reference have been followed by the present Government.

Sir, one of the senior most leaders in this House, Shri Somnath Chatterjee was very much bitter about the articles written by Shri Arun Shourie. I do not want to use any harsh expression and I do not want to question his integrity. I know him from his days as a journalist and now I am watching him as a Minister. The other Minister in-charge of tourism is sitting behind him and later I will give certain details as to how the Department of Tourism has functioned. I wrote a letter in this connection when I was not a Member of this House.

I am not going to make a lengthy speech. I will quote only certain observations made by one of the Members of the Disinvestment Commission. That is sufficient for the purpose of today's discussion. It says:

> "If disinvestment is linked to the budgetary deficit, it cannot be considered desirable. In fact, it is this aspect of disinvestment which is to be opposed and not disinvestment as such. That is why the Disinvestment Commission has recommended that it should be completely delinked from the budgetary requirement. The Commission has made a package of recommendations as an adjunct to the proportion of disinvestment or no disinvestment recommended. It is in this context that the Commission has recommended the constituting of a 'Disinvestment Fund' to which all proceeds are to be credited. The fund can be utilised partly for restructuring PSUs which can become viable or for increasing the intrinsic share values, partly for meeting the requirement of adequate funds for voluntary retirement scheme where downsizing labour is found necessary and yet another part is to be used for investment in the social sectors like education, health, water supply and the like."

Sir, the moot point here is whether the whole process of disinvestment is totally transparent or not. I would again like to quote a few lines from this paper. It further says:

> "Disinvestment will also be accepted by the public when there is transparency about the whole process including pricing and the market segments in which it takes place, either domestic or global. ...
>
> Pragmatism in Indian Economic Reform cannot bypass the major objective of generating fuller employment for the increasing work force and also for high wage employment for those who are in the low wage trap. If this objective is ignored in our anxiety for reform, unemployment would cause tremendous labour unrest, especially, in urban areas which could have serious consequences for the direction and the content of India's development."

Sir, I would like to draw the attention or the hon. Minister to another very important point regarding the employment policy of the Government. I would like to quote again. It says:

> "However, the Government do not seem to have realised the significance of a proper employment policy, which if ignored, can only end up in large scale labour unrest. Some may argue that it is enough if a higher growth rate like 7 per cent is achieved and it will generate additional employment. This seems to be a gross underestimation of employment needed."

In this context, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the statement made by Shri Dattopant Thengadi, one of the senior most labour leaders in this country. Probably he is senior than Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Shri L.K. Advani. He made a bitter attack on the policies of this Government when he addressed a big gathering at *Ramlila Maidan*. Mass unemployment is behind the menace of terrorism. The problem of Naxalites is increasing. There are anti-social elements. The communal violence is increasing. The data with the employment exchanges alone show that nearly 40 million unemployed people are registered with them in the country as a whole. This excludes the addition to labour force each year and also open unemployment of nearly another 35 million both in the urban and the rural areas which falls outside the registration system. This is the problem today. On one side, we are selling at a throwaway price.

When the issue of BALCO was discussed, I was not here. I watched the proceedings. Ultimately, the matter went to the Supreme Court. I do not want to comment on the judgement. The Supreme Court said: "It is a policy of the Government. We do not want to interfere." That is the sum and substance of the judgment. I am not an advocate. You will be able to understand: "Because it is a policy of

the Government, we do not want to interfere." I do not want to comment on the judgment. How has this Government acted on several issues? I am quoting from a note from Shri D.M. Nanjundappa who resigned from the membership of the Disinvestment Commission. We appointed him. He protested and resigned on some of the issues. He differed with the Commission and resigned.

I do not want to take much time of the House. Whether there is any transparency is an issue that I would like to bring to the notice of the House. I am not going to level charges. The hon. Minister wrote a letter to me when I wrote to him regarding the issue of two hotels. The hon. Minister holding the charge of Tourism is sitting behind him. He has also written. The matter is almost over. How have the things happened? Let me quote. In my home constituency, Hasan, there is a hotel, 'Ashok'. How was it sold? The District Registrar of Stamps has given a certified copy regarding the value of the property. It comes to nearly Rs. 8 crore. I have got the certified copy here in my hand. It indicates Rs. 8 crore. I come from that place. Let me not take credit as a former Prime Minister. As a citizen of that district, I know the value of the property. When I wrote a letter to the Prime Minister, everything has been handled. It has been published in Delhi in *The Economic Times*. The ordinary people of Hasan can understand it. Is this the way to sell a property at a throwaway price? The contractor, who has got it is a defaulter till today. What are the terms and conditions about the economic strength? All these things have been quoted in your notification. Up till now, he is a defaulter. I do not want to take his name. He is not a Member of this House to defend himself. He formed a private limited company. Then, he quoted some price. How has it been done? Is this Government prepared to hold an inquiry? It is private limited company run by a family. I do not want to read out the names. Is this the way that a transaction should be held? Have we given you the permission to sell the public sector undertakings for this purpose whether it is a hotel or any other industry? I cannot understand it. The value of the building is nearly Rs. 2 crore. They should say it has been done, it is over. What type of transparency is this? This is a certified copy of the District Registrar of Stamps and Duties.

After one week one more person, because he is not a person who is experienced in hotel industry, from Kerala has been included in the partnership deal. I have got a certified copy of that also.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He must be the real person.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: This is a great hotel robbery. Should anybody have to authenticate this? Is the Government looking into all these things? I want to ask this from the Government.

When I was the Prime Minister, *The Indian Express* published an article regarding purchase of 12 railway cranes. When I saw that report, I asked the Cabinet Secretary to put the entire file for my perusal. I would like whether this Government has got any moral responsibility. It is the public property. I cannot understand.

Sir, in regard to Ashoka Hotel, Bangalore, what is the notification? The notification says that Ashoka Hotel, Bangalore has 10 acres of land. These are the arrears of the great man who has taken over this hotel. I have got all the papers. Till now, he is a defaulter. And they want to teach the country all values and talk of transparency. I have got everything. Sir, only 10 acres and 20 meters of land has been advertised of the Ashoka Hotel, Bangalore. How many rooms are there in that hotel? There are 183 rooms. Ultimately, what happened?

The Cafeteria, which is running near the Airport has earned a profit of Rs.3 crore. I will give that audit report also. Is this the way to sell the Ashoka Hotel, Bangalore? It is the lease agreement. I am only quoting the audit report only.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: The auditors must have been shocked.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: The report of auditor has been duly signed. It shows a profit of Rs.3,40, 17,582.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Is he an Indian auditor?

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: This was not included when it was notified. I have got all the documents and I am prepared to authenticate and place them on the Table of the House. Who is responsible? I do not want to make allegations against anyone including his predecessor.

How many bills he has to pay? Can we call it a robbery or loot? I do not want to take the name of any Minister. Can we call it a robbery or loot? You want disinvestment for this purpose. How much have you brought down the debt service in the last four years? Even today, people are suffering. I think, in 1997 or 1998, when Shri Yashwant Sinha was presenting his first Budget, he said that two lakh villages would get drinking water. How much money has been used for this purpose? It was all written MoT here. I do not want to read the other names. They are all big people. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: What is MoT? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: These were all care of MoT. These were the people who stayed in the Ashoka hotel. ...*(Interruptions)* It was not Shri Jag Mohan. I give due respect to him. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: MoT means Ministry of Tourism. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Were these unpaid bills? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: I do not want to take other names. Some people have become great leaders today, who are now reviving their Party. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You can give all these bills to Shri Arun Shourie. He will realise them for the national exchequer. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: You can revive your Party now. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He wants to go to the Finance Ministry for recovery. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has given a categorical assurance in the manifesto of his Party that they are going to create one crore jobs every year. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: That is this Century's best joke!

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: On the one side, you are retrenching people. This is going to create unrest. I do not think that anybody can save this nation. You can sell all the properties, whatever that are available, in the country. I know that you will not leave and you are determined to do that. Whatever may be the opposition from this side, you are bent upon doing it in your own way of handling this disinvestment. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Their allies have not opposed it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: Their allies have no voice today. They are helpless. I do not want to say that they are involved in this. That is the situation, which is prevailing.

The only thing is that there should be some consideration for selling the Public Sector Undertakings and the Government properties, whether it is Hotels or Air India or Indian Airlines or Petroleum companies. We had classified nine PSUs as *navratnas*. These are profit-making undertakings. I do not know how Shri Maran, who was the then Industry Minister, has given his clearance in the Cabinet. I have not been able to understand it. Let them have the courage to say. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He has to save his job. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: What job? Is it a permanent one? After two years, these people will go and somebody will occupy. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: That is certain.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: It is the right of the people. Nobody can stop that. The people of this country are more vigilant even though they are illiterate. More than 45 to 50 per cent of the people are illiterate but they are more vigilant. You may be using a high profile media. Electronic or print media is not going to help them. Take it from me. It is a writing on the wall. You cannot escape. What is this? It is something unimaginable. This whole policy has to be reversed.

We do not want any convincing answer from you. I do not want to question your integrity. There are various forces working behind the back of you. I can dare say that. There must be a limit for all these things. We can quote 101 examples. Modern Foods is one. What is the value of the property? I do not want to elaborate. There are so many issues. Our friends, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi and Shri Somnath Chatterjee have made very powerful speeches. I do not want to use such harsh language.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: They are justified criticisms made in good faith.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: Please reverse the decision, Save the property. The properties, which you are going to sell at a throwaway price, cannot be reversed back. Those people try to grease the administration through middlemen and brokers who are responsible for this. I say this because I have got some authentic documents. That is why I have said this. I do not want to tell their names. Please see that the whole matter is re-examined. If necessary, this question of disinvestment policy itself has to be reversed and scrapped.

SHRI ANADI SAHU (BERHAMPUR, ORISSA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, before I get into the matter relating to disinvestment, I would like to set the record straight in respect of the Sanskrit proverb that Shri Prabodh Panda

had recited a few hours age. The Sanskrit proverb should be:

[Translation]

"Yaavjjivet Sukham Jivet, Rinam Kritwa ghritam Pivet,

Bhashmibhootasya Dehshya, Punragamanah Kutoh"

[English]

It is a nihilistic philosophy of Chaarvak, which is not in consonance with the Vedic principles that we have been following for the last thousands of years. Of course, it is the nihilistic philosophy of the Left Party, which has been indicated by Shri Prabodh Panda and echoed by another leader of the Leftist Party, Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

Shri Somnath Chatterjee had hurled abuses, invectives, taunts and gibes at Shri Arun Shourie and some other Members of the Ruling Party, which do not behove properly of a man of his stature. It is rather deplorable.

So far as the Navratna disinvestments and all these things are concerned, he has quoted the Report of the Standing Committee. I would also quote from the Report of the Standing Committee on Industry. He is not here now. I hope he will be here to listen to me. It had said in the year 2000 very succinctly as follows:

> "The giants which are to attain commanding heights are now trapped in a cesspool of uncertainty. These PSUs, for long, have lived under a protective regime and the opening up of the economy has meant, opening of floodgates of unforeseen troubles for some of them. Transition from a closed economy to a free market economy has caught them unawares and exposed their vulnerability. But at the same time, it would be a travesty of truth to put the blame for the failures of these PSUs squarely on the liberalisation process."

I hope my friends in the Congress Party would keep this aspect in mind. May I request them to go through the 1956 Resolution regarding industries? Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has mentioned about strategic and non-strategic industries. In the 1956 Resolution itself, the Congress Party under Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the great visionary, had indicated the value system of our country and the merit of constructive flexibility. He has indicated about constructive flexibility, taking into consideration the greater reliability for very large investment, longer gestation period, and projects mutually beneficial for economic development, etc.

That Resolution had classified industries into three categories. I am coming to the statement of Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi on this. The first category consists of industries, the future development of which would be the exclusive responsibility of the State, that is, the core sector, like railways, air transport, arms and ammunition, atomic energy, etc. The second category comprises of industries that would be State-owned but private sector also would supplement the efforts like machine tools, antibiotics and essential drugs, fertilisers, synthetic rubber, road and sea transport. The third category consists of remaining industries left with the institute of private sector like transport, power and other sectors.

As I have said in the beginning, it is a question of flexibility. You may kindly recall that on the basis of that Industrial Policy Resolution, the Second Five-Year Plan was drawn up. I would request him to go to the Fifth Five-Year Plan. It is very interesting. By the time the Fifth Five-Year Plan was drafted the first creeping doubts had come in about investments and production in public sector. At that time private and foreign investments were thought of. I am not going into the details of those things. I would only request him to go through the germination of disinvestment, which was started by Shri Chandra Shekhar during his regime as P.M. It was accentuated in a good way by, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao regime. I thank him for that. The Eighth Plan was drafted in a very good manner indicating about resource mobilisation by the public sector industries during the Plan projections. I am not going into the statistics of it because it will take a lot of time. At that particular point of time, it was found that the resource mobilisation - internal and extra-budgetary resources - by the Central public sector undertakings was short by Rs.13,816 crore. Can you imagine the manner in which the expenditure had to go up and funds had to be found from different sources to keep the PSEs in tact and working?

I now come to Shri Prabodh Panda's quotation: 'ऋणंकृत्वा घृतं पिबेत' It means, 'You borrow and enjoy'. How long will you keep on enjoy? There must be an end to it. Shri H.D. Deve Gowda has come out rather in a very pungent manner attacking the manner in which certain public sector companies have been sold. I will come to it but I must thank him for having started a process of disinvestment strategy, issued in December, 1996. Unfortunately for him, he could not last as the Prime Minister of the country. There were a lot of cross-checks and balances and pulls and pushes. Maybe, that is one of the reasons for which he is expressing his views now. I would suggest to him to kindly go through pages 70 and 71 of the Disinvestment Policy. So, this is nothing but a polishing of what he had said in 1996.

[Shri Anadi Sahu]

In 2001, this Government has brought out the strategies to be taken up. I would like to quote because Shri Deve Gowda has given a lot of elaborate views about Hotel Ashoka and other things. May be, he has been briefed by somebody else to say all these things. Or, maybe, it is within his knowledge as to how the disinvestment has taken place. He may kindly go through the processes that are being taken up for disinvestment. He may kindly see that first of all it involves a Group of Ministers, then the Cabinet and so many other things. I am not going into how a particular industry is sold to a particular person or a particular group of persons. It talks about forms and contents of the financial bids, earnest money guarantees, principles of evaluation of technical capabilities of bidders. Before that, the value has to be processed in a very elaborate manner. Before that, the value is to be processed in a very elaborate manner. Does it mean that so many people have been manoeuvred by a particular individual, who might be having a questionable character? It may be. But do you mean to say that the entire procedure which has been followed in disinvestment of a particular hotel is incorrect? It may be that it is not to your liking the person who has bought it; maybe not to your liking somebody who has given some ideas about it. Let us be very dispassionate in our attitude because while we are thinking of disinvestment, let us not attack a particular person, an individual or an institution. That does not behove properly of us.

Sir, apart from that, I would rather say that Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi is on the horns of a dilemma. He has spoken about the core sector. He wants that there should be disinvestment. But, at the same time, he is slightly taking his steps backward. He, I think, is being reminded of his friend's statement, the spokesman from Rajya Sabha, Shri Anand Sharma. He is reminded of that. That is why, he is getting circumscribed or he is getting demitted to certain facts, which he is giving here. I would only quote from *The Economic Times* a few sentences of Shri Anand Sharma's statement to the Press:

> "Even as the Congress carries on with an ambivalent approach towards disinvestment and its MPs chant, "Crown jewels are being sold for a song", spokesman Anand Sharma appears to have donned the role of a cheerleader of corporate India and an admirer of its ability to buy up PSUs."

I am not going into the person whom he has admired, You know all about it. So, this is why I say, the Congress Party is on the horns of a dilemma and Shri Dasmunsi cannot decide about the policy of disinvestment. He should be assured that there is no disinvestment in the core sector.

Sir, I would request the hon. Members to see preface to the Ninth Plan, written by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the hon. Prime Minister of India. What did he say is for everybody to know. ...*(Interruptions)* I have closed that chapter there itself. I am coming to you. ...*(Interruptions)* He said:

> "This convergence of views is cause for a great deal of confidence in the course of our future economic development since it implies that this Plan Document does represent the collective aspirations of our people, cutting across wide ideological and political spectra."

He further said:

> "The Government had taken on itself too many responsibilities with the result that it not only encouraged a dependency syndrome among our people, but also imposed severe strains on the financial and administrative capabilities of the Government."

That is why, certain explicit matters were indicated including disinvestment.

Sir, you will kindly agree that the fiscal, deficit is very alarming. The Tenth Plan Approach Paper indicates that the fiscal deficit is something like 4.8 per cent of the GDP and the intention of this Government and for that matter, people cutting across party lines, has to be that it has to be brought down to 3.3 per cent. That is what the Approach Paper says. A copy of it must be available with the hon. Member, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi. It has to come down from 4.4 per cent to 3.3 per cent and how shall we bring it down? If we go on incurring losses in the PSUs and if we keep all sorts of PSUs which are burdened on the economy itself, then what will happen?

Now, look at the income and expenditure part of it. The income of the Government has been coming down because of many factors including degeneration in the economy and because of the global economy itself. In view of all these things, it is necessary that we must bring down this fiscal deficit.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: How much is the loss of ONGC, IOL, BPL and HPCL? Can you just tell us?

SHRI ANADI SAHU: Kindly have patience, Sir. I am coming to that. Kindly do not disturb me because if you disturb me, my thought process will go off the road. So, kindly do not disturb me. I intend to speak on this fact itself. When we are thinking of disinvestment, you cannot disinvest a loss-making unit.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Why?

SHRI ANADI SAHU: I am telling you why. It is my view. As Shri Deve Gowda gave his view about the hotel Ashoka, so also I am giving my view on this. A loss-making unit, would not get a buyer. You have said about ONGC and all those. I shall come to NALCO because it is in my area. Yes, NALCO is making a profit now. But in another five years' time, because of competitiveness, because the other private sector competitors are coming up very fast and because the global rates of alumina and all other things are coming down, we will not be able to sell it. Take the case of South Africa. They are able to produce alumina at a much cheaper rate and our rate is very high. So, we would not be able to sell it in another 2-3 years' time. That is why it is necessary that we should make disinvestment in NALCO. Take the case of BALCO. What has happened? They are on an even keel. Take the case of PPL in Paradip. What has happened. The production has gone up. The workers are getting more pay. As the DIG of the Range, I used to go every now and then and see that PPL people did not create a problem. The S.P. was not able to take stock of the situation because there was an unruly behaviour in that area. When I am asking the people, now they say that it was running very happily, that it was going on in a very nice manner. So, why not disinvest all these PSEs? It is not the business of the Government to do business. Yes, in that particular period of time when the gestation period was very long, when funds were not available with the private sector. We were thinking of public sector undertakings. Now the private sector has come up and very competent people have come up and occasionally foreign investment also is coming. Taking all these factors into consideration, why not this policy of disinvestment be accelerated? You had agreed to it in 1992-95 and all those periods. Shri Deve Gowda as the Prime Minister, though for a very short period, had agreed to that. Now why should there be vacillation? ...*(Interruptions)* No, Sir, you may say later on. Kindly do not disturb me. ...*(Interruptions)* I am not yielding, Sir. Why should there be vacillation at all? ...*(Interruptions)* It is all right, Sir. I may be wrong; you may correct me later. So, Sir, there should not be any vacillation. You have started the process. Keep it on. Rather put it at the top so that all those industries, which are doing well or not doing well, should be disinvested. You may keep 26 per cent equity. I am not bothered about that. I am not going into the details because I am telling only about the policy; I am not going into this industry or that industry, this investment or that disinvestment, this particular person or that particular person. It is not in my way of speaking. I would only say that the disinvestment process should go on in an accelerated manner so as to see that we get funds. See the subsidy component of our Budget. It is about Rs.32,000 crore, both direct and indirect subsidy. The debt processing is about 70 per cent of the budgetary provisions. Where from do we get the money? 70 per cent of the debt processing is a very large and Rs.32,000 crore is the subsidy component - direct and indirect. How do you get it? Somebody was telling about the social sector. I think Shri Somnath Chatterjee was hinting at it. Yes, we must think of the social sector. We have taken up so many things - *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana*, *Swaran Jayanti Sampoorna Rozgar Yojana*, IRDP, DRDA and so many other programmes. We have made education up to the age of 14 years completely free. Where does the money come from? The money will come for the social sector from these disinvestments. You have the Consolidated Fund. You have set principles in which funds are to be generated and kept in a particular fund and then taken out. Why not? If it goes to the Consolidated Fund also, it can come out. There is no difficulty at all.

The main purpose is that we must have funds and these funds should be, as it has been calculated in the Approach Paper, something to the tune of Rs.16,000 crore to Rs. 17,000 crore in the Tenth Plan. That is what is the amount. I am not going into the other details. If we are able to get Rs. 16,000 crore to Rs. 17,000 crore within a period of five years, from disinvestment the social sector will be augmented and work can be done for the poor. Education can be augmented and so many other things can be done.

Sir, before I conclude, I always take pride in saying that I would like to recite a quotation from my side, from Wordsworth. It is an apt quotation for all of us. You have to keep in mind the quotation of Wordsworth. ...*(Interruptions)* Yes, from *Chaarvaka* to Wordsworth, that is the ambit of my way of speaking. Sir, it is a very good quotation. ...*(Interruptions)* Kindly give me some more time as you have given time to hon. Member Shri Deve Gowda to fish out the audit report. I would request you to give a few minutes. I will quote from Wordsworth, the Victorian poet:

"Small service is a true service while it lasts

Of humblest friend, bright creature!

Scorn not one;

The Daisy, by the shadow it casts,

Protects the lingering dewdrop from the Sun."

This is what disinvestment will do.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA (GUNA): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I think is pertinent to first set the backdrop to this discussion. When history, that great examiner of human performance, sits in judgement over the performance of the NDA, the verdict will be unsparing, the verdict will be harsh and the verdict will be strident.

For starters, it is their failure to control law and order, to protect the lives of the citizens of the country who witness the mayhem, the burning, the raping of women in Gujarat; their failure to provide the hungry and starving people of this country with foodgrains witness sixty million tonnes of foodgrains in the national granaries. It is their failure to prevent unscrupulous financial manipulations that have robbed the needy middle class of their only life-savings; witness the scam after scam after scam in the UTI; their failure to anticipate and to come to the rescue of the millions of farmers that form the very economic backbone of our motherland; witness a lack of any foresight and drought management capability.

In its lamentable defence, all that the Government has to offer is what it describes as the pinnacle of economic reforms through disinvestment. Mr. Chairman, Sir, mere disinvestment in PSUs does not constitute economic reforms. I would like to take a few minutes and go back to our proud history, a history of the contribution of the public sector. Let us not adopt a policy of merely decrying the public sector because it happens to be *de nouveau* to do so. The public sector was set up by our founding fathers with a tremendous role to perform, they were to be the temples of modern India, of modernity. At that time the Government had the large, investible resources that were required to kick-start the industrial revolution. But as times change, so do economic models.

19.00 hrs.

The cycle of growth always turns full circle and after years of nurturing, the private sector in India has come of age, has begun to unleash its potential, dynamic, super-charged and full of confidence. Yes, of course, the State needs to make way when private sector resources and alternatives are available. Yes, of course, there are some units in the States which are inefficient. Yet, we still have many jewels in our fold. I give a couple of examples for you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. BHEL has beaten the world leaders in all its contracts, be it Siemens, ABB or GEC Alsthone. NTPC is the institution that has availed the largest loan in the history of the World Bank. GAIL has always beaten its biggest competitor British Gas in its results. IOC, Indian Oil Corporation is the premier Fortune 500 company from India. This is something we need to be proud about.

The fact is that today, as the public sector areas are being deregulated and the private sector is moving in, where does it search for talent? It goes to the public sector for talent. The situation today is that there are public sector stalwarts who are not even heard. I would like to ask this Government, pose the question that how come not even one of the CEOs of any public sector undertaking is on the Prime Minister's Council for Trade and Industry. This, Mr. Chairman, Sir, is not a policy stance; this Mr. Chairman, Sir, is a prejudicial outlook. The all-important question today is who is responsible for the efficiency of these organisations. Is there only one solution and one solution only which is to sell, sell and sell? These are the questions that I would like to pose.

The lack of governance and interest in our public sector undertakings are self-evident. I will give you a case in point ITDC, of which 12 properties have been sold, has not had a CEO for the last four years. So, how are these institutions going to perform? It is a case of a bad carpenter who always blames his tools and then goes about selling those tools in the market for a pittance.

I would now like to propose to elucidate certain key issues I have with respect to the current privatisation or disinvestment process. Then, if I may dare to do so, I will offer my humble suggestions in terms of what could be improved. First, let us take the interpretation of the purpose of disinvestment. Is this process in place to meet targets or is this process in place to maximise the potential revenue? I think, it is more the former than the latter. There is a case in point for you again, of NTPC. The Government is considering an equity sell off in NTPC. This, Mr. Chairman, Sir, is the largest thermal power generating company in India. It produces 19,435 MW and is the sixth largest thermal power generating company in the world today and the second most efficient company in terms of capacity utilisation. It earns a revenue of Rs. 20,415 crore and a net profit of Rs. 3,917 crore. NTPC today constitutes 25.83 per cent of the country's total power generating capacity. So, I may like to ask what is the hurry in disinvesting NTPC ? Why is there a concentration only on selling blue chip companies? What happens to the loss-making units? We need to evolve a balanced perspective and concentrate on restructuring, concentrate on turnaround stories also.

If one looks at the Government equity in public sector undertakings, today it is Rs. 82,434 crore. Combined with debt, if one looks at the total enterprise value that the Government holds, it is Rs. 2,50,000 crore. And, we are getting rid of this equity and debt at only 10 times the face value. We need to take into account the notion on time value of money. That is very important. The hon. Minister in

his statement last week mentioned Price Earning Ratio and the fact that we are achieving high Price Earning Ratio. I have two comments to make on that issue. One, Price Earning Ratios talk about future earning streams and not historical - case in point is IBP. The Price Earning Ratio, as told to us, is 63 times historical earnings. If one looks at future earnings, it is only a multiple of 3 times and not 63 times. Secondly, as earnings fall, the Price Earning Ratio automatically rises. Therefore, I would beg to put my point across that we should not look at ratios but at the quantum of money that is raised from each disinvestment. Looking at that what perhaps do we have in front of us?

India, today, has raised US $ 1.5 billion from disinvesting in 17 companies. All we need to do is just look a little across the border to China. China, in the last year, has raised US $ 20 billion from disinvesting in only five State-owned companies. So, we need to evaluate what is the difference and why is this happening.

The second point I would like to raise is that timing is very crucial. Let us look at the market, context in this environment. World over, disinvestment has yielded the best dividends in a booming market. Sadly, that is not the case today. The Dow Jones has reduced to over 25 per cent of its peak level before September 11. The NASDAQ has fallen to a record low and is currently at 1200 to 1300, that is, 25 per cent of its 5000 level. Let us look closer to home. The BSE Sensex which was at 6100, today is trading at below 3000 level. Obviously, this is the worst time that one can contemplate divestment. You do not sell equity when there is panic in the market. You do not sell equity when everyone wants to sell. You do not sell equity when there is a glut of equity worldwide. For some reason, best known to the present Government, we are not only selling equity, but we are also accelerating our pace of sale. The Government of India today is selling PSUs in a very, very *ad hoc* manner. As soon as the tussles between the related Ministries are resolved, a company is sold. Who decides which company has to be disinvested and at what point of time? There is no view on the outlook of the industry, there is no view on the internal outlook and there is no view on the external outlook. I will give you some cases in point, - ITDC Hotels. You are disinvesting in the tourism sector when the tourism industry is in a severe recession. You are disinvesting in the telecom sector when the telecom industry worldwide is suffering from over-investment.

The third issue I would like to raise is one of transparency and that concerns all of us sitting here. Maybe, it is just a coincidence, but I would like to pose the question. Why are no disinvestments taking place when Parliament Session is on? This is a public interest matter, and it is imperative that Parliament and all Members are taken into confidence. Who takes a decision of what to disinvest and at what time? The lack of transparency in the process is demonstrated by the absence of no global players in any disinvestment. This reduces the multiples, this reduces the amount of money that any Government gets, and this ends up in creating monopolies in India -- a policy that this very Government was up against.

Fourthly, I firmly believe that policy decisions should precede divestment. There is a great lack of consensus, forget about between us, but within the Ministries themselves. In most cases, the Ministry concerned and the Ministry of Disinvestment have always been at loggerheads, whether it is about the methodology of disinvestment or the timing of disinvestment. This creates fear in the minds of investors. It scares away bidders, and if the PSUs are public listed PSUs, it enhances the volatility in the scrips.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to give some cases in point. Let us first take the case of National Fertilizers Limited. The Government is contemplating a 51 per cent sale in the equity of NFL. This hinges on the finalisation of the Fertilizer policy on a longer term basis. The Government is thinking of going ahead with the equity sell off without having the Fertilizer policy in place which will jeopardise either the whole process or will result in a very cheap price that the Government can garner. NFL produces 3.2 million tonnes per annum, 16 per cent, of the country's urea production. We need to be a little more sensitive about these matters.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, let us also look at the case of VSNL. There was no co-ordination whatsoever between the Ministry of Disinvestment and the Ministry of Telecommunication. The disinvestment process should have been mapped against the changing telecom policy. The disinvestment coincided with the end of VSNL's monopoly in international long distance service which was also brought forward from 2004 to 2002. With foresight on the part of the Ministry of Disinvestment, should not the strategic partner have been roped in much earlier thereby giving him an opportunity to face competition and also therefore giving the Government much more premium for the stake that the Government has divested?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would also like to bring up the dividend stripping issue of Rs. 2000 crore from VSNL which was an afterthought. If that had been thought of before and all prospective bidders had known that the transaction value would be lower because dividend cash outflow would have been in place, then I can guarantee that there would have been many more bidders in the

[Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia]

process and the Government would have got a much more competitive bid.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, let us also look at the post-disinvestment scenario of VSNL. The direct threat of Government ire on the new strategic investor. I do not want to get into merits of it whether it was justifiable or not. But this does not conform to the norms of corporate governance. This does not conform to the Government's new role of being merely a shareholder, and also the fracas between the Ministry of Disinvestment and the Ministry of Telecommunication has sent an adverse signal and confirmed the worst fears of any future strategic investor. These are all matters that need to be looked into.

Sir, I would also like to bring up the example, which was also mentioned by Shri Dasmunsi, of BPCL and HPCL. Suddenly, in the middle of the process, there was a change and the IOC was disqualified from bidding for BPCL and HPCL. Why was it so? It was because of the monopoly argument. My question to the Government here is, what happens if from the private sector, the same bidder bids for both companies? Has that issue been tackled by the Government?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Yes.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Sir, the big question today is this. Do we need to allow these companies to raise money and grow and then at the second stage opt for disinvestment either through an equity issue or a strategic player? There is confusion between the Ministry of Petroleum and the Ministry of Disinvestment on this issue. The process has already been delayed by four to five months. There was a large amount of interest from international players whether it be M/s Shell or British Petroleum. But now they have all been very frustrated and everyone is losing interest. The Ministry of Petroleum is pushing for an IPO and the Ministry of Disinvestment is still very unclear on its stand,

Sir, I now come to issue number five - transparency in fixation of the reserve prices. We have been told and with my Investment Banking background I know that there are four methods of valuing a company. First is, discounted cash flow method; second, net asset value method; third, the balance sheet method where an enterprise value of a company is calculated based on the debt and equity value of a company; and finally, price earning comparable with other companies in the same sector. In certain cases, such as in the hotels, as has also been pointed out by Shri Deve Gowda ji, there is a huge and wide variation if you calculate the value on either one of these methods. Therefore, there is no transparency on how the final reserve price is arrived at. Also, the public float in most of the companies is very small and therefore, not a true benchmark. The result of this has been the following. In case of hotels, the Government has been unable to extract the full value of Qutab and Lodi hotel lands. Had they been sold at the market value than these hotels would have fetched a much better price.

Sir, let us take the example of CMC. The price obtained was substantially lower than the peak prices in the stock market. Fifty-one per cent of this company was sold for a price of Rs.196 per share, 78 per cent lower than the Rs.873 per share high reached in January, 2000. Let us take the case of the VSNL. The sale price of Rs.203 per share, add to it the two dividend outgoes of Rs.75 each which is Rs.150, totalling Rs.353. This is at a 50 per cent discount to the Rs. 611 per share high reached in February, 2000.

I shall come to point number six. Are we following a policy of disinvestment? Or, are we following a policy of nationalistaion? The policy we are following today, Mr. Chairman, Sir, I regret to say, is of forcing Peter to pay Paul, How can this possibly be called disinvestment? A case in point is cross-holding between IOC, GAIL and ONGC. A case in point is IOC's purchase of IBP, IOC bid Rs.1153 crore for 34 per cent equity stake of IBP allmost two times its closest rival Shell's price. One public sector company acquiring another public sector company is not disinvestment. One can even argue that this purchase by IOC has resulted in value destruction. IOC's price earning ratio which was seven times, has fallen now to the present level of five times earnings.

Finally, I would like to talk about the Department of Disinvestment's stand on disinvestment. It is very disturbing for me today to read the statement made by the hon. Minister. He is in change of disinvestment of public assets and, therefore, he is responsible to ensure that the Government receive the maximum value for each asset that is sold. His statement on PSUs is very very revealing. It says:

> "PSUs have their own set of laws. The more Governmental in enterprise, the more unaccountable it is. The more unaccountable it is, the more uncomparative it is. The more uncomparative it is, the more certain it is to die."

This is certainly a great marketing statement, sure to invite interest and much higher bids for companies.

[Translation]

What about principles of swadeshi; selfpride and self reliant?

[English]

The Government incessantly talks about inefficiency, losses to the exchequer from PSUs justifying disinvestment. And when the time comes for disinvestment, then only those companies are put on the block, only those geese that lay the golden eggs. How hypocritical is this stand! It still is very mysterious to me.

I would now like to make a couple of recommendations on the process, if I may. I think it will be very very prudent, considering the points raised by all the hon. Members here, for the Government to take all of us, all Members of Parliament, into confidence. Let them prove their *bona fide* by presenting a White Paper, a White Paper that lists (a) all the companies that are proposed to be disinvested, (b) the rational for each disinvestment, and (c) the Action Plan for each disinvestment. This will also enable all of us to engage, Mr. Chairman, Sir, in a much more productive debate on the issue.

I also think it would be pertinent to hire a global privatisation advisor and conduct a strategic road map exercise regarding the companies that need to be retained, and the companies that need to restructured, and the companies that need to be divested. Do a sector-wise sequencing plan of disinvestment. The quality and reputation of such a global advisor will send a very strong signal to the market. And based on this advice, an informed decision can be taken and a capital markets exercise can be planned, which can then be given to any investment banking firm. It is important, Mr. Chairman, Sir, to separate areas of core competence and obtain the most informed international advice. It is very important for this Government to evolve a consensus among the various stakeholders. It is very important that there should be no dissonance between the Ministry of Disinvestment and the concerned Ministry as this sends a completely wrong signal.

I think, it is important to execute this plan with the assistance of an international marketing and PR effort which is completely lacking today. The Board must go on international road shows. The Board must go on international investor meets. I will give you some examples, Mr. Chairman Sir.

In Latin America and in the Caribbean region, as much as 55 per cent of privatisation in disinvestment proceeds came through foreign investors. In Eastern Europe and Central Asia, it is 25 per cent. In East Asia and Pacific, it is 15 per cent. And, in India, the percentage is zero!

Sir, I think, it is important to be able to provide flexibility to companies to raise funds, to expand and grow rather than sell them at cheap price. On the one hand, the Government throttles the companies with the dilution argument and on the other hand blames them for inefficiency. Air India, Indian Airlines, Telecom companies, Oil and Gas companies have been waiting in the pipeline for eight years to be able to raise equity. China has successfully completed divestment via the equity issuance route piggybacking on the strategic sales. So, along with strategic sales, the company also raises funds. And, they have raised 20 billion dollars in the financial year 2000-01.

Employees interests should also be looked after. Shri Arun Shourie ji is giving a lot of interest to that. But I think, it is important to give even more interest. Granting of stocks options at discounts to the market value is very important. The employees must participate in this gain. Small shareholders must participate in this.

In an environment where margins are under pressure and costs are rising, it is important to study the viability of a turnaround or restructuring as well. Financial restructuring by infusing funds into a company is very important. We must wait for an industry to revive before we decide to sell it off.

It is important to be able to induct personnel from the private sector along with the freedom to implement. There are many successful examples. If I may be permitted to quote. Take for example, Air India. My father, during his tenure, when he was the Minister of Civil Aviation, inducted Shri Y.C. Deveshwar from ITC. Air India, at that point of time, made a profit for the Government to the tune of Rs. 1 crore per day, or Rs. 365 crore a year. Similarly now, in the power sector, Shri R.V. Shahi from BSES has been brought in by this Government. It is a very good step. More of this is needed so that we can turn around and restructure ITDC, we can turn around and restructure Ashoka Hotel which is a gem that we must keep with us. Similarly, Air India, Indian Airlines and NFL are prime candidates for restructuring.

Unfortunately, Mr. Chairman, Sir, disinvestment today is merely a means to bridge the growing deficit because the Government today is in a financial mess and the, find no other way to bridge this deficit except by raising resources through disinvestment, and, therefore, there is the lamentation of inefficiency of the public sector.

[Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia]

Sir, I would like to spend a minute or two on the use of proceeds. Money is raised through disinvestment. Where does this go? Capital receipts today disappear into the black hole of revenue expenditure. There is no transparency, no accountability and no disclosure whatsoever. The proceeds must be used to increase gross capital formation by either restructuring the loss-making companies or retiring the public debt or investing in social infrastructure, education and health. A corpus fund must be created like the Government has created for highways, where diesel cess is being used to make new highways. All disinvestment proceeds must flow into a specific disinvestment fund and expenditure on specific items should be earmarked from it. Creation of such a fund would lend credibility to the disinvestment process.

Sir, we must also know how these proceeds are being utilised. These disbursements made by the Government must be accounted for in the Annual Financial Statement of the Government every single year.

Finally, in conclusion, I would like to end in the words of none other than Shri Arun Shourie's father, Shri H.D. Shourie. He said:

> "Privatise but wisely. For each enterprise the requirements will need to be determined in the light of its level of efficiency, its field of competition, its social obligations, for exploring all possibilities of improvement, and if none, only then divestiture. In each case, areas of restructuring of the individual enterprises should be undertaken for achieving greater market orientation."

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (DEORIA): I am very dim in these matters, but it appears to me that we can only stay swadeshi with the help and advice of the international and foreign advisors! This is what I could get.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (TIRUNELVELI): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. I would like to express my views on the policy of disinvestment by the Government.

We have been opposing this policy of disinvestment in the 13th Lok Sabha, from 1999 to 2002, up to the last Session. We have been opposing and you have been selling and advertising. Where are we going to meet?

At one point of time, there was a discussion for the whole day on the policy of disinvestment. We all participated; we opposed. But even then, you went on disinvesting the profit-making public sector units. We quoted a number of examples from each State, like SAIL, NALCO, Air India, Modern Foods, HPCL and so on.

You had a target to achieve. From 1991 to 1996, they are not good sellers! They have not achieved the targets. In 1996-97, they had a target of Rs.5,000 crore, but they were able to realise only Rs.380 crore. So, they were not good sellers. I am comparing the figures. In 1995-96, they had a target of Rs.7,000 crore, but they had to realise only Rs.168 crore. They performed better in 1994-95, wherein they had a target of Rs. 4,000 crore and they were able to realise Rs.4,843 crore. But I do not know what happened in 1993. They had a target of Rs.3,500 crore and there was no realisation. In 1992-93, they had a target which was close to Rs.2,500 crore, they were able to realise only Rs.1913 crore. That way, they had the target of Rs.2,500 crore in 1991-92 and they exceeded that target by realising Rs.3038 crore. What are they for? These targets were sought to be achieved to bridge the deficit.

He had answered to a Question on 20.11.2000 in the Rajya Sabha - the statement refers here - wherein he had said that the total amount spent on Central Plan and Non-Plan revenue by the Government on various social sectors like health and family welfare, water supply and housing, rural development and transport, during the corresponding period was much higher than the receipt from disinvestment. The total comes to Rs.18,638 crore. He had stated this in the Rajya Sabha. Even after his statement, when the Budget was presented here by the Finance Minister, there was no reference at all about this target and the realisation of that money to bridge the growing deficits.

Had it been tallied and added on to the Budget, the situation would have been different. Since the Government has no money to administer the country, it is going in for disinvestment. All the profit-making units are being disinvested in order to meet the growing expenditure of the Government of India. Were you able to meet those expenditure out of the money realised through disinvestment? Were you able to ensure adequate water supply to each and every village or were you able to provide health programmes out of the money realised through disinvestment? No. The Government has not diverted this fund to the transport sector either. What for do you have this disinvestment then? Maybe, that is why there is no transparency.

All these disinvestments are to be monitored by a Disinvestment Commission. In reply to a Starred Question in Rajya Sabha on 15.07.02, you have stated that the Disinvestment Commission has given 13 reports and it has made a number of recommendations in respect of 58 PSUs, including the revised recommendation of four PSUs.

What has happened to those recommendations? These are to be followed in every future disinvestment that the Government undertakes.

Wherever the objectives are to be achieved, the targets have to be fixed. The amount realised by way of disinvestment should be utilised for the welfare programmes. The Finance Minister has not stated in the Parliament that he has realised this much money by disinvesting these companies and he is utilising it for the benefit of the poor people or for the welfare of the States. Yesterday, while replying to a query, the Finance Minister had said that he could not allocate fund right here, because he has no fund. No Finance Minister, be it Shri Yashwant Sinha or Shri Jaswant Singh, was able to say it on the floor of the House that he has realised sufficient amount to meet the growing expenditure of both the Government of India as also of the State Governments. So, what for the companies are being sold or disinvested? It is, I think to carry out the welfare programmes.

As has been mentioned earlier, in the last two years while we were discussing about the disinvestment policy, the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission as on 12.07.02, that is last month, the Government had taken a decision to defer disinvestment of some of the undertakings, For example, Modern Food Industries, whose 74 per cent Government share-holding was sold to a strategic partner in January, 2000, There are other profit-making companies, like ITDC, BALCO, on which we had a day-long discussion, HCL, ITT Limited. The Government has not even spared Madras Fertilisers. The Government has approved disinvestment of 32.74 equity in favour of the strategic partner and has kept 26 per cent for itself. So, the Government's share is reduced to 26 per cent so that you may have the power to vote, Suppose, there is a Annual General Body meeting, if your share is 25 per cent, you cannot vote; but if it is 26 per cent you have the voting power.

Sir, National Iranian Oil Company is yet to agree to go along with the disinvestment process as far as Madras Fertilisers are concerned. When we opposed the disinvestment of Salem Steel Plant, it was not heeded to, But for the time being, the NLC disinvesnnent has been deferred, because of the interference by the Members of Parliament from Tamil Nadu. It is said that it is deferred.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: The Iranian Government is a shareholder in that and they have not taken a decision. We have been pursuing it for many years.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will get ample time for reply, you can make your point at that time.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, I am much obliged to the Minister. Same is the case with Manganese Ore India Limited. Mr. Minister, by your reply, can I come to the conclusion that you have not given up your idea of disinvesting NLC? I think the Minister will reply. As regards Oil and Natural Gas Company, it has been decided by the Government to reduce its equity below 51 per cent. In BALCO, you reduced your equity share to 51 per cent. In NALCO also, you reduced it. Everything is confusing. What sin has the Shipping Corporation of India committed? It is not running into loss. The Government has decided for disinvestment of 51 per cent of equity. We have only one shipping company. Why do you want to disinvest it? You are going to disinvest the airports. I do not know what more you are going to privatise.

Sir, about 58 companies are to be disinvested according to the 13th Report of the Disinvestment Commission. Sir, I should say that you have a strategic sale in BPCL and HPCL. I have not said this. The New Delhi edition of *The Hindu* has spoken about it. You were a journalist. I know you are following the ethics of journalism. I know that. You may remember about 18 years back you came to my house in Chennai and begged interview of mine when I was the Speaker of Tamil Nadu Assembly. I was much obliged.

Sir, the Government wants to sell the stake in five blue-chip PSUs. The disinvestment of BSNL, ONGC, IOC, NTPC, and GAIL is worth Rs.28,500 crore. Sir, I would like to pose a question. We have been seeing in all the newspapers -- which is the Fourth Estate of our democracy and we believe them -- that had you disinvested properly, had you advertised properly, and had you allowed proper tender being taken by the companies, it would have realised the full one year's budget of our nation. You are not able to investigate. You do not have the force. What is it between the strategic partner and the company? What is it between the Government and the strategic partner? We do not know. These are all within your knowledge and these are not within our knowledge. Only you can come out with your own understanding of these things. So, I would like the Minister to tell us how did the Government get-rich-quick *mantra*. Are you going to become rich by this? No. Yesterday, the hon. Finance Minister said that he is not able to allocate funds even to drought-hit State. Had he realised these Rs.28,500 crore, he would have targeted this realised

[Shri P.H. Pandian]

money for the welfare programmes like water supply, transport, roads, desilting of channels, etc. He did not do it. There was no reference about it. So, we want to know what is within the knowledge of the Government as regards the companies to be disinvested.

Then, regarding the politics of the PSUs, you may remember that Shri Deve Gowda said that, after the disinvestment of BALCO, it was challenged before the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court has said that it is a policy matter. But in the case of CNG buses of Delhi, the Supreme Court did not say that it is a policy matter. It also comes under Transport Policy. So, the inconsistency and uncertainty of the judicial verdict favours you. If a verdict is in your favour, you take advantage of that verdict. If a verdict is not in your favour, you brush aside that verdict. In certain cases, you follow it. In hawala case, the Supreme Court has said that you must appoint CVC. We passed the CVC Act as per the direction of the Supreme Court. It is a direction. I know it because I was a Member of the Committee on CVC Bill. In that way, you should see whether the success of disinvestment is in the frontline or not. I see no success. It is not a success and the frontline in economic and social reforms. So, I appeal to the hon. Minister and not to disinvest and not to sell. If there is no disinvestment by the Government, it will be good for the country. By that way, at least, you will have your properties intact.

This is something like a family. Some people sit and eat without working. They sell their property and do not work. Government cannot do in that way. Government should augment resources. You must find ways of collecting revenue. You cannot sell this building and that building and allocate the other building to a State. No sale proceeds should be there. This is something like *a levadevi*, sitting and eating without working.

Government should not be like an individual. Here, Government is behaving like an individual by disinvesting. ...*(Interruptions)* You have got safeguards. You derive safeguards from certain sections of industrial houses and community like CII and FICCI. What are you thinking beyond the sell-off? Can you improve the country? Can you develop the country and can the Government take the people to a destination of a welfare State? I should not use a rough word but an ordinary word. There is no Minister of Sale in any Cabinet in the whole world. What is disinvestment? It is the refined way of saying sale. It is a sale. Government should purchase, augment and protect property.

Can you sell New Delhi Railway Station for a sum? It is the duty of the Government to augment the revenue. The great Thiruvalluvar said:

"Mannan panathai serthu variyal vasoolithu makkalai vazha vaikka vendum."

You must augment the revenue, collect resources and then rule the country. If you are not able to do that, then you are not Mannan.

"Mannanuku azahagu varum porul uraithal. "

You must have a foresight. The Minister should have a foresight about the economy of the country and you must have foresight about the welfare of the people. This Government has no foresight. Had the foresight been instilled as early as 1991 or 1999 to 2002, there would not have been any discussion here about the disinvestment. We are also opposing disinvestment only after it is done. That is the pity. In every Session, there is a discussion on disinvestment. We are only doing *post-mortem*. What is the use? The Government is not going to stop it. Tomorrow also, the Government is going to sell or disinvest the companies. I want to know as to what is the use of this deliberation. Are you going to stop it or are you going to go further? If you are going to go further, then we need not discuss it again. We have been discussing it for the last three years. Why? Shri Arun Shourie is enjoying. But we feel it is a waste of energy and time. Why should I talk?

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: The remedy is before they sell everything, we should change them.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: The Government should declare on the floor: "Look here, we are going to disinvest. What is the use of talking? You do not talk". You are the judge of the situation; you are the judge of the economic position of the country; and you are the judge of the welfare of the people.

In that way, I oppose Disinvestment Policy on behalf of my Party, the AIADMK. We oppose this. We have taken this stand as early as in 1999 when I came to this House for the first time. We oppose the Disinvestment Policy. Let the Government take a decision not to continue with the Disinvestment of companies.

[Translation]

SHRI ARUN KUMAR (JAHANABAD): Mr. Chairman Sir, discussion on disinvestment is going on here in the House and several hon'ble Members have participated in this discussion. Hon'ble Shri Dasmunsijj gave a suggestion in this regard and a number of hon'ble Members have dwelved upon it. This is an issue which should be pondered over in the national interest by rising above party politics. The Government have adopted the policy of liberalisation

and the liberalisation process started in 1996 has certainly brought the country at a dangerous point. Howsoever conniving our logic may be about the process of liberalisation but we are well aware that the way in which we are selling the public sector undertakings at the throw away prices is a dangerous thing for the country. I would like to say that when we sell a property or an ox or cow even in a village we try to understand the market trend. We wait and evaluate such things first and ensure to get maximum value for those things. I would like to cite an example in this regard and I want to remind the hon'ble Minister that a ITDC hotel was sold in Bihar. Bodhgaya is at a distance of forty kilometres from my constituency. The people in Gaya city are of the view that howsoever honest the government may be and howsoever foolproof method may be adopted for disinvestment, selling away of the said hotel in rupees two hundred crore is beyond ones ken. According to my calculation the furniture of the hotel alone was worth rupees two hundred crore. This deal is not logical and smell the rat. I do not want to go into details of all such things. I know that it is not the job of the government to run a hotel. This property was acquired during the last fifty three years and no other government can acquire this sort of property by investing hundred times more. Therefore, we should ponder over, it seriously and we should ask ourselves as to why we are in this mad race. On one hand there is a conspiracy by the big industrialists to sell out the government financial institutions at a price of rupees one lakh twenty five thousand crore. I have the official figure that these financial institutions have done a bungling of rupees 85 thousand crores and no action is being taken against them and on the other hand we are selling out our property at a throw away prices to mobilise some resources. It does not seem logical.

Sir, through the forty fifth Constitution amendment we have incorporated the word secular in our constitution. According to me the objective of incorporating this word in the constitution might have been that the property of this country should not be concentrated in the hands of only a few people. The country of hundred crore people in which economic disparity prevails, where there is social disparity this government have lot of responsibilities but the government is shirking from its responsibilities. As such it would not be fair to shun the policy of mixed economy we had opted for and to divest or sell off the assets we had acquired. This should be reviewed. I would like to cite an example in this regard and draw the attention of the Government towards the economic policy of the government.

On the one hand we are selling off the ITDC hotels and on the other we are setting up the travel and tour catering corporation. It is an irony. It is clearly evident from this that there is some international pressure on us and we should think over this issue afresh. I would like to make a mention of IPCL. You may recall that IPCL is a profit making company and it was to be sold to the Reliance group. But the Indian Oil was ready to purchase it. An atmosphere was created to discourage the Indian oil and you will be surprised to know that IPCL is certainly to be sold off but gas guarantee was not given by the governments which were in power including this present day government. But gas guarantee was given two days before for selling it to the Reliance. For whose benefit the guarantee was given? In a nutshell I would like to say that the oil companies which are making profit and providing employment opportunities should not be sold out. You can well understand as to how they are going to centralise the employment, if they come.

Ours is a country of hundred crore people and employment avenues are declining. You are locating the strategic partners for the profit making oil companies. Partners are only located where there is lack of management and technology. But when these companies have made a place for themselves all over the world why we should not give equity of these companies to the public. If these companies intend to surrender its share to the government, the government should think over it afresh.

Every sector is an important sector from the security point of view also. The government should think before disinvestment of this sector. So far as the creation of employment opportunities and improvement in the health sector is concerned these sectors have social obligations. Today we talk about cities but there are no proper arrangements for education and health care in slum areas in the cities. The All India Institute of Medical Sciences is over crowded and it is not easy to get treatment therein. People have to wait for at least six months to get any treatment. People are facing difficulty. We are bent upon to sell such bodies at a throw away prices. I would like to say particulary about the energy sector which is also a very important from the security point of view. The government should reconsider it afresh and this process should be discontinued.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the House agrees, the time of the House can be extended by one hour. There are still ten hon'ble Members to speak.

[English]

SHRI SURESH KURUP (KOTTAYAM): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we can continue this discussion tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Tomorrow is Private Members' day.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Then, we can take it up on Monday.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Chairman Sir, today there is no arrangement of meal to staff members. The hon'ble Minister has left the House. I request you to kindly defer it till Monday.

20.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Akhileshji, you are a Member of the BAC and you know about business of the House for Monday.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I realise that it is too late in the night. Yet if we postpone this debate to any other day and ask the Members to speak on some other day, it may not be possible. So, my request not only to you but also to other hon. Members is that, as far as possible, let us accommodate. Let us give the opportunity to the Members to speak. The reply can be given on any other day that may require one hour or one-and-a-half hours or whatever time is possible.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time for discussion on this issue can be extended by an hour today. If need be we can decide later on.

20.01 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, it should be discussed on Monday.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PARBHANI): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, there should be some arrangement for the meals.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Sir this should be discussed on Monday from morning on evening.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are 10 hon. Members to participate.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the hon'ble Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs had come and gone. He is not serious at all about the discussion. I request you to kindly defer this discussion for Monday. There is no quorum in the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have just heard that the time of the House has been extended by an hour. You can see what has been decided in the meeting of the leaders.

...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, it will be of no use to run the House without quorum. Lot of things are decided in the meeting of the leaders but those are not followed. Why the question of quorum is being compromised with? First ensure the quorum in the House

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, he has, raised the issue of quorum. Let there be the Quorum Bell.

...(Interruptions)

20.03 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The bell is being rang -

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Since there is no quorum in the House, the House stands adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. tomorrow.

20.21 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, August 2, 2002/Sravana 11, 1924 (Saka).

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576

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