Thirteenth Series, Vol. XXVI, No. 9

Thursday, July 25, 2002

Sravana 3, 1924 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Tenth Session

(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)

Parliament Library Building
Room No. PB-025
Block 'G'

(Vol. XXVI contains Nos. 1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

Price : Rs. 50.00

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LOK SABHA

Thursday, July 25, 2002/Sravana 3, 1924 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the flood situation of North Bihar due to rivers originating in Nepal is so severe that 7-8 districts are totally cut off from other parts of the country. *...(Interruptions)* In Gopalganj, East Champaran, West Champaran, Sheohar, Sitamarhi, Muzaffarpur, Madhubani districts water is flowing on railway tracks, roads are cut and houses are waterlogged. There is no boat nor any other arrangements. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, let us take up the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): People are reportedly being drowned but no relief is being provided. Arrangement of motor boat and military boat should be made. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shrimati Kailasho Devi, this is not the 'Zero Hour'. Please resume your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Yadav, you have said the same thing to Mr. Speaker this morning. Shri Prabhuanath ji had also raised this matter. He had said that there will be a discussion on the issue and hon'ble Minister would provide more information on it.

...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, flood is playing havoc there and the Government are doing nothing. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, please take your seat. This is Question Hour.

Today, the discusison will continue upto 8.30 p.m., and there is no 'Zero Hour'; and there is no lunch-break.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is an important issue. Please direct the Government on this matter.

[English]

Transporation System in North Bihar has collapsed, People have moved to safer places away from their homes but Government are doing nothing. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, let us start the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Q. No. 161.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh, I have already mentioned about this. Now, please take your seat.

[Translation]

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The situation is grim there. We have also seen media reports.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, situation is really grim. *...(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: For so many years, this issue. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am on my legs. Kunwar Askhilesh Singh, please resume your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, will you please take your seats?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Situation is grim in Bihar. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is why I said that hon. Minister will make special mention about Bihar in his reply.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Q. No. 161, Shri Shankersinh Vaghela—Not present.

Q. No. 162, Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, please understand the seriousness of the problem. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Since no Zero Hour is scheduled for today, I permitted to raise this matter.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, please give us time before starting regular debate. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already mentioned about this issue. While giving reply, the hon'ble Minister will specifically reply to this point.

[Translation]

You may also participate in the discussion.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Business Advisory Committee had fixed the two issues for discussion after clubbing them.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: The situation will become more grim within next 24 hours. The issue is of great importance. *...(Interruptions)* That is why it is a serious matter. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Therefore we may be given time immediately after Question Hour so that we can convey our sentiments to the Government through you. *...(Interruptions)* or I may be permitted to speak now. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I committed an error in permitting you before Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Our views are not being heard by the hon'ble Minister. He has his mouth and ears shut. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon'ble Minister is present here. There are so many Ministers here.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you have the power to issue directions to the Government. *...(Interruptions)* Government should respond. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: We can get nothing by speaking like this. *...(Interruptions)* Please ask the Government to respond. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon'ble Minister is here. He has already taken note of it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Please give us time during Zero Hour. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yadav ji, you are aware that there is no Zero Hour today. You know about Zero Hour. It has been decided by Business Advisory Committee that there will be no Zero Hour today.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: But the situation is extremely serious there. ...*(Interruptions)* You have the power. Please ask the Government.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Raghunath Jha, please sit down. Situation in Bihar is grim. Therefore, it has been decided in the BAC that flood and drought will be discussed together. When you presented it to Mr. Speaker this morning, he asked me to give you time and I did. I have also asked the Government to make special mention to it while giving reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is there any Minister here who will respond to this?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Discussion will conclude tonight itself by 8.30 P.M.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you please resume your seat now? What is it that you are doing? The Minister is responding.

...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): Sir, the serious issue raised by the hon. Members will be conveyed to the Parliamentary Affairs Minister. Whatever is to be decided will be decided by the Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture should be called. What will Parliamentary Affairs Minister do. The discussion on drought and flood is going on. People are drowning. People are dying. Everything is destroyed and the Minister of Agriculture is not present. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK: As soon as a decision is taken by the Minister, we will have discussion in the House. We have no objection to it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Because of the emergency that has arisen, some action needs to be taken. Please take it seriously.

SHRI RAM NAIK: I will convey it to the Minister concerned.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Sir, every year we hold discussion on floods. Lakhs of people get ruined. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Akhilesh, you will get a chance today.

[Translation]

The discussion on this issue would be held at 12 o'clock.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will not allow you. I have already called Shri Saradgi.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Sir, flood of this intensity has never come in which water level has amounted upto 3 lakh 5 thousand 71 cubic feet. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, let the Minister speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY

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* Not recorded.

AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Sir, all hon'ble Members of the House are aware of seriousness of the issue. Discussion on this subject was to be held yesterday, but unfortunately, it could not happen. I will apprise the concerned Minister with the views expressed by the hon. Members. The discussion on it will begin at 12 o'clock. The hon. Minister will definitely give appropriate reply and information about the States which have been affected by the flood and drought. The flood would also be included into it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government should tell about sending team to the States. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am on my legs. Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, will you please resume your seat?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You shall please listen.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Both States, Bihar and Assam get affected by the floods. I understand, the doubts of hon. Members would get clear, after reply of the Minister comes in this regard. The hon. Minister will decide whether team will go or not. ...*(Interruptions)*

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

11.13 hrs.

[English]

New Power Tariff Policy

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

(a) whether the Union Government have made it clear to the States that any assistance is likely to be linked to verifiable time-bound steps taken by them to improve the quality, reliability and commercial viability of power supply;

(b) if, so whether the system of counter-guarantee has been a disaster and cannot be an alternative to commercial viability;

(c) if so, whether the Ministry has now prepared a new power tariff policy after consulting the State Governments;

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

(e) the steps being taken to improve the power situation in the States?

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

Statement

(a) 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 distrbution 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 States 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 DPRs. The programme is being extended to cover concentrated loads and towns with population of over 1 lakhs 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 grant by the Ministry of Power to SEBs/Utilities for actual cash loss reduction.

The Government of India (GOI) had set up an Expert Group under Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia to suggest, inter alia, the one time settlement of the dues owned by State Electricity Boards (SEBs) to Central Public Sector

Undertakings (CPSUs). Recommendations made by the Expert Group under Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia have been accepted. 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. Further, in order to initiate steps towards reform of the sector, the SEBs shall accept reform based performance milestones such as setting up of SERCs, metering of distribution feeders, improvements in revenue realisation specified in the MOUs to be signed with the Ministry of Power.

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 Gvoernments 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.

(b) On opening up of generation for the private sector, Government of India had offered counter guarantee to initial 8 projects to instil confidence among investors. Emphasis now is on restoration of commercial viability of distribution which alone can attract and sustain investment in generation.

(c) and (d) A Working Group was constituted under the chairmanship of Special Secretary (Power) to prepare a concept paper on tariff policy. The Group has since submitted its report. A High Level Committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of Secretary (Power) to finalise the tariff policy after taking into account the comments and views of the various stakeholders and experts on the report of the Working Group. The exercise is scheduled to be completed in three months.

(e) The Ministry of Power, after wide ranging consultations with all the stakeholders namely State Governments, State Electricity Boards, utilities, experts, trade unions, private investors and political leaders, has evolved a comprehensive and detailed Action Plan for turning around the power sector. The draft of an All Party Declaration of a Common Minimum Plan on Power has been prepared and circulated.

The Central Electricity Authority has estimated the requirement for an additional capacity addition of 1,00,000 MW for attaining the objective of power for all by 2012. For the Tenth Plan a capacity addition programme of approximately 41,000 MW has been targeted. With close monitoring from the beginning the capacity addition targeted for the Tenth Plan is expected to be achieved. Renovation and Modernization of the existing plants is being given priority. With other measures for:

* reducing technical losses in distribution under the tightly focussed APDRP programme;
* demand side management through energy efficiency and energy conservation; and
* improvement in capacities for inter-regional transfer of power through creation of the National Grid.

the country is expected to achieve a satisfactory level in availability of power.

Rural electrification has now been included under Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) from the year 2001-02 as a Basic Minimum Service. Electrification of all villages by 2007 and provision of access to all households by 2012 has been accepted as a national goal. The budget for the year 2002-03 provides for introduction of a new interest subsidy scheme called the Accelerated Rural Electrification Programme with an outlay of Rs. 164 crore. This would enable States to give the rural electrification programme greater momentum by accessing funds liberally from the REC and the RIDF.

The forward-looking, reform-oriented Electricity Bill 2001 has been introduced in Parliament. The Bill, inter-alia, contains stringent provisions for penalty in case of power thefts. The Bill also includes provision for reduction of cross subsidies, and for payment of subsidies upfront by the State Governments to the State Power Utilities where such subsidies are considered unavoidable.

It is expected that the action plan briefly outlined in the preceding paragraphs would lead to improvement in the operational and financial performance of the State Electricity Boards/Utilities with restoration of commercial viability in a few years.

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Sir, there is a shortage of power throughout the country. Almost all the Electricity Boards in the States are in debt. It has been pointed out in the Press that any assistance to the States would be linked to the verifiable time-bound steps taken by the States to improve the quality. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the Centre has earmarked Rs. 40,000 crore to assist power reforms in the States over the next five years. If so, what are the criteria to be followed by the Centre for providing the

funds to the States? I would also like to know whether only those States will be provided these funds which sign the agreement with the Centre. If so, what is the total number of States which have so far signed the agreements and how much amount has so far been released to the States?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Sir, it is a fact that the State Electricity Boards in the country are facing serious crises. The total accumulated losses of the State Electricity Boards last year were close to Rs. 30,000 crore. One of the direct manifestations of this problem is now reflected in the fact that the State Electricity Boards are not able to maintain the distribution and sub-transmission network which is the very vital link between the utility and the consumer. Therefore, to assist the States, the Central Government had appointed a Committee which was called Montek Singh Ahluwalia Committee which had submitted its report. The report *inter alia* addresses two or three problems. One is that the State Electricity Boards have dues of Rs. 41,000 crore to the central utilities which they were not able to service because the States did not have money. Now, the new scheme envisages that Rs. 41,000 crore will now be issued in the form of bonds by the State Governments. So, that liability is taken care of.

The Committee had also estimated the amount of money that would be required to complete this project. As the hon. Member has pointed out, it would be something like Rs. 40,000 crore. Therefore, this money will have to be found out from various sources to assist the States to face this problem. This money will be released to the States on the basis of, as I said and as you have rightly pointed out, of verifiable milestones which will be fixed. Otherwise, even after spending the money, the problem will not be solved. In this very august House, many times we have disucssed the problem that the money is released by the Central Government to the States but the States actually diverted the money for something else or the problem for which the money is earmarked, that does not get addressed at all. Therefore, to ensure that such a situation does not repeat itself, we have decided that there will be verifiable milestones that a State Government will agree with the Central Government and through a joint effort it will be reflected in this agreement, and the money will be released. Therefore, we are signing agreements with almost all the States. First, we had signed Memorandum of Understanding. Now, we are trying to convert this Memorandum of Understanding into a Memorandum of Agreement. We have convened a meeting of all the States. More or less all the States have agreed to go ahead with this part of the reforms.

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Sir, the hon. Minister has made a statement that for the Tenth Plan, a capacity addition programme of approximately 41,000 MW has been targeted. Sir, even in the Ninth Plan, we have not been able to achieve the targets set by for the power generation in the country. What were the reasons for not achieving the target I would like to know whether in the Tenth Plan, a concrete programme of action has been formulated to achieve the target set for the purpose. I would also like to know from the Minister whether the Centre has agreed to offer 100 MW of power from National Thermal Power Corporation to Karnataka if there was a shortage of power. If so, whether the Minister has also said that the Centre has enough power to provide to the State of Karnataka if a need is felt. I would like to know whether the State Government of Karnataka has requested for power. If so, by what time the power is likely to be supplied to the State of Karnataka?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Questions should be brief and answers should also not be disproportionate.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Firstly, in the Eighth and the Ninth Plans, in the last ten years, our capacity addition has been less than 50 per cent of the target primarily because our private sector participation which was expected to come never materialised. In the mean time, hoping that private investment would come, the Government had withdrawn the public investment. Therefore, in the Tenth Plan which had just begun on the 1st of April, we have taken care of all these factors and prepared a Plan whereby public investment has been increased during the Tenth Plan by 270 per cent of the last Plan period.

Secondly, this 41,000 MW capacity addition programme that we have started is a programme which is not aimed at just creating a target and then finding out where the projects are. In fact, it is a bottom-up approach. I had called a meeting of all the State Electricity Boards, all the private sector companies and all the Central Public Utilities which are going to add to this programme in the Tenth Plan. Based on each and every project which has been earmarked, found out and scrutinised, this capacity addition programme of 41,000 MW has been estimated. So, I can say with confidence that this Plan will definitely attain 41,000 MW capacity.

Thirdly, this is not just a capacity addition programme that we are targeting to tide over the power shortage. We are doing demands and management of energy conservation, which has a potential of 25,000 MW. We are also doing renovation and modernisation of existing power plants which can add at least 10,000 MW during

the Tenth Plan. So, all these put together, the shortage will be removed.

The hon. Member wanted to know about Karnataka State. It is a fact that Karnataka, Kerala and most of the southern States are facing severe power shortage because this year the monsoon has almost failed as a result of which the reservoir levels of various States in southern India are 46 per cent of what they were last year. So, it is a very serious problem. We are trying to find out how temporary measures can be taken. I have convened an emergency meeting next week to review the situation. But, as he has already pointed out, even despite the problem that we are facing all over the country, 100 MW of power has already started flowing into Karnataka. I cannot give unlimited power to the State because the Central Government does not have a storage of power. The power which is generated has to be instantaneously supplied to various States. So, we always make contingency arrangements.

[Translation]

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our aim was to provide electricity to every house. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether under new tariff policy, attention is being paid towards this, it so, what is Government's view in providing one electric lamp to every household under tenth five year plan. Besides this my second question is that as we have not achieved success in power generation sector even after privatisation, as a result of it, transmission and distribution losses are to the tune of 40-50 percent, whereas as per international norms, it should be 12 percent. What is Government's view in regard to reducing it?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the hydro-power situation is such, that 10 years ago, the proportion of distribution of thermal power and hydro power was 40-60, now it is 80-20. After tapping hydro-power resources, India, Nepal and Bhutan can collectively generate approximately 2 lakh, 50 thousand megawatt of power. I would like to know the reaction of the Government in this regard.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it is our aim to provide electricity to every household, but I do not agree that this target can be achieved in five years. If electricity is to be provided on such a large scale, then it requires at least 10 years. We are having an action plan ready with us to provide electricity in next ten years, it has been endorsed by all the States. 65 percent households of the country are deprived of electricity. On one side 80,000 villages are deprived of electricity, at the same time there are 4 lakh rural areas of the country, which are called Bastis, which are still deprived of electricity. We cannot overcome this difficulty in five years. The programmes which had not been implemented during last 50 years, are the cause behind it. It will definitely take time to rectify it, but we will do it in next 10 years. It is our promise. We are formulating programme for it. The second thing is that ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, no Government sets target for ten years. Any Government sets it for five years. At present, situation is *(Interruptions)* Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, if they will set target for ten years, the point stands whether this Government will remain in power for next five years or not ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him answer to Shri Jyotiraditya's question.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, you have given him permission to speak, therefore I would like to tell him that if electricity would have been provided to the villages in last 50 years, then there would have been no need of these five years, but we have to do so because you have not done it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Fifty years ago, there were lamps in every village, electricity has been provided to them by us. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: I would like to indulge personal criticism, then I would say, that your Government has neither added single Megawatt in last four years, nor has made any progress in power sector. Therefore, you should not go back to past, but think of future. You should think how we can take our country on the path of progress and development, it is my humble request to you.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: I would like to inform the hon. Member that during last five years the additional power of more than 20 thousand megawatt has been generated ...*(Interruptions)*. As per our constitution, it is the prime responsibility of the States to generate electricity. Our Constitution has provision for it. Therefore, all States should generate power. If the State Governments are incapable of generating power or they have some problems, the Union Government are running programme for power generation to remove those problems. In the

next five year plan, the Union Government is trying to redress the problems of State Governments by generating more power in the States. Second question which you have asked is as to what is our programme for hydro-development. I am happy to tell that we have prepared a ranking study of hydro potential of all the places in the country by getting it verified by the Central Electricity Authority. We have prepared a ranking study of all the projects and also formulated a programme for exploiting those projects in a time bound manner in which the foreign companies are likely to invest in the months of October and November by arranging for the deliberations of foreign companies with the State Governments.

Your third point is right that all the transmission and distribution works should be privatized. I am of the opinion that this is even more important than the generation of power and this was a mistake committed by us in the past ten years. We tried to mobilize foreign capital for upstream generation but instead of being resolved our problem increased. Hence the Union Government have prepared its strategy to minimize transmission and distribution losses ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the hon. Minister for taking initiatives to launch many hydro power projects, all at a time, in the country. He has also fixed a time limit to complete all the projects. That is a different matter.

The point is, throughout the country, there is transmission and distribution losses and theft of power by hooking and tapping are taking place. The accumulated losses of different State Electricity Boards including that of my State, except a few, have crossed more than one thousand crores of rupees. I hope it is within record and it has been established in the Audit Reports. So, there is theft of power by hooking and tapping and losses by way of transmission and distribution are to be stopped. You have enough dues from many Central Public Sector Undertakings and Government Departments. You have constituted the Montek Singh Ahluwalia Committee and they have submitted their report. What steps are you going to take to check the transmission and distribution losses as also theft of power by hooking and taping? Is there any time limit fixed for your programme? Is your suffering due to constraint of funds because of not recovering your dues from different Central Public Sector Undertakings for which you have constituted the Montek Singh Ahluwalia Committee? According to their Report, What is the time limit fixed by which you are expecting to recollect all your dues? Has any time limit been fixed or not?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Sir, I am very happy to say that after the Montek Singh Ahluwalia Committee's Report was submitted to us about a year ago, we have talked to all the States. More or less all the States have signed tripartite agreement with us. So, within next two weeks itself, we would have recovered Rs. 41,000 crore which has been plaguing the country as a result of several years of lapses. We will be able to solve this problem within next few weeks itself.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the basic question is about three issues. First issue is about availability of power; second issue is at what cost it is available; and the third issue is the quality of power.

[Translation]

I have thrice read the reply given by the hon. Minister here. Five points have been mentioned in it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You ask the question. It needs half an hour in reading the replies.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: First point is the reduction in losses, second is commercial availability, third is about the theft, fourth about improving the financial health and fifth point is about one time settlement. I am of the opinion that all the five points mentioned in the reply are not new and everybody knows about them.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You ask the supplementary. Many hon. Members want to ask the question.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: I am again reiterating that the points mentioned in the reply are not new whenever I say something, back it with logic. I cite an example of a plan. Ministry of Power had fixed a target for sending the T&D losses during the Eighth Five Year Plan for which 1000 crore rupees were spent by CEA but still the T&D losses are 50 percent and is the ground reality. I want to ask as to how the Government propose to integrate the root cause in this regard?

Whether your Ministry is adopting IFRP approval or not?

[English]

I am coming to the question. My question is whether the Ministry is adopting Integrated Energy Resource Planning (IERP) approach on supply and demand side including all energy sources. What is the target?

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when a child fails the examination due to lack of hard work he moves to another teacher. All suggests him to

study hard which is nothing new. The advice given by a teacher that everybody can pass through hard work is nothing new. It is amply clear.

However what mistakes we made are needed to be eliminated and we admit it again and again. It does not mean that what we did not do in past, we should not refer to it again and again.

Second thing is that there is a need to adopt an integrated approach in it. I have said in my reply to the first supplement also that we are not only striving for capacity addition but are trying to resolve the integrated management problem through demand side management, energy conservation, construction of national grid and taking the co-operation of all the quarters. I thought that you might have read the blue print for power sector development sent by me to you and if you went I would sent it again. You would believe only after reading that the Government is considering it only under the integrated approach.

[English]

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: The Minister is the best salesman of the programmes and publicity. But I can say that the results are not there. He also knows it. The power reforms which he and his previous Government introduced has not yielded the result. The tariff has gone high; the production has come down; and the loans have increased. You are now proposing one time settlement. The cost of power which you use is different from what the Electricity Boards are paying. What are you thinking about this?

Mr. Minister, you are now thinking of a joint venture understanding with the State Governments. Why do you not take over all the Electricity Boards and form independent Corporations and rectify whole situation?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: It is a very radical suggestion that he is suggesting that we should take over the State Electricity Boards of all States. I do not know whether it is the common view of the House. Under the Constitution of India, it is a Concurrent Subject. The State Governments are the owners of the State Electricity Boards. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: The Constitution can be amended. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to thank the hon. Minister for starting a APDP through which an effort to improve the electricity supply, especially of the rural areas, has been made. He has said that the regions or the districts recommended by the State under the norms would be covered under the APDP.

Sir, as far the hilly States are concerned, I hail from Mandi parliamentary constituency in which Kullu, Mandi and Chamba circle are also included which is an entirely tribal area but instead of recommending these regions the names of such circles have been recommended in which transmission losses are less. I had written a letter to the hon. Minister to cover such regions under the programmes and the hon. Minister also wanted the State Government to recommend the names of those regions. I had also given to the hon. Minister the recommendation letter from the State Government. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what action had been taken theron?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister in his reply has said that a decision to cover 63 circles under the first phase of this programme has been taken and alongwith it has also said that priority would be given to the cities or towns having a population more than one lakh, if this criteria is adopted none of the hilly States including Himachal Pradesh would qualify for it. Hence I would know from the hon. Minister whether he would relax this population criteria a bit so that the hilly States may benefit from this scheme?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we had included 63 circles in the first phase but the note in which the suggestion to implement this programme countrywide has been made, is pending for approval with the Cabinet and if approved the other regions could also be covered.

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has not replied to my question. I had said that the transmission losses are more in the Mandi and Kullu circle of Himachal Pradesh and tribal areas falling therein and the State Government had also recommended the names of these regions to be covered under APDP and I have written a letter to the hon. Minister in which it has been sought to know as to what action was taken in this regard and also whether he propose to relax the criteria of one lakh population? Hon. Minister has not replied to my these questions. I would like the hon. Minister to reply to both of my questions.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: I am also looking into that also.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: In addition to the transmission loss and quality of power, one problem is the frequency in the power system. In order to tackle the frequency problem, the Government of West Bengal had sent a proposal for a joint venture. The MoU was signed for a pump storage to generate 900 MW of power. It is called the Purulia Pump Storage. This joint venture was signed last year and the proposal is pending with the Government of India for the last one year. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the proposal for the Purulia Pump Storage to generate 900 MW of power in the State of West Bengal would be cleared. ...*(Interruptions)* Will the Government of India clear the project without further delay so that this project can be commissioned by the year 2006?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: The hon. Member is aware that very recently we had taken a meeting in which I had a discussion with the Chief Minister of West Bengal. Subsequently, the hon. Minister of West Bengal dealing with the energy sector along with the hon. Member of Parliament met me. We already decided that we would be going to pursue this project despite the fact that there are certain difficulties which are there. The West Bengal Government and the Government of India jointly have to sort it out to ensure that this project becomes viable and thereby it can be taken up ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you had assured me to give chance to ask a supplementary on this question but you have not yet been given me a chance.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will give you a chance.

SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: Sir, the *Dabhol* Power Project is in the homeland of the hon. Minister. ...*(Interruptions)* The *Dabhol* Power Project of Enron is in a position to supply electricity to Government of Maharashtra and if there are other customers, it is ready to supply power to them also. Due to the rates quoted by the Government of Maharashtra, still the *Dabhol* Power Project is not in a position to supply electricity to the MSEB. I would like to know whether the Government of India would like to intervene in the matter and bring the parties together to the negotiating table to have a reasonable rate. If it is not possible, would the NTPC like to purchase the power which is now available? Instead of spending the time in erecting a new project and waiting for five years, when there is shortage of electricity, would the Government of India be in a position either to negotiate and bring the parties together or to take power that has been available from Enron, that is, Dabhol Power Project?

If so, when would it be done?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: As you are aware, for any power project, the ownership is not as important as to who is going to purchase the power generated from that project. So, the Dabhol Power Project was started as equity participation of the Maharashtra Electricity Board as well as the Enron Power Corporation.

Now, the Enron Power Corporation is facing bankruptcy proceedings in a court in the United States. So, if the Maharashtra Electricity Board is willing to buy that power, the IDBI-led Consortium is already negotiating with the Government of Maharashtra to find out at what price the power can be sold to the Government of Maharashtra.

You are aware that the State of Maharashtra is facing very acute power shortage. There is an asset available. It can generate 2,100 MW of power in both the phases put together. So, I am sure, you will also use your good offices to impress upon the Government of Maharashtra to make sure that there is generation from assets and the power generated from that will be bought by the Government of Maharashtra.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Madhya Pradesh has been facing an unprecedented power crises since the carving out of Chhattisgarh from it. I am of the view that the division of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh on the basis of population was not done on a rational basis. Hence Madhya Praesh is facing this crisis. ...*(Interruptions)* Please allow the Members sitting at the back to speak. The House is not going to run the way you are running it ...*(Interruptions)* I, too, have been a Member of the House since last Lok Sabha. Sitting at the back does not mean that you will not listen to us. Front-benchers will not be permitted to boss over. I will also speak ...*(Interruptions)* Madhya Pradesh is in grip of so severe power crisis that the villages are not provided power supply even for an hour. They are facing severe drought. There are no arrangement for irrigation in the State. Tubewells are less in number in the hilly areas.

I would like to ask hon. Minister whether Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh has requested the Union Government for rendering help to overcome power crisis? If so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto and whether the Union Government propose to provide any assistance to Madhya Pradesh Government to overcome power crisis? Secondly ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You ask the question. You were alleging that back-benchers are not getting chance to speak. Just now, I have given a chance to Shri Subodh Mohite to speak. You, too, have been given a chance so your allegation is baseless.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to know only-whether the Government of India propose to provide assistance to the Government of Madhya Pradesh or not?

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, no time has been given to Bihar ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Bihar has been given chance earlier. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: But not for speaking on power problem. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, during current year the power generation is expected to be short by 12 billion units since our hydro reserve is below 43 percent. Thus, it is a serious matter for the country. Power surplus with the Central Pool is already being distributed to the States. Next week, emergency meeting comprising of representatives from all the States is scheduled to be held wherein resolution of power crisis will be discussed. Power crisis in M.P. will also be taken up for discussion.

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Sir, the Minister has replied saying that there is a package. ...*(Interruptions)* I think, there is a package for the financial difficulties faced by the State Government. Orissa was considered a model not only by the State Government but it was also projected by the World Bank as far as the unbundling process was concerned.

Anybody who has studied Orissa would find that a unit, which was selling at Rs. 1.82 paise, has now gone up to Rs. 2.80 paise due to unbundling of the State Electricity Board. The Board was running at a profit. Now, it has gone into a loss. May I know from the Minister about that? The T&D losses are different. The position of the State Electricity Board was better than those of Bihar and Orissa. That much I can say. There was no need for the Central help.

May I know form the Government that after an experience of nearly eight years about unbundling, are you still going to make the MoU, that has been signed, into an agreement?

Are you still going to continue with the same experiment and make other good States like the Orissa State? That is the first part of my question.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You can ask only one question.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: The part (b) of my question is this. There are certain ongoing projects to improve the situation. As I pointed out, the hydropower generation is only 20 per cent.

Sir, Tipumulla is one project which is going on in Silchar district in Assam State. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister is going to take that up.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Sir, the proposed Electricity Bill, 2001, which has been drafted by the Ministry and which is now under the scrutiny of the Standing Committee, does not talk about only one mode. We are no longer saying that the State Electricity Boards will have to be divided into three parts. We are only saying that the State Electricity Boards must make profits. Therefore, we are not necessarily following the Orissa Model at all. We are only saying that Orissa is one model and there is a possibility of multiple model. Therefore, in all the States, the Government of India have decided to give assistance. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Sir, we are thankful to the hon. Minister for that. ...*(Interruptions)* But the hon. Minister has not replied to the other part of my question ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Eleven Members have already asked their supplementaries.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, the seriousness of power crisis there has forced the public to resort to 'Satyagrah' and the Government is resorting to firing at them. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir this is a very important question and we also want to ask supplementaries ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Jos, you give notice for Half-and-Hour discussion and I will admit it.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Sir it is a very serious matter and there can be nothing more serious than this ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: One question has taken half-an-hour. We took up this question at 11.15 a.m. There are other hon. Members also who are waiting. You can also participate in the Half-an-Hour discussion.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: The condition in Uttar Pradesh is very serious ...*(Interruptions)* Power crisis has resulted in hue and cry ...*(Interruptions)* The public is protesting against the crisis and the Government are resorting to lathi-charge and firing ...*(Interruptions)* I want your protection ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You give a notice for half-an-hour discussion and I will admit that.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a serious matter ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Eleven hon. Members have asked question on this issue. You give half-an-hour notice in this regard and I will admit it.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You give notice for Half-an-Hour discussion, I will admit it. Now, we go to next question.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: It is most burning issue.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have already called the next questioner.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Please allow discussion on this matter under Rule 193. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, if the hon. Minister agrees, why do you not accept a short duration discussion, like under rule 193, on the power situation in the country? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That can be decided in the Business Advisory Committee. On this very question, eleven Members have already asked supplementaries and we have already taken 33 minutes on that.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: The condition in U.P. has become pitiable. It is a very serious issue. I request you to admit detailed discussion on this matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have agreed for half-an-hour discussion and what else do you want.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All Members cannot be accommodated in one single question. Q. 163, Shri Suresh Jadhav.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please resume your seat. This is Question Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious matter ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Ramjilal Suman, one question has taken more than half-an-hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You give notice and I will accept it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am telling something very important. Please listen to it *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh, I have already heard you in the very beginning and now again you are asking this supplementary question. There are a number of Members who would want to ask their supplementaries.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I will conclude my speech within half minute *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have already given the floor to him.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I have not asked a question. Since it is question hour, I would like to ask a question.

Complaints of malpractices and Misconduct by the Notary Public

[English]

*163. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints of malpractices and misconduct by the Notary Public in various parts of the country, have been received by the Government;

(b) if so, the number of such complaints received during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the action taken against such erring Notary Public and number of certificates of practice cancelled during the last three years, year-wise/State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Eighteen complaints have been received from different States during the last three years. The State and year-wise details of such complaints and action taken thereon are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

States from which the complaint have been received	Number of complaints received			Action taken
	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	
Delhi			3	2-pending 1-inquiry initiated
Gujarat			1	1-pending
Maharashtra			2	1-pending 1-licence cancelled
Punjab	2	1	3	5-pending 1-licence has not been renewed
Rajasthan	1			1-licence cancelled
Uttar Pradesh	1	1	3	1-pending 2-action initiated 2--liences have been cancelled

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except Q. No. 163.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have called him, so let him ask supplementary. He is asking. You are a senior Member. First time I give you a chance during Question-Hour and still you are behaving like this, then how can I run the House. How can the House be run like this?

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: This issue is going to affect crores of people. In view of functioning of Notary Public and the rampant irregularities in it there is a need to make the public fully aware about whether any fee is to be paid to Notary for attestation of documents or not and if so, how much fee is required to be paid to him? In view of disorder prevailing in it, there is a need to inform the public about it through television, radio and other advertisements. Through you, I would like to ask what steps the Government propose to take at village panchayat level and at taluka level to make the public aware about it? During last three years 18 cases have been registered against notaries, which reflects shortcomings in our system. There are lakhs of licensed notaries whereas only 18 such cases have been registered and even out of that 10 cases are pending.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Jadhav ji, please ask direct question.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: I am asking the question only whether there is any shortcoming in our system?

[English]

SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY: Sir, far as the Central Notaries are concerned, a total of about 2092 persons have been appointed. Out of 2092 persons, only 18 cases have been brought to our notice by way of complaints. Out of that action has already been taken against a few persons and a few cases are pending. So compared to 2092, to take the case of only 18 persons against whom complaints have been received I do not think a large number of malpractices have taken place in this field.

The hon. Member has made a suggestion that what are the fees that are being levied by the Notaries for the various actions should be known to the public. If I can say so, Rule 10 sets out the entire fee that is to be charged by the Notary and the fees that the public should give for all these things. The suggestion can be taken. But it is already known to the people, especially when it has been placed in the Rule Book itself.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: In fact the rule is only on paper and people are not aware of it. Through you, I would like to ask second supplementary-whether, in view of seriousness of this issue, the Government propose to evolve any code of conduct for the people associated with this profession? If so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented and if not, the reasons thereof?

[English]

SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY: I have already made it very clear, through you, Sir, to the hon. Member that out of 2092, complaints against only 18 persons have been reported. I do not consider these 18, out of 2092, form a portion for which the Government will have to take a very serious consideration as such.

As things are today, I do not think any code of conduct is required. Whatever do's and don'ts are there are already set out in the Act and in the rules. The Government does not think that there is any code of conduct that is needed at this stage.

SHRI A.C. JOS: The Notary Public is not a very popular mechanism available in this country. Notaries Public are being appointed indiscriminately.

The hon. Minister has very rightly said that the rules of fees, etc. are in the book but as the hon. Member has pointed out the book is not available for ignorant people who go for stamping of documents to the Notaries Public.

I have two questions hare. The first question relates to the functions of the Notaries Public. What are the things to be certified by the Notaries Public? Nobody knows it. Certain Government Departments say that certification by a Notary Public should be there; certain foreign Embassies say that certification by a Notary Public should be there. So, will the Government come forward with a system or a formula by which the ignorant people can know which are the documents that need certification by a Notary Public?

Also, the Government should insist that at the door of the Notaries Public the fees that are liable to be taken

* Not recorded.

be exhibited. Will the Government come forward with a system like that?

SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY: The question is whether any particular system is needed to educate the people with regard to fees to be charged by the notaries and what are the things that are to be done by them. Every Act contains its own rules and regulations. Ignorance of law is not an excuse and the Notaries Public also exhibit in their places the fees levied under the Act. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS: Nowhere is it exhibited in the country. They charge the fees indiscriminately. Depending on how ignorant the client is, the fees would be more. There is no fee schedule displayed. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY: May I complete my answer?

If it is not so, it is very easily verifiable. The Government cannot take the responsibility to make the public understand whatever has been set out in the Act or in the rules. This could be done through the various Bar Associations or other organisations.

The hon. Member also asked a question with regard to the duties of Notaries Public. Section 8 sets out the rules and regulations on what are the acts to be done by them, the documents to be registered by the notaries and to be signed by them and what amounts to misconduct. All these things have been set out. Under these circumstances, I think, whatever the Government has to do has been done.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know whether the Government have changed the old criteria for appointment of Notary Public? If so, the details thereof? The State Government appoints Notary Public and Central Government also duly appoints them, which leads to overcrowding of notaries at some places whereas at certain places there number is less. Whether any coordination between the Union and State Governments is sought to keep a balance in the number of notaries?

[English]

SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY: Sir, the Act envisages the appointment of notaries, both by the Central Government and the State Governments. The Central Government has got a definite number of notaries to be appointed for each State. The State Governments also similarly have a number of notaries to be appointed by them. So, there is no confusion with regard to that. All the notaries are being appointed by the Law Ministry only. I can say that it is popular and it is not that nobody knows it. One thousand and two hundred memorials are still pending in the Law Ministry. They are being processed. When they get processed, another 1,200 would be appointed.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Normally, Notaries Public are advocates. They are governed by the Advocates Act. It is easy for the Government to control them. The Advocates Act is applicable to Notaries Public as well. So, it is easy for the Government to issue guidelines in the matter of receiving fees. In the matter of fees for various certificates issued by the Notaries Public, there is no criteria. So, when poor people approach the Notaries Public for a visa or for a passport, the Notary Public's certificate is issued the basis of thousands of rupees. This is quite unjustifiable. People going abroad and seeking employment abroad approach the Notaries Public. Exorbitant fees are begin charged by the Notaries Public for issuing certificates.

12.00 hrs.

Let the Government come forward with a specific proposal or guideline fixing the fees to be charged by the Notary Public. Any violation can be reported to a Bar Association or the Bar Council. They will take penal action also. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY: The Act clearly lays down the qualifications that are needed for a person who is eligible to be appointed as the Notary Public.

I will just read out the following few lines:

"The Central Government has power to appoint notaries for the whole or any part of India, whereas a State Government is empowered to appoint notaries for the whole or any part of the State. The eligible persons apply for notaryship by submitting a memorial to the Competent Authority appointed by the Central Government which has to be countersigned by a Magistrate, a Bank Manager, a Merchant and two prominent local residents. The comments/objections are called for from the State Bar Council where the memorialist is enrolled as an advocate. He is also requested to submit an affidavit deposing that he is neither a notary already appointed by any State Government nor his application for appointment as notary is pending with the concerned State Government."

Sir, these are all qualifications. A minimum period of ten years is allowed. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: But there is no criterion or guideline for fixing the fees. ...*(Interruptions)* The fees are charged by the Notary Public. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY: It is there in the rules. If any misgiving is there, action can be taken and it is being taken. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as people want to rigister every deed, howsoever small it may be, the requirement of Notary Public has increased in the country. Through you, would like to ask hon. Minister whether the Government propose to specify any criteria regarding the number of notaries district wise in every tehsil.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Question Hour is over. His reply may be given to him in writing.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Extension of Rail Routes

*161. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether extension of rail routes has been finalised for the 10th Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total length of rail route extended during the 9th Five Year Plan;

(d) the rail route extended to the State of Gujarat during the said period;

(e) the amount spent on extension of rail routes during the said period; and

(f) the kilometres of rail lines on which electric and diesel engines are being operated, separately?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) During the Ninth Five Year Plan, 662 Kms. of Rail rout has been extended in the entire Indian Railway System.

(d) During the Ninth Five Year Plan, 59 Kms. of Rail route was extended in Gujarat.

(e) Approximately Rs. 2,914 Crores were spent on completed Rail routes and other ongoing Rail route extension works during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(f) As on 31.03.2001, electrified and non-electrified Route Kilometres are approximately 15,398 Kms. and 47,630 Kms. respectively. While Electric engines can run only on electrified route, the Diesel engines do not have any such restriction.

Ultrasonic testing

*164. SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ultrasonic testing of all moving parts such as wheels, axles etc. is being conducted in Indian Railways periodically;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the officials are keeping records of wheel profiles after each periodic overhauling since derailment also occur whenever there is a substantial variation in the thickness of wheel flanges and the wheel diameter; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Ultrasonic testing of critical safety moving parts like axles is done in Indian Railways.

(b) and (c) Ultrasonic testing of critical safety components like axles is done at regular intervals during maintenance as prescribed in the Maintenance Manuals. In addition, wheel discs, tyres and armature shafts are other moving parts of rolling stock which are subjected to ultrasonic testing during manufacture.

(d) Important wheel profile parameters like wheel diameter and difference in wheel diameter are recorded in the workshops. Flange thickness is also checked to ensure that only wheels within prescribed limits are permitted in service.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Indian National Defence University

*165. DR. ASHOK PATEL:
SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring NDC, NDA and Defence Service Staff College under one umbrella named Indian National Defence University;

(b) if so, whether the Committee set up to examine the above proposal has since submitted its report;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the final decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) (a) and (b) In pursuance of the Group of Minister's Recommendation (6.80), a Committee consisting of 13 members under the Chairmanship of Shri K. Subramanyam was set up on 23.7.2001 to examine the establishment of an Indian National Defence University. The Committee has since submitted its report to the Government of India on 29th May, 2002. In its report, the Committee has recommended to bring NDC, NDA and Defence Service Staff College under one umbrella named Indian National Defence University. The recommendations of the report are being examined by a Group constituted as Implementation Cell under Defence Secretary.

(c) and (d) Since various recommendations made by the Committee in its report are under examination by the Government, the details thereof and the time by which a final decision thereon will be taken cannot be indicated at this stage.

[English]

Telecast of FIFA World Cup

*166. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

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

(a) whether the "Ten Sports" channel failed to arrive at a negotiation with the Doordarshan for showing the World Cup soccer matches live to the Indian viewers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are also aware that this step has benefited the foreign private sector to earn crores of rupees;

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

(e) whether any alternative arrangements have been made by the Doordarshan for showing such matches live to its viewers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that the offer of Ten Sports Channel for the telecast rights of FIFA World Cup was considered by Doordarshan, but it was rejected for the following reasons:

(i) The telecast rights were offered only for deferred telecast i.e. Doordarshan could telecast it only six hours after the match was over. This delayed telecast would have generated limited viewer interest.

(ii) The revenue generation potential was very low.

(iii) Doordarshan was being offered telecast rights only for a limited number of matches.

(iv) The rights fee asked was too high.

(c) and (d) The Government has no information about the earnings of private channels from various programmes, including telecast of Sports events. Prasar Bharati enjoys complete autonomy in programme matters and related commercial decisions.

(e) and (f) Telecast rights are sold to Broadcasters by the rights holders of such tournaments. After de-monopolisation of the broadcasting industry, Doordarshan has to compete with other Broadcasters for the acquisition of these rights. Prasar Bharati has informed that there has been a quantum jump in the rights fee demanded by the rights holders of some sports events. Doordarshan makes every possible effort to acquire telecast rights of popular events, within the availability of its resources.

Code of Conduct for Media

*167. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minster of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have emphasised the need for a code of conduct for the media;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any initiative through the Press Council of India or otherwise in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof: and

(d) the progress made in this regard?

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 133 (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 provisions of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1955.

[Translation]

Infiltration across the Border

*168. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidence of infiltration across the border has increased even after creation of unified Defence Intelligence Agency (D.I.A.) and Jawans of Army were killed due to explosion on the Amarnath route;

(b) if so, the reasons for failure of Defence Intelligence Agency; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make the said agency more effective?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The incidents of increase/ decrease in infiltration from across the border and terrorist attacks in the hinterland including attacks that took place on the Amarnath route recently, are related to ground tactical operations and have no linkage with the setting up of Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA).

DIA became functional only from 1st July, 2002. It is, therefore, too early to comment on its effectiveness.

Derailment due to track hazards

[English]

*169. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a curving track is vulnerable to derailment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Railway Board has laid down elaborate instructions in this regard to General Managers, Divisional Railway Managers to ensure that derailments do not occur due to track hazards;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any punishment has so far been awarded to GMs, DRMs and Permanent Way Inspectors (now designated as Section Engineers-Permanent Way) after the incidents of derailment took place; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Instructions exist in the form of codes and manuals e.g. Indian Railway Permanent Way Manual etc. These are supplemented from time to time, as the need arises.

(e) Action for imposing punishments to various levels of officers and staff is taken in conformity with the responsibility as arrived at by the enquiry reports. So far, punishment has been awarded to Officers, Permanent Way Inspectors and other Permanent way staff, wherever, they were found responsible for lapses as per norms. The General Managers (GM) and the Divisional Railway Managers (DRM) are the highest ranked officers of the Zone and the Division respectively, who are responsible for the entirety of activities carried on in their Zone/ Division. The enquiry reports have not fixed personal responsibility on GM/DRM in derailment cases so far. No action has, therefore, been taken against General Managers and Divisional Railway Managers so far.

(f) As a result of accident cases, ninety six numbers of Section Engineer (Permanent Way), were punished in the year 2001-02.

Disruption of Coal Supply to Thermal Plants

*170. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that many thermal plants are facing serious crisis as the coal supply to various thermal plants has been disrupted due to non-payment of bills in the past;

(b) if so, details of unpaid bills of Coal India Limited;

(c) whether this would lead to sickness of CIL;

(d) the reasons for non-payment of bills by these power plants; and

(e) the steps, the Government have taken to overcome this grim situation?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU):

Statement

(a) Presently, supply of coal to the thermal power plants in the country is made under "cash and carry" scheme. Under the scheme, the power utilities are required to make advance payment equivalent to 90% of basic value of the coal + 100% of royalty and statutory levies/duties or through irrevocable revolving letter of credit. At times, some power stations are unable to ensure timely and adequate payments because of which, coal supplies are regulated in line with payments made by power utilities to coal companies. During the year 2001-2002, 240.009 million tones of coal was supplied against a linkage of 250.554 million tonnes, i.e. materialization of 96%. The average coal stock as on 22nd July, 2002 on all India basis was equivalent to 19 days consumption.

(b) and (c) As per Ministry of Coal, the total outstanding dues of Coal India Ltd., as on 30.6.2002 was Rs. 6117.85 crores out of which the undisputed amount was Rs. 4340.31 crores and disputed amount was Rs. 1777.54 crores. As on 31st March, 2001 the outstanding dues was Rs. 6145.39 crores out of which the undisputed amount was Rs. 4564.48 crores and disputed amount Rs. 1580.91 crores. This shows improvement in realizations.

(d) Under "cash and carry' scheme for supply of coal, the power plants generally make payments for coal supplies. At times, due to financial constraints some power houses default in timely payment of bills to coal companies. As a consequence, the coal companies regulate supply of coal to these power houses.

(e) The following steps are being taken for recovery of outstanding dues:-

(i) Implementation of "Cash and Carry" scheme.

(ii) Recovery of outstanding dues from Central Plan Assistance (CPA) of the concerned States.

(iii) Adjustment of coal sale dues of State Electricity Boards (SEBs) towards power bills, royalty, cess.

(iv) Securitisation of outstanding dues.

(v) Settlement of disputed outstanding dues through umpires appointed by Government.

[Translation]

Agreement with Sri Lanka in Petroleum Sector

*171. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:
SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to enter into an agreement with Sri Lanka in the petroleum sector;

(b) if so. the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits likely to be derived by India therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) On 11th June, 2002 Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) to enable IOC, through a newly incorporated Sri Lankan subsidiary, to engage in retail trading in Sri Lanka and to manage and operate, on a long lease, the Trincomalee oil tankages. The salient features of the MoU are given below:

(i) To start with, CPC will divest 100 nos. CPC owned retail outlets in favour of IOC.

(ii) CPC will assist IOC to re-assign Franchise retail outlets.

(iii) IOC will modernise and provide additional services through these retail outlets.

(iv) IOC will take over Trincomalee tankages on long-term lease.

(v) The existing and future infrastructure facilities viz. depots, aviation facilities, terminals etc. will be operated on "common user" principle.

(vi) IOC and CPC will discuss further on the modalities for facilitating supply of petroleum products to Sri Lanka through IOC.

(c) IOC's entry is also expected to strengthen cooperation and relationship between India and Sri Lanka. The divestment of 100 retail outlets in favour of IOC by CPC will give IOC a head start in the downstream petroleum sector of Sri Lanka. Petroleum product deficit in Sri Lanka will be met from Indian refineries and IOC will earn revenue in foreign exchange. The entry in Sri Lanka would also similar business opportunities for Indian oil sector in other neighbouring countries.

Production Capacity of Public Sector Enterprises

172*. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:

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

(a) whether the losses in Public Sector Enterprises have increased during the past few years due to decline in production;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the effective steps taken by the Government to improve the production capacity of Public Sector Enterprise units so as to bring down their losses?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Manufacturing CPSUs as a group, have recorded net profit of Rs. 8723 crore, Rs. 8978 crore and Rs. 9865 crore during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 respectively. Although, the total loss of loss making manufacturing CPSUs has gone up during the corresponding period of three years, being Rs. 8336 crore, Rs. 9688 crore and Rs. 11724 crore respectively, the profits of profit making CPSUs have been higher in these three years resulting in the above mentioned net profit figures. Reasons for the decline of production of different CPSUs vary. These include inherited problems of taken over CPSUs, outdated technology, resource crunch, surplus manpower, economic recession, high input cost, low capacity utilization, management problems etc.

(c) Government has been taking a series of steps to improve the production and profitability and reduce losses. Enterprise specific steps are taken by the administrative Ministers/Departments/Management for performance improvement. Important steps taken include better corporate governance, induction of strategic partner, improvement in work culture, more autonomy to PSUs through the system of Memorandum of Understanding and Navratna/Miniratna scheme, professionalization of Board of Directors, business & financial restructuring, reduction of surplus manpower through Voluntary Retirement Scheme, cost control measures, emphasis on exports, reference of sick industrial companies to Board of Industrial & Financial Reconstruction and adoption of the policy of resorting to closure of unlivable units as a last resort while protecting the due interest of workers through the scheme of Voluntary Retirement Scheme, Voluntary Separation Scheme and Counselling, Retraining and Redeployment.

ONGC Exploration in Western Coast

*173. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC is conducting exploration in different regions including the Western Coast (Daman) to locate the gas reserves;

(b) if so, the number of wells on which drilling operation have started, and the estimated quantity of gas reserves likely to be struck there; and

(c) the details of long term plan in respect of oil exploration by ONGC?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS ((SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Exploration activities are continuing in different regions, including the Daman offshore in western coast, for locating oil and gas reserves.

(b) In follow up of its exploration programme for oil and gas, in July, 2002, exploratory drilling was in progress in 39 wells and during the year 2002-03 Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) plants to drill 153 exploratory wells.

The success of exploration effort is probabilistic in nature. ONGC's projected accretion of reserves during the period 2002-03 is 40 Million Metric Tonne of oil & oil equivalent of gas, of which about 35% are anticipated to be gas reserves.

(c) ONGC plans to carry out exploration during the X Plan by acquiring 35, 286 Line Kilometer (LK)/Ground Line Kilometer (GLK) of 2D and 34,834 square kilometer of 3D seismic data and drilling of 561 exploratory wells.

The planned expenditure for seismic survey and exploratory drilling during this period is Rs. 8,650 crore.

[English]

Inter-ministerial Disputes

*174. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an inter-ministerial dispute over the appointment of advocates has led to the piling up of customs and excise disputes in various courts locking up revenue worth Rs. 11,132 crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts being made to resolve their differences at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) to (c) No, Sir. In order to effectively conduct litigation in various courts and CEGAT, it was proposed by the Department of Revenue to maintain a separate panel of advocates for Customs and Central Excise cases with the concurrence of the Ministry of Law. A separate panel of advocates recommended by the Department of Revenue has already been approved and notified by the Ministry of Law for conducting cases before the Supreme Court. As regards maintaining of separate panel for conducting cases in other courts, counsels are engaged from the existing panel prepared by the Ministry of Law and where necessary suggestions of Department of Revenue regarding engagement of counsels are kept in view. In important matters, special counsels are also engaged on the recommendation of the Department of Revenue. Conduct of cases are regularly monitored.

Old Rail Bridges

*175. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that around 51,00 bridges are more than 100 years old;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the average age of bridges in the country;

(d) whether the Government is contemplating to repair and renovate those over aged bridges; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes. Sir. Age profile of these bridges are as under:

Year of construction	Total number of Railway Bridges built
Upto 1860	3751
1860-1870	8708
1870-1880	9375
1880-1890	13331
1890-1900	16175
Grand Total	51340

(c) to (e) The rehabilitation and rebuilding of railway bridges is not decided merely on basis of age but on age-cum-physical condition basis and technical consideration. Therefore, concept of average age is not used in context of Railway Bridges. Besides the normal programme of rehabilitation and rebuilding of bridges under Depreciation Reserve Fund (DRF), Railways have undertaken a special programme of rehabilitation and rebuilding of approximately 3000 bridges at an estimated cost of Rs. 1530 crores out of Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF) over next 5 to 6 years.

Rationalisation of CPSUs Tariff Structure

*176. COL. (RETD). SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Rajasthan for rationalisation of CPSUs Tariff Structure;

(b) if so, the status of the proposal;

(c) whether the Government have analyzed the existing tariff structure of power generated by Central Generating Stations which has created an anomalous situation in terms of Central Undertaking earning more than reasonable profit and the State Undertakings virtually going bankrupt;

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

(e) the time by which the CPSUs Tariff Structure is likely to be cleared and reviewed?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) to (e) Chief Minister of Rajasthan has

requested for exemption of Central Power Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) from income tax liability on the Return of Equity (RoE) so that it does not get passed on to the SEBs/Power Utilities. This in the context of the existing dispensation of post tax return of 16% on equity. The Chief Minister has also argued, inter alia, that the unreasonable burden on the SEBs/Power Companies on account of tariff structure of CPSUs should be reviewed.

The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) has been constituted by Government of India under the provisions of the ERC Act, 1998 with powers, inter alia, to regulate the tariff of generating companies owned or controlled by the Central Government. Prior to the constitution of the CERC the Central Government had powers to regulate the tariff of Central generating companies under the provisions of Section 43 A (2) of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948. The powers of regulating the tariffs of these companies are now with the CERC.

A Working Group was constituted under the Chairmanship of Special Secretary (Power) to prepare a concept paper on tariff policy. The Group has since submitted its report. One of the recommendations of the Group is to move towards regime of pre-tax return from post tax return so that efficient tax management is incentivised. A High Level Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Power) to finalise the tariff policy after taking into account the comments and views of the various stakeholders and experts on the report of the Working Group.

[Translation]

Accidents on Manned and Unmanned Level Crossings

*177. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:
SHRI RAJO SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise and State-wise details of accidents which took place from 1999 to June, 2002 on the manned and unmanned level crossings;

(b) the details of loss of life and property suffered during the said period;

(c) the details of programmes and schemes being implemented for railway safety and for unmanned/manned level crossings; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken to convert all unmanned railway crossings into manned level crossings, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) The figures of accidents are not maintained Statewise. Zonal Railway-wise accidents at manned and unmanned level crossings from the year 1999-2000 to 20002-2003 (up to June, 2002) are as under:-

	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002*		2002-2003* (April-June 2002)	
Railways	Manned	Unmanned	Manned	Unmanned	Manned	Unmanned	Manned	Unmanned
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Central	5	7	1	5	1	6	—	—
Eastern	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Northern	4	14	6	25	2	27	—	11
North Eastern	—	14	1	13	1	15	2	7
Northeast Frontier	3	4	—	15	1	2	—	—
Southern	2	8	1	6	1	9	1	1
South Central	2	12	1	12	—	10	—	3
South Eastern	5	5	—	5	1	8	—	2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Western	3	3	1	1	—	3	—	5
Konkan Railway Corporation	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Metro	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	26	67	11	73	8	80	4	29

*Figures are provisional

(b) Details of persons killed and loss of Railway property are given below:-

	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002*		2002-2003* (April-June 2002)	
Railways	Manned	Unmanned	Manned	Unmanned	Manned	Unmanned	Manned	Unmanned
Loss of Railway property	Rs. 2.15 Lakhs	Rs. 9.77 Lakhs	Rs. 9.48 Lakhs	Rs. 20.06 Lakhs	Rs. 5.34 Lakhs	Rs. 36.52 Lakhs	Rs. 0.56 Lakhs	Rs. 10.09 Lakhs
Persons Killed	37	201	16	138	13	152	58	37

*Figures are provisional

(c) and (d) Following steps are being taken to improve Railway Safety including that for manned and unmanned level crossings:-

(i) A non-lapsable Special Railway Safety Fund of Rs. 17,000/- crs. has been set up for renewal of over aged assets and for safety enhancement works.

(ii) Fouling Mark to Fouling Mark (FM to FM) track circuiting on entire 'A', 'B', 'C', 'D' and 'D Spl.' routes having speeds above 75 kmph has been done and remaining portion of the work is under progress.

(iii) Extended field trials of Anti Collision Device (ACD) are being conducted on Northern Railway. After successful completion of extended field trials, a decision would be taken for its wider application.

(iv) Last vehicle check by Axle counter have been introduced on over 175 block sections and more sections are being progressively added.

(v) State of the art technology of Digital Mobile Train Radio Communication has been sanctioned on some important sections for providing duplex radio communication between driver/guard and control.

(vi) Walkie-talkie sets have been provided to Drivers and Guards of all trains for faster and better means of communication.

(vii) Drivers and Guards are also being progressively provided with LED based electronic flashing lamps having better visibility.

(viii) Tie Tamping, Ballast Cleaning Machines and Track Renewal Trains are being used to give superior track geometry.

(ix) To monitor track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometers are being used progressively.

(x) For detection of hidden flaws in rails/welds, adequate double rail Ultra Sonic Flaw Detectors have been procured. Self Propelled Ultrasonic Rail Testing Cars are being procured.

(xi) At the Rail Rolling Mill, Bhilai, online Ultrasonic Flaw Detection (USFD) and eddy current testing is being done to weed out rails with defects. vacuum degassing is being done to reduce hydrogen content and thus improve quality of rails. Indian Railways and Steel Authority of India Limited are also planning together to produce longer rails i.e. 26 metre and 65 or 78 metre,

instead of conventional 13 metre length to reduce number of welds in the track.

(xii) The specification of Rail steel have been upgraded and are in conformity with the International Union of Railways (UIC) specifications.

(xiii) Routine Over Hauling Depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for detection of flaws in the axles so as to prevent cases of cold breakage of axles.

(xiv) Funds being received from the diesel cess are being used for safety related works pertaining to level crossings.

(xv) Whistle Boards/speed breakers and road signs have been provided at unmanned level crossings.

(xvi) Audio-visual publicity campaigns are conducted to educate road users on how to negotiate a crossing safely.

(xvii) Since accidents at unmanned level crossings take place due to negligence of road users, the State Governments can also help by exercising strict checks while issuing driving licences, specially to drivers of trucks, buses and other heavy vehicles. All Chief Secretaries have been requested to co-operate in educating road users.

(xviii) Joint Ambush Checks with civil authorities are conducted to nab errant road vehicle drivers under the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and the Railways Act, 1989.

(xix) Manned Level crossings having very heavy traffic density are being progressively interlocked with signals on a planned basis.

(xx) Telephones are also being gradually provided at all manned level crossing gates.

(xxi) Surprise checks, night inspections and periodic safety drives are regularly conducted to check the alertness of gatemen.

(xxii) Steps are being taken to prevent inflammable and explosive materials from being carried in passenger trains.

(xxiii) Periodical Safety Audit of different divisions by inter-disciplinary teams from Zonal Headquarters is being conducted.

(xxiv) Training facilities for drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation have been modernized including use of Simulators for training of drivers.

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

(xxvi) All new coaches are being fitted with Bogie Mounted Brake System. In addition, some of the existing coaches having adequate residual life are also being retrofitted with this system.

(xxvii) To improve crash worthiness of coaches, as an immediate measure, coach interiors are being re-designed with improved fittings and features, which would not cause injury. Simultaneously, the coach body will be re-designed to absorb more impact so as to keep passenger carrying areas intact.

(xxviii) New wagons being inducted into the system are equipped with more reliable Casnub Bogies. Bogie Mounted Brake System on wagons has also been developed and is under trial. The use of Composition Brake Blocks on wagons is being progressively increased.

(xxix) All the Production Units, majority of repair workshops and large number of Sheds/Depots have achieved ISO 9002 certification for their Quality Maintenance System.

Accidents at unmanned level crossings occur due to the negligence of the road users who fail to follow the road signs and the rules and stipulations contained in Motor Vehicle Act, 1988 for safe crossing at level crossings. A programme has been made for manning of 4449 unmanned level crossings on Indian Railway. Out of which 2145 level crossings have been sanctioned till 2002-2003. 356 Road over Bridges/Road Under Bridges are being built on cost sharing basis in lieu of busy manned level crossings having Train Vehicle Units (TVUs) more than 1 lakh per day.

Shortage of Coaches

*178. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of passenger coaches in the country and the use of old passenger coaches is causing danger to the life of passengers and railway officials;

(b) if so, the estimated shortage of passenger coaches in the country as on date and the details about

the outdated coaches being used alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up third manufacturing plant for manufacturing passenger coaches;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) There is no shortage of Broad Gauge coaches in the country and no Broad Gauge overaged coaches are used on passenger carrying trains. Due to policy of 'Unigauge', Indian Railways had stopped manufacture of Metre Gauge and Narrow Gauge coaches as they had become surplus to requirements. Due to slow down in the pace of gauge conversions, a shortage in Metre and Narrow Gauge coaches has arisen in a few sections wherein some Metre and Narrow Gauge coaches has arisen in a few sections wherein some Metre and Narrow Gauge coaches are temporarily in use beyond their codal life after ensuring their complete safety and fitness. To overcome shortage of Metre Gauge coaches, Indian Railways has recommended manufacture of Metre Gauge coaches from 2000-2001.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) There are two coach manufacturing factories under the Ministry of Railways, Integral Coach Factory at Perambur and Rail Coach Factory at Kapurthala. The annual installed capacity of these two units is 1000 coaches each. These capacities are supplemented by two more units in the public sector viz., M/s Bharat Earth Movers Limited at Bangalore and M/s Jessops near Kolkata, each capable of manufacturing upto 300 coaches. The total coach manufacturing capacity available is adequate to meet the existing level of requirement of coaches for Indian Railways as well as the export market.

[English]

DD Metro Into Satellite Channel

*179. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prasar Bharati proposes to convert its entertainment channel-DD Metro into Statellite Channel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the metro satellite channel is likely to become functional;

(d) whether the expert committee set up under the Chairmanship of R. C. Mishra for developing business models for channels under Prasar Bharati has submitted its report;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) No Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Distortion of Historical Facts in Films

*180. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
DR. NITISH SENGUPTA:

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

(a) the extent of factual/historical distortions found in recent films released viz. on Emperor Ashoka, Devdas and Saheed Bhagat Singh;

(b) whether the Central Films Censor Board has failed to prevent distortions in the aforesaid films;

(c) if so, the facts thereof and the reasons for failure to prevent such distortions; and

(d) the steps taken so far and proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent recurrence of such distortions in future?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The Examining Committees of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), which previewed the films "Asoka", "Shaheed-E-Azam", "The Legend of Bhagat Singh", "23rd March 1931-Shaheed", "Bhagat Singh" and "Devdas" did not find anything objectionable in the films and unanimously recommended grant of certificates to the films subject to certain cuts except in the case of

"Devdas", which had been recommended for grant of a clear 'U' certificate. In some cases historians were also associated with the deliberations.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Recommendations of Expenditure Reforms Commission

1592. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Expenditure Reforms Commission has given his recommendations for reducing the existing wasteful expenditure of her Ministry;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made by this Commission as on December 31, 2001;

(c) the details of those recommendations which are yet to be implemented by the Ministry alongwith the reasons for not implementing them till date; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) The Expenditure Reforms Commission has inter alia recommended winding up Films Division, Photo Division, Song and Drama Division, Directorate of Field Publicity, Directorate of Publication Division, letting Film Industry handle institutions like Film and Television Institute of India, Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Directorate of Film Festivals and Children's Film Society, India, disinvesting National Film Development Corporation Limited and Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited and reducing/rationalizing the role of other units. Keeping in view the functional requirements for retaining the various units, it has been decided to rationalize their staff structure without in any way impinging on their operation, for which 1334 posts have been identified for abolition and out of these 334 posts have already been abolished.

[Translation]

VRS in HMT

1593. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any new scheme for the reorganization of H.M.T.;

(b) if so, the number of persons transferred thereunder from one unit to another for equalising the strength of employees in various units;

(c) the number of workers, employees and officers of different units of H.M.T. allowed to seek voluntary retirement, till date;

(d) whether the amount of provident fund and gratuity have been paid to the employees who took voluntary retirement till date;

(e) if not, the time by which all the benefits are likely to be given;

(f) whether a new project has been undertaken in the Ajmer unit of H.M.T.; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) Government has approved a Turnaround Plan in July 2000 for revival of HMT. Turnaround Plan *inter-alia* provided for organizational and manpower restructuring. Accordingly, till date 6974 employees have availed voluntary retirement. Transfer of employees from one unit to another is undertaken from time to time based on organizational needs only. Hence the transfers need not result in equalizing the strength of employees in various units. The manpower strength of a unit is to be determined in accordance with its requirement. About 66 employees have been transferred from one unit to another unit in HMT and the subsidiaries as a result of the reorganization after VRS.

(c) Details of the workers and officers relieved under voluntary retirement scheme in HMT Limited and its subsidiaries are as under:-

Year	Workers	Officers	Total
1999-2000	485	415	900
2000-2001	2498	1403	3901
2001-2002	1608	547	2155
2002-2003 (Till date)	12	6	18
Total	4603	2371	6974

(d) and (e) Payment against gratuity has been settled to every one who took voluntary retirement. However, an amount of Rs. 13.38 crore against provident fund could

not be settled in respect of 807 employees. The respective PF Trusts are seeking necessary approvals from the concerned PF authorities for liquidation of their securities in order to discharge these outstanding PF dues.

(f) and (g) At Ajmer unit certain non machine tools products like hydraulics system etc. for tractors are also being taken up for manufacturing.

LPG Agencies and Petrol Pumps in Gujarat and J&K

1594. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

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

(a) the number of LPG agencies and diesel/petrol outlets proposed to be opened in Gujarat and Jammu and Kashmir during the current year; and

(b) the number of LPG agencies functioning at present in Gujarat and Jammu and Kashmir?

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) It is not possible to indicate the exact number of LPG agencies and Retail Outlets to be commissioned in the State of Gujarat and Jammu and Kashmir during the current year. However, the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have the plan to commission 75 Retail Outlets & 124 LPG distributorships in the State of Gujarat and 22 Retail Outlets & 22 LPG distributorships in the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

(b) As on 1.4.2002, 473 LPG distributorships were operating in the State of Gujarat and 126 in the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

New Rail Line from Pahur To Ajanta Caves

1595. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether survey has been conducted for the gauge conversion of Pachora-Jamner route along with the extension of rail line from Pahur to Ajanta Caves for visiting World famous Ajanta Caves of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) The Reconnaissance Engineering-cum-Traffic survey for gauge conversion of Pachora-Jamner (55km) and extensions from Pahur to Ajanta caves (18.80 km) and Jamner to Bodwad (30.25 km) was completed in 2000-2001. As per the survey report, the cost of the project was assessed as Rs. 116.44 crores with a rate of return of (-) 3.67%. Due to un-remunerative nature of the project and constraint of resources, the proposal could not be considered.

[English]

Supply of Meat

1596. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the soldiers of Western Command are reported to have been supplied meat of dead animals by the private contractors engaged for supplying the rationed items to the army;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted in the matter;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the action taken against the contractors and the officers responsible for checking the food items supplied to the army?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Only live and healthy animals/birds are slaughtered for supply to Defence Forces. Proper sorting and segregation of the live animals/ birds is carried out before slaughter. The animals are inspected by a Veterinary Officer both before and after slaughter. Thereafter, the carcasses are duly stamped as 'fit for issue'.

The report mentioned in the Question probably relates to the news published in 'Nav Bharat Times' dated 29th May 2002, regarding an incident in Supply Depot, Delhi Cantt., where a supplier had attempted to mix dead fowls with live birds. However, the attempt of the supplier was thwarted by the vigilant Supply Depot staff. Action has been initiated to ban the firm or to remove it from the list of approved contractors of the Army Supply Corps.

[Translation]

Exploration in Baghewala Area of Rajasthan

1597. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan has decided to offer Baghewala area of Jaisalmer district to Oil India Limited on lease for two years for the exploration of recently discovered mineral oil in huge quantity and sent the proposal to the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the proposal is likely to be approved by the Government?

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) Approal of the Central Government was conveyed to the State Government of Rajasthan on 12.2.2002 for grant of a Petroleum Exploration License (PEL) under the provisions of Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules to Oil India Ltd. (OIL) for Baghewala area of the State for a period of four years, effective date being 01.01.1999.

[English]

Railway Sports Complex at Maligaon

1598. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up a Railway Sports Complex at Maligaon;

(b) if so, the details of the contemplated sports complex and the estimated cost thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard along with the time frame for execution of the project?

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

(b) and (c) The project of improvement to stadium and development of hostel facility at Maligaon has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 7.65 Crores. The work on a forty bedded hostel, Table Tennis Hall, Badminton Hall, Indoor Cricket practice facilities and fencing to the play ground has been completed. The other proposed facilities planned for 2002-03 include improvement of drainage system, construction of Squash Court etc. Funds of Rs. one crore is allotted in the current year for the work. Work is likely to be completed in three years.

[Translation]

Metal Wasted by Negligence in HEC

1599. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Metal worth more than Rs. 20 lakh has been wasted recently due to negligence of the Management in the Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited, Ranchi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken against the officials found guilty in this regard;

(d) the measures being taken to stop such wastage in future; and

(e) the details of such loss in the Corporation during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) No, sir. No such wastage of metal worth Rs. 20 lakh has been reported in HEC.

(b) and (c) Not applicable.

(d) The system of liquid metal preparation and pouring has been made incorporating all technological measures so that wastage of material is avoided. Strict technological discipline is adhered to in this respect.

(e) No such loss of metal has been reported during the last five years.

[English]

Full Share of Power in Kerala

1600. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Kerala for allocation of full share of 90 MW Power from Eastern Region with Central Electricity Authority;

(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 POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) A memorandum was presented by Chief Minister of Kerala to Union Minister of Power on 13.12.2001 requesting for allocation of additional 80 MW power from Eastern Region during peak hours. The request was considered and allocation to Kerala from the NTPC Stations in Eastern Region was enhanced from 11.6% (58 MW) to 19.6% (98 MW) on 19.12.2001. Subsequently, keeping in view the power supply position in the Southern Region, allocation to Kerala was reduced to 14.8% (74 MW) on 03.05.2002.

On 23.7.2002, the Ministry of Power, Government of Kerala has presented another memorandum to the Union Minister of Power requesting for allocation of 300 MW from the Eastern Region after commissioning of the Talcher-Kolar HVDC line for consideration.

[Translation]

Employment to Displaced Persons from HEC, Ranchi

1601. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether employment has not been provided to members of families displaced from H.E.C., Ranchi who have undergone the apprenticeship;

(b) if so, the number of such cases and the reasons for not providing employment to them; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to provide employment to them on priority basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) 3090 families were either displaced or affected in the acquisition of land for construction of HEC. All these families (at the rate of one person per family) were given employment in HEC, thus HEC has fulfilled its obligation towards the employment of displaced persons. Besides above, 557 matriculates from the next generation of displaced families have been imparted training under Apprentices Act, 1961. Although it is not obligatory on the part of HEC to employ them, 84 persons out of 557 were provided employment during 1989-91.

(b) Since 1992, due to surplus manpower and acute financial crunch, employment in these grades has been completely stopped. Moreover, HEC is in the process of reduction if its manpower through the voluntary retirement scheme.

(c) Government has no such plan.

Potential of NCES

1602. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the achievements of Non-Conventional and renewable energy sources and potential for their growth; and

(b) the details of distribution of bio-gas plants, improved stoves, small scale hydro power projects, biomass electricity projects, solar water heaters, garbage energy projects during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing various programmes based on renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, biomass, small hydro and urban and industrial wastes throughout the country for tapping non-conventional energy sources. The details of estimated broad potential and cumulative achievements under these programmes, as on 31-3-2002, are given in the enclosed Statement--I

(b) The State-wise details of various non-conventional energy systems/devices installed during the last three years, i.e., 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002, are given in the enclosed Statement-II. In addition, 1,80,000 square metres of Collector area was installed for solar water heating systems during the three years.

Statement-I

Renewable Energy Potential and achievements under various programmes as on 31st March 2002

	Source/System	Approximate Potential	Achievement (as on 31-03-2002)
1	2	3	4
A.	**Power from Renewables**		
1.	Solar Photovoltaic Power	—	1.99 MW
2.	Wind Power	45,000 MW	1628.2 MW
3.	Small Hydro Power (up to 25 MW)	15,000 MW	1437.47 MW
4.	Biomass Cogeneration Power	19,500 MW*	381.3 MW
5.	Biomass Gasifier	—	51.3 MW
6.	Energy Recovery from wastes	1,700 MW	21.98 MW
	Power from Renewables (total)	81,200 MW	3522.24 MW
B.	**Decentralized Energy Systems**		
7.	Family-size Biogas plants	120 lakh	33.68 lakhs
8.	CBP/IBP/NBP Plants	—	3901 Nos.
9.	Improved Chulha	12 crores	3.52 crores
10.	Solar Photovoltaic Systems	20 MW/sq. km.	
	i. Solar Street Lighting Systems	—	41776 Nos.
	ii. Home Lighting Systems	—	206732 Nos.
	iii. Solar Lanterns	—	427687 Nos.
	iv. Solar Photovoltaic Power Plants	—	1188 kWp
11.	Solar Water Heating Systems 140 million sq. m Collector area		0.60 million sq. m Collector area
12.	Solar Cooking Systems		
	i. Box-type Solar Cookers	—	5,18,000 Nos.
	ii. Concentrating-type	—	175 Nos.
	Community Cookers	—	4500 Nos.
13.	Solar Photovoltaic Pumps	—	793 Nos.
14.	Wind Pumps		
15.	Hybrid Systems	—	127.5 KW

1	2	3	4
C.	**Other Programmes**		
16.	Aditya Solar Shops	—	29 Nos.
17.	Battery Operated Vehicles	—	247 Nos.
18.	Energy Parks	—	278 Nos.
19.	IREP Blocks	—	860 Nos.

Sq. km. = Square Kilometer; Sq. m. = Square meter; MW = Mega-watt KW = Kilo watt; kWp = Kilo watt peak IREP = Integrated Rural Energy Programme; CBP/IBP/NBP = Community/Institutional/Night-soil based Biogas Plants.

*including Biomass Gasifier.

Statement-II

State-wise details of distribution/installation under various non-conventional energy programmes during last three years, i.e. 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002

Sl. No.	State/UT	Small Hydro Power MW	Biomass Power MW	Biomass Gasifier kW	Urban and Industrial Waste MW	Biogas Plants Nos.	CBP Nos.	Improved Chulha Nos. in Lakhs
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	53.60	90.20	5380.00	8.95	61009.00	10.00	5.52
2.	Arunanchal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	798.00	0.00	0.01
3.	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	224.00	0.00	0.04
4.	Bihar	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	1583.00	0.00	0.11
5.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	329.00	0.00	0.10
6.	Gujarat	0.00	0.00	7440.00	0.45	25935.00	26.00	3.03
7.	Haryana	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6418.00	0.00	1.80
8.	Himachal Pradesh	31.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	2069.00	0.00	0.08
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	8.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.82
10.	Karnataka	32.95	64.60	810.00	1.00	71034.00	0.00	1.51
11.	Kerala	21.00	0.00	105.00	0.00	3805.00	54.00	1.12
12.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00	200.00	2.70	38494.00	3.00	0.48
13.	Maharashtra	29.00	15.50	700.00	1.90	35786.00	98.00	2.51
14.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	275.00	0.00	0.07
15.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	255.00	4.00	0.00
16.	Mizoram	9.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	1142.00	0.00	0.10
17.	Nagaland	16.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	553.00	0.00	0.17

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
18.	Orissa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	34050.00	11.00	5.59
19.	Punjab	7.80	2.00	40.00	0.00	16787.00	134.00	1.17
20.	Rajasthan	0.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	2321.00	18.00	1.32
21.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	633.00	0.00	0.15
22.	Tamil Nadu	2.80	8.00	1820.00	0.23	5587.00	7.00	1.90
23.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	1000.00	0.00	651.00	0.00	0.23
24.	Uttar Pradesh	7.50	24.00	1220.00	0.00	28564.00	211.00	5.51
25.	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	2215.00	0.00	45235.00	19.00	9.94
26.	Andaman and Nicobar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	0.03
27.	Chandigarh	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	1.00	0.00	0.01
29.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	21.00	0.01
31.	Lakshadweep	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	0.12
33.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	3000.00	8.00	0.18
34.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	634.00	15.00	0.00
36.	Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	118400.00	588.00	8.16
	Total	219.98	210.30	20930.00	15.23	505574.00	1227.00	51.79

MW= Mega Watt; kW=watt; CBP = Community, Institutional, Night-soil-based plants.

Rail Projects in West Bengal and Bihar

1603. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway projects received from West Bengal and Bihar during each of the last three years;

(b) the action taken by the Government on each proposal;

(c) the details of the survey conducted in this regard during the said period;

(d) the details of the works done for improvement and expansion of railway network in West Bengal and Bihar alongwith the expenditure incurred thereon during the said period;

(e) the reasons for slow pace of progress in completion of these projects; and

(f) the steps taken for early completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

NCE Facility to SCs/STs.

1604. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan to give subsidy to the States for the development of Non-Conventional Energy facilities to the rural SCs/STs; and

(b) if so, the details of subsidy to be given per unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry provides subsidies/financial incentives for Non-Conventional Energy Programmes implemented in the States for various categories of beneficiaries including SCs/STs in rural areas. Higher rates of subsidies/financial incentives are provided for SCs/STs in rural areas for improved chulhas and for setting up of biogas plants, and biomass gasifier systems. The details of subsidies/financial incentives provided under these Programmes are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Subsidies/Financial incentives provided under Non-conventional Energy Programmes for SCs/STs

S. No.	Name of Programme	Details of subsidies
1	2	3
1.	Family type biogas plants	Rs. 1800 for general category Rs. 2300 per plant for special category of beneficiaries such as SCs/STs and weaker sections Rs. 3500 for hilly and high focus areas Rs. 11,700 per plant for North East Region & Sikkim
2.	Improved Chulhas (Portable)	Rs. 135/- for NE Region States and Sikkim Rs 75/-for Islands and notified hilly and desert areas Rs. 50 for SC/ST beneficiaries in other States/UTs.
3.	Biomass Gasifier	30% to 60% for general States 10% higher rate of subsidy for SCs/STs and weaker sections. 90% for North East Region and Sikkim.

[Translation]

Irregularities at Indian Oil Depot in Bihar

1605. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any irregularities have been detected recently in the measurement of oil in tankers of Indian Oil Depot in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government against the persons responsible therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Fictitious Issues

1606. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Eastern Railway issued fictitious items to the tune of Rs. 3.19 crore;

(b) if so, the details of the items so issued;

(c) whether the officials responsible for the same have been identified including the senior authorities who failed to exercise proper and adequate control and supervision;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount involved therein;

(e) whether the material is to be issued by issue of notes or tickets and proper account of material issued is to be kept;

(f) whether C and AG in its report no. 9A of 2002 on page 53 at para 4.3 has unravelled this truth; and

(g) the action taken by the Government for fictitious issues?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The contention of C and AG Report has been disputed and denied as there were no fictitious issues.

(g) Does not arise.

Auto Fuel Policy

1607. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have been considering any scheme to come out with a separate bill outlining an auto fuel policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The Government has set up an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, Director General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to recommend an auto fuel policy. The Committee has submitted its interim report and the Government has taken necessary action on the recommendation of the interim report. The Committee is yet to submit its final report to the Government.

[Translation]

Jammu-Udhampur Rail Line

1608. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made and the percentage of work related with laying of railway line in Jammu and Kashmir as on date, project-wise;

(b) whether the Government have reviewed the progress of the works;

(c) if so, the results thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) There are two new line projects in J&K. The work of Jammu Tawi-Udhampur is in advanced stage and expected to be completed by 2003-2004. On Udhampur-Baramulla project, work has been taken up in phases. Earthwork, bridges, tunneling and land acquisition is in various stages of progress between Katra-Udhampur and Qazigund-Baramulla sections. Detailed construction survey is being taken up between Katra-Quazigund section.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. It has been decided that the project will be completed and the first train will roll into the Kashmir Valley before August 15, 2007. The outlay of the project has been increased and action has been initiated to accomplish the target.

(d) Does not arise.

Autonomy to all PSUs

1609. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the decision regarding giving autonomy to all the public undertakings after making their evaluation on the basis of their financial performance and size being delayed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; 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 HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES

(DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) It has been the policy of the Government to grant autonomy to Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) keeping in view the changing economic environment. All profit making and MOU signing PSUs enjoy enhanced financial and operational autonomy within certain guidelines. Autonomy through the scheme of Navratna and Miniratna has been further enhanced in selected enterprises. Giving enhanced autonomy to PSUs is a continuous process and the position is reviewed from time to time.

[English]

Power Supply by NCES

1610. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has launched projects to produce power through non conventional sources of energy to supplement power supply;

(b) if so, the projects under implementation and their capacities;

(c) whether the Government identified the areas for exclusive use of non-conventional sources of energy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the quantity of additional energy produced during 2001-2002 and 2002-2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has been implementing a programme for generation of grid quality power from solar energy, wind energy, small hydro power, biomass power/co-generation and urban and industrial wastes. Non-conventional energy based power projects of 3500 MW capacity have already been installed. A capacity of 1038 MW comprising small hydro power projects (540 MW); biomass power/bagasse co-generation projects (488 MW); and urban and industrial waste projects (10 MW), are under installation. In addition, the target for commercial wind power projects for the current year is 200 MW.

(c) and (d) About 80,000 villages in the country still remain to be electrified. Of these, about 18,000 villages are estimated to be in remote and difficult areas which cannot be electrified by extension of the conventional grid. It is proposed to electrify all such villages by the year 2012 through non-conventional energy sources. Electrification of 360 villages was carried out through non-conventional energy sources during 2001-02 based on solar photovoltaic projects (292); small hydro projects (51) and biomass gasifier projects (17).

Agreement with BBC on HIV/AIDS Programmes

1611. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Doordarshan has tied up with BBC to show programmes related to HIV/AIDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there are other proposals for Doordarshan to tie up with other Media corporations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the final decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Prasar Bharati has informed that programmes related to HIV/AIDS are being produced/ telecast by Doordarshan in collaboration with BBC and National AIDS Control Organisation of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Doordarshan is telecasting programmes and promos and providing infrastructure and expertise for production BBC is taking care of research for the project and bearing the cost of production. National AIDS Control Organisation is providing strategic guidance for the project, in identifying focus areas and key messages. The campaign has begun from 1st July, 2002 and involves telecast of 60 second messages produced by Doordarshan on DD National Channel. Other thematic programmes are also being telecast from Jaipur, Lucknow and Delhi Kendras.

(c) At present, there are no other proposals for collaborating with other media corporations.

(d) Does not arise.

Power supply from Central Pool

1612. SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has approached the Union Government to increase the Plan allocation for the power sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) (a) and (b) The approved outlay for power sector for the State of Karnataka for the year 2001-02 was Rs. 936.00 crore. Sector-wise outlays for 2002-03 have not been finalised by the Planning Commission so far.

Lease out of Passenger Coaches to the Private Sector

1613. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are planning to lease out its passenger coaches to the private sector;

(b) it so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are also planning to provide terminals to authorised rail travel service agents (RTSA) in the country, location-wise;

(d) it so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) *Does not arise.*

(c) to (e) A scheme has been processed for provision of Computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS) Terminals on an experimental basis to some Rail Travellers Service Agents (RTSAs) in Mumbai. No specific time frame can be specified for its implementation for the present.

Injudicious Procurement/Import of Items

1614. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the various organs of Air Force like base repair depots have been importing/procuring defence items without correctly assessing the requirement resulting into blocking of funds and avoidable expenditure;

(b) if so, the number of such cases came to light during each of the last three years and the action taken on injudicious procurement/import of items; and

(c) the steps taken to check such procurement of items?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Base Repair Depots (BRDs) have no power to import defence items. However, they procure urgently required indigenous items for production through local purchase. BRDs project their requirements of spares and repairables annually through Provisioning Reviews and Special Reviews. The requirement is worked out based on clearly laid down norms for spares (Automatic Replenishment System Scales, Mandatory spares as per arisings and Repairable Floats as per Scales authorized). Sometimes due to minor aberrations in evaluation of part numbers, and tracking of "in lieu" items, some items get procured in excess, but over a period of successive reviews, these excesses are smoothened out.

The complete scheme of provisioning has now been streamlined and Head Quarters Maintenance Cell, which has complete inventory details, has been tasked to vet indents thoroughly so that injudicious procurement is avoided.

Speedy Disposal of Civil Procedure Code

1615. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent changes brought into force for speedy disposal of Civil Procedure Code cases have brought about noticeable change in the disposal of long pending cases;

(b) whether the Committee headed by Justice V.S. Malimath to suggest reforms in the disposal of Criminal Procedure Code (Cr. PC) cases, has submitted its report and if so the salient features thereof; and

(c) the steps, the Government propose to adopt to prevent witnesses turning hostile in Cr. PC cases leading to the acquittal in most Cr. PC cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) The Amendments to the Civil Procedure Code, 1908 have been brought into force with effect from 1st July, 2002 only. It is too early for any noticeable impact on the disposal of long pending cases.

(b) The Committee on Reforms of Criminal Justice System is yet to submit its report.

(c) The Law Commission of India has recommended some amendment to section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure 1973. The Report of the Law Commission would be processed after it is laid on the Table of the House, in consultation with the State Governments, as

Criminal Procedure and Criminal Law are on the Concurrent list of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. It will, therefore, not be feasible to fix any time-frame for this.

Hydel Power Projects

1616. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Hydel Power Projects are being set up in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of these projects along with their power generation capacity;

(c) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed; and

(d) the steps taken for completion of these projects in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) Srisailam Hydro-electric Project (6 × 150 MW) is under execution in Andhra Pradesh. Three units of 150 MW each have already been commissioned. Two units are likely to be commissioned during 2002-03 and one unit in 2003-04. 13 small hydro power projects with an aggregate capacity of 29.80 MW are under construction.

Nagarjunasagar Tail Pond Dam (2 × 25 MW) and Priyadarshini Jurala HEP (6 × 36.9 MW) in the State Sector and Jalaput Dam (3 × 6 MW) in the Joint Sector in Andhra Pradesh have been cleared by Central Electricity Authority.

Coverage of FM Radio Stations

1617. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether C and AG has carried out that number of FM radio stations were targeted to be installed by March 31, 2002;

(b) the extent to which the target has been achieved so far;

(c) whether the range of FM from Delhi covers only about 30 kms; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to extend the coverage to atleast 200 kms?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) C and AG report No. 2 of 2002 (Civil), para 3.1 mentions that 133 FM Projects were targeted to be commissioned by March, 1997. Of these, 125 projects have been commissioned.

(c) Yes, Sir. Stereo signal is available within a radius of 30 Kms and the range of mono signal is about 38 Kms.

(d) FM coverage is limited by the line of sight distance, hence coverage upto 200 Kms is not feasible.

Development of Hydro Power Potential

1618. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India holds 1,50,000 MW hydro power potential against which only 17.50% has so far been developed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of State with untapped hydro power potential and the steps being taken to harness this huge additional potential?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The country is endowed with an economically exploitable viable hydro potential assessed at 1,48,701 MW in terms of installed capacity. State-wise status of hydroelectric potential development is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) A substantial part of the hydroelectric potential is located in Himachal Pradesh (18820 MW), Uttaranchal (18175 MW), Jammu and Kashmir (14146 MW) and in North Eastern States (58971 MW). Government of India has initiated action to develop about 30000 MW of hydro power in various parts of the country. With the object of executing the feasible hydro power projects in the country, the Central Electricity Authority has brought out a Preliminary Ranking Study of 399 hydro schemes with aggregate installed capacity of about 1,07,000 MW which are yet to be developed. CEA is now in the process of formulating a National Action Plan in consultation with the State Governments to exploit the entire balance potential in the country.

Statement

(Status as on 1.4.2002)

Status of Hydro Electric Development-Conventional

Region/State	Installed capacity (As per reassessment study (MW)	Existing Installed capacity		Schemes under construction		Capacity Developed+Under Development		Capacity yet to be developed	
		(MW)	%	(MW)	%	(MW)	%	(MW)	%
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
NORTHERN									
Jammu and Kashmir	14146	1473	10.4%	390	2.8%	1863.0	13.2%	12283.0	86.8%
Himachal Pradesh	18820	3668	19.5%	2311	12.3%	5979.0	31.8%	12841.0	68.2%
Punjab	971	1291	100.0%	168	17.3%	1459.0	100.0%	0.0	0.0%
Haryana	64	48	75.0%	14	21.9%	62.0	96.9%	2.0	3.1%
Rajasthan	496	430	86.7%	0	0.0%	430.0	86.7%	66.0	13.3%
Uttaranchal	18175	1109	6.1%	3134	17.2%	4243.0	23.3%	13932.0	76.7%
Uttar Pradesh	723	501	69.3%	0	0.0%	501.0	69.3%	222.0	30.7%
Sub Total (NR)	53395	8520	16.0%	6017	11.3%	14537.0	27.2%	38858.00	72.8%
WESTERN									
M.P. and Chhattisgarh	4485	934	20.8%	1570	35.0%	2504.0	55.8%	1981.0	44.2%
Gujarat	619	305	49.3%	250	40.4%	555.0	89.7%	64.0	10.3%
Maharashtra	3769	2594	68.8%	0	0.0%	2594.0	68.8%	1175.0	31.2%
Goa	55	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%	55.0	100.0%
Sub total (WR)	8928	3833	42.9%	1820	20.4%	5653..0	63.3%	3275.0	36.7%
SOUTHERN									
Andhra Pradesh	4424	2018	45.6%	0	0.0%	2018.0	45.6%	2406.0	54.4%
Karnataka	6602	2909	44.1%	192	2.9%	3101.0	47.0%	3501.0	53.0%
Kerala	3514	1800	51.2%	30	0.9%	1830.0	52.1%	1684.0	47.9%
Tamil Nadu	1918	1580	82.4%	150	7.8%	1730.0	90.2%	0.0	0.0%
Sub Total (SR)	16458	8307	50.5%	372	2.3%	8679.0	52.7%	7779.0	47.3%

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
EASTERN									
Jharkhand	753	154	20.5%	32	4.2%	186.0	24.7%	567.0	75.3%
Bihar	70	45	64.3%	0	0.0%	45.0	64.3%	25.0	35.7%
Orissa	2999	1838	61.3%	66	2.2%	1904.0	63.5%	1095.0	36.5%
West Bengal	2841	237	8.3%	36	1.3%	273.0	9.6%	2568.0	90.4%
Sikkim	4286	84	2.0%	519	12.1%	603.0	14.1%	3683.0	85.9%
Sub Total (ER)	10949	2358	21.5%	653	6.0%	3011.0	27.5%	7938.0	72.5%
NORTH EASTERN									
Meghalaya	2394	185	7.7%	84	3.5%	269.0	11.2%	2125.0	88.8%
Tripura	15	15	100.0%	0	0.0%	15.0	100.0%	0.0	0.0%
Manipur	1784	105	5.9%	90	5.0%	195.0	10.9%	1589.0	89.1%
Assam	680	250	36.8%	145	21.3%	395.0	58.1%	285.0	41.9%
Nagaland	1574	91	5.8%	8	0.5%	99.0	6.3%	1475.0	93.7%
Arunanchal Pradesh	50328	416	0.8%	0	0.0%	416.0	0.8%	49912.0	99.2%
Mizoram	2196	0	0.0%	60	2.7%	60.0	2.7%	2136.0	97.3%
Sub Total (NER)	58971	1062	1.8%	387	0.7%	1449.0	2.5%	57522.0	97.5%
ALL INDIA	148701	24080	16.2%	9249	6.2%	33329.0	22.4%	115372.0	77.6%

Note-1 The above table shows the installed capacities of the convential hydro stations in operation only and does not include PSS. Considering PSS schemes into account the total installed capacity of the state shall be as given below:
Gujarat-545 MW, Maharashtra-2768 MW, Andhra Pradesh-3168 MW, Tamil Nadu-1980 MW, Jharkhand-194 MW,
Total All India = 26084 MW

Note-2 Total installed capacity in A and N Islands = 5.25 MW

Note-3 The above table shows the installed capacities of the convenital hydrostations under construction only and does not include PSS.
Considering PSS schemes into account the total installed capacity of the State under construction shall be as given below:
Gujarat-1450 MW, Maharashtra-250 MW, Andhra Pradesh-450 MW, West Bengal-936 MW
Total All India =12335 MW

Note-4 The above Table does not include mini/micro and small H.E. Schemes.

Authority To Monitor Hazards and Accidents Prone Sections

1619. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to set up a Nation-wide Authority to monitor hazards and accidents prone sections of the Railways;

(b) whether the Railways have identified spots and sections which frequently involve derailments;

(c) if so, the steps the Railways propose to take to identify such areas and solve the technical weaknesses in the rail system;

(d) the details of steps initiated in South Central Railways to identify the perennial and frequent areas where accidents occur; and

(e) the time by which this problem will be solved?

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

(b) and (c) Analysis of derailments on Divisions, Zonal Railways and various Sections is a continuous process on Railways. Regular inspections and safety audits are carried out by officers and supervisors. Wherever deficiencies are noticed, corrective action is taken.

(d) There have not been frequent accidents in any particular section during the last two years on South Central Railway. The total number of derailments on the Railway have declined from 33 during 2000-2001 to 20 during 2001-2002, as a result of implementation of various safety measures.

(e) Does not arise.

Starting of Auto LPG Facilities

1620. SHRI A. F. GOLAM OSMANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil Companies have started the Auto LPG facilities on their outlets to facilitate the motorists;

(b) if so, the number of retail outlets on National Highway No. 1 from Delhi to Ludhiana provided with the facility of Auto LPG;

(c) whether the Oil companies have made some survey and have prepared some list of petrol pumps where such facilities can be provided;

(d) if not, the reasons for delay in preparing and approving such list; and

(e) the time by which this initial work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) At present, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have started Auto LPG Dispensing facilities in Mumbai, Delhi and Pune.

(c) to (e) OMCs have drawn out their plan after making the necessary survey to set up 228 Auto LPG Dispensing Stations (ALDS) in different parts of the country by 2003-04.

Misuse of Funds for Procurement of Energy Meters

1621. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that some of the North Eastern State/Electricity Boards have misutilised and diverted the financial assistance meant for procurement of energy meters;

(b) if so, the details of diversification of financial assistance; and

(c) the action taken by the Government or propose to be taken against the State Governments/Electricity Boards for Misutilization of financial assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Ministry of Power have received no such complaints. Ministry of Power have received representations from a supplier regarding non-release of pending payments against the supply of energy meters to the Electricity Department, Government of Manipur. The matter was taken up with the Government of Manipur who have informed that the money released by Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) for purchase of energy meters has been utilized for the specified purpose. The Government of Manipur have further informed that they have released the following payments to the suppliers:

Sl. No.	Name of Firm	Date of Payment	Amount
1.	M/s. Capital Power Systems	31.03.1999	Rs. 25,00,000/-
2.	M/s. Capital Power Systems	12.11.1999	Rs. 8,00,000/-
3.	M/s. Capital Power Systems	05.10.2000	Rs. 1,50,00,000/-
4.	M/s. Elymer Electrics	13.10.1998	Rs. 20,00,000/-
5.	M/s. Elymer Electrics	13.05.1999	Rs. 1,00,00,000/-
6.	M/s. Elymer Electrics	10.09.2001	Rs. 25,00,000/-
		Total	Rs. 3,28,00,000/-

Closed Petrol Pump Sites Tapped by Private Oil Companies

1622. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the private oil companies have started tapping such closed petrol pump sites having good potential but are closed due to the stoppage of dual operation and the oil corporations are paying rent/lease of such sites;

(b) if so, whether the oil PSUs shall be directed/ advised not to loose such sites keeping in view the probable competition; and

(c) if so, the number of such sites lying closed throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) No case of take over by any private oil company of the site of any retail outlet closed owing to stoppage of dual operation and in the possession of any Oil PSU has been reported to the Government.

Investment by U.K. in Petroleum and Gas Exploration

1623. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Petroleum and Gas exploration company from the United Kingdom have shown interest in investment in the petroleum and gas exploration activities under the NELP-3.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of other such proposals received by the Union Government; and

(d) the action taken by the Government on these proposals?

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) The Notice Inviting Offer (NIO) for blocks under the third round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-III) was announced on the 28th March, 2002 with the bid closing date of 28th August, 2002. The response of exploration companies either from the United Kingdom or from any other country can be known only after the last date of submission of bids.

Employees in Central PSUs

1624. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to finalize a comprehensive strategy towards the problems faced by the employees in Central PSUs;

(b) if so, whether the group constituted under the chairmanship of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission to make recommendations on salary related problems and safeguarding the interest of workers in sick PSUs has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether some PSUs failed to furnish the requisite data called for by the Group as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated May 24, 2002;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which a comprehensive plan is likely to be furnished by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (f) A Group of Ministers has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission to consider and make recommendations in respect of the following issues:

- Problems relating to payment of wages, salaries and statutory dues of the employees of central public sector enterprises, particularly the sick CPSUs.
- VRS Policy.
- Periodicity of pay/wages in CPSUs, and
- Safeguarding of workers' interest in sick PSUs.

Information has been provided by 237 out of 240 PSUs and further action is in process.

Outdated Drugs in Danapur Railway Hospital

1625. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during stock verification, life saving drugs pertaining to the pre-independence period, having totally lost its virtual potency, have been recovered from the Danapur Railway Hospital recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the purpose for which these outdated drugs have been still kept in the stock;

(c) whether any of these drugs have been administered to the patients admitted in the said hospital;

(d) if so, the results of the outdated drug administration;

(e) whether any enquiry has been conducted to ascertain the real cause for keeping such expired drugs in the stock of the hospital; and

(f) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken thereon?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

Sale of Units of Cement Corporation of India

1626. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to sell out all units of Cement Corporation of India (CCI);

(b) whether some CCI units are making considerable profit;

(c) if so, details of such profit making units;

(d) whether the Government are considering the proposal of bifurcation of such profit making units from the CCI before putting them on sale; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHABHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Only Bokajan unit of Cement Corporation of India Limited (CCI) has been making profits continuously. Rajban unit in Himachal Pradesh was making profit upto 1996-97. However, after 1997, the unit has been incurring losses. Tandur unit in Andhra Pradesh has been making loss but during the year 2001-02, it has made a marginal operating profit.

(d) and (e) CCI is a sick company under reference to Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), a quasi-judicial body. IFCI, the Operating Agency (OA), is handling the sale of CCI as a whole or its plants, individually or collectively, under the direction of BIFR given in its meeting held on 27.3.2001. CCI is a non-strategic PSU.

Disposal of Civil Cases

1627. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have recently issued a Notification which compares the timeframe for disposal of all civil cases within a year;

(b) if so, whether the Government have also any proposal to fix such type of timeframe for all the commissions set up by the Government such as Liberhan Commission etc;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At present there is no proposal to fix time frame for commissions appointed under the Commission of Inquiry Act 1952 under consideration of the Government. However, section 3 (1) of the Act empowers the Central Government or the State Government, as the case may be, to prescribe time-limit keeping in view the nature of the subject matter of inquiry.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Time limit for submission of the report by Commissions of Inquiry is indicated in the appointment order of such commissions. However, if need arises, the time limit of the commission is extended in the public

interest by the concerned administrative ministry/ department.

Separate Armed Force

1628. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any proposal to form a separate armed force to protect Sea shores; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Surrendering of Licences and Enrolment Certificates by Advocates

1629. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bar Council of Delhi has directed all offices of the Government and private sector organisations to ask the registered advocates working with them on full time to surrender their licence and enrolment certificates;

(b) if so, the Bar Council has also asked for a list of all such advocates;

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

(d) the details of officers who were enrolled as advocates with Delhi Bar Council, office-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

One Rank One Pension Scheme

1630. SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to implement the one rank one pension scheme for defence personnel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

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

(c) and (d) The demand for 'One Rank One Pension' for Armed Forces pensioners has been considered on several occasions. This demand was also considered by the Fourth and the Fifth Central Pay Commissions. It has not been found feasible to accept the demand because of large financial and administrative implications. Government have accepted pension related recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission and have issued necessary orders.

Action against Defence Officials

1631. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of defence personnel involved in Tehelka along with the penalty imposed on them;

(b) whether the Government have not yet taken any action against the Defence officials;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to punish the guilty officials?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) The Army Court of Inquiry found some of the military officers blameworthy for their various acts of omission and commission in the defence equipment deal with a fictions foreign firm as alleged by the Tehelka.com and recommended action against the officers.

2. Accordingly, the following action has been initiated as per the law and rules governing the army personnel:

(i) Disciplinary action against one Major General, one Brigadier and one Colonel.

(ii) Administrative action against two Major Generals and one LT. Colonel. Out of them, one Major General has been awarded 'Censure'.

Exorbitant Price

1632. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5538 on March 7, 2002 regarding purchase for stores and state:

(a) whether his Ministry asked DoP and T to reinvestigate the reasons of selling computers by Kendriya Bhandar at suggested retail price than the price approved by the Bhandar in their files and for those charged to Cabinet Secretariat and not showing the sales tax and extended warranty in the invoices;

(b) whether the Kendriya Bhandar supplied gateway photocopier paper to CAO which were not specifically indented than supplying the lowest priced paper as per the policy of the Bhandar thereby causing financial loss to the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): No such Unstarred Question No. 5538 was answered on March 7, 2002 regarding purchase for stores. Unstarred Question No. 5538 was answered on May 2, 2002.

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

Representations to SC/ST/OBC

1633. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given adequate representations for persons belonging to the SC/ST and OBC in Class 1 or Gazetted posts in her Ministry as well as all its autonomous bodies/offices;

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

(c) whether there are many vacancies in Class 1/or Gazetted posts yet to be filled;

(d) if so, whether the Government have taken any steps to fill up these posts;

(e) the total number of IAS, Class-I or Gazetted Officers working in the Ministry as well as all its autonomous Bodies/Offices; and

(f) the annual expenditure incurred for paying salaries and allowances, conveyances and other benefits extended to these officials during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Allocation of CNG

1634. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI Y.V. RAO:
SHRI SURESH PASI:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI C.N.SINGH:
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:
MOHAMMAD ANWARUL HAQUE:
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

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

(a) whether the allocation of CNG for Delhi has been doubled as reported in the 'Times of India' dated June 21,2002;

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

(c) whether inspite of increase in allocation of CNG in Delhi, the CNG vehicles have to wait for hours together to get the supplies;

(d) if so, the details of other steps taken to mitigate the hardships being faced by CNG vehicles;

(e) whether sufficient infrastructure is available for transportation of CNG to the filling stations; and

(f) if so, the steps taken to increase the infrastructure facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. Government have increased allocation of natural gas to Indraprastha Gas Limited (LGL) from 0.98 Million Standard Cubic Meters Per Day (MMSCMD) to 2.0 MMSCMD in the month of June, 2002. Further, in order to improve the availability of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) the IGL has planned to increase the number of compressors from 58 at present to 111 by June, 2003. This will increase the compression facility from 6.91 lakh Kg per day to 16.1 lakh Kg per day. IGL is also expanding its pipeline infrastructure. IGL have also plans to increase the number of filling stations from 94 to 110 by March, 2003.

Power Requirement for Next 10-20 Years

1635. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment of power requirements in the country for the next 10-20 years;

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

(c) whether the power situation in the country is likely to be worst in the next 10-20 years time; and

(d) the action proposed by the Government to tackle the worsening power situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The 16th Electric Power Survey (EPS) was constituted by the Central Electricity Authority in March, 1998 to estimate the electricity demand upto 2004-05 and also for the perspective period i.e. upto 2016-17. The Survey has estimated the all India energy requirement and peak demand for the year 2011-12 as under:

Energy Requirement	975 BUs
Peak Load	1,57,107 MW

A Statement containing details of State-wise energy requirements and peak demand for 2011-12 is enclosed.

In order to provide "power to all by 2012", the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has estimated the requirement of an additional capacity of about 1,00,000 MW. For the 10th Five Year Plan, a capacity addition target of approximately 41,000 MW has been fixed. In addition to this, about 3000 MW is likely to come from renewable.

The strategy of power sector reforms focusing on distribution combined with a step-up in public sector investment in generation in the 10th Plan aims at a qualitative transformation of the power sector. To address the problem of poor sub-transmission and distribution systems, the Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme (APDRP) has been launched with a budget provision of Rs. 3500 crore in 2002-03 for financing specific projects in distribution circles and for providing grants for bridging the gap between the cost and the revenue per unit.

In addition, priority is being given to:

- Improvement of Plant Load Factor (PLF) of the existing power stations.
- Renovation and Modernisation of old thermal and hydro stations.
- Increasing the capacity for inter-regional transfer of power through the National Grid.
- Energy Conservation and Demand Side Management.

Statement

State-wise energy requirements and peak demand for 2011-12

Name of State	Energy Requirement (MU)	Peak Demand (MW)
1	2	3
Haryana	37801	7192
Himachal Pradesh	7118	1354
Jammu and Kashmir	12125	2563
Punjab	58661	10801
Rajasthan	56133	9423
Uttar Pradesh	99631	16019
Chandigarh	3347	637
Delhi	33712	5659
Goa	2786	448
Gujarat	81615	14031
Madhya Pradesh	68578	11346
Maharashtra	142911	22348
D and N Haveli	1779	299
Daman and Diu	1406	226
Andhra Pradesh	93289	15213
Karnataka	60478	10460
Kerala	34231	6406
Tamil Nadu	70769	11411
Pondicherry	3951	673
Bihar (excluding DVC)	15814	3072

1	2	3
DVC	13365	2461
Orissa	23376	3867
Sikkim	312	81
West Bengal (excluding DVC)	37529	6966
Arunachal Pradesh	423	136
Assam	7604	1423
Manipur	1672	406
Meghalaya	1410	239
Mizoram	838	217
Nagaland	555	141
Tripura	1559	396
Andaman and Nicobar	374	77
Lakshadweep	70	17

[English]

Private Participation in R&D

1636. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry spends less than 2% of its budget on Research and Development;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether his Ministry is also seeking private participation in Research and Development; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(c) and (d) Participation of Industry in Defence Research and Development is considered necessary to pool national resources for enhancing self-reliance in Defence and to upgrade the Industry base in the country.

Theft of Goods During Loading-Unloading

1638. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:
SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether incidence of theft of goods in the railway yards during the loading and unloading process have been increased during the last three years;

(b) if so, the value of goods stolen year/zone-wise;

(c) the number of persons found guilty in this regard;

(d) the action taken against those persons; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to check such theft?

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

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Regulatory Board for Petro Products

1639. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Regulatory Board has been set up after withdrawing administered price mechanism from Petro Products;

(b) if so, the reasons for constituting the Regulatory Board alongwith the benefits likely to accrue to the Government with the setting up of this Board; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Government have introduced The Petroleum Regulatory Board Bill, 2002 in the Lok Sabha on 6th May, 2002 for setting up of the Petroleum Regulatory Board to ensure uninterrupted and adequate supply of petroleum and petroleum products to all parts of the country including remote areas at fair prices and to establish sectoral regulations to ensure competition, protect the consumer and encourage investment as well as to punish deviant behaviour of marketing companies.

[English]

Freight Equalisation Scheme

1640. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil Companies are considering a proposal to do away with the freight equalisation scheme and there will be wide variation in the prices of petrol and diesel in inland town compared to coastal areas; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) In a free market scenario, the price of petrol and diesel would vary between coastal and inland locations. With a view to facilitate a smooth transition from the APM (Administered Pricing Mechanism) era to a free market scenario, the public sector oil companies are presently equalizing the freight cost upto depots in the price build up of petrol and diesel.

Joint Venture Agreement with Suzuki Motor Corporation

1641. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

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

(a) whether the Government have signed and revised Joint Venture Agreement with Suzuki Motor Corporation on May 15, 2002;

(b) if so, the details of the new agreement; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to protect workers' interest of Maruti Udyog Limited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The highlights of the agreement are as under:-

1. Maruti shall have a rights issue of approximately Rs. 400 crores consisting of 12,19,512 shares at an issue price of Rs. 3280. The issue price for the purpose of rights issue was taken as the average of the three values arrived at by three independent valuers appointed by Government of India and Suzuki Motor Corporation (SMC).

2. Suzuki shall pay the Government an amount of Rs. 1000 crore as control premium.

3. The Revised Joint Venture Agreement (RJVA) incorporates that after completion of the rights issue Suzuki shall be entitled to nominate for appointment a majority of the Directors on the Board.

4. Government has several affirmative voting rights such as those against asset stripping and protection to employees etc.

5. Government shall divest its balance share in the Indian markets in a public offer through price discovery by way of a book building process.

6. Suzuki has agreed to take such steps as deemed appropriate in order to enhance Maruti's share value prior to the public offer. Suzuki shall endeavour to (i) make MARUTI the source of some of SUZUKI'S models globally (ii) assist MARUTI to access new export markets, (iii) give discount to MARUTI on certain components as previously agreed to by SUZUKI, (iv) set up a task force to explore possibilities for further reduction of costs in MARUTI, (v) Promote Maruti and its products in the global market and (vi) aggressively strengthen MARUTI'S manufacturing and technical capabilities so as to make MARUTI'S products internationally competitive in terms of quality and cost.

7. Suzuki has agreed to underwrite the first public issue of approximately 36 lakh shares held by Government of India.

8. The agreement also provides for 'Put Options' to Government of India upto 30th April, 2004.

The rights issue has been completed and SMC paid to Government the control premium of Rs. 1000 crores.

(c) Article 2.3.1 (e) of the RJVA stipulates *inter-alia* that so long as the Government holds more than 25 per cent of the paid up Shares or until March 31,2003 (whichever occurs first), no action shall be taken by the Board or the share holders in general meeting without the same having been first approved by the Board with the affirmative vote of a Director nominated by the Government on the matter of employee retrenchments except in the ordinary course of business or pursuant to disciplinary action, all of which will be in accordance with contractual obligations and/or applicable law.

Introduction of New Trains

1642. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) number of new trains proposed to be introduced during the year as per the announcement made in the Railway Budget;

(b) the period from which the new trains would start functioning; and

(c) the position as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) In the Railway Budget, it was proposed to introduce 25 pairs of Express trains, 16 pairs of Jan Shatabdi Express trains, 7 pairs of Passenger trains and MEMU services during 2002-2003. Of these 13 pairs of Express trains, 4 pairs of Jan Shatabdi Express, 6 pairs of Passenger trains and MEMU services have been introduced. The details are given in the enclosed statement. The remaining services will be introduced during the course of the year 2002-2003.

Statement

S. No.	Train no.	Train Name	Date
1.	5631/5632	Guwahati-Jodhpur/Bikaner Express (Weekly)	20.07.2002
2.	2983/2984	Durg-Jaipur Express (Weekly)	06.7.2002
3.	9169/9170	Ahmedabad-Varanasi Express (via Allahabad) (Weekly)	09.07.2002
4.	8611/8612	Garwa Road-Hatia Express	08.06.2002
5.	6123/6124	Chennai Egmore-Trivandrum Central Anantapuri Express	30.06.2002
6.	2153/2154	Habibganj-Lokmanya Tilak (T) Express (Weekly)	02.07.2002
7.	7601/7602	Nanded-Pune Express (Triweekly)	02.07.2002
8.	5051/5052	Howrah-Gorakhpur Express via Narkatiaganj (Weekly)	04.07.2002
9.	2323/2324	New Delhi-Howrah Express (Bi-weekly)	02.07.2002
10.	9313/9314	Indore-Patna Express (Via Bhopal-Lucknow) Weekly)	03.07.2002
11.	6505/6506	Gandhidham-Bangalore Express (Weekly)	11.07.2002
12.	6005/6006	Visakhapatanam-Chennai Weekly Express	04.07.2002
13.	9657/9658	Mhow-Chittorgarh Express (MG)	01.07.2002
		Jan Shatabdi	
1.	2051/2052	Madgaon-Lokmanya Tilak (T) Jan Shatabdi	16.04.2002
2.	2065/2066	Howrah-Malda Town Jan Shatabdi	28.6.2002
3.	2053/2054	Varanasi-Lucknow Jan Shatabdi	27.06.2002
4.	2063/2064	Katihar-Patna Jan Shatabdi	19.06.2002
		Passenger Trains	
1.	707/708	Guwahati-New Bongaigaon Passenger (via Goalpara)	01.07.2002
2.	1DM/2DM	Delhi-Meerut Passenger	01.07.2002
3.	1/2 PJ	Pathankot-Jammu Tawi Passenger (6 days a week)	01.07.2002
4.	597/598	Harihar-Hubli Passenger	01.07.2002
5.	1359/1360	Jhansi-Bina Passenger	01.07.2002
6.	3/4 SMS	Saharanpur-Shamli Passenger	01.07.2002
		MEMU SERVICES	
1.	Lucknow Cirular	27.6.2002	
2.	Virar-Dahanu Road	14.04.2002	

New Terminal At Kochuveli

1643. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the acres of land acquired by Railways for construction of new Terminal at Kochuveli, near Trivandrum;

(b) the compensation paid to the owners of the said land;

(c) the manner in which the Railways propose to utilize this acquired land; and

(d) the time by which the work is likely to be started for construction of new terminal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) The work has been included in the Budget 2002-2003 and it is in preliminary stages. No acquisition of land has been done for this work in recent past. Most of the land required is already available with the Railway.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Preliminary activities like preparation of plans, estimate etc. have been taken up.

Infiltration after Kargil War

1644. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of deaths of Indian Soldiers occurred on LoC and border after the Kargil victory;

(b) the details of the reported cases of the infiltration across the borders after Kargil war; and

(c) the details of efforts made by India to check the cross border terrorism after Kargil war?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) As per records available in Army Headquarters at present the details of deaths of Indian Soldiers occurred due to enemy action on LoC and International Border in Jammu & Kashmir after Kargil victory is as under:-

Officers	Junior Commissioned Officers (JCOs)	Other Ranks	Total
10	15	202	227

As per available data, after the Kargil War, 497 attempts at infiltration and exfiltration have been foiled on the LoC and International Border in Jammu & Kashmir by the Army and Rashtriya Rifles.

Adequate military measures are taken to check terrorist initiated violence in Jammu and Kashmir. These include a multi-pronged proactive approach to effectively counter infiltration and conduct synergised counter proxy war operations in the hinterland. Alongwith extensive area domination patrols to sanitise the area, operations are also being launched to specifically target foreign terrorists.

Potential of Hydro Power

1645. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of exploitable potential of hydro power at present;

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to increase the generation of hydro power; and

(c) the target of 9th Five Year Plan and the details of achievements made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The Hydro-electric potential of projects identified in all the six river systems of the country by the Central Electricity Authority is estimated to be 1,48,701 MW. 16.88% of this potential has been exploited, 6.14% is under various stages of development and 2.70% has been cleared by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA).

Government of India has announced a Policy on Hydro Power Development in August, 1998 in order to accelerate the pace of hydro power development in the country. CEA has brought out a Preliminary Ranking Study of Hydro electric schemes covering the six major river systems/basin comprising 399 hydro schemes with an aggregate installed capacity of about 1,07,000 MW which are yet to be developed. CEA is now in the process of formulating a National Action Plan in consultation with the State Governments to exploit the entire balance potential in the country.

(c) Hydro capacity addition during the 9th Plan was 4538.25 MW (3912.25 MW in the State Sector, 540 MW in the Central Sector and 86 MW in the Private Sector) against the revised target of 8399.2 MW.

Entrance of NTPC in Capital Market

1646. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation is planning to enter the capital market with a public issue to raise resources for meeting its target capacity;

(b) if so, the details of the size of public issue; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to open for public subscription?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has decided to explore the possibility of entering capital market with a public issue of equity.

Hydro-Electric Power Potential

1647. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gujarat has considerable hydro-electric power potential;

(b) if so, the extent thereof;

(c) whether out of this potential only one percent has been developed to generate power; and

(d) if so, whether the Union Government have any plan to exploit the hydro-electric power potential of Gujarat and make the State self-sufficient in power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The Central Electricity Authority had identified an economically exploitable hydro potential of about 619 MW though Conventional System and 1440 MW through Pumped Storage Schemes (PSS) in Gujarat from studies carried out during 1978-87.

(c) and (d) Ukai and Ukai Left bank Canal (305 MW) and Kadana PSS (240 MW) have already been developed. Sardar Sarovar Project comprising an underground River Bed power house (6x200 MW) and surface Canal Head Power House (5x50 MW) is under development. With this, bulk of the hydro potential in Gujarat would be harnessed.

[Translation]

Problem of Power in Rajasthan

1648. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to solve the problem of power in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme in this regard; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to implement the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) A capacity of 660.32 MW (all in State Sector) is programmed for during the 10th Plan in the State of Rajasthan. The details of the projects are being set up:

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Capacity (MW)
1.	Suratgarh III	250
2.	Ramgarh II	75.32
3.	Kota IV	195
4.	Mathania	140

Under the Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme (APDRP), the State of Rajasthan was sanctioned during 2000-01, a sum of Rs. 45.01 crore, of which a sum of Rs. 11.96 crore has been utilized by the State. During 2002-03, a sum of Rs. 28.4 crore has been released to the State under the same programme.

In addition, Rajasthan has also been provided with a World Bank loan of US$ 180 million for its power sector reforms programme.

[English]

Shortage of Sophisticated Weapons

1649. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Military and Security forces in North East States, particularly in Nagaland have faced

difficulties in fighting against insurgents due to shortage of sophisticated weapons;

(b) if so, whether the Government have been supplying reconditioned weapons instead of new and sophisticated ones to the Indian Military and the Security forces deployed North East States, Particularly in Nagaland which are unable to be fired in the nick of time of firing at insurgents; and

(c) if so, the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Construction of Lalpur Power Grid in M.P.

1650. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the cost of construction of Lalpur Power Grid at Satna district in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether the said power grid is working according to its established capacity and norms; and

(c) the number of employees in Grade 1,2,3 and 4 working in the said Power Grid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The cost of construction of Lalpur Sub-station of POWERGRID at Satna district in Madhy Pradesh is Rs. 71.79 crores. The 400/220 KV Satna Sub-station was conceived as a part of transmission system associated with Vindhyachal Stage-II Project of NTPC.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Sub-station is working according to the established capacity and norms of POWERGRID.

(c) There are 42 employees of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited working in the sub-station, of which 13 employees are in the Executive Category, 9 employees in the Supervisory Category, and 20 employees are in the Workmen Category.

Reserves of Oil and Gas in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan

1651. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether oil and gas reserves have been found in some areas of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the location thereof and the steps taken for exploitation of the said reserves;

(c) whether a French company had surveyed the areas in Rajasthan and expressed possibilities of huge reserves of oil and natural gas; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) As on 1.4.2002, Oil India Ltd. (OIL) has established 9.29 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) (provisional) of in-place gas reserves and 14.6 Million Metric Tonne (MMT) (provisional) of heavy oil reserves in Jaisalmer District and in Bikaner-Nagaur basin respectively in the State of Rajasthan. OIL is producing gas from Rajasthan since 1996. However, OIL has not carries out any activity relating to exploration of gas and oil in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has established 2.77 BCM of in-place gas reserves in its fields, namely, Manhera-Tibba, Ghotaru, Kharatar, Bakhri-Tibba, Bankia and Sadewala, located in the State of Rajasthan. Manhera-Tibba field is under development and has been producing gas since 1994. Other gas fields are under various stages of delineation. However, no reserves of gas have been established in the State of Madhya Pradesh by ONGC.

As far private/joint venture operations are concerned, oil has been discovered in two exploratory wells at Guda near village Gudamalani and one well at RJ-H-1 in prospect "H" near village Koslu in Barmer District of Rajasthan. Further, oil indications have been observed in another well "Nanuwala-1" in Sriganganagar District of Rajasthan. The contractors have planned to carry out 100 square kilometer of 3-D seismic survey covering the whole structure of the discovery well RJ-H-1 and drilled atleast one more well to assess the reserves. Exploitation of the discoveries well depend upon the commercial viability of the field.

(c) and (d) On the basis of interpretation of seismic data acquired by M/s CGG, a French company, OIL carried out drilling activities and established presence of hydrocarbons reserves as mentioned in reply to parts (a) and (b) of the question.

ONGC carried out exploration jointly with a French company, namely M/s IFP, in the initial phase of exploration in the State of Rajasthan in early 1960s and discovered gas in Manhera-Tibba field, already under production.

[English]

Securitisation of Outstanding Dues

1652. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal have signed a tripartite agreement with the Union Government and Reserve Bank of India for the Securitisation of outstanding that their electricity boards owe to the central power utility-National Thermal Power Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any other States have also signed such an agreement with the Union Government and the Reserve Bank of India;

(d) if so, the details of the same; and

(e) the extent to which it is likely to be helpful to improve the power situation in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) 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 approved the scheme of one-time settlement of outstanding dues on 17-04-2002 and on 20-05-2002 circulated a modified tripartite agreement (TPA) that is to be signed among the State Government, Government of India and the Reserve Bank of India. Government of Andhra Pradesh has signed the TPA. The Government of West Bengal had signed the TPA on 7th January, 2002 circulated earlier in July, 2001. This was returned with a request to sign the modified TPA, which was circulated to them on 20-05-2002 and the same is yet to be received from the Government of West Bengal.

(b) 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 per cent 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 to 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 governments to accept reform-based performance milestones such as setting up of State Electricity Reforms Commission (SERC), metering of distribution feeders, improvement in revenue realisation specified in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) 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 them 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 per cent) from the power stations of CPSUs as well as any assistance under the 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 from the basis of the one time settlement. Dues that accrue after this date would not form part of the scheme. Individual CPSUs and 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 Powr 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.

(c) and (d) Twelve State Governments, namely, the Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh have signed the TPA. Nine other State Governments, namely, the State Governments of Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttaranchal and West Bengal have agreed 'in-principle' to sign the TPA.

(e) The scheme would:

(i) facilitate settlement of outstanding dues of over Rs. 43000 crore payable by the SEBs to the CPSUs as on 30-09-2001.

(ii) Assist the reforms process in the States by cleaning up the books of SEBs/Utilities, and

(iii) Through Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme (APDRP) grants and discretionary allocation of Power would be made.

These measures are expected to improve the financial health of SEBs and thus make the sector viable for fresh investments.

Allotment of Gas to Gas Based Power Plants

1653. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the system being adopted for allotment of gas to gas based Power Plants;

(b) whether the allotment is wholly based on the recommendations of the State Governments or at the discretion of the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the criteria for allotment of Gas to the Gas based Power Plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) Gas allocations to gas based power plants is made on the recommendations made by the Inter-Ministerial Committee, namely, Gas Linkage Committee. Allocation of natural gas to independent power projects is done keeping in view the recommendation of the respective State Governments.

Privatisation

1654. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are proposals to privatise certain operations in Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to protect the interest of the effected labourers/workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, Ministry of Railways are contemplating concessioning of certain loss making branch lines, which may involve operations by the private operators. In such an eventuality, interests of the employees will be taken cares of while preparing the terms and conditions.

Demand of Petro Products by Refineries

1655. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian refineries are not able to meet the present demand of petro-products;

(b) if so, the actual demand of petro-products of the country and the refining capacity of refineries; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to boost the existing refining capacity of Indian 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) No, Sir.

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

(c) The Government have taken the following steps to boost the existing refining capacity of Indian refineries:-

(i) Investments in refining sector have been permitted to private companies including foreign companies.

(ii) The administered pricing mechanism (APM) regime has been dismantled for refining sector w.e.f. 1.4.1998.

(iii) The refining industry has been de-licenced since 1998.

FM Radio in Tenth Plan

1656. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of population likely to be covered by FM Radio Service during the Tenth Plan in the country; and

(b) the other technological initiatives envisaged broadcasting and telecasting during the Tenth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) All India Radio has, proposed to cover 60% of the population, during the 10th Plan.

(b) Various initiatives such as, Internet Broadcasting, Introduction of Digital Broadcasting in Terrestrial/Satellite mode, expansion of FM Transmission network, conversion of existing analog production and delivery system to digital mode and to further improve the coverage area are envisaged to be taken up during the 10th Plan, subject to availability of resources.

Mangalore-Hassan-Bangalore Pipeline

1657. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the work of Mangalore-Hassan-Bangalore pipeline project was taken up;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the said project and the amount spent thereon so far; and

(c) the time by which the said project is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Mangalore-Hassan-Bangalore pipeline laying activity was started in November, 2000.

(b) Estimated project cost is around Rs. 670 crore. Cumulative expenditure on the project till 30.6.2002 is about Rs. 520 core.

(c) The project is expected to be completed by December, 2002.

[Translation]

Industrial Sickness in CPSUs

1658. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for increasing for sickness in the CPSUs year after year;

(b) the steps taken to make up the loss of sick industrial units; and

(c) the effective steps taken to improve the working of these units and make them viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) As per available information, during the last three years there is no increase in the number of sick industrial CPSUs registered with BIFR. Some of the reasons include inherited problems of sick taken over PSUs, obsolete plant and machinery, outdated technology, resource crunch, excess manpower, low capacity utilization, inability to face sever competition, managerial problems etc.

(b) and (c) Enterprise specific steps are taken by the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments/ Management of PSUs for performance improvement. Some of the common steps taken include referring continuously loss making PSUs whose net worth has become negative to the BIFR for formulation of rehabilitation/revival scheme, periodical review of the

performance of the PSUs by the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments, business and financial restructuring, formation of joint ventures, infusion of fresh funds, upgradation of technology, improved marketing strategies, cost control measures, professionalisation of Board of Directors etc.

Foreign Nationals

1659. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of foreign nationals intruded into our country and settled down here;

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

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether his Ministry would ask the Ministry of Home Affairs to conduct such survey; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) No such proposal is presently under consideration in Ministry of Defence.

[English]

Raising of Funds by IOCL

1660. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision on Indian Oil Corporation Limited plan to raise funds from the stock market through an initial public offer;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits likely to be accrued to the Government 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) and (b) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) has requested the Government to permit issue of fresh equity shares up to 10% of the existing paid up capital of the company. Decision is yet to be taken by the Government on this proposal.

(c) The likely benefits from proposed public issue will accrue to IOC in terms of fund generation and in the long run, it is expected to enhance value for the shareholders.

Hiking Cable Charges

1661. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:
SHRI SAIDUZZAMA:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware the Cable Operators in the country particularly in the Metropolitan Cities and National Capital Regions have made a Cartel and are harassing the Cable Subscribers by charging an exorbitant monthly rent of about Rs. 360/- since May 2002;

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to direct the Cable Operators to bring the monthly rent with a reasonable limit;

(c) whether the Government have received any representations from Delhi subscribers against the heavy hike in the monthly charges;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (e) The Government has received complaints/ representations from subscribers, resident welfare associations and representatives of the people regarding arbitrary and frequent increases in the cable subscription charges. Representations have also been received in this regard from the subscribers of Delhi. At present, there are no legal provisions enabling Government to regulate subscription charges. The Government has, therefore, moved a Bill to amend the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 to provide for mandatory viewing of pay channels through an Addressable System. The Bill has been passed by the Lok Sabha on 15th May, 2002. The legislation will help consumers in making choice regarding channels they wish to see and pay for.

Closure of Industrial Units in West Bengal

1662. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industrial units closed in West Bengal during the last three years;

(b) the number of Industrial workers affected as a result thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have decided to close any other PSU industries in West Bengal during the current year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, PSUs-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) As per available information, during the last three years 5 Central Public Sector Undertakings, Tangra Unit of Tyre Corporation of India Ltd. and a loss making refractory units of Burn Standard Company Ltd. under the administrative control of Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, located in West Bengal have been closed and 4753 industrial workers have been affected due to closure of these PSUs/Units.

(c) and (d) All the employees of Bharat Brakes and Valves Ltd. (BBVL) and Reyrolle Burn Ltd. (RBL) have opted for VRS and left the companies. Both these units are under Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). BIFR has confirmed the winding up of RBL. In respect of BBVL, BIFR has issued winding up notice.

Missing Link Projects in Karnataka

1663. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey for construction of missing links in Karnataka has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the construction work on missing links in Karnataka is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) There is apparently no missing link on traffic considerations. However, surveys for connecting Shimoga-Talguppa to Honavar and Bisanattam to Marikuppam have been conducted.

(b) (i). Talguppa-Honavar (82 km)—As per the survey conducted in 1998-99, the cost of construction of this line was assessed as Rs. 411.91 crs. with negative rate of return of (-) 2.79%.

(ii) Bisanattam to Marikuppam (12.5 km)—As per the survey report, cost of construction of this line was assessed as Rs. 31.71 cr. with negative rate of return.

(c) Due to un-remunerative nature, heavy throwforward of ongoing projects and constraint of resources, it has not been considered feasible to take up the project.

[Translation]

Capital Investment of Indian Oil Limited

1664. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action plan is under consideration of Indian Oil Limited for starting its activities in other sectors besides petroleum;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to make direct capital investment under any plan of Indian Oil Limited; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) (a) and (b) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) has decided to diversify into the power sector and the petro-chemical sector. In this regard, IOc has formed a joint venture, called "Indian Oil Panipat Power Consortium Limited", with M/s Marubeni Corporation, Japan, to develop a power project at Panipat, Haryana. The Company has also plans for setting up of petro-chemicals project as an integration to the refinery streams to improve value addition/ profitability.

(c) and (d) Government do not have any plan to make direct capital investment towards any project of IOC.

Stopping of Sale of Indian Products Bearing ISI Mark at Railway Stations

1665. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sale of Indian Products bearing ISI mark have almost been stopped due to sale of products of multinational companies at railway stations;

(b) if so, whether the Government will re-consider its decision to save the livelihood of the people engaged in small scale industries of the country;

(c) if so, the time by which the Government will take decision in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Fraternity Regarding Appointment of Chief Justices to High Courts

1666. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that there is a large scale dissatisfaction among the legal fraternity regarding the appointment of Chief Justices to High Courts from outside the States concerned;

(b) if so, whether the Government consider restoring the earlier practices of appointing the senior most judge of a High Court as its Chief Justice; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) A view has been expressed that the policy of having the Chief Justice from outside the States had been counter-productive and the Chief Justice should normally not be appointed from outside the States.

(b) and (c) No Sir. There is no such proposal at present.

Collapse of Railway bridge

1667. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether collapse, break down of Railway bridge near Mumbai at Baysai has disrupted the Western Railway traffic for 15 days;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the loss suffered by the railways thereby;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted by the Government in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Traffic on Virar-Surat section of Western Railway was disrupted during the period 26.06.2002 to 09.07.2002 due to break down of Railway bridge near Mumbai between Palghar and Boisar. Details of train services affected in Western Railway are as under:

Fully cancelled —190 Mail/Express trains & 366 Passenger trains.

Partly cancelled — 181 Mail/Express trains & 29 Passenger trains.

Diverted — 153 Mail/Express trains.

Details of loss suffered by Railways are as under:

Western Railway:

(i) Arch Bridge No. 144 (3 x 12.2m) 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 circuiting equipment and signalling cables were damaged in Mumbai area. Besides OFC cable and associated equipment were damaged near Arch bridge No. 144 which had collapsed.

(vi) Minor damages were also caused to the overhead Electrical Traction Equipment.

Central Railway:

(i) Minor damages in Kalyan-Lonavla section at km 59/3-8 (Up & Dn line), km 62/13-14 (Up and Dn line and km 68/17-18 (Dn line) and in Kalyan-Igatpuri section at km 78/10-3 (Up line) due to wash away of ballast/earth from Railway track.

(ii) The point machine and impedance bonds were also damaged at Kalyan and Ambernath stations.

(c) No, Sir. The disruption was due to natural calamity.

(d) Does not arise.

Terrorist Attacks on VDC

1668. SHRI NARESH PUGLLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the terrorists are targeting Village Defence Committee (VDC) members in isolated villages in Jammu and Udhampur regions in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Army has recommended that the VDCs be given modern automatic weapons as the militants carry highly sophisticated arms; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per information furnished by the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir, 15 VDC members have been killed during this year upto June 30, 2002.

(c) and (d) Army recommended the issue of self loading rifles to Village Defence Committees (VDCs) on trial basis. The State Government of Jammu and Kashmir have not considered it appropriate to equip each VDc member with automatic weapons for operational and security reasons. However, three Special Police Officers attached to each VDCs have been provided with semi-automatic weapons etc.

[Translation]

Modernisation of Railway Stations

1669. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE:
SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated for modernisation of railway stations in the country during the current year, year-wise and station-wise;

(b) the target set for modernisation for those railway stations, station-wise;

(c) whether the work initiated for morernisation of railway stations during the last year has been completed;

(d) if not, the details of those stations alongwith the expenditure incurred so far thereon; and

(e) the time by which the work is likely to be completed on those stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (e) There are more than 7000 railway stations on Indian Railways. Upgradation/renovation/modernisation of railway stations is a continuous process and the same is undertaken every year, wherever warranted, on condition basis. Information with regard to the zone-wise and station-wise allocation, under the Plan Head "Passenger Amenities", and the major modernisation works (each costing above Rs. 50 lakh) in progress, with expenditure incurred so far, and new works approved for the current year at various railway stations, are included in the Works Machinery and Rolling Stock Programme, Part II presented to the Parliament along with the Railway Budget Documents.

While the list of major modernisation works are available as given above, for other passenger amenity works costing below Rs. 50 lakh each, a lumpsum allotment is made to the respective Zonal Railways depending upon the total sums available, progress of works and need for carrying out new works based on their inter-se priorities. In addition, improvements at stations are also done in the course of Doublings, Gauge Conversions and provision of PRS, where warranted. Some improvements are also done in the course of annual repairs and maintenance.

During the current financial year, i.e., 2002-03, Rs. 200 crore have been allocated under the Plan Head "Passenger Amenities". The total funds allocated and funds allocated under Lumpsum grant, zone-wise is given below (State-wise figures have not been maintained):

(Figures in Rs. 000s)

S. No.	Railway	Funds for works each costing above Rs. 50 lakh	Funds for works each costing below Rs. 50 lakh	TOTAL FUNDS
1.	Central	133864	106230	240094
2.	Eastern	136602	204194	340796
3.	Northern	116243	119679	235922
4.	North-eastern	13625	184875	198500
5.	Northeast Frontier	75518	121258	196776
6.	Southern	57114	112886	170000
7.	South Central	33323	124377	157700
8.	South Eastern	58330	140430	198760
9.	Western	108497	126805	235302
10.	METRO	19212	6938	26150
	TOTAL	752328	1247672	2000000

[English]

Supply of Wagons

1670. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of railway stations under Western Railway where wagons were indented during the last two years indicating the number of wagons indented for by each stations of Saurashtra-Kutch region of Gujarat;

(b) the number of wagons supplied to each station during the said period;

(c) whether the railway has failed to meet the demand of wagons made by various Associations of Gujarat;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Western Railway to meet the demands in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) A statement is inclosed.

(c) No, Sir. Railway was able to meet demand of wagons within operating restrictions.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Statement

(a) and (b) Details are given below:-

(In four wheeler units)

Station	Year	*Indents Placed	Loading
1	2	3	4
Khari Rohar Road	2000-2001	18295	18029
	2001-2002	9187	9096.5
Gandhidham	2000-2001	52892	38247
Junction	2001-2002	41399.5	35044

*Includes cancelled indents also.

1	2	3	4
Chirai	2000-2001	35875	25671
	2001-2002	31745	24597.5
Bhimasar	2000-2001	25185	24480
	2001-2002	30375	27297.5
Samakhiali	2000-2001	400	400
Junction (BG)	2001-2002	6100	4142.5
Aonla	2000-2001	70365.5	68002.5
Siding	2001-2002	84115	83430
Kandla Port	2000-2001	10450.5	10232.5
	2001-2002	10593.5	16208.5
Mundra Port	2000-2001	0	0
	2001-2002	15792.5	15490
New Bhuj	2000-2001	0	0
	2001-2002	72.5	72.5
Kodinar	2000-2001	2472	2472
	2001-2002	1320	1048
Prachi Road	2000-2001	2316	2314
Junction	2001-2002	6648	6528
Rajula	2000-2001	2304	2304
Junction	2001-2002	0	0
Bhavnagar	2000-2001	9102	8808
Concrete Jetty	2001-2002	10070	9782
Bhavnagar	2000-2001	1992	1722
Timber Depot/ Public SDG.	2001-2002	6186	5614
Bhavnagar	2000-2001	336	168
Terminus	2001-2002	5656	1288
Mahuva	2000-2001	3920	3998
Juncion	2001-2002	3192	1700
Dungar	2000-2001	560	168
Junction	2001-2002	1120	336
Veraval	2000-2001	660	660
	2001-2002	368	368

1	2	3	4
Dharangandhra	2000-2001	5448	5448
Junction	2001-2002	5112	5052
Porbandar	2000-2001	3237.5	3040
	2001-2002	3897.5	2677.5
Bhanvad	2000-2001	1240	1152.5
	2001-2002	440	97.5
Ranavav	2000-2001	20360	19339
	2001-2002	4580	4427.5
Mithapur	2000-2001	11350	10710
	2001-2002	24930	23130
Sikka	2000-2001	4050	3870
	2001-2002	5250	4950
Motikhawdi	2000-2001	17290	16380
	2001-2002	21510	20520
Kanalus Jn.	2000-2001	78600	75720
	2001-2002	85880	84600
Bedeshwar	2000-2001	1750	1350
Wind Mill	2001-2002	10880	6300
Hapa	2000-2001	1660	1440
	2001-2002	1550	1350
Rajkot	2000-2001	2350	2070
	2001-2002	2720	1620
Nav Lakhi	2000-2001	49735	48140
	2001-2002	54855	53215
Vavaniya	2000-2001	3600	3200
	2001-2002	4800	4100
Lavanpur	2000-2001	3800	3400
	2001-2002	5400	4200
Wankaner	2000-2001	1500	1500
Junction	2001-2002	1500	1400
Than	2000-2001	2400	2300
	2001-2002	3800	3600
Surendra	2000-2001	1260	1170
Nagar Jn.	2001-2002	2500	2300

Compensation paid to Transports

1671. SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had paid the contractual dues to the transporter whose trucks were hired for transportation of ammunitions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government had paid compensation to transporters whose trucks were destroyed by explosion at Bikaner Ammunition Depot in January 2002;

(e) if so, the compensation paid to transporters for each truck;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the time by which the compensation to transporters is likely to be paid?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Since the commencement of "Operation PARAKRAM', a large number of trucks have been hired for transportation of ammunition and other stores. Contractual dues are being paid to the transporters on a regular basis. Trucks for transportation of ammunition are hired from a large number of locations/units and records of payments made are being maintained by those units. No central record of the total payment made is being maintained.

(d) to (g) A Board of Officers have been constituted by the Western Command to specifically look into the issue of payment of compensation for the 161 trucks damaged/destroyed in the accident that took place near the Sub-ammunition Depot at Bikaner on the 11th of January 2002. The Report of the Board of Officers is in its final stage of completion. Contractual dues at the rate of Rs. 1500/- per day per truck in respect of the 161 trucks involved in accident have been paid.

Procurement of Computers and Photocopier Machines

1672. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of computers and photocopier machines purchased by inter-service organisations and service headquarters during the last three years indicating the model, brand and price of each one of them and the source of purchase;

(b) whether computers, photocopier machines do not fall under 'Stationery' and 'other items' and have to be purchased by following the provisions of GFR 102 (1) and the annexure to the same rule according to which open tender i.e. invitation to tender by public advertisement where the estimated value of the demand is Rs. 50,000/- and above as stressed by the Department of Expenditure in their office memorandum No. 8 (4)-E.II (A)/98 dated 17.12.1998 (copy enclosed); and

(c) if so, the reasons for violating the provisions of GFRs and the instructions of the Expenditure Department of Finance Ministry and the action proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Shifting of Zonal Railway Headquarters

1673. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to shift some of its existing zonal railway headquarters particularly Western Railway Headquarter; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

Intruder in Ayanagar Air Force Station

1674. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it was reported that three armed persons were spotted entering Indian Air Force Station in Ayanagar in South Delhi on June 2nd, 2002;

(b) if so, the identity of intruders;

(c) whether an enquiry has been held in this regard; and

(d) if so, the conclusions of the enquiry?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Four armed persons

were apparently spotted entering Air Force Station, Ayanagar during the night of 2nd June, 2002. Despite extensive combing operations the reported intruders could not be apprehended.

From the joint investigation, carried out by civil police and Indian Air Force, the conclusion is that the report probably was not authentic and there was no intrusion.

[Translation]

Profit/Loss in HEC, Ranchi

1675. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the order book position of Jharkhand based Heavy Engineering Corporation as on date;

(b) the profit/loss account of HEC Ranchi during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the financial aid provided by the Government to HEC during each of the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to bring down its losses and make it profit earning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) The order book position of HEC as on date is Rs. 105 crores (approx.)

(b) Losses suffered by HEC during last three years are as under:-

(Rupees in lakhs)

1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
5702	18807	12810

(c) Government has provided following financial aid in the form of Plan/Non-plan loans and grant-in-aid, to HEC during last three years as under:-

(Rupees in lakhs)

1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	Total
6472	10736	13757	30965

(d) The Company's efforts to improve its order book position include entering new areas of business like refurbishing/reconditioning, annual maintenance contracts (AMCs) of shovels and machine tools, reduction in manpower through VRs, reduction of overhead costs like expenses on township, Central Industrial Security Force, social overheads, power costs and through increase in generation of funds from disposable assets.

[English]

Changes in Defection Law

1676. SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn a large defection tendency prevailing throughout the country in toppling State Governments;

(b) if so, the details of such defection taken place during the last one year; and

(c) whether the Government proposed to make the defection law more stringent by making the elected representative to be in the same party after his election or has to declare disqualified if he changes the party in the midstream?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) to (c) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Adulteration in Petrol

1677. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the high degree of adulteration in petrol in the North-East, particularly in Manipur;

(b) if so, the action taken by the concerned authority against those found guilty;

(c) the existing mechanism to check such menace;

(d) whether regular checking is conducted at the petrol pumps and retail outlets;

(e) if so, whether there was any case of cancellation of retailership in connection of retailership in connection with such kind of malpractices; 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) No such specific report has been received by the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Steps such has blue dyeing of PDS Kerosene, periodical inspection of the retail outlets, introduction of tamper proof locking system for tanker-trucks, special vigilance drives, etc. are taken by the Oil Marketing Companies. Action is taken by the Companies against erring dealers under the provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines and/or Dealership Agreement. Also, under the provisions of the "Kerosene (Restriction on Use and Fixation of Ceiling Price) Order, 1993", Oil Companies and State Governments can initiate action against any dealer indulging in adulteration and also for misusing public distribution kerosene for purposes other than those permitted.

(e) and (f) There has been no case of cancellation of retailership in connection with malpractices during the past few years. However, Sales and Supplies were suspended at M/s. Brahma Filling Station, Gosaigaon District, Kokrajhar (Assam) from 07.08.2000 for 45 days due to HSD sample failure.

Retail Outlets in Metropolitan Cities

1678. SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to open retail outlets in Metropolitan cities and in Hyderabad and Bangalore for high cost petrol; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The Indian Oil Corporation Limited, the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited have plans to introduce a premium grade of petrol in the major markets. The Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited has already introduced it in 25 retail outlets in Mumbai.

[Translation]

Production of HSL and Sambhar Salt

1679. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the annual production of Hindustan Salt Limited and Sambhar Salt Limited during the last three years, year-wise, till date;

(b) whether the HSL and Sambhar Salt Limited are suffering loss during the said period;

(c) if so, the reasons for the losses being suffered by these undertakings and the steps being taken by the Government to make these units profitable;

(d) whether the Gvoernment of Rajasthan has sent any proposal to take over this Public Undertakings itself; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA):

(a) **Production** (Rupees in lakhs)

Year	Hindustan Salts Ltd. (HSL)	Sambhar Salt Limited (SSL)
1999-2000	381.53	516.57
2000-2001	510.39	382.57
2001-2002 (Prov.)	524.00	807.00

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The reasons for losses in HSL/SSL are inadequate flow of water into the Sambhar Lake, the main source of brine for the production of salt, a downturn in the chlor-alkali industry, a major consumer of salt from Sambhar, recession in salt industry, statutory increase in salaries and wages, high interest burden, low production levels and lack of refining facilities.

Government of India is providing budgetary support to the Company for implementation of various projects/ schemes to improve its performance. In order to reduce over heads, funds under VRS are also being given to the Company to reduce excess manpower. Both HSL and SSL have been referred to BIFR on erosion of their net worth. HSL has been declared sick by BIFR and IDBI has been appointed as Operating Agency for HSL to prepare a revival plan. HSL and SSL have also been referred to the Ministry of Disinvestment in order to locate a JV partner who is expected to bring in the necessary inputs to turn around the PSUs. An Inter-Ministerial Group for the disinvestments of Government equity in these Companies has been constituted.

(d) and (e) The Government of Rajasthan had requested the Government of India for retransfer of the leased out area of Sambhar Salt Limited. The request was not agreed to as it was felt that transfer would not be in the overall interest of the company.

[English]

Price for Free-to-Air Channels

1680. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:

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

(a) whether any decision has been taken by the broadcasters and cable operators' representatives regarding the price structure for subscribers for free-to-air channels; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) At present, there are no legal provisions for the Government to interfere in matters relating to subscription rates. This Ministry is not aware of any such decision.

(b) Does not arise.

Remuneration Paid to the Counsellors Serving the Family

1681. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is no uniformity amongst the States in regard to qualification, tenure, method of appointment and remuneration paid to the Counsellors serving the Family Courts;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure that educational qualifications, tenure, remuneration paid to counsellors serving the family courts is uniform in all the States?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In accordance with the Family Courts Act, 1984, the rules regarding qualification, tenure, method of appointment and remuneration paid to the Counsellors are framed by the State Government in consultation with the respective High Court. The main reason for the diversity may be the different local conditions. Since the Family Courts have been set up by different States at different times, there is a possibility that the remuneration etc. would have been fixed taking into account the prevailing circumstances in that State at that time.

Based on the recommendations made by the Parliamentary Committee on Empowerment of Women in its Fifth Report on Functioning of Family Courts, Model Rules under Section 23 of the Family Courts Act, 1984 were formulated by a Committee appointed by the Department of Justice consisting of representatives of State Governments. These Model Rules have since been circulated to all State Governments, UT Administrations and High Courts for guidance to ensure uniformity, inter-alia, in matters of educational qualifications, tenure, remuneration paid to counsellors etc.

Rail-Cum-Road Over Bridge Across Brahmaputra

1682. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representation to restore the original design of the projected 4.35 kilometers long rail-cum-road bridge across Brahmaputra;

(b) if so, the original design of the projected bridge and the variations made therein under the revised project along with the cost variation; and

(c) the response of the Government to this demand?

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

(b) As per the final location survey report and preliminary design, the Bridge was proposed with two lanes of road traffic with double line rail track. However, in view of the light rail traffic, it was proposed to provide single rail track. As per rough assessment, the cost of single line rail bridge would have been about 15-20% less in comparison to double line.

(c) Based on demands, it has now been decided to go in for double line rail track as originally proposed.

[Translation]

Austerity Measures

1683. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by the various Departments under his 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 ISD Bills, electricity bills particularly the bills of airconditioners and coolers and other such expenditure; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) The amount spent on the various heads by Ministry during last three years is given in the Statement.

(b) and (c) The Union Government issues economy instructions for reduction in Government expenditure from time to time, which are scrupulously followed.

Statement

Expenditure statement for the last three years

(Rs. in thousand)

S. No.	Name of the Division	Expenditure for 1999-2000	Expenditure for 2000-2001	Expenditure for 2001-2002
1.	IREP Div	62954	49141	48154
2.	Bio Energy	949276	794631	803778
3.	Solar Energy	517580	497032	758690
4.	Wind Energy	101168	92368	103758
5.	Improved Choolah	197625	171450	128641
6.	Urban and Industrial Waste	49062	49998	143493
7.	New Technology	28977	39789	50909
8.	Small Hydro Power	182247	167788	220417
9.	International Co-operation	8233	9575	5317
10.	Other Administrative Exp.	24297	35557	49303
11.	TIFED	11800	12508	15000
12.	SADP	10000	12500	44990
13.	Grants to IREDA	50706	8945	36027
14.	Others	—	313024	573712
15.	Investment	420000	270000	270000
16.	Loans to IREDA	461900	84500	1687000
17.	Sectt. Exp. (Plan)	37993	41303	41973
18.	Sectt. Exp. (Non-Plan)	47369	48494	47789
	Total	3161187	3459103	5028951

[English]

Automobile Industries

1684. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to start more automobile industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government to promote automobile industries in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh and Uttaranchal;

(c) whether the Government have fixed any standard norms and criteria for the States to give the required permission and land to start new automobile industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the automobile industries functioning at present in the country alongwith their performance, production and sale during the last three years, year-wise, State-wise and unit-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) Automobile Industry has been delicensed. There is no proposal to start any such unit in the public sector.

(c) No. Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Available information for the calendar years 1998, 1999 and 2000 is enclosed as statement.

Statement

According to Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers production can not be shown State-wise as the various States do not have vehicle producing units. However the data relating to sales can be given year-wise, State-wise and unit wise. Therefore information as sought for in part (e) of the question is given in two tables. Table A contains the production of vehicles year-wise and unit-wise and Table-B contains sales figures year-wise, unit-wise and State-wise.

Table—A

Production of Vehicles

S.No	Name of unit	1998	1999	2000
1	2	3	4	5
I.	Production of passenger cars (in nos.)			
1.	Fiat India Automobiles Limited	8,090	19,165	0
2.	General Motors India Limited	3,279	2,388	7,311
3.	Hindustan Motors Limited	20,322	23,306	26,881
4.	Hyundai Motor India Limited	8,676	58,660	84,578
5.	Maruti Udyog Limited	335,759	385,699	342,854
6.	Mercedes Benz India Limited	1,355	414	752
7.	Pal Peugeot Limited	613	32	0
8.	Premier Automobiles Limited	3,494	329	0
9.	TELCO	2,210	40,031	51,809
10.	Honda Siel Cars India Limited	0	0	NA
11.	Daewoo Motors (India) Limited	0	NA	NA
12.	Ford India Limited	0	0	NA
II.	Production of Multi Utility Vehicles (in nos.)			
1.	Bajaj Tempo Limited	5,762	5,560	5,645
2.	Hindustan Motors Limited	3,168	2,421	2,539
3.	Mahindra and Mahindra Limited	66,432	69,265	60,670
4.	Maruti Udyog Limited	7,589	8,138	5,811

1	2	3	4	5
5.	TELCO	31,618	30,797	31,435
6.	Toyota Kirloskar Motor Limited	NA	351	21,514
III.	Production of Light Commercial Vehicles (in nos.)			
1.	Ashok Leyland Limited	482	522	528
2.	Bajaj Tempo Limited	3,454	4,577	3,714
3.	Eicher Motors Limited	5,379	6,399	8,036
4.	Mahindra and Mahindra Limited	5,718	6,004	6,336
5.	Swaraj Mazda Limited	3,040	3,374	5,045
6.	TELCO	39,326	36,486	39,648
IV.	Production of Medium and Heavy Commercial Vehicles (in nos.)			
1.	Ashok Leyland Limited	26,106	36,727	34,133
2.	Hindustan Motors Limited	396	206	148
3.	TELCO.	45,411	74,651	58,201
V.	Production of Scooters (in nos.)			
1.	Bajaj Auto Limited	636,708	580,135	439,397
2.	Kinetic Motor Company limited	97,914	109,031	130,642
3.	LML Limited	325,181	294,946	199,796
4.	Maharashtra Scooters Limited	154,525	140,182	114,675
5.	TVS-Suzuki Limited	94,256	123,590	150,459
VI.	Production of Motorcycles (in nos.)			
1.	Bajaj Auto Limited	349,578	408,489	567,832
2.	Excorts Yamaha Motor Limited	177,340	228,527	213,290
3.	Hero Honda Motors Limited	498,374	682,353	985,043
4.	LML Limited	0	0	15,238
5.	Royal Enfield Motors	17,700	23,289	22,733
6.	TVS-Suzuki Limited	252,308	314,494	360,814
VII.	Production of Mopeds (in nos.)			
1.	Bajaj Auto Limited	47,804	60,700	70,769
2.	Escorts Yamaha Motor Limited	10,603	2,797	0
3.	Kinetic Engg. Limited	174,537	145,620	168,420

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Majestic Auto Limited	136,522	112,398	116,335
5.	TVS-Suzuki Limited	321,074	372,304	387,214
VIII.	Production of Three-Wheelers (in nos.)			
1.	Bajaj Auto Limited	179,238	178,108	169,563
2.	Bajaj Tempo Limited	13,197	16,487	17,880
3.	Mahindra & Mahindra Limited	0	18	147
4.	Piaggio Greaves Vehicles Limited	0	0	19,646
5.	Scooters India Limited	15,239	15,991	13,185

Table—B

Sales of Vehicles—Unit-wise, State-wise and Year-wise

Unit & Year	Chand-igarh	Delhi	Harya-na	H.P.	J&K	Punjab	U.P.	A&N Islands	Arunachal Pradesh	Assam	Bihar	Mani-pur	Megha-laya	Mizor-am
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
I. Passenger Cars (in Nos.)														
Hindustan Motors Limited														
1998	509	2,295	11	26	85	269	1,074	13	0	254	457	20	0	0
1999	646	3,251	19	0	86	489	894	5	0	168	297	29	0	0
2000*														
Maruti Udyog Limited														
1998	13,947	43273	8959	3272	4223	20006	21949	0	674	3086	5847	93	404	359
1999*														
2000*														
Mercedes Benz India Limited														
1998	42	117	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1999*														
2000*														
Pal-Peugeot Limited														
1998	10	52	0	1	0	3	15	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
1999*														
2000*														

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Premier Automobiles Ltd.														
1998	1	2	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	2	7	0	0	0
1999*														
2000*														
TELCO														
1998	3	93	18	3	0	95	14	0	0	6	8	0	0	0
1999	21	39	8	1	1	91	11	0	0	4	3	0	0	0
2000*														

Unit & Year	Naga-land	Orissa	Sikk-im	Tripura	W.B.	Goa	Gujarat	M.P.	Mahara-shtra	Raja-sthan	Andhra Pradesh	Karna-taka	Kerala	Pondi-cherry	Tamil Nadu
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Hindustan Motors Ltd.															
1998	0	1,155	0	2	3,242	28	555	520	1,107	401	1,128	1,108	2181	16	3,234
1999	0	1,268	0	0	3,908	108	1,029	334	1,882	538	1,590	1,359	2427	1	4,053
2000*															
Maruti Udyog Limited															
1998	1,367	1,894	111	118	11663	2627	20123	8762	25657	7641	9417	12951	8879	0	13856
1999*															
2000*															
Mereedes Benz India Limited															
1998	0	0	0	0	13	13	18	1	136	2	30	24	23	4	63
1999*															
2000*															
Pal-Peugeot Limited															
1998	0	6	0	0	15	15	87	45	569	16	7	22	58	4	72
1999*															
2000*															
Premier Automobiles Ltd.															
1998	0	3	0	0	39	0	31	20	603	9	12	7	52	1	43
1999*															
2000*															

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
TELCO															
1998	0	6	0	0	13	33	111	39	262	80	46	78	70	0	98
1999	0	2	0	1	4	19	88	31	221	65	15	81	50	0	75
2000*															

*SIAM has reported that due to commercial consideration all passenger car manufacturers has not reported their state-wise sales figure for 2000 and some even for 1999 and 1998 also.

II. Light Commercial Vehicles (in nos.)

Unit & Year	Chandi-garh	Delhi	Harya-na	H.P.	J&K	Punjab	U.P.	A&N Islands	Arunachal Pradesh	Assam	Bihar	Mani-pur	Megha-laya	Mizor-am
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Ashok Leyland Limited														
1998	0	14	6	0	3	15	99	0	0	5	0	0	0	0
1999	3	37	-2	0	6	15	12	7	3	12	0	0	0	0
2000	1	38	16	0	2	10	21	0	0	85	1	0	0	0
Bajaj Tempo Limited														
1998	13	159	748	1	11	406	1,025	0	0	0	124	0	0	0
1999	20	305	838	0	57	627	1,383	0	0	8	391	0	0	0
2000	1	132	311	0	169	620	764	0	0	142	837	0	0	0
Eicher Motors Limited														
1998	48	236	37	44	0	81	515	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
1999	23	371	113	57	4	199	679	0	0	38	0	0	0	0
2000	0	377	221	71	0	175	698	0	0	14	0	0	0	0
Mahindra & Mahindra Limited														
1998	2	152	179	15	7	76	135	0	4	119	30	0	1	0
1999	3	193	205	24	2	92	270	0	1	13	38	1	6	0
2000	23	83	111	38	1	105	436	0	1	90	35	0	4	3
Swaraj Mazda Limited														
1998	169	127	24	94	1	33	233	0	0	0	7	0	0	0
1999	113	239	38	111	2	32	333	0	0	0	6	0	0	0
2000	145	629	63	144	28	125	493	0	0	0	30	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
TELCO														
1998	0	1,883	1,879	255	842	1,776	2,325	29	27	1,482	1,686	11	5	58
1999	8	2,791	1,466	290	768	1,,823	2,196	35	11	1,589	1,218	1	0	55
2000	61	3,027	984	248	818	1,133	1,756	29	35	1,351	1,261	4	0	107

Unit & Year	Naga-land	Orissa	Sikk-im	Tripura	W.B.	Goa	Gujarat	M.P.	Mahara-shtra	Raja-sthan	Andhra Pradesh	Karna-taka	Kerala	Pondi-cherry	Tamil Nadu
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Ashok Leyland Limited															
1998	0	15	0	0	99	3	25	36	73	28	30	18	13	0	93
1999	0	7	0	0	16	11	14	16	19	0	13	21	13	0	54
2000	0	6	0	5	9	4	12	22	21	6	34	40	55	1	56
Bajaj Tempo Limited															
1998	0	64	0	0	460	199	2,282	1,314	9,649	410	1,521	2,125	1,006	0	1,217
1999	0	49	0	0	442	202	2,688	1,392	8,726	723	3,886	2,788	1,187	0	1,660
2000	0	182	0	0	491	156	1,471	1,134	7,924	337	4,511	2,528	1,204	5	2,374
Eicher Motors Limited															
1998	0	0	0	0	135	42	523	178	358	21	331	329	227	0	625
1999	0	0	0	0	186	77	706	161	549	27	595	531	346	0	802
2000	0	0	0	0	166	94	676	197	795	44	708	635	525	0	1,211
Mahindra & Mahindra															
1998	0	92	0	4	52	59	212	104	301	181	146	325	681	13	2,008
1999	0	92	0	4	75	28	320	113	388	129	225	318	1,080	26	2,545
2000	0	47	0	24	87	53	112	108	321	128	200	311	1,305	4	2,611
Swaraj Mazda Limited															
1998	0	0	0	0	96	30	159	111	183	27	146	163	151	0	272
1999	0	0	0	0	75	34	176	118	295	24	137	225	236	0	507
2000	0	0	0	0	170	51	219	112	228	46	249	412	453	0	696

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
TELCO															
1998	74	773	0	39	2,094	436	2,792	1,603	4,855	1,428	936	1,780	1,566	0	2,518
1999	76	1,021	0	33	1,609	430	2,324	1,494	4,798	1,225	979	1,884	2,009	0	2,539
2000	84	510	0	7	2,398	341	1,565	1,034	5,260	926	765	2,236	2,961	0	3,099

III. Multi Utility Vehicles (in nos.)

Unit & Year	Chandi-garh	Delhi	Harya-na	H.P.	J&K	Punjab	U.P.	A&N Islands	Arunachal Pradesh	Assam	Bihar	Mani-pur	Megha-laya	Mizor-am
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Hindustan Motors Ltd.														
1998	0	3	3	0	0	0	46	0	0	1	1,314	0	0	0
1999	10	4	56	0	0	2	46	0	0	0	963	0	0	0
2000*														
Mahindra and Mahindra														
1998	16	1,710	3,886	787	83	1,700	8,227	0	141	376	2,032	13	109	59
1999	48	2,141	2,936	953	339	1,842	9,399	0	26	377	3,004	21	257	50
2000*														
Maruti Udyog Limited														
1998	455	1,195	122	122	271	205	368	0	132	416	184	145	36	103
1999*	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2000*														
TELCO														
1998	42	1,822	1,980	70	624	2,108	2,495	2	0	658	332	9	2	29
1999	426	1,429	1,343	123	367	1,906	2,232	19	2	636	277	1	0	51
2000*														

Unit & Year	Naga-land	Orissa	Sikk-im	Tripura	W.B.	Goa	Gujarat	M.P.	Mahara-shtra	Raja-sthan	Andhra Pradesh	Kama-taka	Kerala	Pondi-cherry	Tamil Nadu
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Hindustan Motors Ltd.															
1998	0	421	0	0	690	0	6	43	67	30	154	11	46	0	180
1999	0	492	0	0	351	0	16	75	16	22	160	19	54	1	185
2000*															

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Mahindra and Mahindra															
1998	38	1,360	736	226	1,615	198	7,588	5,971	9,835	7,167	1,382	2,722	3,803	59	2,298
1999	76	1,474	8	368	1,860	267	7,007	5,404	10,643	8,495	1,791	2,938	4,348	115	1,943
2000*															
Maruti Udyog Limited															
1998	389	45	27	105	224	29	56	155	94	121	59	30	18	0	121
1999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0	NA
2000*															
TELCO															
1998	41	235	0	9	1,519	565	2,092	1,255	6,429	963	1,836	2,114	921	0	3,456
1999	34	258	0	12	1,587	244	1,736	805	5,687	789	1,328	1,676	829	0	3,004
2000*															

*Data not available.

IV. Three- Wheelers (in nos.)

Unit & Year	Chandi-garh	Delhi	Harya-na	H.P.	J&K	Punjab	U.P.	A&N Islands	Arunachal Pradesh	Assam	Bihar	Mani-pur	Megha-laya	Mizor-am
Bajaj Auto Limited.														
1998	222	8,553	83	102	1,409	894	3,754	0	78	3,104	2,753	72	80	39
1999	303	11,640	69	269	1,312	620	3,857	0	76	3,744	2,483	48	110	131
2000	62	10,068	50	243	1,327	239	3,528	0	18	4,065	2,095	62	114	234
Mahindra and Mahindra														
1998	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1999	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Unit & Year	Naga-land	Orissa	Sikk-im	Tripura	W.B.	Goa	Gujarat	M.P.	Mahara-shtra	Raja-sthan	Andhra Pradesh	Karna-taka	Kerala	Pondi-cherry	Tamil Nadu
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Bajaj Auto Limited															
1998	321	1,617	0	156	3,708	825	23,400	4,493	40,940	2,048	19,568	10,862	15,579	76	11,679
1999	479	3,508	0	304	1,700	638	20,437	4,719	35,458	1,995	22,754	13,487	17,099	302	11,832
2000	531	4,486	0	386	2,527	524	12,540	4,442	29,432	1,501	27,972	11,940	21,015	266	13,598

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Mahindra and Mahindra															
1998	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
2000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	21	0	1	0	0	0	0

V. Medium and Heavy Commercial Vehicles (in nos.)

Unit & Year	Chandi-garh	Delhi	Harya-na	H.P.	J&K	Punjab	U.P.	A&N Islands	Arunachal Pradesh	Assam	Bihar	Mani-pur	Megha-laya	Mizor-am
Ashok Leyland Ltd.														
1998	283	1973	287	21	17	330	1483	0	0	76	318	0	0	9
1999	88	1245	302	0	244	506	1027	376	27	160	278	0	0	28
2000	346	1209	278	0	27	615	1022	185	1	258	399	0	0	43
TELCO														
1998	0	2567	3080	638	905	2681	5418	44	56	1116	2562	36	-27	53
1999	6	6505	4280	795	856	4639	9308	41	22	1995	3736	4	0	68
2000	325	6112	2699	835	916	3075	5151	38	93	2118	3198	18	0	144

Unit & Year	Naga-land	Orissa	Sikk-im	Tripura	W.B.	Goa	Gujarat	M.P.	Mahara-shtra	Raja-sthan	Andhra Pradesh	Karna-taka	Kerala	Pondi-cherry	Tamil-Nadu
Ashok Leyland Ltd.															
1998	0	344	0	0	1509	410	2677	2439	2292	622	2076	2002	948	0	6278
1999	0	313	0	17	1171	176	3772	4612	2671	1059	4457	2982	1208	0	6792
2000	0	457	0	51	1427	259	1985	2104	3505	1147	3589	3390	1518	48	7943
TELCO															
1998	306	649	0	84	4972	323	2817	2942	4600	2739	1979	2122	838	0	1025
1999	104	614	0	65	8246	258	4233	4235	6088	4027	3238	2812	1018	0	1251
2000	113	507	0	10	6586	221	2138	2466	6424	2607	2460	2682	1337	0	1346

VI. Scooters (in nos.)

Unit & Year	Chand-igarh	Delhi	Harya-na	H.P.	J&K	Punjab	U.P.	A&N Islands	Arunachal Pradesh	Assam	Bihar	Mani-pur	Megha-laya	Mizor-am
Bajaj Auto Ltd.														
1998	15358	52797	34905	7439	7824	60006	83375	42	526	7958	12510	236	314	131
1999	9921	43953	36687	6178	8187	68140	60017	13	513	8807	13840	542	519	314
2000	6094	37910	25270	5241	6917	40485	50779	0	295	6497	9365	530	347	241
Kinetic Motor Co. Ltd.														
1998	0	1553	3104	0	0	7740	3591	0	0	1119	296	76	4	0
1999	341	1334	3617	0	0	8894	4241	0	0	1393	339	0	0	0
2000.	1483	1532	4294	30	0	8316	5294	0	0	2055	272	157	0	0
LML Limited														
1998	5259	33328	21107	2673	6487	43322	51981	0	0	10668	13524	0	0	0
1999	5231	30580	15500	2174	4227	35821	47933	0	0	12294	10835	0	0	0
2000	4125	26358	10961	2269	4670	24608	32364	0	0	11945	9708	0	0	0
Maharashtra Scooters														
1998	732	4505	4339	230	631	76798	27556	44	0	0	0	0	0	0
1999	1403	9250	6116	620	699	64665	41723	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2000	2377	9955	3936	521	1304	50350	22792	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TVS Suzuki Limited														
1998	746	732	1245	0	0	2137	2493	139	0	0	323	0	0	0
1999	967	1543	1649	0	0	2950	4130	117	0	0	616	0	0	0
2000	1041	938	2060	0	0	3309	4623	20	0	0	592	0	0	0

Unit & Year	Nagal-and	Orissa	Sikk-im	Tripura	W.B.	Goa	Gujarat	M.P.	Mahara-shtra	Raja-sthan	Andhra Pradesh	Karna-taka	Kerala	Pondi-cherry	Tamil-Nadu
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Bajaj Auto Ltd.															
1998	208	12383	0	562	15198	2154	71666	46334	49691	28881	71306	19893	9672	404	7616
1999	536	16127	0	1016	15408	2152	83847	44173	42472	31180	67612	15985	7373	409	5159
2000	542	9761	48	825	8505	1382	48732	30057	31944	21995	46566	14362	6682	276	4306
Kinetic Motor Co. Ltd.															
1998	0	523	544	0	482	2409	11629	5187	12643	2650	5871	12501	8353	0	9963
1999	0	806	0	0	542	2784	10661	5837	14517	3805	7632	14529	11802	22	10801
2000.	0	955	0	0	521	2886	14005	6335	16225	3694	8536	16421	16085	105	10395

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
LML Limited															
1998	0	8147	0	0	15473	4292	22314	18532	12383	14292	11210	4327	4032	62	1805
1999	0	7308	0	0	12941	3657	13497	13127	8646	12095	10795	2843	3189	54	1463
2000	0	4685	0	0	8137	3974	7654	8846	5602	5961	6918	1750	2612	49	714
Maharashtra Scooters															
1998	0	0	0	0	0	0	14377	2822	1768	9089	4833	1373	780	0	80
1999	0	0	0	0	0	0	1975	824	1539	5188	8774	2573	1352	0	44
2000	0	0	0	0	0	0	1163	389	331	2646	11580	2389	1028	0	0
TVS Suzuki Limited															
1998	0	1795	0	0	382	2900	26668	5590	18154	2406	3725	10336	1674	275	9509
1999	0	2861	0	0	562	2691	33194	8996	23671	4099	4975	12709	2949	377	12016
2000	0	4048	0	0	293	2345	36631	10543	36039	4724	5965	13819	2264	412	16988

VII. Motorcycles (in nos.)

Unit & Year	Chandi-garh	Delhi	Harya-na	H.P.	J&K	Punjab	U.P.	A&N Islands	Arunachal Pradesh	Assam	Bihar	Mani-pur	Megha-laya	Mizor-am
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Bajaj Auto Ltd.														
1998	722	1307	2859	417	202	3827	17441	348	45	990	6452	16	25	6
1999	763	3618	5407	282	732	6483	26808	0	40	1834	6676	22	27	40
2000	2161	15658	16792	710	1080	22010	46599	0	29	4569	14412	151	64	140
Hero Honda Motors														
1998	359	9839	15369	0	285	12335	38019	0	0	1465	10770	0	0	0
1999	0	14909	26000	0	0	16058	49551	0	0	2518	14166	0	0	0
2000.	739	23590	30910	0	1065	23014	81116	0	0	6120	28243	0	0	162
Royal Enfield Motors														
1998	201	1449	737	0	0	2325	1872	0	0	0	191	0	0	0
1999	1367	1471	1139	0	0	2517	2488	0	0	0	217	0	0	0
2000	1416	1712	967	0	0	2814	2771	664	0	0	239	0	0	0
TVS Suzuki Limited														
1998	528	2628	6130	0	0	3124	25025	75	0	0	3213	0	0	0
1999	389	3376	10264	0	0	4731	42746	51	0	0	4944	0	0	0
2000	528	4420	7759	0	0	5136	51957	51	0	0	6860	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Yamaha Motor Escorts Limited														
1998	461	5837	11995	63	1050	4513	32926	0	0	2908	13323	0	0	0
1999	0	5421	16147	30	979	5883	39150	0	0	4022	18823	0	0	0
2000	170	2627	9867	40	644	3680	33926	0	0	3385	26093	0	0	0

Unit & Year	Naga-land	Orissa	Sikk-im	Tripura	W.B.	Goa	Gujarat	M.P.	Mahara-shtra	Raja-sthan	Andhra Pradesh	Karna-taka	Kerala	Pondi-cherry	Tamil Nadu
Bajaj Auto Ltd.															
1998	12	4333	0	201	32410	1517	39079	34165	82630	18524	9483	19717	14178	890	43450
1999	26	8560	0	357	40802	1154	45630	35874	93494	20913	16156	24423	17353	1784	45175
2000	2081	17484	0	817	42835	829	27642	39082	115960	25522	33337	27165	23216	2582	58457
Hero Honda Motors															
1998	0	10106	0	0	26225	3523	61366	34174	79881	29817	33929	38559	29505	363	43942
1999	0	17391	0	0	33877	3737	89972	51240	121984	41715	46153	49162	35611	0	51605
2000.	0	27026	0	386	44050	5536	97617	72060	197718	47854	71889	70193	50970	1369	74148
Royal Enfield Motors															
1998	0	45	0	0	279	92	2192	809	1740	443	265	863	2110	0	2094
1999	0	96	0	0	364	411	2331	726	1525	672	265	833	2945	0	1923
2000	0	127	0	0	437	317	1270	523	1355	538	291	879	2959	0	1788
TVS Suzuki Limited															
1998	0	3634	0	0	5417	1138	32290	28050	26651	19769	15545	20923	11198	809	42941
1999	0	4927	0	0	6746	946	39693	35091	28517	25075	18896	22831	11493	893	49717
2000	0	6994	0	0	7974	1046	29397	34224	46114	25139	22287	24873	12746	1279	59311
Yamaha Motor Escorts Limited															
1998	0	2897	0	0	11514	695	7521	20077	11564	12037	4868	6823	3081	207	13696
1999	0	4290	0	0	12913	854	8174	19459	11994	13849	7069	11148	4140	0	21076
2000	0	4145	0	0	9008	445	4737	14538	7463	7316	7527	11001	4361	0	16339

VIII. Mopeds (in nos.)

Unit & Year	Chandi-garh	Delhi	Harya-na	H.P.	J&K	Punjab	U.P.	A&N Islands	Arunachal Pradesh	Assam	Bihar	Mani-pur	Megha-laya	Mizor-am
Bajaj Auto Ltd.														
1998	631	916	644	288	341	5546	2574	0	8	499	284	55	5	0
1999	548	324	411	132	299	4083	1037	0	6	323	236	210	0	0
2000	442	339	580	119	396	3585	2359	0	2	452	348	260	0	0
Kinetic Engg. Ltd.														
1998	0	143	1060	0	0	2782	4007	0	0	172	646	30	0	0
1999	0	231	1784	0	24	3219	5235	0	0	322	420	0	0	0
2000.	0	240	1894	0	98	2712	5016	0	0	252	412	0	0	0
Majestic Auto Ltd.														
1998	497	569	4182	0	131	13805	14849	73	0	165	1153	0	0	0
1999	382	289	3402	0	178	12394	14048	31	0	100	883	0	0	0
2000	254	352	2933	0	164	9194	15976	3	0	123	1407	0	0	0
TVS Suzuki Limited														
1998	54	267	1458	0	0	3060	6640	95	0	0	729	0	0	0
1999	39	501	1533	0	0	2794	8103	50	0	0	1067	0	0	0
2000	66	693	1309	0	0	2542	9088	43	0	0	1562	0	0	0
Yamaha Motor Escorts Limited														
1998	0	87	435	0	0	55	348	0	0	0	221	0	0	0
1999	0	15	27	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	30	0	0	0
2000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Unit & Year	Naga-land	Orissa	Sikk-im	Tripura	W.B.	Goa	Gujarat	M.P.	Mahara-shtra	Raja-sthan	Andhra Pradesh	Karna-taka	Kerala	Pondi-cherry	Tamil Nadu
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Bajaj Auto Ltd.															
1998	0	725	0	12	458	580	6188	4494	9376	900	4136	824	775	237	3176
1999	3	417	0	15	406	778	16068	3496	17476	1189	3645	1644	1722	608	5148
2000	173	690	0	18	714	590	12567	4399	19365	1591	4210	2968	2332	955	4723

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Kinetic Engg. Ltd.															
1998	0	5336	0	0	1268	258	31193	25929	31027	11817	16671	11569	386	0	5308
1999	0	6508	0	0	870	405	27331	26183	23225	11563	14452	12057	1009	0	9950
2000.	0	8857	0	0	1523	792	22413	25421	26859	13229	15483	12268	926	0	17142
Majestic Auto Ltd.															
1998	0	2087	0	0	770	84	13331	22097	5083	13820	10165	4885	636	0	3104
1999	0	2273	0	0	830	57	7857	20572	3881	14389	11941	4270	360	0	2404
2000	0	2554	0	0	990	71	3587	16345	4524	9077	10351	3820	284	0	2061
TVS Suzuki Limited															
1998	0	1134	0	0	650	46	3414	10472	2156	6805	28950	31762	1788	5703	214576
1999	0	1116	0	0	1022	20	2701	10547	1676	7383	34734	38609	2651	6886	244451
2000	0	2021	0	0	1482	18	2800	10684	2113	6615	37353	43034	3027	7064	250809
Yamaha Motor Escorts Limited															
1998	0	248	0	0	295	0	388	885	313	702	439	199	0	0	1056
1999	0	57	0	0	135	0	31	58	54	44	55	17	1250	0	53
2000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

[Translation]

Progress in Hydro Electric Power in J and K

1685. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a lot of scope for generation of hydel electric power in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the progress made by the Government in this sector; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) According to studies on Re-assessment of Hydro-electric potential carried out by CEA during 1978-87, the H.E. potential of Jammu & Kashmir was assessed at 14146 MW in terms of installed capacity. At present 18.57% of the assessed potential of Jammu and Kashmir State is either developed or is under various stages of development.

There is vast scope for development of Hydro-electric power in Jammu and Kashmir. Central Electricity Authority/ Ministry of Power is formulating an action plan/strategy for the development of the balance H.E. potential in the country. The Hydro-electric Projects to be taken up for development on priority in the State form part of the action plan. Two Projects, Baglihar Hydro-electric Project (45 MW) and Sawalkot Hydro-electric Project (600 MW) are under execution in the State Sector. The NHPC is presently executing the Dulhasti Hydro-electric project with an installed capacity of 390 MW. The Project is scheduled to be commissioned by the end of December, 2003. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between NHPC and J and K Government on 20th July, 2000, consequent to which 7 projects in the State of J and K were handed over to NHPC for execution in the Central Sector. Details of these 7 projects including their installed capacity and status of Stage-I and Stage-II activities/clearances obtained have been given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Status of NHPC's New Projects/Schemes in J and K

Sl. No.	Name of the Hydro-electric project	Capacity MW	Present status
1.	Kishanganga	330	Project not found commercially viable.
2.	Uri-II	280	Stage-II works are in progress after Committee on Public Investment Board (CPIB) approved the stage-II cost estimates.
3.	Nimo Bazgo	30	Stage-I estimates have been cleared by Central Electricity Authority. Survey & Investigation is in progress for finalisation of Feasibility Report. Stage-I site clearance accorded.
4.	Chutak	18	Preliminary stage-I activities are in progress for firming up the Feasibility Report.
5.	Sewa-II	120	Stage-II activities are in progress after CPIB approved the Stage-II cost estimates.
6.	Pakal Dul	1000	Stage-II activities are in progress after CPIB approved the Stage-II cost estimates.
7.	Bursar	1020	CEA was to examine viability taking into consideration additional generation in the downstream projects on completion of this project. CEA has re-assessed the project's viability and has recommended the Stage-II cost estimates for CPIB.

Payment of Allowances to Indian Soldiers

1686. SHRI JAI PRAKASH:
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian Defence Personnel deployed at present under the United Nations Peace Mission, country/UN-Mission-wise;

(b) whether any special training is given to these personnel;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the facilities and monetary benefits are being paid to them by United Nations;

(e) whether United Nations have not paid different kind of allowances to Indian Defence Personnel;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (g) The numerical strength of Indian defence personnel deployed in UN Peace Keeping Missions, Country/Mission-wise, as on date, is as follows:

S.No.	Country	Mission	No. of Personnel
1.	Congo	MONUC	33 Officers
2.	Kuwait	UNIKOM	8 Officers
3.	Lebanon	UNIFIL	826 all ranks
4.	Ethiopia/Eritrea	UNMEE	1548 all ranks

Personnel selected for deployment in UN Missions are given special pre-induction training in peacekeeping techniques. In addition, the orientation course encompasses history and organisation of the UN as well as history of India's contributions to UN Missions, detailed information on the geography, local laws and customs of the country of the Mission and the genesis of the Mission, in which the personnel are to be inducted.

The UN reimburses the troops contributing country a standard amount, per contingent member, as overseas allowance (OSA). This is disbursed to the contingent members through official channels either in the Mission or in India. Other than the monthly OSA, the UN pays various other allowances viz. daily allowance, clothing allowance, lever allowance, as well as free rations to the troops. It also provides free air transportation for the troops to their home country and back once every six months. Military officers appointed as Military Observers in UN Missions are paid subsistence allowances direct by UN. All kinds of allowances and benefits admissible to Indian defence personnel deployed in UN Peace Keeping Missions are being paid by the UN. No steps in the matter by Government are, therefore, necessary.

[English]

GAIL's Investment in Haldia Petrochemicals Limited

1687. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether GAIL has a proposal to invest Rs. 200 crore in Haldia Petrochemicals Limited;

(b) if so, whether GAIL has undertaken any due diligence study into this proposal;

(c) if not, whether GAIL has committed a huge investments without full assessments;

(d) if so, the other projects into which GAIL has committed investments;

(e) the extent to which GAIL proposes to investment in outside areas which are not its main business;

(f) the loss suffered due to these investments; and

(g) the steps proposed to review such investments?

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) Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) has received a request from Haldia Petrochemical Limited (HPL) to invest Rs. 200 crore as equity in HPL. GAIL has not so far undertaken due diligence exercise of HPL nor has committeed any investment in HPL.

(d) and (e) Approved outlay for 10th Plan for GAIL includes the investment of Rs. 311.69 crore in telecom and Rs. 182.91 crore in any NELP business.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

Procurement of Photocopier Machines

1688. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry, defence headquarters and other defence installations under it in Delhi and outside have purchased a large number of photocopier machines of different make;

(b) if so, the details thereof giving the brand-wise details of copiers purchased, prices at which purchased and from where purchased indicating the procedure adopted in making purchase thereof; and

(c) the reasons for purchasing copiers at higher rates than open market from the Kendriya Bhandar and the reasons for not opening tenders floated as per OM issued by the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure in December, 1998 saying that purchases above the amount of Rs. 50,000/- are to be made in accordance with provision of the GFR?

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

(b) Photocopiers are procured by the Units/ Formations/Establishments in the field under powers delegated to Army Commanders/Head of the Organisations. Data regarding number of photocopiers purchased is voluminous and not maintained at any central point. The efforts spent in collecting this data would not be commensurate with the result sought to be achieved.

(c) The Ministry of Defence have authorised on 18th December 2001. Units/Formations/Establishments to procure photocopier machines on the rate contract dated 6.9.2001 finalised by Director General Supply and Disposal for the period 30.8.2001 to 29.8.2002.

Ranganadi Hydro-Electric Power Project

1689. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ranganadi Hydro-electric power project being executed by NEEPCO in Arunachal Pradesh has since been completed;

(b) if so, the generating capacity thereof;

(c) whether there are not adequate transmission line capacity of 132 KV to transmit the power generation from this project; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to transmit and utilize the power generation of this project fully?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The Ranganadi Hydro-electric Power Project in Arunachal Pradesh has been commissioned in 2001-02.

(b) The project has an installed generating capacity of 3x135 MW = 405 MW.

(c) The existing 132 KV transmission line associated with the project is capable of transmitting part of the power generating capacity and is presently being utilized for evacuation of power to Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

(d) For bulk evacuation of power from the project, the 400 KV transmission system with 400 KV Double Circuit line to Balipara Switching Station has been conceived along with the 132 KV system. At present, the system for charging of one circuit of the 400 KV Double Circuit line is ready for evacuation of power generation from the Ranganadi Hydro-electric Project, subject to clearance from the Regional Inspectorial Organization.

[Translation]

Nanded Railway Division

1690. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the office of Nanded Railway Division is not working fullfledgedly;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) Nanded has so far been functioning as an extra Divisional office of Hyderabad Division since 1988. Now, it has been decided that Nanded shall function as a fullfledged Division w.e.f. 01.04.2003. A Notification for this purpose has already been issued by the Ministry of Railways on 04.07.2002.

[English]

Expansion of Public Broadcasting Network

1691. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to enact legislation to enable the public broadcaster to get terrestrial rights to all major national and international events especially sports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Prasar Bharati has examined the report of N.R. Narayana Murthy Committee;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government on the recommendations of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) No Sir. However, the Communication Convergence Bill, 2001, introduced in Lok Sabha on 31.8.2001, has a provision to the effect that national or international events of general public interest, notified by Government in advance, shall have to be carried on the network of public service broadcaster as well. The Communications Commission shall, however, determine well in advance of such event, the principles and terms for the access to the network of public service broadcaster.

(c) to (e) The recommendations of the Narayana Murthy Committee, *inter-alia*, relate to mission and objective for Prasar Bharati, accountability and structures of Prasar Bharati, financing and funding mechanism, channel positioning, programming content and production, restructuring of transmission and engineering services, improvement in marketing, human resource development and exploitation of new technologies and includes staffing pattern of Prasar Bharati. The recommendations have been endorsed by the Prasar Bharati Board and measures are being taken by them to implement the recommendations within their competence.

India's Participation in Asia-Pacific Security Conference

1692. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India attended the meeting of Asia-Pacific Security Conference held in Singapore from May 31 to June 3, 2002;

(b) if so, the names of the participating countries;

(c) the issues discussed therein; and

(d) the outcome thereof?

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

(b) Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, China, EU, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, UK and USA participated in the Conference in addition to India.

(c) and (d) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

The theme of the Conference was the "Security Challenges of the Asia-Pacific region". Separate sessions were devoted to the US Strategy, China's military doctrine and approach, Managing the terrorist threat in SE Asia, Non-proliferation Challenges in the Asia Pacific and Perspectives on the organization of Asian security. Under these broad topics, the talks and discussions focused on the following issues:

— Traditional regional tensions and differences such as US-China vis-a-vis Taiwan & Koreas.

— Terrorism with its global reach.

— Proliferation challenges including weapons of mass destruction with non-state actors.

— Prospects of an Indo-Pak conflict that could cross the nuclear threshold.

The Conference was successfully used by the Raksha Mantri to project India's case in its ongoing fight against Cross Border Terrorism. RM explained the Indian stance regarding the Indo-Pak tensions, India's commitment to 'no first use' of nuclear weapons and the need for the world community to tackle the menace of state sponsored terrorism. The various bilateral discussions held by RM during the Conference, helped in building diplomatic opinion in favour of India in its ongoing fight against Cross Border Terrorism.

Development of Engine for Advance Light Helicopter

1693. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and Turbomeca, a group company of France based Snecma, have undertaken a joint venture to develop 'Shakti' a more powerful engine for India's advanced light helicopter;

(b) if so, the terms of the collaboration and details of the project; and

(c) the progress achieved so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) have entered into a dialogue with M/s Turbomeca, part of M/s Snecma Group, France to co-develop and co-produce an engine called the Shakti for the Advanced Light Helicopter to meet the requirements of the Army and Air Force. The terms of the contract have not been worked out as yet.

Fast Track Policy for Procurement of Military Equipments

1694. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have introduced a fast track policy to procure military equipment and to bring transparency;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the main features of the fast track policy;

(c) whether the Government have decided to set up Eminent Persons Group (EPG) of 12 members;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the criteria adopted for selection of EPG members;

(f) whether the new approach has started showing results; and

(g) if so, the extent to which delay has been reduced?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Government have approved a fast track procedure for procurement of Defence equipment which, in the opinion of the Chief of the concerned Service, is required to meet urgent operational needs.

(c) to (e) An Eminent Persons Group has not been set up. However, all fast track cases are scrutinised by a committee before a contract/order is awarded.

(f) and (g) The fast track procedure has helped reduce the time taken for acquiring Defence equipment.

Storage Capacity for Petrol and Petroleum Products

1695. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to increase its existing storage capacity for petrol and petroleum products;

(b) if so, the existing storage facility available in the country and the period for which it is sufficient to meet the requirement; and

(c) the additional capacity proposed to be created and the cost involved therein?

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 01.04.2002, the gross marketing tankage available with the oil companies for mass consumption products viz. Petrol, Diesel and Kerosene is about 11 million kilolitres. This provides about 41 days cover for the estimated demand of these products during the year 2002-2003.

As per the Report of the Sub-Group on Distribution Plan and Transportation Facilities for Tenth Plan, Public Sector Oil Companies propose to add about 1.14 million kilolitres tankage at an estimated cost of Rs. 1140 crore during the Tenth Plan period i.e.. during 2002-2007 for the mass consumption products viz. Petrol, Diesel and Kerosene.

Information regarding LPG is as follows:-

As on 01.04.2002, the effective marketing tankage available with Oil Companies for LPG is approximately 352 Thousand Metric Tonnes (TMT) which provides for 22 days cover for the estimated demand of LPG during the year 2002-2003.

As per the report of the Sub Group on Distribution Plan and Transportation Facilities for Tenth Plan, total gross tankage at the end of the Tenth Plan would be 669 TMT.

Total expenditure during the Tenth Plan period for additional tankage would be approximately Rs. 652 crores.

Sale of Scrap

1696. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the existing norms for sale of scrap in Railways;

(b) the quantum of scrap sold by each Zonal Head Quarter during the last three years and current year, year-wise;

(c) the quantum of scrap stored in each Zonal railway for sale;

(d) whether there is any policy for disposal of scrap on priority; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) The sale of scrap is arranged through Public Auction/Advertised Tender. Programmes of scrap disposal is given wide publicity in the newspapers. Any prospective bidder can participate.

(b) and (c) A statement is enclosed.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Scrap arising and its prompt disposal is a continuous process. With a view to maximise the sale of scrap, management groups comprising of senior administrative officers of Stores, Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering departments etc. and headed by Additional General Managers are working in Zonal Railways. Performance is also regularly reviewed at Railway Board's level.

Statement

The quantum of Scrap sold by the Railways during last three years and current year is given below:

1999-2000

Railways	Ferrous Scrap Including Rails (In MTs#)	Non-Ferrous Scrap (In MTs#)	Wagons (in FWUs*)	Coaches (In Nos.)	Locos (In Nos.)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Central	204849	1128	3712	200	33
Eastern	87796	665	2345	241	32

1	2	3	4	5	6
Northern	153517	415	1702	222	26
North-Eastern	42221	364	1402	278	4
Northeast Frontier	18075	237	613	107	0
Southern	74124	2117	1187	114	0
South-Central	90040	1296	921	97	51
South-Eastern	195905	420	2785	50	52
Western	89640	1633	1559	145	30
All PUs	25419	665			
Total	981586	8940	16226	1454	228

2000-01

Railways	Ferrous Scrap Including Rails (In MTs#)	Non-Ferrous Scrap (In MTs#)	Wagons (in FWUs*)	Coaches (In Nos.)	Locos (In Nos.)
Central	169429	871	6211	164	77
Eastern	73615	1433	2025	149	79
Northern	130915	610	5597	271	47
North-Eastern	41840	378	1093	167	10
Northeast Frontier	12882	120	975	115	0
Southern	73224	1713	1523	167	5
South-Central	62260	1576	2106	56	7
South-Eastern	183984	941	3340	44	16
Western	87461	1885	3392	165	19
All PUs	21347	496			
Total	856957	10023	26262	1298	260

2001-02

Railways	Ferrous Scrap Including Rails (In MTs#)	Non-Ferrous Scrap (In MTs#)	Wagons (in FWUs*)	Coaches (In Nos.)	Locos (In Nos.)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Central	156542	1681	4335	87	2
Eastern	75646	1344	1284	147	41
Northern	140786	556	3461	142	43

1	2	3	4	5	6
North-Eastern	41584	761	540	194	11
Northeast Frontier	11592	165	662	43	5
Southern	80063	2323	2560	145	0
South-Central	88885	1490	1175	81	8
South-Eastern	182716	875	3488	44	30
Western	77556	2139	1898	136	4
All PUs	27748	956			
Total	883118	12290	19403	1019	144

2002-03 (upto 30-6-02)

Railways	Ferrous Scrap Including Rails (In MTs#)	Non-Ferrous Scrap (In MTs#)	Wagons (in FWUs*)	Coaches (In Nos.)	Locos (In Nos.)
Central	23764	155	429	23	0
Eastern	22553	109	168	17	0
Northern	23586	83	706	12	6
North-Eastern	5145	22	37	16	2
Northeast Frontier	1706	4	60	2	1
Southern	14712	747	212	58	1
South-Central	22020	235	144	2	0
South-Eastern	30982	341	553	21	3
Western	7853	536	308	17	0
All PUs	12822	118			
Total	152321	2350	2617	168	13

#MTs stands for Metric Tonnes.

*FWUs stands for four wheeler units.

The disposal of scrap is a continuous process. The quantum of scrap in each Zonal Railways for sale available as on 30-6.02 is as under:-

Railways	Ferrous Scrap Including Rails (In MTs#)	Non-Ferrous Scrap (In MTs#)	Wagons (in FWUs*)	Coaches (In Nos.)	Locos (In Nos.)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Central	11359	104	296	65	13
Eastern	10139	744	570	62	32

1	2	3	4	5	6
Northern	14717	231	127	24	0
North-Eastern	3973	283	98	80	8
Northeast Frontier	368	3	75	16	1
Southern	7414	541	8	13	0
South-Central	8451	330	76	40	0
South-Eastern	4366	205	91	1	4
Western	5725	612	253	37	0
Total	73512	2053	1594	338	58

MTs stands for Metric Tonnes.

* FWUs stands for four wheeler units.

[Translation]

Expenditure in Air Journey

1697. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 3009 on March 21, 2002 regarding Expenditure in Air Journey and state:

(a) whether the desired information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in furnishing the desired information?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The requisite information is given in statement enclosed and sent to Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs on 30.05.2002.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Ministry of Railways — Date of Fulfilment 30.05.2002

Q. No., Date & Name of MP (s)	Subject	Promise Made	How Fulfilled	Reasons For Delay
1	2	3	4	5
USQ No. + 3009 Dated 21.03.02 Shri Bir Singh Mahato	EXPENDITURE IN AIR JOURNEY Asking: (a) the amount spent on undertaking air journeys by the senior officers of departments under his	(a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.	(a) The amount spent on undertaking air journeys during the last three years is as under: Years — Expenditure 1999-2000 — Rs. 3,26,93,193/- 2000-2001 — Rs. 2,70,46,927/-	The required information had to be collected from different zonal Railways and Production Units.

1	2	3	4	5
	Ministry during the last three years;		2001-2002 Rs. 2,99,15,386/-	
	(b) whether there is any mechanism available with the Government to determine the need for undertaking air/rail journeys;		(b) yes, Sir.	
	(c) if so, the details thereof;		(c) In terms of Rule 1636 of Indian Railway Establish Code Volume II, 1990 Edition. air journey is regulated as under:	
	(d) whether recommendations of the mechanism have ever been overlooked; and		(i) Members of Railway Board, General Managers and Officers of equivalent rank, Additional Members and Officers in pay scale of Rs. 22,400-24,500 may travel by air on tour at their own discretion. Officers of the rank of Executive Director of Secretary may be permitted to travel with the specific sanction of the Addl. Member/ Member concerned in the Railways and Officers of the Railway with the specific sanction of their General Managers in consultation with their Financial Advisor and Chief Accounts Officer.	
	(e) if so, the reasons therefor?		(ii) Every journey by air, must, before it is undertaken, receive the sanction of the Railway Board or the General Managers of the Railway or the Officer exercising the powers of General Manager as the case may be.	

1	2	3	4	5
			(iii) Journeys by air should be permitted only in cases of extreme urgency or where saving the public time is essential. Each case of journey proposed to be performed by air, should be considered on its merits before it is sanctioned. (iv) When Members of the Railway Board and the General Managers of the Railways permit Officers under their direct control to travel by air, they should invariably record the reasons why they considered travel by air to be essential. (v) Officers below the rank of Executive Directors or Secretary in the Railway Board's Office and of Heads of Departments on Railways will not be permitted to travel by air, save in exception circumstances and with the prior sanction of the Railway Board. (d) No, Sir. (e) Does not arise.	

LPG Agency and Petrol/Diesel Outlets

1698. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of retail outlets of diesel and petrol, LPG agencies and kerosene licence holders in the country as on June 30, 2002;

(b) whether the Government are contemplating to allot more agencies of diesel, petrol and kerosene in order to prevent adulteration;

(c) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard; 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) As per the available information, the total number of retail outlet dealerships, LPG distributorships and SKO-LDO dealerships in the country, as on 1.4.2002, were as under:-

		Nos.
Retail Outlet dealerships	—	18,848
LPG distributorships	—	7,486
SKO-LDO dealerships	—	6,451

(b) to (d) While the question of setting up of Retail Outlet dealerships and SKO-LDO dealerships at new locations depends on factors like demand, viability, etc., of a given location, a separate mechanism is in place to prevent adulteration of petroleum products.

[English]

Direct Rail Line Between Gandhinagar and Delhi

1699. SHRIMATI JAYABEN. B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for Direct rail line between Gandhinagar and Delhi was agreed during 1995;

(b) if so, whether the said rail line has been completed;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the said rail line is likely to become operative?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, work of construction of new line from Adrej Moti to Gandhinagar and gauge conversion of MG line from Kalol to Adrej Moti has been taken up which, on completion, will provide direct rail connectivity between Gandhinagar and Delhi.

(d) No time frame has yet been fixed.

Naphtha Based Projects in Rajasthan

1700. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Rajasthan for allocation of Naphtha from Mathura Refinery for manufacturing of Ammonia, Di-amonium Phosphate, Acrylenitrite, Acrylic Fibre, Nitro Cellulose etc.,

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by when the proposal is lying pending; and

(c) the time by which the proposal is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Increase in Price of CNG

1701. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI AMBAREESHA:

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

(a) whether the Committee headed by Shri Bhure Lal to go into the sudden price increase in CNG has given its findings;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the price hike by the Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) was necessary; and

(d) if so, the actual profit earned by the IGL after the enhancement in the price of CNG?

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. Shri Bhure Lal has sought two weeks time extension from the Hon'ble Supreme Court for submitting the report on CNG price increase.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) CNG price was revised on 28th April 2002. Financial results are known after the completion of the financial year. The impact of CNG price revision can be analyzed in the next financial year.

[Translation]

Railway Workshop in Daund

1702. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether workshop situated at Daund in Central Railway has been closed down some years ago;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of employees rendered jobless and transferred as a result thereof;

(d) whether Union Government have received any proposal for reopening this workshop; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) There was no workshop at Daund on Central Railway. Therefore, there is no question of closing it down.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Projects of National Hydroelectric Power Corporation

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1703. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects targeted to be implemented by National Hydro-electric Power Corporation during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) the details of their completion, project-wise;

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred on the said projects and the sources from which the funds are likely to be mobilized therefor; and

(d) the quantum of power proposed to be added as a result of the said projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The Government of India is according high priority to the development of hydro-electric projects in the country. Out of the total capacity addition of 41,110 MW envisaged for the 10th Five Year Plan, 14,393 MW is planned through hydro-electric projects under the Central Setor, State Sector and Private Sector. It has been decided that NHPC will add 4,357 MW during the 10th Plan from hydro-electric projects. These comprise schemes which are under different stages of execution and scrutiny, including on-going schemes, new schemes and those which are to be executed through joint ventures with State Governments. The details of these projects indicating their approved/revised cost and expected dates of commissioning are enclosed as statement. The capacity addition has been planned keeping in view the projected availability of funds through budgetary support, borrowings by NHPC and the internal resources.

Statement

Details of Projects under Execution and Proposed to be Taken up by NHPC During 10th Plan

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Capacity (MW)	State	Approved/ revised cost estimate (Rs. In crores)	Price level	Sheduled/ expected commissioning	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A. ON-GOING SCHEMES							
1.	Dulhasti	390	J and K	4227.02	Nov-01	Dec-03	RCE under approval
2.	Chamera-II	300	H.P.	1684.02	Aug-92	May-04	Approved in May, 1999

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Dhauliganga-I	280	Uttaranchal	1578.31	Aug-99	Mar-05	Approved in July, 2002
4.	Teesta-V	510	Sikkim	2196.04	Apr-99	Feb-07	Approved in Feb, 2000
B. NEW PROJECTS							
5	Teesta Low Dam St.III	132	W.Bengal	—	—	Mar-07	DPR submitted to CEA
6.	Teesta Low Dam St. IV	168	W.Bengal	—	—	Mar-07	DPR under finalisation
7.	Sewa-II	120	J and K	—	—	Feb-07	DPR submitted to CEA
8.	Bav-II	37	Maharashtra	—	—	Mar-07	Pre-Feasibility Report submitted to CEA
C. JOINT VENTURE PROJECTS							
9.	Indira Sagar	1000	M.P.	4355.57	Sep-00	May-05	Approved in March 2002
10.	Omkareshwar	520	M.P.	2224.32	Sep-01	Mar-07	Under submission to PIB
11	Purulia Pumped Storage	900	W.Bengal	—	—	Mar-07	On-going State sector project. Under approval for formation of Joint venture with NHPC

[English]

Marketing of Retail Outlets by ONGC

1704. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have since approved the proposal of ONGC for the retail marketing of petrol and diesel in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the ONGC is likely to commence the retail marketing of petrol and diesel?

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) Government have granted authorisation to market transportation fuels to Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC). In the first phase of 3 years, ONGC has the plan to set up 600 Retail Outlets primarily in the three States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

Representations to SC/ST/OBC

1705. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given adequate representations for persons belonging to the SC/ST and OBC in Class-I or Gazetted posts in his Ministry as well as all its autonomous bodies/offices;

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

(c) whether there are many vacancies in Class-I or Gazetted posts yet to be filled;

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

(e) the total number of IAS, Class-I or Gazetted Officers working in the Ministry as well as in all its autonomous bodies/offices; and

(f) the annual expenditure incurred for paying salaries and allowances, conveyances and other benefits

extended to these officials during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) There are two departments namely Department of Heavy Industry (DHI) and Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) and one autonomous body i.e. Fluid Control Research Institute (FCRI) under the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises. There are no gazetted posts in FCRI as scientific posts are not classified as such. Cadre control in respect of various Class I or Gazetted posts for these two Departments lies with either the Department of Personnel and Training or with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry or with the Ministry of Home Affairs (Department of Official language) etc., depending on the post, except in respect of only 13 Class I posts, for which DPE is the cadre controlling authority. Out of these 13 posts, 5 posts are filled on deputation basis and 4 posts are under promotion quota within Group A services to which reservation does not apply. As per extant Recruitment Rules, the reservation policy applies to remaining 4 posts where promotion is the mode of recruitment from Group B (Non-gazetted) to lower rung of Class-I. Out of these 4 posts, 2 Officers belong to SC/ST category viz., 1 SC and 1 ST. Since there is no direct Recruitment for these posts, no OBC has been recruited.

(c) and (d) There is no vacancy in any of the Gazetted posts in the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.

(e) The total number of IAS, Class-I and Gazetted Officers working in this Ministry are 78.

(f) The annual expenditure incurred for paying salaries and allowances, conveyance and other benefits extended to these officials in the last three years is as under:

1999-2000	:	Rs. 17283642/-
2000-2001		Rs. 18770732/-
2001-2002	:	Rs. 19382359/-

Deadline to Clear Outstanding of SEBs

1706. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHR K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:
SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had set up a deadline of June 30, 2002 for all the SEBs to clear their dues as reported in *The Hindu* dated June 21, 2002;

(b) if so, the progress made in clearing of dues;

(c) whether the Government have decided to restrict power supply to the States which have not cleared their dues; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) 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 Planning Commission, Government of India approved the scheme of one-time settlement of outstanding dues payable by the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) to the Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs). The scheme was announced on 17-04-2002. On 20-05-2002, modified tripartite agreement (TPA) that is to be signed among the State Government, Government of India and the Reserve Bank of India, was circulated. The scheme provides for One Time Settlement (OTS) of outstanding dues of CPSUs payable by SEBs as on 30-9-2001 by way of issuance of 15 years, 8.5% tax free bonds and opening of Letter of Credit equal to 105% of average monthly billing. The deadline for signing of TPA and opening of Letters of Credit was 30.6.2002.

(b) Twelve State Governments, namely, the Governments of Andhra Paradesh, Assam, Chattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh have signed the TPA. Nine other State Governments, namely, the State Governments of Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttaranchal and West Bengal have so far, agreed 'in-principle' to sign the TPA. Other State Governments have been advised to sign the TPA and open the Letters of Credit at the earliest. SEBs and Power utilities of States of Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Assam, Goa and Chandigarh have opened the Letters of Credit equal to 105% of average monthly billing.

(c) and (d) The scheme comprises incentives and disincentives for the State Governments to participate in the scheme. If SEBs do not default on their current dues and adhere to the performance milestones, CPSUs are to pay them, bi-annual cash incentives equal to 3 per cent of the value of bonds in the first year, 2.5% in the second year and 2% in the third and fourth years (incentive of 19% for four years). Further, if SEBs open and maintain Letters of Credit (LCs), CPSUs are to pay them a one time cash incentive equal to 2 per cent of the value of bonds. In addition, States undertaking reforms would also be assisted through Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme (APDRP) grants and discretionary allocation of Power. The states that withhold their consent beyond 60 days after this scheme enters into force are to be denied any share in the discretionary allocation of 15 per cent 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, as available to the States participating in this scheme.

Expenditure Reform Commission

1707. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Expenditure Reforms Commission has been set up in his Ministry to give his recommendations for reducing the existing wasteful expenditure of his Ministry and Departments;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made by this commission as on December 31, 2001;

(c) the details of recommendations which are yet to be implemented by his Ministry or Departments under his Ministry alongwith the reasons for not implementing them till date; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be implemented in true spirit?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) No, Sir. No Expenditure Reforms Commission has been set up in the Ministry of Law and Justice.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Rejuvenation of F.T.I.I.

1708. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have cleared a proposal to rejuvenate for Film and Television Institute of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The Government has taken several steps to rejuvenate the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune. A plan scheme for human resource development for students and faculty has been proposed in the tenth five year plan. In addition, the Governing Council has taken decisions in principle to introduce new courses in acting and script writing and to market the diploma films of present and past students on various television channels.

Projects Under BOLT

1709. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Authorities has not finalised the projects under BOLT scheme resulting delay in execution of several urgent projects;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the response of private investors under BOLT scheme is very poor;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the number of railway projects undertaken under BOLT scheme till date alongwith the cost thereof;

(f) the number of railway projects completed under BOLT scheme till date; and

(g) the time by which the projects under BOLT scheme are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) No, Sir. No project has suffered delay in execution on this account.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The scheme has not been successful. Tenders of only two projects could be finalised out of 15 tenders called for. The response has been poor and the bidders quoted high rates due to high risk perception of unforeseen levies etc. Even out of two finalised contracts,

the contract of Gauge Conversion of Viramgam Mehasana had to be terminated on 3.1.1997 during the initial stages itself due to the failure of the party to start the work. The other project of Gauge Conversion of Mudkhed-Adilabad also did not progress well due to the failure of the agency to arrange the finances and has been terminated on 26.11.2001 as per the terms and conditions of the contract.

(f) and (g) No project under BOLT scheme has reached the completion stage due to failure of the agencies to progress with the work, necessitating termination of contracts.

Power Tariff

1710. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has requested the State Governments to reduce power tariff and contribute to the expansion and electrification network in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the State Governments thereon; and

(d) the response received by Railways on multilateral funding of rest of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Yes, Sir. If the State Governments reduce electricity tariff, the rate of return of Railway Electrification projects will increase. Railways will be able to electrify more Route Kilometres as more and more Railway Electrification projects will qualify the threshold limit of 14% rate of returns for consideration.

(b) and (c) Details of the action taken by this Ministry for reduction in power tariffs for electric traction are as under:

(i) State Governments and Power supply authorities are being constantly persuaded to reduce tariff to make it reasonable.

(ii) State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) have been set up in 13 States. In 11 States, the zonal Railways have approached SERCs. During 2001-2002, after successful presentations, reduction of 1 to 4% in tariff has been achieved in UP, Delhi, Maharashtra & Haryana. In Andhra Pradesh, there has been no increase in tariff. It has also been possible to limit the increase in two States i.e. Rajasthan & Madhya Pradesh.

(d) Details regarding multi-lateral funding of rest of the projects is as under:

Ministry of Railways has proposed 19 projects for funding by ADB through Ministry of Finance. The projects are at present under evaluation by ADB. In addition, the World Bank will also be approached for funding of Railway projects.

Flag Station

1711. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to upgrade "Dhanuvachapuram Railway Station as Flag Station" in Trivandrum Division;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any move to shift the existing goods yard at Kochuveli to Nemom in Trivandrum Division consequent to the establishment of a second terminal for passenger trains; 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.

(d) Does not arise.

Ban on Recruitment

1712. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any ban on recruitment in Indian Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any shortage of employees being faced by Indian Railways; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, division and zone-wise?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Arising and filling up of vacancies is a continuous process as vacancies keep on arising due to retirement, transfer, etc. and keep getting filled up through direct recruitment from open market, promotion of serving staff, etc. Manpower requirement in various Departments of the Railways are reviewed from time to time, based on rationalization of workload, depending on the various technological upgradations. While filling up the vacancies, redeployment of surplus staff, absorption of Substitutes/ ex-Casual Labour etc. are kept in view. Instructions have, however, been issued to the Railways to fill up the vacancies expeditiously, wherever necessary.

Hydro Power Projects Under Construction

1713. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of hydro power projects under construction in Bihar/Jharkhand; and

(b) the time by which these are likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) (a) and (b) No Hydro-electric Project is under construction in the State of Bihar. Chandil (2x4 MW) and North Koel (2x12 MW) hydro-electric project under construction in the State Sector in Jharkhand are likely to be commissioned in 2002-03 and 2004-05 respectively.

Koel Karo H.E. Project (71 MW) originally approved in June, 1981 is an identified project to be executed by NHPC. A fresh survey of Project Affected Persons (PAPs) to identify the beneficiaries for implementing the R and R plan is to be conducted by the State Government to enable NHPC to formulate the Environment Management Plan (EMP). Jharkhand State is yet to sign Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for the purchase of power.

Detailed Project Reports of the following hydro-electric projects proposed to be set up in Jharkhand have been returned to the Project Authorities for resubmission after compliance with comments of CEA and CEC:

1. Sankh HEP Stage-II (2x90 + 2x3 = 186 MW)
2. Kandhwan HEP (5x90 = 450 MW)
3. Kanhar PSS (3x100 = 300 MW)

[Translation]

Expansion of Energy Programme in Rajasthan

1714. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any concrete plan for the expansion of energy sources programmes in different areas of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; 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) Various Non-Conventional Energy Programmes including Improved Chulhas, Biogas Plants, Solar Energy and Wind Power are already being implemented in the State of Rajasthan. A target for 500 biogas plants in the State has been set for the current year. Rajasthan State Power Corporation Limited (RSPCL), a Government of Rajasthan Undertaking, plans to set up a 140 MW Integrated Solar Combined Cycle Power Project at Mathania in Jodhpur District of the State. RSPCL also proposes to establish two wind farm projects of 25 MW capacity each in Western Rajasthan.

[English]

Mumbai High Redevelopment Plans

1715. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the assessment of Mumbai High redevelopment scheme was started during October, 2001; and

(b) if so, the interfacial actions, gains and losses observed in the ongoing North Mumbai High Redevelopment schemes, IPEC programmes, API programme etc. and the manner in which the losses are accounted 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) Assessment and development of any field are dynamic processes. Redevelopment of Mumbai High South field was launched in October 2001.

(b) Redevelopment of Mumbai High, the largest oil field in India, had been formulated by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) in close consultation with the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH). The results, deviations, gains and losses are periodically monitored by the concerned Sub-committee of ONGC Board of Directors as well as DGH. Redevelopment of Mumbai High North and South fields consists of different activities which are at various stages of implementation. Oil production from the L-III reservoir in Mumbai High North has exceeded the predicted production rate envisaged in the Feasibility Report, and as of now there have been no losses in terms of productivity.

An independent Reservoir Management Study for Mumbai High field was conducted by international consultant, IPEC, UK under World Bank Gas Flaring Reduction Project. After review of the results of the study, ONGC had prepared a feasibility study which had gainfully helped in finalizing Redevelopment of Mumbai High.

The API programme, i.e. Acquisition, Processing and Interpretation of 3 D seismic data, executed through M/s. PGS, Norway by ONGC enabled it to better understand the geological complexities of the reservoirs of Mumbai High field and helped in finalization and implementation of Mumbai High Redevelopment.

ONGC estimates the impairment loss on a global basis and adjusts it in the carrying cost of producing properties, for the purpose of accounting.

Transfer of Defence Personnel to Police

1716. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pension bill of the service personnel is increasing year after year;

(b) if so, whether any proposal to reduce the same by transferring personnel below officer rank to central police organisations, State armed police forces and Indian reserve battalions; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. However, the expenditure figure for the year 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 are less than the figures of 1999-2000.

(b) and (c) A Working Group under the Chairmanship of Adjutant General, Army HQs was constituted to carry out a detailed study of various issues relating to lateral transfer of Armed Forces personnel into Central Police Organisations and work out modalities therefor. The Working Group has submitted its report.

[Translation]

Supply of Power

1717. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to make arrangements with some neighbouring countries for mutual supply of power; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Exchange of power between India and Nepal is continuing since long. As on date, India and Nepal are connected through 20 feeders of 132/33/11 kV as per details given below:-

1. UP and Nepal	—	33/11 kV (5 feeders)
2. Uttaranchal and Nepal	—	33/11 kV (4 feeders)
3. Bihar and Nepal	—	132/33/11 kV (11 feeders)

Exchange of power between India and Nepal could be broadly divided into the following categories:

(i) Share of power from bilateral projects viz. Kosi, Gandak, Tanakpur as per treaty between the two countries.

(ii) Exchange of power for distribution and supply in the local area adjoining the border on both the sides.

The Government have appointed Power Trading Corporation of India Limited (PTCIL) as the nodal agency to deal with matters relating to exchange of power between India and Nepal and efforts are on for increasing exchange of power between the two countries.

Exchange of power between India and Bhutan is also in existence. India is importing power from Chukha Hydro-electric Power Project (336 MW) and Kurichu Hydro-electric Power Project (3x15 MW). The fourth unit of the Kurichu HEP is to be commissioned shortly. India also export power to Bhutan during lean hydro periods. Tala Hydro-electric Power project (1020 MW) is under construction and is scheduled for commissioning in 2004-

05. Considering the load demand in Bhutan, most of the power from this project would be exported to India.

Exchange of power between India and Bangladesh is also being explored. National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is examining the feasibility of setting up a gas-based power plant in Bangladesh using the natural gas available in that country.

[English]

'150 Years of Railways' Celebration by Rail Museum

1718. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the activities of the Rail Museum during the celebration of the 150 anniversary of Indian Railways;

(b) whether funds have been placed at the Disposal of the Rail Museum to be the nodal authority;

(c) if so, the proposals and suggestions received by the Railways to undertake the various events and works in the on-going celebrations; and

(d) the action taken by the Museum thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a)

(i) Souvenirs for 150 years celebrations.

(ii) Inscription as World Heritage for Mumbai CST

(iii) Proposal of Nilgiri Mountain Railway, for World Heritage.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Souvenirs supplied to various Zonal Railways as per their requirements. Application made to UNESCO for Mumbai CST inscription. Proposal for Nilgiri Mountain Railway due to be sent to UNESCO in 2002-2003.

[Translation]

Import of Rail Parts

1719. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:
SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure incurred on the import of spare parts, coaches, rail engines and other material during the last two years;

(b) the orders placed with the manufacturing units of public sector during the said period;

(c) whether there has been decrease in placing orders with the manufacturing units of public sector during the last three years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA):

(in crores of Rs.)

	2000-2001	2001-2002
(a)	461.85	Account books are yet to be reconciled and closed.
(b)	3282	Account books are yet to be reconciled and closed.

(c) No, Sir. There has been marginal variation only over the years.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

LPG Dispensing Stations

1720. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of auto LPG dispensing units functioning in the country;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up more auto LPG dispensing stations in each State;

(c) if so, the target set for the same and whether any auto LPG dispensing stations have also been set in Tamil Nadu; 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) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have commissioned 17 Auto LPG Dispensing Stations (ALDS) in different parts of the country.

(b) to (d) OMCs have drawn out their plan for setting up of 228 ALDS in different States of the country by the

year 2003-04. Out of these, 17 ALDS are planned for the State of Tamil Nadu.

Power Projects

1721. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Subansiri Lower Power Project of NHPC in Arunachal Pradesh, has been commenced after the decision given by the Supreme Court in this regard;

(b) if so, the estimated cost and the revised schedule for construction of the project;

(c) the area on which Telli wildlife Sanctuary is likely to be submerged thereby and the details of diversion of the course of the river involved in the project; and

(d) the manner in which environmental imbalance and disturbance caused by it is sought to be made good?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court has permitted the dereservation of 42 hectares of land in the Tale Wild Life Sanctuary likely to be submerged as a result of execution of the Subansiri Lower Project (250x8 MW) in Arunachal Pradesh. Presently, Stage-II activities covering mainly pre-construction work, development of infrastructure facilities and land acquisition are in progress. The process is under way for accord of Techno-economic clearance to the Project by the Central Electricity Authority. Investment decision on the setting up of the Project would be initiated thereafter.

(c) and (d) Only forty two (42) hectares of land in the Tale Wile Life Sanctuary are likely to come under submergence due to execution of the Subansiri Lower Project. This is 0.09% of the Wile Life Sanctuary. No construction activity is envisaged in the area likely to be submerged. The submergence will mainly be caused due to impounding of the river water which will lead to a rise in the water level. NHPC would carry out all the necessary remedial measures as prescribed in the environment/forest clearances.

Improvement in Rating of Doordarshan

1722. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether unhappy with the rating assigned to its programme by professional rating agencies Doordarshan is planning to revamp its audience research unit;

(b) if so, the detailed plan chalked out by Doordarshan;

(c) whether any committee is likely to be formed by the Government to suggest ways and means to improve the functioning of Doordarshan;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which this Committee is likely to be formed; and

(e) the other measures taken or being taken by Doordarshan to improve its rating?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. P.S. Deodhar and other eminent personalities from the field of communication research, with a view to strengthening Doordarshan in-house research facility and to guide the Producers to improve the content/quality of the programmes.

(e) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan has taken steps to upgrade various Kendras with the latest equipment and remove bottlenecks and restrictions in the procedures for improving the quality of programmes.

[Translation]

LPG Agencies to Physically/Disabled Persons in Rajasthan

1723. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of disabled/physically handicapped persons who have been allotted LPG agencies and petrol pumps in Rajasthan during the last three years;

(b) the percentage of dealerships reserved for disabled/physically handicapped persons for the allotments;

(c) whether the quota reserved for them has been filled during the last three years; 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) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have allotted 12 Retail Outlets and 8 LPG distributorships to physically handicapped persons during the last three years in the State of Rajasthan.

(b) to (d) The reservation for physically handicapped category is 5% and reservation under each category is made on the basis of 100 point roster in each marketing plan and not on the basis of financial year.

[English]

Wind Energy in North Eastern Region

1724. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have undertaken techon-economic survey of harnessing non-conventional energy sources specially wind energy in the Hills of North Eastern region;

(b) if so, the results of such survey; and

(c) the details of the ongoing schemes and projects undertaken by the Department in the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) A Special Project was undertaken to identify promising windy locations in the North Eastern States and Sikkim. 27 sites have been identified for carrying out detailed wind monitoring studies with a view to assess their suitability for setting up of wind power projects in the Region.

1059 sites having a small hydro potential of about 2030 MW have also been identified in the Region. Under the Biomass Resource Assessment Programme, 42 taluka level studies were taken up in certain States of the Region for assessment of the potential for biomass power projects, of which 24 studies have so far been completed.

(c) 97 Small Hydro Projects of 153 MW capacity have been set up in the North Eastern States, and 69 projects of 165 MW capacity are under implementation. 24 biomass gasifier projects for village electrification have been taken up, of which one project in Tripura has so far been completed. Over 50,000 solar photovoltaic systems have been installed in the Region comprising of lanterns, home lighting systems, street lights, pumps and power plants. In addition, improved chulhas, solar cookers, biogas plants, solar water heating systems, water pumping wind mills and aerogenerator projects have also been undertaken under various Schemes.

Doubling of Shoranur-Mangalore Line

1725. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far to the Shoranur-Mangalore Rail Line doubling work;

(b) the present position thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Out of 307 km, work of doubling of 171 km has already been completed. Earthwork bridges etc. are in various stages of progress in the remaining section. 50 km of doubling is targeted for completion during 2002-2003.

(c) The entire doubling of Shoranur-Mangalore is likely to be completed by 2003-2004.

Sale of HMT

1726. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the HMT Limited has invited bids for the sale of its four units;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the profit earned/loss incurred by these four units of the HMT Limited during each of the last three years; and

(d) the reasons for which HMT Limited has taken a decision to sell its units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) HMT has invited expression of interest from prospective bidders with a view to disinvesting up to 74%, in its four subsidiaries viz, HMT Machine Tools Ltd, HMT Watches Ltd., HMT Chinar Watches Ltd. and HMT Bearings Ltd.

(c) The profit earned/loss incurred by the above subsidiaries for the last three years are as follows:

(Rs. in Cr.)

	2000-01	@2001-02
HMT Machine Tools Ltd.	—96.17	—76.13
HMT Watches Ltd.	—59.18	—109.05
HMT Chinar Watches Ltd.	—7.95	—9.70
HMT Bearings Ltd.	2.21	1.17

@ Provisional subject to audit.

(Rs. in Cr.)

	1999-2000
Machine Tools Business Group*	—88.76
Watch Business Group*	—168.89
Watch Factory Srinagar*	—35.74
HMT Bearings Ltd.	3.50

*Before formation of separate subsidiaries.

(d) Disinvestment exercise has been initiated *inter-alia* as a part of the overall policy of the Government regarding PSU disinvestments. This is further aimed at bringing in the necessary inputs which would help in improving the viability of the units.

[Translation]

Expansion of AIR/FM

1727. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by the Government to extend radio coverage in rural and urban areas of the country;

(b) the number of radio broadcasting centers, medium wave, short wave and FM channels in the country, location-wise, name-wise and State-wise till date;

(c) the amount allocated and spent for the development of AIR/FM during the last three years and the allocation made in the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(d) whether the Government propose to open more broadcasting centers, in the country including in Aurangabad, Pune and Maharashtra; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) To improve radio coverage in rural and urban areas of the country, additional Radio Transmitters and upgradation of power of existing ones has been proposed in draft Tenth Plan.

(b) Details are given in enclosed statement-I.

(c) Details are given in enclosed statement-II.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Subject to the availability of funds in the Tenth Plan, more broadcasting centers will be opened in the country. At Aurangabad and Pune, Radio broadcasting centers are already in operation.

Statement-I

ALL INDIA RADIO

Existing A.I.R. Stations as on 18.07.2002

Total Stations- 209

S.No.	State & Places	Transmitter Power	No of AIR Stations in the State	Status of the Station
1	2	3	4	5
ANDHRA PRADESH—12				
1.	Hyderabad	200 KW MW	'A'	Hyderabad 'A'
		20 KW MW	'B'	Hyderabad 'B'

1	2	3	4	5
		6 KW FM		VB
		50 KW SW		Regional support
2.	Adilabad	1 KW MW		LRS
3.	Vijayawada	100 KW MW		Primary Channel
		1 KW MW		VB
4.	Vishakhapatnam	100 KW MW		Primary Channel
		10 KW FM		VB
5.	Cuddapah	100 KW MW		Primary Channel
6.	Kothagudam	6 KW FM		-do-
7.	Warangal	10 KW FM		LRS
8.	Nizamabad	6 KW FM		LRS
9.	Tirupathi	10 KW FM		LRS
		3 KW FM		
10.	Anantapur	6 KW FM		LPS
11.	Kurnool	6 KW FM		LRS
12.	Merkapuram	6 KW FM		LRS
ARUNANCHAL PRADESH—5				
13.	Itanagar	100 KW MW		Primary Channel
		50 KW SW		Regional support
14.	Passighat	10 KW MW		Primary Channel
15.	Tawang	10 KW MW		-do-
16.	Tezu	10 KW MW		-do-
17.	Ziro	1 KW SW (LPS)		
ASSAM—10				
18.	Guwahati	100 KW MW		Primary Channel
		10 KW MW		VB & YV
		10 KW FM		VB
		50 KW SW		Reg. Support
		50 KW SW		VB-Synchronised operation
19.	Silchar	20 KW MW		Primary Channel
20.	Dibrugarh	300 KW MW		-do-

1	2	3	4	5
21.	Jorhat	10 KW FM		LRS
22.	Haflong	6 KW FM		LRS
23.	Nowgong	6 KW FM		LRS
24.	Diphu	1 KW MW		LRS
25.	Kokrajhar	20 KW MW		Primary Channel
26.	Dhubri	6 KW FM		Relay Centre
27.	Tezpur	20 KW MW		Primary Channel
BIHAR—5				
28.	Patna	100 KW MW		Primary Channel
		6 KW FM		VB
29.	Bhagalpur	20 KW MW		Primary Channel
30.	Darbhanga	10 KW MW		-do-
31.	Sasaram	6 KW FM		LRS
32.	Purnea	6 KW FM		LRS
CHATTISGARH—5				
33.	Ambikapur	20 KW MW		Primary Channel
34.	Jagdalpur	100 KW MW		-do-
35.	Raipur	100 KW MW		-do-
36.	Bilaspur	6 KW MW		LRS
37.	Raigarh	6 KW FM		LRS
GOA—1				
38.	Panaji	100 KW MW		Primary Channel
		20 KW MW		VB
		6 KW FM (Stereo)		
		2x250 KW SW		Ext. service
GUJARAT—7				
39.	Ahmedabad	200 KW MW		Primary Channel
		10 KW FM		VB
40.	Vadodra	1 KW MW		Exclusive VB
		10 KW FM Tr.		VB
		(Repl. of 1 KW MW)		
41.	Bhuj	20 KW MW		Primary Channel

1	2	3	4	5
42.	Rajkot	300 KW MW		Primary Channel
		1000 KW MW		Ext. Service
		10 KW FM		VB
		(Replacement of 1KW MW VB)		
43.	Godhra	6 KW FM		LRS
44.	Surat	6 KW FM		LRS
45.	Ahwa	1 KW MW		LRS
HARYANA—3				
46.	Rohtak	20 KW MW		Primary Channel
47.	Kurukshetra	6 KW FM		LRS
48.	Hissar	6 KW FM		LRS
HIMACHAL PRADESH—6				
49.	Simla	100 KW MW		Primary Channel
		50 KW SW		Regional Support
50.	Kasauli	10 KW FM		Relay Centre
51.	Hamirpur	6 KW FM		LRS
52.	Dharamshala	10 KW FM		Primary Channel
53.	Kullu	6 KW FM		Relay Centre
54.	Kinnaur (Kalpa)	1 KW MW		Relay Centre
JAMMU AND KASHMIR—6				
55.	Srinagar	200 KW MW		Primary Channel
		10 KW MW		Yuv Vani
		10 KW FM		VB
		(Repl of 1 KW MW Tr.)		
		50 KW SW		Regional support
56.	Jammu	300 KW MW		Primary Channel
		3 KW FM		Yuv Vani
		10 KW FM		VB
		1 KW SW (under repl. by 50 KW)		Regional Support
57.	Leh	20 KW MW		Primary Channel
		10 KW SW		Regional Support

1	2	3	4	5
58.	Kathua	10 KW FM		LRS
59.	Poonch	6 KW FM		LRS
60.	Kargil	1 KW MW		Primary Channel
61.	Bhadarwah	6 KW FM		Relay
62.	Ranchi	100 KW MW		Primary Channel
		6 KW FM		
		50 KW FM		
63.	Jamshedpur	1 KW FM		Primary Channel
		6 KW FM		VB
64.	Chaibasa	6 KW FM		LRS
65.	Hazaribagh	6 KW FM		LRS
66.	Daltonganj	10 KW FM		LRS
KARNATAKA—13				
67.	Bangalore	200 KW MW		Primary Channel
		10 KW FM		VB
		10 KW FM		Metro FM
				Ext. service
		6x600 KW SW		Primary Channel
68.	Bhadrawati	20 KW MW		Primary Channel
69.	Dharwad	200 KW MW		Primary Channel
		1 KW MW		VB
70.	Gulbarga	20 KW MW		Primary Channel
71.	Mangalore/Udipi	20 KW MW (Udipi)		-do-
		1 KW MW (Mangalore)		
72.	Mysore	1 KW MW		-do-
73.	Chitradurg	6 KW FM		LRS
74.	Hassan	6 KW FM		LRS
75.	Hospet	10 KW FM		LRS
76.	Raichur	6 KW FM		LRS
77.	Mercara	6 KW FM		LRS
78.	Karwar	3 KW FM		LRS
79.	Bijapur	6 KW FM		LRS
KERALA—7				
80.	Alleppey	200 KW MW		Relay Centre
81.	Calicut	100 KW MW		Primary Channel

1	2	3	4	5
		1 KW MW		VB
82.	Trichur	100 KW MW		Primary Channel
	Calicut	100 KW MW		Primary Channel
83.	Trivandrum	20 KW MW		-do-
		10 KW FM		VB
		50 KW SW		Regional support
84.	Cochin	6 KW FM		LRS
		10 KW FM		VB
85.	Cannanore	6 KW FM		Primary Channel
86.	Idukki (Devikulam)	6 KW FM		-do-
87.	Bhopal	10 KW MW		Primary Channel
		6 KW FM		VB
		50 KW SW		Regional support
88.	Chhatarpur	20 KW MW		Primary Channel
89.	Gwalior	20 KW MW		Primary Channel
90.	Indore	100 KW MW		-do-
		6 KW FM		VB
91.	Jabalpur	200 KW MW		Primary Channel
		10 KW FM		VB
92.	Rewa	20 KW MW		Primary Channel
93.	Khandwa	6 KW FM		LRS
94.	Betul	6 KW FM		LRS
95.	Shivpuri	6 KW FM		Primary Channel
96.	Chhindwara	6 KW FM		LRS
97.	Shahdol	6 KW FM		Primary Channel
98.	Balaghat	6 KW FM		LRS
99.	Guna	6 kW FM		LRs
100.	Sagar	6 KW FM		LRS
MAHARASHTRA—20				
101.	Aurangabad	1 KW MW		Primary Channel
102.	Mumbai	100 KW MW 'A'		-do-
		100 KW MW 'B'		-do-

1	2	3	4	5
		50 KW MW		VB
		10 KW FM (Stereo)		
		5 KW FM		2nd FM Channel
		100 KW SW		VB, (Synchronised operation)
		50 KW SW		Regional support
103.	Jalgaon	20 KW MW		Primary Channel
104.	Nagpur	100 KW MW		-do-
		6 KW FM		VB
		1000 KW MW		National Channel
105.	Parbhani	20 KW MW		Primary Channel
106.	Pune	100 kW MW		-do-
		6 KW FM		VB
107.	Ratnagiri	20 KW MW		Primary Channel
108.	Sangli	20 KW MW		-do-
109.	Sholapur	1 KW MW		LRS
110.	Dhule	6 KW FM		LRS
111.	Beed	6 KW FM		LRS
112.	Ahmednagar.	6 KW FM		LRS
113.	Nanded	6 KW FM		LRS
114.	Akola	6 KW FM		LRS
115.	Kolhapur	6 KW FM		Primary Channel
116.	Yeotmal	6 KW FM		LRS
117.	Satara	6 KW FM		LRS
118.	Chandrapur	6 KW FM		LRS
119.	Nasik	6 KW FM		LRS
120.	Osmanabad	6 KW FM		LRS
MANIPUR—1				
121.	Imphal	50 KW MW		Primary Channel
		50 KW SW		Regional support
MEGHALAYA—5				
122.	Shillong	100 KW MW		Primary Channel
		50 KW SW		NE Integrated Service

1	2	3	4	5
123.	Tura.	20 KW MW		Primary Channel
124.	Jowai	6. KW FM		LRS
125.	Williamnagar	1 KW MW		CRS
126.	Nongstoin	1 KW MW		CRS
MIZORAM—3				
127.	Aizawl	20 KW MW		Primary Channel
		10 KW SW		Regional support
128.	Lungleh	6 KW FM		Primary Channel
129.	Saiha	1 KW MW		CRS
NAGALAND—4				
130.	Kohima	50 KW MW		Primary Channel
		50 KW SW		Regional support
131.	Mokokchung	6 KW FM Tr.		LRS
132.	Mon	1 KW MW		CRS
133.	Tuensang	1 KW MW (CPS)		
ORISSA—11				
134.	Cuttack	100 KW MW		Primary Channel
		1 KW MW		VB
		6 KW FM (Stereo)		Capital FM
135.	Jeypore	100 KW MW		Primary Channel
136.	Sambalpur	100 KW MW		Primary Channel
		50 KW SW		Regional Support
137.	Keonjhar	1 KW MW		LRS
138.	Baripada	1 KW MW		LRS
139.	Berhampur	6 KW FM		LRS
140.	Bhawanipatna	200 KW MW		Primary Channel
141.	Bolangir	6 KW FM		LRS
142.	Rourkela	6 KW FM		LRS
143.	Puri	3 KW FM		LRS
144.	Joranda.	1 KW MW		LRS
PUNJAB — 3				
145.	Jalandhar	300 KW MW		Primary Channel
		200 KW MW		-do-

1	2	3	4	5
		1 KW MW		VB
		10 KW FM		Capital FM
146.	Bhatinda	6 KW FM		LRS
147.	Patiala	6 KW FM		LRS
RAJASTHAN — 17				
148.	Jaipur	1 KW MW		Primary Channel
		1 KW MW		VB
		6 KW FM		VB
		50 KW SW		Regional support
149.	Kota	1 KW MW		LRS
150.	Ajmer	200 KW MW		Relay Centre
151.	Bikaner	20 KW MW		Primary Channel
152.	Udaipur	20 KW MW		-do-
153.	Jodhpur	100 KW MW		-do-
		6 KW FM		VB
154.	Suratgarh	300 KW MW		Primary Channel
155.	Alwar	6 KW FM		LRS
156.	Nagaur	6 KW FM		LRS
157.	Banswara	6 KW FM		LRS
158.	Chittorgarh	6 KW FM		LRS
159.	Barmer	20 KW MW		Primarly Channel
160.	Swai Madhopur	6 KW FM		LRS
161.	Churu	6 KW FM		Primary Channel
162.	Jhalawar	6 KW FM		LRS
163.	Jaisalmer	10 KW FM		Primary Channel
164.	Mount Abu	6 KW FM		
SIKKIM — 1				
165.	Gangtok	20 KW MW		Primary Channel
		10 KW SW		Regional support
TAMILNADU — 9				
166.	Coimbatore	20 KW MW		Primary Channel
		10 KW FM		VB cum Metro FM Pattern

1	2	3	4	5
167.	Chennai	200 KW MW 'A'		Primary Channel
		20 KW MW 'B'		-do-
		20 KW MW		VB
		10 KW FM (stereo)		Metro FM I
		5 KW FM		FM II
		50 KW SW		Regional support
		100 KW SW		'VB' synchronised
168.	Madurai	20 KW MW		Primary Channel
169.	Tiruchirapalli	100 KW MW		-do-
		10 KW FM		VB
		(Rep. of 1 KW MW)		
170.	Tirunelveli	20 KW MW		Primary Channel
171.	Nagarcoil	10 KW FM		LRS
172.	Oottacamund	1 KW MW		Primary Channel
173.	Tuticorin	200 KW MW (Ext. service)		Primary Channel
174.	Kodaikanal	10 KW FM		Metro FM pattern
TRIPURA — 3				
175.	Agartala	20 KW MW		Primary Channal
176.	Belonia	6 KW FM		LRS
177.	Kailashahar	66 KW FM		LRS
UTTARANCHAL — 6				
178.	Almora	1 KW MW		Primary Channel
179.	Gopeshwar (Chamoli)	1 KW MW		-do-
180.	Mussoorie	10 KW FM		Relay Centre
181.	Pauri	1 KW MW		Primary Channel
182.	Pithoragarh	1 KW MW		Relay Centre
183.	Uttarkashi	1 KW MW		Relay Centre
UTTAR PRADESH — 14				
184.	Lucknow	300 KW MW		Primary Channel
		10 KW MW		VB
		10 KW FM		Metro FM pattern

1	2	3	4	5
		50 KW SM		Regional support
185.	Allahabad	20 KW MW		Primary Channel
		10 KW FM		VB
186.	Varanasi	100 KW MW		Primary Channel
		1 KW MW		VB
187.	Rampur	20 KW MW		Primary Channel
188.	Kanpur	1 KW MW		Exclusive VB
189.	Mathura	1 KW MW		Primary Channel
190.	Gorakhpur	100 KW MW		Primary Channel
		50 KW SW		Ext. service
191.	Najibabad	100 KW MW		Primary Channel
192.	Agra	20 KW MW		Primary Channel
193.	Faizabad	6 KW FM		LRS
194.	Bareilly	6 KW FM		LRS
195.	Jhansi	6 KW FM		LRS
196.	Obra	6 KW FM		Station
197.	Aligarh	6 KW FM		Relay Centre
		4x250 KW SW		Ext. service
		(Two under replacement by new TX)		
WEST BENGAL — 5				
198.	Kolkata	200 KW MW 'A'		Kolkata 'A'
		100 KW MW		Kolkata 'B'
		20 KW MW		VB
		5 KW FM		Yuvavani & FM II
		10 KW FM (Stereo)		Metro FM I
		50 KW SW		Regional support
		1000 KW MW		Ext. Service
199.	Kurseong	50 KW SW		Primary Channel
		1 KW MW		Primary Channel
200.	Siliguri	200 KW FM		VB
		10 KW FM		VB
201.	Murshidabad	6 KW FM		LRS

1	2	3	4	5
202.	Asansole	6 KW FM		Relay Centre
UNION TERRTTORTES				
ANDMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS — 1				
203.	Port Blair (A & N)	20 KW MW		Primary Channel
		10 KW SW		Regional support
CHANDIGARH — 1				
204.	Chandigarh	6 KW FM		Exclusive VB
		(Replacement of 1 KW MW)		
205.	Delhi — 1			
		200 KW MW		Delhi 'A'
		100 KW MW 'B'		-do-
		20 KW MW		VB
		10 KW MW		Yuv Vani
		5 KW FM		FM II
		10 KW FM (Stereo)		Metro FM I
		20 KW MW		National Channel
		5x100 KW SW		Ext. Service
		(Three under replacement by 250 KW each)		
		7x50 KW SW		Ext. service
		4x250 KW SW		Ext. service
PONDICHERRY — 2				
206.	Pondicherry	20 KW MW		Primary Channel
207.	Karaikal (Pondicherry)	6 KW FM Tr.		LRS
LAKSHADEEP & MINICOY ISLAND — 2				
208.	Kavaratti	1 KW MW		
DAMAN & DIU — 1				
209.	Daman	3 KW FM		LRS

Total no. of AIR Transmitters = 335

Statement-II

Details of amount allocation and expenditure for development of AIR in last three annual plans are as under:

Year	SBG	Expenditure
1999-2000	Rs. 122.00 Crores	Rs. 90.05 Crores
2000-2001	Rs. 140.00 Crores	Rs. 114.60 Crores
2001-2002	Rs. 190.93 Crores	Rs. 179.68 Crores

Amount allocated in the X Plan is yet to be finalised.

[English]

Close Circuit TV at Railway Stations

1728. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the Railway Stations where Close Circuit TVs have been installed throughout the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the provision of this facility at Railway Stations has been helped the Railways in any way;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the railway stations in which the close circuit TVs are likely to be installed during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Borrowing from Market

1729. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have been borrowing money from the market at higher rates and utilising them for sustaining loss-making operations;

(b) if so, the total money so far borrowed from the market and the rate of interest at which it is borrowed; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to cut down the unwanted expenditure to bring utmost economy in the expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) No, Sir. Market borrowings are used only to finance the acquisition of revenue generating assets namely wagons, coaches and locomotives.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Regular review of all expenditure is being carried out by Railways keeping in view the operational needs and priorities as well as the available resources. Measures have also been taken to control expenditure by right-sizing the manpower, improving asset utilization and staff productivity, better inventory management, savings in fuel consumption, austerity in areas such as travel, publicity, hospitality etc.

Study on Cloud Pattern

1730. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Air Force has started project to study cloud pattern during monsoon; and

(b) if so, the objective thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) (a) and (b) The IAF continuously carries out weather research. It is currently participating in Arabian Sea Monsoon Experiment-2002 (ARMEX-2002), to collect weather data.

Power Sector Investment

1731. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the survey by Economic Research of India, major Indian and overseas promoters in all the 23 power projects worth more than Rs. 50,000 crore have withdrawn their interest in the projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to attract the promoters in the Power Projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Government is aware of the news item appearing in the Economics Times of 22nd April, 2002 quoting Economic Research India Survey.

The details, as per information available, in regard to foreign investors who have withdrawn from power projects, are mentioned below:

(i) M/s Cogentrix Energy Inc., withdrew from the 1013.2 MW Mangalore Thermal Project, Karnataka. No reasons for the withdrawal were indicated by the company.

(ii) M/s Electricite de France, a French Power Company, conveyed its decision to withdraw from the 1082 MW Bhadrawati Thermal Plant in Maharashtra. The following reasons were indicated for pulling out from the projects;

(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.

(iii) In the case of the Maheshwar Hydel power project (10x40MW), Madhya Pradesh, M/s Bayerwerk View decided to pull out due to reasons not specific to the project. M/s Ogden Energy, USA, exited from the same project due to its own reasons viz., internal restructuring and changed business focus.

(iv) In the case of the 1070 MW Korba East Thermal Project, 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.

(v) In the case of the 420 MW Bakreshwar Thermal project in West Bengal units 4 and 5, the Government of West Bengal, informed that M/s Bakreshwar Power Generation Co. Ltd, which is the 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 since been wound up and M/s Ogden Energy Asia Pacific has exited from the Joint Venture Company.

(vi) In the case of the 150 MW Gouripore Thermal Power Project in West Bengal, the State Government have revoked the authorization under Section 18A given to M/s. Gouripore Power Company Ltd. and have authorized West Bengal Power Development Corporation to establish, own, operate and maintain the Gouripore Thermal Power Project with a revised configuration of 2x125 MW.

(vii) In the case of the 6x660 MW Hirma Thermal Power Project, 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 had not been met.

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 closure in spite of progressing well on other fronts.

(c) Government has initiated the process of reforms with a view to improving the financial condition of the various power utilities in order to make them commercially viable. 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 reforms and speed up their implementation and that the real challenge of reforms lay in the 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 would be given, if required only to the extent of State Government's capacity to pay the subsidies explicitly through budget. 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 Centre 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 though 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 has 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. It is expected that with effective implementation of reforms commercial viability would be achieved and the confidence of investors in power sector will improve.

[Translation]

Advertisement Released to Newspapers/Journals

1732. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are certain newspapers and journals in Delhi which, though being published in smaller numbers, are receiving advertisements of lakhs of rupees per year;

(b) if so, the facts thereon and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the amount of advertisements given to these newspapers and journals having their offices in the North Avenue and South Avenue in Delhi During the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) releases advertisements to only those newspapers/journals as are empanelled with it. For empanelment of newspapers/journals the DAVP takes into account circulation assessed by Audit Bureau of Circulation or Registrar of Newspapers for India or Chartered Accountant Certificate.

(c) As per record available for the last three years, only two newspapers namely "People Victory" and "Lok Astha", both Hindi weeklies published from addresses on North Avenue, New Delhi, were on the approved panel of the DAVP. "People's Victory" was on DAVP's panel for the year 1999-2000 and "Lok Astha" was on the panel for the year 2001-2002. Advertisements amounting to Rs. 13,976/- and Rs. 10,608/-, respectively have been released to these papers.

[English]

Supply of Mosquito Nets

1733. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether DGoS placed two supply orders in April 1997 on two different firms for the supply of mosquito nets as per specifications at a total cost of Rs. 5.92 crore and the items were accepted after inspection of the Senior Quality Assurance Officer and the Ordnance Depot, Kolkata issued the entire quantity to 12 feeding depots for onward issue to the troops;

(b) whether some of the field ordnance depots reported of the non-acceptance of the nets due to variation in sizes and the same were found correct and in the process crores of rupees were lost;

(c) if so, whether matter has been inquired into and accountability and responsibility fixed for improper inspection of the mosquito nets; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the official found guilty?

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

(b) Yes, subsequently mosquito nets valued at Rs. 1.80 crores were rejected by the consignee as they did not conform to specifications.

(c) and (d) Disciplinary proceedings have already been initiated against the concerned officers and staff responsible for the lapse. Criminal complaint is being filed against a Retired Army Officer, another Army officer has been awarded severe displeasure (recordable) under section 122 of Army Act, whereas third Army officer has been exonerated. Major penalty proceeding against 34 Civilian officers & staff have been initiated and case against one staff (NGO) has been finalized with imposition of major penalty.

[Translation]

Drive to Cut Expenditure

1734. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred under various heads such as publicity, advertisement, hospitality, catering, opening

ceremonies, seminars, conference, tours (including foreign visits), STD and ISTD telephone bills, electricity bills especially the electricity bills of airconditioners and coolers in various departments and undertakings under the Ministry during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to launch any drive to cut down the expenditure being incurred under these heads;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) From the present budgetary and accounting classification, it is not possible to accurately arrive at the expenditure on various items mentioned in the Question in respect of all Services/Departments under the Ministry of Defence.

(b) to (d) The provisions of various rules/regulations as well as the economy instructions issued by Government from time to time are followed to control such expenditure.

Impact on oil Exploration of Tension Between India and Pakistan

1735. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether representatives of several multi-national companies working in the field of oil and gas sector on the advice of their Governments have gone back to their countries leaving incomplete work of production and exploration due to tension between India and Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether the Government have assured such companies to reconsider their participation in oil and gas sectors; 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) British Gas, the operator decided to suspend the drilling operations in the exploration block CB-OS/1 in the Gulf of Cambay off the Gujarat Coast. The work in the block has been resumed from the midnight of 3rd July, 2002.

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

[English]

Unauthorised Parking Lots on Railway Land

1736. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether unauthorised parking lots are being run outside railway stations in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether Railways are unable to control their operations; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by railways to remove all such unauthorised parking lots in South Central Railways?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Installation of Shunt Capacitors in Karnataka

1737. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to install shunt capacitors to improve the voltage profile in the State power systems in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the estimated requirements of Shunt capacitors for these systems and the number of these installed in Karnataka during 2001-2002;

(c) whether the existing power distribution system in Karnataka could be improved by installation of Shunt Capacitors;

(d) if so, whether the Centre are likely to assist the State in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is a total of 3710.12 MVAR Capacitor Banks installed in Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd. (KPTCL) system in Karnataka as on 31.3.2002. The load flow studies have been conducted and to maintain the voltage within the stipulated levels as per norms of Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC)/Central Electricity Authority, a total addition of 4352.50 MVAR is proposed for the 10th Five Year Plan, at an estimated cost of Rs. 109.00 crores.

During the year 2001-02, a capacity of 474 MVAR has been added in the Karnataka System.

(c) Yes Sir. The existing power system in Karnataka could be improved by installation of Shunt Capacitors.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Assistance has been offered to Karnataka in the installation of Shunt Capacitors, by the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID).

Outstanding Dues Against Agencies

1738. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Doordarshan has initiated steps against private producers and agencies which owed outstanding payment amounting to Rs. 169.28 crores;

(b) if so, the names of private producers and agencies continuously delaying payments;

(c) the outstanding payments recovered from them, so far;

(d) the number of private producers against whom legal action has been taken; and

(e) the number of defaulters who have been refused permission or extension of programme?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (e) Prasar Bharati has intimated that out of Rs. 169.28 crores outstanding as on 31st March, 2002, they have made recovery of Rs. 19.18 crores as on date. Out of 29 agencies which have been continuously delaying payments, two have cleared their dues and one is a Government undertaking. Names of the remaining 26 private producers and agencies are as per enclosed statement and amount recovered from them during 2002-03 (till date) is of the order of Rs. 282 lakhs. Prasar Bharati has initiated legal action in 40 cases and 47 companies/agencies have not been allowed business with Doordarshan.

Statement

Sr. No.	Name of Agency
1	2
1.	Asian Ad Age
2.	B4U Multimedia
3.	Balaji Telefilms
4.	Bidhan Advtg.
5.	Clarion
6.	Creative Eye
7.	Film Craft
8.	First Option Telefilms
9.	Guruji Advertisers
10.	HMT
11.	HTA
12.	KLI
13.	Lehar Publicity Ser.
14.	Moulis Advertising
15.	Neerja Films
16.	Network 7
17.	Nimbus Comm
18.	P N C
19.	Pas International
20.	Pinky Advertising
21.	Sagar Enterprises
22.	Star Gazer
23.	Tracer Advertising
24.	Translink Television
25.	Triton Comm.
26.	Universal

Time Taken In Generating one Ticket on Computerised System

1739. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the average time taken in generating one ticket on computerised system;

(b) the time taken to issue a ticket manually;

(c) whether computerisation has not made any significant improvement in reducing ticket generation time as compared to manual system; and

(d) if so, the action being taken to make computerisation really to serve its mandated purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Average time taken in completing one transaction including printing of the ticket on computerised system is one & a half minute to two minutes.

(b) The time taken to issue one ticket manually used to be 6 to 7 minutes.

(c) and (d) Computerisation of reservations on Indian Railways has made significant improvements by way of providing universal counters with a facility of issuing tickets for any train, from any station to any station. The system of Computerisation of reservations has made it possible to extend the same to the places other than railway stations also. As on 30.6.2002, this facility is available at 742 locations in the country. In annual Budget 2002-003, this facility has been sanctioned at another 150 new locations.

Procurement of AJTs

1740. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:
SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether British Government has proposed to impose an arms embargo and suspend sale of arms to India;

(b) whether British Government have reviewed the said decision and finalised the supply of arms to India;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the British Defence Secretary visited India on July 3, 2002 and discussed with him about the finalisation of deal in regard to purchase of Hawk-100 Aircraft Jet Trainers (AJTs); and

(e) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) Various subjects of mutual interest were discussed and views exchanged.

Gas to Industries in Delhi

1741. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

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

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Limited propose to make more natural gas available for industries in and around Delhi;

(b) if so, the quantum of gas presently supplied for industrial use other than for vehicular transport in Delhi, and the additional gas proposed to be made available for industrial use in Delhi;

(c) whether motor vehicles based on CNG fuel are largely starving for fuel resulting in overnight queues at gas supply stations; and

(d) if so, the steps taken and proposed to be taken to augment CNG supply for vehicles in Delhi?

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) The present gas supply to Delhi Vidyut Board for power generation in Delhi is 1.34 Million Standard Cubic Meters Per Day (MMSCMD) (Average for June, 2002). Presently, no additional gas is available for supply for industrial use in Delhi.

(c) and (d) In order to overcome the problem of long queues and to improve the availability of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) for transport sector in Delhi, Government have increased allocation of natural gas to Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) from 0.98 Million Standard Cubic Meters Per Day (MMSCMD) to 2.0 MMSCMD in the month of June, 2002. Further, IGL has planned to increase the number of compressors from 58 at present to 111 by June, 2003. This will increase the compression facility from 6.91 lakh Kg per day to 16.11 lakh Kg per day. IGL is also expanding its pipeline infrastructure and plans to increase the number of filling stations from 94 to 110 by March, 2003.

Deployment in Vigilance Organisations

1742. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the existing norms for deployment of watcher, sainik, inspectors and officers in vigilance organizations;

(b) whether the staff and officers of vigilance organizations in Indian Railways preferably in Eastern Railways are getting extension of their tenure on sympathy of officers;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken by the Government to implement the prescribed norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) (a) Watchers, sainiks, inspectors and officers are taken in Vigilance Organisation on deputation from various departments of the Railways. The tenure is three years for officers and four years in case of inspectors. However, for watchers and sainiks, there is no tenure specified. If required, the tenure of officers and inspectors can be extended with the approval of competent authority on administrative grounds.

(b) No, Sir. The extension of tenure of the staff and officers of vigilance organization in Indian Railways, including Eastern Railway, is done strictly on merits in administrative interests with the approval of competent authority.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Retrenchment of Employees

1743. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any shortage of employees in the railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the World Bank has suggested his ministry to retrench four lakhs of its employees;

(d) if so, the reasons put forth by the World Bank in this regard;

(e) whether the Government have analysed those reasons; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Railways have been adopting modern technology in various facets of railways working e.g. abolition of steam traction, modern track structure and signaling system, improved operating practice, etc. This leads to reduced requirement of manpower in certain activities while needing manpower in newer areas and thus necessitating retraining, re-deployment and recruitment.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

[English]

Dues Payable to Employees in CPSUs

1744. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

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

(a) the details of the Statutory dues payable to employees and workers of Central Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) whether the employees and workers who had been retired and opted for VRS, have not been paid their gratuity and Provident Fund for months together; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) The amount of outstanding statutory dues payable to the employees of Central PSUs as per available information, is Rs. 1588.67 crores as on 31.12.2001 in respect of 72 enterprises. Other enterprises do not have any outstanding. These dues are pending in some cases, even for the retired and VRS optees, due to serious resource crunch of the concerned enterprises.

[Translation]

M.P.s Letter for Confirmation of Tickets

1745. SHRI MANSINH PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether recommendation letters of Members of Parliament for confirmation of train tickets are made to overlook;

(b) if so, the process through which letters of recommendation from MPs are received by them and the action taken thereon;

(c) the number of Members of Parliament who have made complaints in this regard during the last six months; and

(d) the action taken against the persons held responsible for it?

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

(b) The letters of recommendation from Members of Parliament for allotment of berths out of emergency quota are received through post as well as in person.

The requests of Members of Parliament, for allotting berths/seats from Emergency Quota, for journey of others, are considered along with other requests on merits taking into account the factors like status of passengers travelling, nature of urgency like travelling on Government duty, bereavement in the family, sickness etc.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Replacement of Bridges/Tracks

1746. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to reconstruct all outdated tracks, signals and bridges during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the length of outdated tracks in kilometres including the number of outdated signals/bridges required to be reconstructed; and

(c) the expenditure estimated to be incurred thereon?

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

(b) As on 1.04.2002, 16559 km of track, 3000 nos. of Bridges and signalling gears at 1363 stations were due for replacement.

(c) Estimate cost for replacement of above assets would be approximately Rs. 18000 cr.

[English]

LPG for Vehicles

1747. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have since decided to make available imported LPG to vehicles in order to check pollution from the auto fuel filling stations;

(b) whether this facility would be available in the country;

(c) if so, whether the Government have worked out the pricing formula for the supply of L.P.G. to vehicles for different locations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the whole proposal is likely to be made operational?

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) Government have permitted the use of LPG as auto fuel since August, 2001.

(c) to (e) The pricing of auto LPG is market driven.

Shortage of Pipelines

1748. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL:
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "shortage of pipelines robs of Delhi of gas" appearing in the 'Times of India' dated June 17, 2002;

(b) if so, whether the laying of piped natural gas in Delhi is being delayed;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken and the period fixed by the Government to cover the entire capital by laying piped natural gas?

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) Yes, Sir. Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) has already developed infrastructure for supply of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) to 16,000 customers and have laid a pipeline network of 250 km. By March, 2003 IGL plan to develop infrastructure to cater about 22,000 customers.

As per the business plan of IGL, the number of PNG connections is expected to increase to about 20 lakh by 2020 subject to demand for such connections and availability of natural gas.

Crash of Aircraft

1749. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN:
SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of Indian Air Force Aircraft/Gliders crashed during each of the last three years, till date, place-wise;

(b) the loss of Revenue suffered by the Government due to such incidents of crashes during the said period;

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government to prevent such losses in future;

(d) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry on the frequent crashes of such Aircraft;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to prevent such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) (a) The details of the Indian Air Force aircraft crashed during the last three years. place-wise, is given in the enclosed Statement. IAF does not possess any gliders.

(b) The loss suffered by Government due to these crashes during the said period is Rs. 881.00 crores.

(c) to (f) After every accident, a Court of Inquiry (COI) is instituted and remedial measures are taken on the basis of the findings of COI. Various COI have identified Human Error (HE), Technical Defect (TD) and Bird Hit (BH) to be the major causes of accidents.

Several measures are being taken by the Government to bring down the accident rates, such as formulation of Accident Prevention Programme, Environmental Cleanliness, Bird Hazard Control, Conduct of Studies on Human Error and Technical Defects, and interaction with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited/Original Equipment Manufacturers.

Apart from this a High Powered Committee on Fighter Aircraft Accidents (COFAA) was also set up by the Government to study accidents. Most of the recommendations of the Committee have already been implemented.

Statement

The details of the Indian Air Force Aircraft crashed during the last three years place-wise:

State	Total no. of accidents	Place of accident
1	2	3
	Financial Year-1999-2000	
Jammu and Kashmir	03	Srinagar, Srinagar, Awantipur
Punjab	03	Amritsar, Pathankot, Adampur
Haryana	02	Sirsa, Ambala
Andhra Pradesh	03	Dundigal, Hakimpet, Hakimpet
Rajasthan	06	Jodhpur, Nal, Jaisalmer, Jaisalmer, Uttarlai, Jodhpur
Assam	04	Tezpur, Tezpur, Tezpur, Mohanbari
Uttar Pradesh	03	Sarsawa, Gorakhpur, Gorakhpur
Karnataka	01	Bidar

1	2	3
Union Territory Chandigarh	01	Chandigarh
Gujarat	01	Bhuj
Total	27	

Financial Year-2000-2001

Punjab	05	Halwara, Halwara, Pathankot, Halwara, Pathankot
Haryana	01	Ambala
Rajasthan	03	Jaisalmer, Nal, Uttarlai
Assam	05	Tezpur, Guwahati, Tezpur, Mohanbari, Mohanbari
Uttar Pradesh	03	Sarsawa, Sarsawa, Sarsawa
Karnataka	02	Bidar, Yelahanka
Gujarat	02	Naliya, Naliya
Union Territory Delhi	01	Palam
West Bengal	04	Kalaikunda, Kalaikunda, Hasimara, Hasimara
Total	26	

Financial Year-2001-02

Jammu and Kashmir	02	Srinagar, Leh
Punjab	07	Pathankot, Adampur, Pathankot, Pathankot, Adampur, Pathankot, Pathankot
Haryana	01	Ambala
Andhra Pradesh	02	Dundigal, Dundigal
Rajasthan	05	Suratgarh, Jodhpur, Suratgarh, Uttarlai, Uttarlai
Assam	01	Tezpur
Karnataka	01	Yelahanka
Tamil Nadu	01	Tambaram

Financial Year-2002-03 (up to 21st July, 2002)

State	Total no. of accidents	Place of accident
Jammu and Kashmir	01	Srinagar
Punjab	02	Adampur, Halwara
Haryana	02	Ambala, Sirsa
Rajasthan	02	Jodhpur, Nal
Assam	01	Tezpur
West Bengal	01	Bagdogra
Total	09	

Condition of Railway Bridges in Kerala

1750. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Railway over-bridges across Karamana River and Idichakkaplamoodu, near Parassala in Trivandrum-Nagarcoil sector is in a dangerous stage; and

(b) if so, the action, the Railway had taken to protect these bridges or construct new bridges in their places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) The left hand side at Trivandrum end of wing wall of Bridge No. 18 across Karamana river (at Railway Kilometerage 224/2-3 in Trivandrum-Nagercoil section having a span of 1 x 12.20m and 2 x 18.30m Girder) had some settlement due to erosion of foundation underneath the wing wall. Repair works to wing wall foundations had been attended by rail piling parallel to the wing wall and dumping boulders in between the rail piles and wing wall and there is no further settlement.

The existing bridge no. 116 (Road Over Bridge (ROB) at Idichakka Plamoodu) at Railway Kilometerage 246/16-17 in Trivandrum-Nagercoil section having a span of 2 x 9.15 & 1 x 6.10m is located over a cutting and this had been affected on account of land slide in this cutting. Provision of a Puckka ROB as been planned after dismantling the existing ROB.

Oil Wells Discovered by ONGC

1751. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of oil fields claimed to be discovered by ONGC during the last year and their status as on April 1, 2002;

(b) the number of oil fields out of them on offshore areas;

(c) the details of reserves anticipated;

(d) the time by which these fields are likely to be operated alongwith its cost; and

(e) the number of development wells required to be drilled in these fields in established areas?

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) During the year 2001-02, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) made seven new finds, out of which the one in Nazira in "Assam Shelf" onshore basin was an oil find; the other were gas finds. During the period, there were no oil finds by ONGC in offshore areas.

(c) to (e) The estimated ultimate hydrocarbon reserves in Nazira as on 1.4.2002 is 0.98 million metric tonnes of oil plus oil equivalent of gas (O+OEG). The discovery

needs further appraisal in order to establish its potential for development plan to be drawn up.

Teaching of Military History in Schools

1752. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether no attempts have yet been made to create confidence, enthusiasm, a sense of sacrifice, patriotism, national pride and love for the country among the younger generation and new cadres in the Armed Forces to defend the country;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to teach military history of India including major battles fought by national heroes in schools and colleges to create motivation and national pride among the people;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is also any proposal to use electronic media to spread the gallantry of the soldiers who fought valiantly during Indo-China War of 1962, Indo-Pak War of 1965 and 1971 and Kargil Conflict of 1999; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Regular and sustained efforts are made to inculcate a sense of patriotism, sacrifice and love for the country in the younger generation and motivate the new entrants into the Armed Forces.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Defence have no such proposal. However, military history of India and major battles fought have been part of school and college curricula.

(d) and (e) The gallantry of our valiant soldiers who fought for the motherland is depicted extensively on the electronic media to instill a sense of patriotism and inspiration amongst Indians. Each and every gallantry award function in Rashtrapati Bhavan and at the Republic Day Parade every year is broadcast on the electronic media. Besides this, the occasions like Kargil Vijay Diwas where the nation pays homage to the soldier who laid down his life fighting the Kargil War unmindful of death, are also aired on the electronic media. From time to time, features are presented on the electronic media on specific stories of heroism of the conflicts of 1962, 1965 and 1971.

Encouragement in Solar Energy in Andhra Pradesh

1753. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has encouragement entrepreneurs for manufacturing of energy fuel cells and solar systems;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government has decided to encourage industrialists for manufacturing of equipment to tap the vast resources of non-conventional renewable energy;

(d) if so, whether foreign based companies are offering fuel cells and its product to India;

(e) if so, whether this a new technology and indicate its usages;

(f) if so, whether the Government are considering to provide assistance and encouragement to the industry for such projects; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) to (c) Fuel cell technology is still at the research and development stage in the country. There are several manufacturers of solar systems in Andhra Pradesh. The State Government has exempted a number of solar products from sales tax. The normal incentives available for establishment of industrial units in the State are also available to renewable energy manufacturers.

(d) to (g) Fuel cell is a new technology. Fuel cells can be used for power generation and transport applications. There is at present no offer with the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources from foreign-based companies for fuel cells and their applications. The Ministry is providing financial support to research institutions and industries for the development and testing of fuel cells. Such assistance has been provided for the development of a 50 kW (2x25 kW) fuel cell power plant by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), Hyderabad.

[Translation]

Loan from Japan for Electrification

1754. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japan has provided any loan for electrification in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Japan is not providing any loan for electrification in Bihar at present. No Japanese loan for electrification in Bihar was provided during the Ninth Plan period.

[English]

Sanitation at Railway Stations

1755. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have completed any survey on the level of sanitation and hygiene at all major railway stations in the country;

(b) if so, the number of railway stations surveyed by the Railway;

(c) the parameters which are examined to determine the level of hygiene at railway stations in the country;

(d) whether any punitive measures will be implemented by the concerned administration to improve the environment at railway stations; and

(e) the steps being proposed by the Railway to improve the sanitary condition of railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Cleanliness being a continuous process, all endeavours are made by the Railways to maintain the standard of cleanliness at all Railway stations on Indian Railways. Regular checks regarding cleanliness are conducted by the officers/supervisors and corrective action is taken as deemed fit.

(c) The factors affecting maintenance of hygiene and cleanliness are the quantum and nature of passenger traffic and the number of trains dealt with at the station. The parameters are level of cleanliness of platforms and concourse, smell and odour, use of disinfectants etc.

(d) Suitable disciplinary action is taken against the staff who are found wanting in the performance of their duties for maintaining proper sanitation at the Railway stations.

(e) The various steps taken to improve the sanitary condition of Railway stations include strengthening of monitoring and supervision, besides introduction of 'Pay and Use' scheme of toilets, emphasis on mechanised cleaning processes, provision of washable aprons and additional dustbins, regular removal of garbage, spraying of insecticides, repairs to drains and education of public through various media. Special drives are also launched from time to time.

[Translation]

Connecting Port with Rail

1756. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:
SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to connect all major ports in the country with rail network:

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

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

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the progress made in implementing the said proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (e) All the major ports are already connected to the Broad Gauge Railway system.

Development of Solar and Wind Energy

1757. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to set up and develop Wind and Solar Thermal Energy Project in various areas of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the progress made in this sector so far; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the action plan of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Rajasthan State Power Corporation Ltd. (RSPCL), a Government of Rajasthan Undertaking, plans to set up a 140 MW Integrated Solar Combined Cycle Power Project at Mathania in Jodhpur district of the State. The project comprises a Solar Power component of 35 MW capacity based on parabolic trough collectors and a Combined Cycle component of 105 MW based on conventional fuel.

RSPCL also proposes to establish two wind farm projects of 25 MW capacity each in Western Rajasthan.

(c) and (d) All statutory clearances have been obtained and the Document for Request-for-Proposals has been issued by RSPCL to the qualified bidders of the solar thermal power project. RSPCL have tentatively estimated that the work order is likely to be issued by February 2003, with commencement of work by April 2003. The estimated project completion period is 36 months. Wind farm projects of 16.1 MW capacity have so far been installed in Jaisalmer, Jodhpur and Chhittorgarh districts of the State, comprising 6.4 MW from demonstration projects and 9.7 MW from commercial projects.

[English]

Small Hydro Power Project

1758. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether hydel projects between 3-25 MW capacity has been transferred from the Ministry of Power to the Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources (MNES);

(b) whether no organisation like NTPC and NHPC etc. has been created for testing of equipments, assessment of resources, verifying the veracity of the collected data, providing consultancy services to the developers and exclusive laboratory dedicated to the research and test facilities related to the small hydro power; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to provide the desired organisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The subject of small hydro between 3-25 MW capacity has been transferred from the Ministry of Power to the Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources (MNES) with effect from 29th November, 1999.

(b) and (c) No new organisation like NHPC, NTPC etc. has been created which is dedicated solely to the small hydro sector for testing, resource assessment, detailed survey and investigation, detailed project report preparation, providing consultancy services, research etc. However, specialized Central Public Sector Undertakings like NHPC, NEEPCO, NTPC, BBMB etc. are being involved from providing various technical services and for execution of small hydro projects. The Ministry is also encouraging various other technical institutions like IITs and RECs in the country to participate in various research, design and development activities relating to small hydro power.

Appointing of Enquiry Commissions at the Time of Train Accidents

1759. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are adopting simple way to keep the public mum by appointing enquiry commissions at the time of each and every train accident;

(b) whether the Government have tried to implement the valuable recommendations of the said enquiry commissions;

(c) the number of enquiry commissions set up by the Government to inquire the causes of train accidents and to suggest safety measures during the last three years;

(d) the details of recommendations made by each commission; and

(e) the extent to which the recommendations have been accepted and implemented?

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

(b) The recommendations of Inquiry Commissions are implemented after examination and acceptance by the Government.

(c) to (e) Three Commissions of Inquiry have been set up in the last three years. Of the three, Justice G.N. Ray Commission only has submitted its report. Out of 21

recommendations made by the Commission, 18 recommendations have since been accepted and are at various stages of implementation.

Power Crisis

1760. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the severe power crisis in the National Capital of Delhi;

(b) if so, the steps taken to remove the power crisis in Delhi; and

(c) the sources from which the funds are likely to be generated for enhancing the supply of power in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) During April-June, 2002, the power supply position in Delhi was by and large comfortable with marginal energy shortage of 1.7%. However, due to delayed monsoon and consequent increase in power requirement in Delhi, the energy shortage increased to 3.1% during the first fortnight of July, 2002. A meeting was taken by Secretary, Ministry of Power on 10th July, 2002 wherein it was decided to set up a task force under the Chairmanship of Chairman, CEA with members from Delhi Power Supply Company (TRANSCO) and Distribution companies to look into the problems relating to power supply in Delhi.

Further, in addition to special assistance provided to Delhi from different sources to meet its summer requirements, the following additional assistance was provided from Central Sources to further augment the availability of power in Delhi:

(i) Additional Allocation of 10% (22 MW) from Rajasthan Atomic Power Project-Unit 4 (220 MW) during off peak period.

(ii) Entire 15% unallocated quota (33 MW) from RAPP Unit-3 (220 MW) on round the clock basis, as a short term arrangement.

(iii) Additional allocation of 7.5 to 10% (59 MW-79 MW) from unallocated quota in the central Sector generating stations in Northern Region during peak off-peak period, as a short term arrangement.

(c) According to Delhi Power Supply Company Ltd. (TRANSCO) which is under the administrative control of Government of NCT of Delhi, funds for payment of power purchase to Delhi shall be provided by the Distribution companies and Government of NCT of Delhi in the form of loan assistance to the transmission Company (TRANSCO). Besides, Power Finance Corporation is providing assistance to Delhi Government for implementation of reforms in power sector.

Creation of New Zones

1761. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General called for reconsideration of the decision to create new zones and division from the point of view of financial viability; and

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

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

(b) In pursuance of Government's earlier decision to create new zones/divisions, it has been recently decided to operationalise seven new Zones and eight new Divisions. Notifications to this effect have been issued. Action Taken Note on the observation of the Comptroller and Auditor General is to be submitted.

IPO Proposals from IOC, BPCL and HPCL

1762. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Gvoernment have received Initial Public Offerings (IPO) proposals from IOCL, BPCL and HPCL to broadbase their respective equity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the proposed construction of new refineries by these OMCs and their approximate investments into those proposed ventures;

(d) whether the Government have given permission for the said proposals received from IOCL, BPCL and HPCL; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the expected results 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) Government have received a proposal from Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) to permit issue of fresh equity shares up to 10% of the existing paid up capital of the company. BPCL has submitted a proposal to the Government for a public issue of additional equity capital up to Rs. 50 crore in the domestic market.

(c) Details of the proposed investment in new refinery projects by IOCL, HPCL and BPCL are as follows:-

	Name of Refinery	Estimated Cost (Rs. in crores)
1.	Refinery project of IOCL at Paradip, Orissa.	8,312 (as on August 1999 prices)
2.	Refinery project of BPCL at Bina, MP.	6,354 (as on Sept. 2001 prices)
3.	Refinery Project of HPCL at Bhatinda, Punjab.	9,806 (as on June, 1998 prices)

(d) and (e) Regarding the above proposals for public issue of shares. no final decision has been taken by the Government.

Delay in Conclusion of Contract

1763. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CAG in its Report No. 7 of 2002 for the year ended March, 1999 brough out avoidable extra expenditure of Rs. 1.05 crore because of delayed conclusion of contract;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has examined the matter referred to it in August, 1999; and

(c) if so, the details of action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. However, the year of the report is 2000.

(b) and (c) The matter has been examined by the Ministry and it has been found that initially delay in finalisation of tender was due to heavy snowfall because of which safe bearing capacity and other properties of the soil could not be ascertained immediately. Later soil investigation report revealed very low bearing capacity not safe to construct the building. This alongwith geological findings that Dalhausie hills fall under shrinkage/sliding zone resulted in change of site and revision of structural designs/drawings. Further re-tendering had to be resorted to due to quoting of high rates and poor response from contractors. Thus the examination of the case reveals that delayed conclusion of contract was owing to many unavoidable circumstances and reasons for which no action is called for. Based on this an Action Taken Note was sent to DG Audit Defence Services, who has provisionally vetted it.

Fast Track Strategy

1764. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry has suggested a fast track strategy to revamp the functioning of the Railways through a series of measures aimed at increasing internal resource generation, rationalising fares and freight, scrapping of unviable project, funding for accelerated completion of remunerative projects and speedy renewal and replacement work;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government on the suggestions made by the ASSOCHAM;

(c) the number of projects identified by the Railways as unviable, zone-wise;

(d) the additional funds allocated for completion of remunerative projects and speedy renewal and replacement work during the current year; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to revamp the functioning of Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (e) Although Railways have not received any such proposals directly from ASSOCHAM, a news item has appeared in the print media, where suggestions have been made by ASSOCHAM to revamp the functioning of Railways through a series of measures aimed at increasing internal generations, rationalizing fares and freight, scrapping of unviable projects, funding for accelerated completion of remunerative projects and speedy renewal and replacement work.

The suggestions have been noted by the Ministry of Railways. A number of measures have been adopted for increasing internal resource generation like freight marketing and tariff rationalisation, reduction in internal cross-subsidy in passenger fares, cost-cutting measures and right-sizing of staff etc. In the last Railway Budget, a beginning has been made to rationalize the freight

structure by removing certain anomalies that had crept up in the course of time. A beginning has also been made to rationalize passenger fare for proper tariff rebalancing by modifying the taper in the fare structure to remove the existing anomalies and making other marginal changes in respect of minimum fares and rationalizing the relativity of fares of various classes. Additional funds to the tune of Rs. 898 crores were received from the General Exchequer for accelerated execution of specific works during 2001-02. A Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF) has been created for undertaking renewal and replacement of overaged assets within a fixed time frame.

All Railway projects are either financially viable or socially desirable and scrapping of any of these projects is not being considered at present.

Allocation of funds to various heads including to projects and for renewal and replacement work has been made in the Railway budget. Additional allocation of funds for projects and for replacement/renewal works will be made as per requirement and as per availability of resources during the course of the year.

Improvement of the Railway system is a continuous process. Indian Railways has a regular machinery for identifying areas requiring improvement in functioning and accordingly measures are taken after establishing their feasibility.

Indo-German Project In Karnataka

1765. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indo-German project on assessment of energy efficiency was launched in Karnataka in 1997;

(b) if so, whether the project has since been completed; and

(c) the highlights of this project and the extent to which it has helped the State to perform better in regard to power distribution and consumption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Indo-German Energy Efficiency Project (IGEEP) Phase-I was launched in May, 1995 and was completed in September, 2000. The project was implemented by the Energy Management Centre (now Bureau of Energy Efficiency) through Tata Energy Research Institute, Bangalore. This project was designed to create awareness on the rational use of energy techniques and technologies. The achievements of the project included completion of 29 comprehensive energy audits of industrial units; over 70% of the suggestion of the reports have been implemented by industrial units; 5 training programmes to impart practical energy audit for the personnel of the industry, 4 in-company training programmes and 1 top management workshop were organized for the industry; 16 industry specific energy audit manuals were prepared and disseminated; success stories in case of 16 projects implemented were disseminated in the form of flag brochures among the industrial units; equipment specific/ utility-wise manuals were prepared for 15 equipment and disseminated; 1 video film on the impact of energy management on the profit of the company was prepared; energy information service is being now marketed on a commercial basis. At present 40 members are availing the services.

For one rupee spent by the project, the client industrial unit invested Rs. 2 and saved Rs. 10 in energy cost. The project was thus, successful as it established that the industrial units were keen to implement financially attractive energy saving measures recommended in their energy audit reports.

The project targeted only consumption of energy in the industrial units and not distribution.

Bridge Across River Godavari

1766. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether railways has received a representation recently to preserve a bridge across the River Godavari;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. After receipt of representations from various representatives of public as well as that from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for preserving the old rail bridge at Kovvur-Rajahmundry over river Godavari, the Railways have 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.

Import and Export of Petroleum Products

1767. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI AMBAREESHA:

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

(a) the quantum of petroleum products exported during 2001-2002;

(b) the total foreign exchange earned by the export of these petroleum products during the same period;

(c) the total import of crude oil made during this period and foreign exchange spent thereon;

(d) the domestic crude oil production during this period; and

(e) the steps being taken to improve the export of petroleum products and also to reduce the import of crude oil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) 10.06 million metric tonnes of petroleum products were exported during 2001-02.

(b) 1,770 million US $ (Rs. 8,219 crore) was earned by export of these petroleum products.

(c) 78.70 million metric tonnes of crude oil was imported and a foreign exchange of 12,635 million US $ (Rs. 60,397 crore) was spent during 2001-02.

(d) During 2001-02 the domestic crude oil production was about 32 million metric tonnes.

(e) Steps have been taken to increase indigenous oil production, which includes the following;

(i) to improve the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes.

(ii) to increase exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

(iii) to explore in new areas, especially in deep water and difficult frontier areas, as also explore in the deeper layers of the producing fields.

(iv) 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.

[Translation]

Renewable Energy Programme

1768. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of programmes being implemented by his Ministry in Jharkhand and Bihar in regard to equipment lighting system being provided under the Renewable Energy Programme;

(b) the present criteria for acquiring lighting-equipment under the Renewable Energy Programme; and

(c) the number of Solar lantern and other equipment provided to the beneficiaries in Jharkhand and Bihar as on date under the said programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) to (c) The Ministry is implementing various renewable energy programmes, including the solar photovoltaic (SPV) programme all over the country including the States of Jharkhand and Bihar. The SPV programme supports the distribution and installation of solar energy based lighting systems like solar lanterns, home lighting systems, street lighting systems and power plants. The programme is implemented through the state renewable energy development agencies and a few non-governmental organizations (NGOs). These organizations either procure and distribute the lighting systems themselves or allow the eligible manufacturers to directly sell these systems to the users. The Ministry provides Central subsidy for the non-commercial users of these systems through these programme implementing organizations. The pattern of the financial assistance and the eligible categories of beneficiaries under the 2001-02 SPV programme are given in the enclosed statement. The guidelines for the 2002-03 programme are yet to be announced.

A total of 44,649 solar lanterns, 781 solar home lighting systems and 705 solar street lighting systems have been distributed/installd under this programme in Bihar and Jharkhand, as on 31st March 2002.

Statement

Pattern of Financial Assistance (FA) and Eligible Categories of Beneficiaries for 2001-2002 SPV Programme

A-Pattern of Financial Assistance (FA)

S.No.	SPV system	Central Subsidy	Service Charge
A1-For General Areas			
1.	Solar Lantern	Rs 1300/- (fixed)	Rs. 100/-
2.	Home Lighting Systems /Solar Home System	Rs. 5,500 or 50% of ex-works cost, whichever is less	Rs. 200/-
3.	Street Lighting System	Rs. 11,000 or 50% of ex-works cost, whichever is less	—
4.	Power Plants and other systems	Rs. 1,80,00/kWp of PV Array Capacity or 50% of the ex-works cost of the project, whichever is less	Rs. 10,000/-
A2-For North-Eastern Region, including Sikkim			
1.	Solar Lantern	Rs. 3,000/- or 90% of ex-works cost, whichever is less	Rs. 100/-
2.	Home Lighting/ Solar Home System	Rs. 10,000/- or 90% of ex-works cost, whichever is less	Rs. 200/-
3.	Street Lighting System	Rs. 20,000 or 90% of ex-works cost, whichever is less	—
4.	Power Plants and other Community Systems	Rs. 3,50,000/kWp of PV array Capacity or 90% of ex-works cost, which ever is less	Rs. 10,000/ (for power plants)

B-Eligible Categories of Beneficiaries for Central Subsidy

SPV System	Eligible Category of Beneficiaries
Solar Lanterns	All Categories of individual beneficiaries and non profit institutions/organizations. No. individual would be given more than one solar lantern.
Home Lighting Systems/ Solar Home Systems	All Categories of individual beneficiaries and 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.
SPV Power Plants/ Other Systems	All categories of non-commercial institutions/ organizations State Nodal Agencies, Electricity Boards, Panchayats, Zilla Parishads and DRDAs.

[English]

Setting up of Power Plants During 10th and 11th Plan

1769. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of power plants and Hydel power to be set up during 10th and 11th Five Year Plan both in Central and State Sector;

(b) whether Damodar Valley Corporation has got the clearance from Central Electricity Authority for setting up of Durgapur Steel Plant TPS and Maithon left bank TPS; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The Central Electricity Authority has estimated that in order to have "power on demand by 2012", an additional capacity of about 1,00,000 MW is required. For the 10th Five Year Plan (2002-07), the target is 41,000 MW, details of which are as follows:

(Fig. In MW)

	Hydro	Thermal	Nuclear	Total
Central Sector	8,742	12,790	1,300	22,832
State Sector	4,481	6,676	0	11,157
Private Sector	1,170	5,941	0	7,121
Overall	14,393	25,407	1,300	41,110

For the 11th Five Year Plan, a tentative capacity of about 66,000 MW is required to be added to meet the demand projections made by 16th Electric Power Survey.

(b) and (c) The Detailed Project Report (DPR) for setting up of the Durgapur Steel Plant Thermal Power Station (2x500 MW) of Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) was received in the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) on 18.7.2002 for techno-economic clearance. The DPR for the Maithon Left Bank Canal project (1000 MW) of DVC has not been received in the CEA so far for techno-economic appraisal.

Indication of Arrival time and the Destination on its Computerised Reservation Tickets

1770. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under the consideration of the Government to introduce a new scheme to indicate the scheduled arrival time at the destination alongwith the scheduled departure time, which is already available, of the train in the computerised reservation tickets in order to apprise the passenger full and additional information of the journey;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the date from which such additional information would be provided in the computerised reservation tickets; 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) Due to the constraint of print space in the computerised tickets and application software, it is not feasible to print the arrival time.

[Translation]

Power Shortage in Maharashtra Due to Technical Fault

1771. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a severe power crisis had taken place in Maharashtra and neighbouring States due to technical fault in the Western grid on May 23, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry was conducted or is being conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken or being taken to prevent such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Two partial grid disturbances occurred in Western Regional Grid one at 0613 hours and the other at 0854 hours on 23rd May, 2002 affecting power supply in Western Maharashtra.

The Western Regional grid was operating in alert condition due to non-availability of 400 kV Chandrapur-Parli triple circuits, 400 kV Jabalpur-Itarsi circuits I & II, 220 kV Korba (E)-Bhilai single circuit (s/c) and 220 kV Raipur-Bhatapara single circuit (s/c) because of tower collapses caused by cyclone storm on 15th/17th May, 2002. In addition, 400 kV Dhule-Kasor s/c and HVDC Chandrapur-Padghe Pole 2 were out prior to the

disturbances. Non-availability of the lower 400 kV corridor in MSEB system, coupled with outages of other important lines mentioned above, resulted in major transmission constraints in flow of power from eastern part to western part of the grid. Existence of low voltage conditions in the early hours of 23.05.2002 coupled with the morning load getting incident on the system caused voltage instability and power swings resulting in tripping of transmission lines and consequently grid disturbances. On the first occasion i.e. 0613 hours, the western grid split into two parts and one part collapsed causing power interruption in western Maharashtra area. On the second occasion i.e. 0854 hours, the Western Grid split into five parts. The areas in Western Maharashtra and North Mumbai were affected. The power supply to Goa was also affected on both the occasions. However, Goa managed its demand from supply from Southern Region at reduced level.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. An enquiry committee was constituted by Central Electricity Authority under the Chairmanship of member Secretary, Western Regional Electricity Board with members from MSEB, WRLDC and WREB. The Committee has submitted its report to Central Electricity Authority.

(e) The Committee has made a set of recommendations to avoid the recurrence of such disturbances and improve the security of the grid which *inter-alia* include the following important recommendations:

(i) Shunt capacitors should be installed as per targets given by study committee of WREB and the targets set by the task force on HT shunt capacitor.

(ii) Grid discipline is maintained at all times specially during alert state of operations.

(iii) Generating units should be put on Free Governor Mode of Operation (FGMO).

(iv) The operating frequency should be maintained as stipulated in Indian Electricity Grid Code i.e., 49.0-50.5 Hz by carrying out necessary load shedding and proper operational planning.

(v) Disturbance recorders and Sequence Event recorders should be provided at all 400 kV sub-stations and kept in operative condition with time synchronization with NPL/GPS signal.

[English]

Non-Discovery of Hydrocarbons

1772. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the causes of the non-discovery of the hydrocarbons at many places have been ascertained; and

(b) if so, the extent to which the reasons for shortage of rigs are responsible in non-discovery of hydrocarbons?

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) Causes of non-discovery of hydrocarbons are always analysed and ascertained by the National Oil Companies (NOCs) and private/joint venture companies. Usually, shortfall in hydrocarbon accretion may not be entirely due to shortfall in drilling. However, in the Life-Cycle Concept of exploration in a basin, a series of failure may dampen the tempo of exploration in that particular phase in the basin, since it requires review of Geological and Geo-physical data afresh to modify the strategy and approach for further exploration under prevailing fiscal regime. Other factors like land acquisition, environmental and sub-surface conditions prevailing in few areas may also affect the exploratory activities.

Decline in Freight Market Share

1773. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether inter-modal freight market share of the railways has decline from 90% in 1950-51 to about 40% today;

(b) whether most of this traffic is now going on roads;

(c) whether this has greatly affected the viability of the railways; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to counter this decline in share of inter-modal freight traffic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (d) Although definite data in respect of Railways' share in transportation is not available, it is a fact that the Railways' market share has declined over the years, which has affected the revenue generation of the Railways. However, in absolute terms, freight traffic carried by the Railways has registered a steady growth as would be evident from the figures given below:

Year	Originating Tonnage (in Million Tonnes)	Net Tonne Kilometres (NTKMs in millions)
1950-51	73.2	37565
1960-61	119.8	7333
1970-71	167.9	110696
1980-81	195.9	147652
1990-91	318.4	235785
2000-01	473.5	312371
2001-02 (Provisional)	492.31	331874

Railways as a means of transport, are most suitable to carry bulk traffic in train loads which is primarily offered by the core sector. Some of the factors for the decline in Railways' market share are:-

(i) the changing profile of the economy,

(ii) development of alternative modes of transport like coastal shipping and pipelines,

(iii) construction of power plants at pitheads,

(iv) certain anomalies that have crept into the freight structure.

Railways, being fully conscious of the changing scenario, have been taking initiatives and evolving strategies not only to arrest the decline in market share but to bring about growth in Railway's share in transportation.

Freight Services

Strategy to augment capacity include:-

- De-bottlenecking of the golden quadrilateral and its diagonals, which carry about 65% of the traffic and is saturated.
- Doubling of congested single line sections.
- Strengthening connectivity to ports.
- Reducing speed differential between passenger and freight trains with introduction of high speed (100 kmph) wagons.
- Progressive production of high horse power locomotives to enable running of freight trains at 100 kmph.
- Introducing improved signalling on saturated sections.
- Strengthening of track infrastructure for introduction of high-speed wagons.

Together with increase in capacity, improvement in quality of service is also seen as an essential component to optimize market share. The initiatives taken in this direction include:-

- Providing complete logistic solutions to clients through private participation in terminal management.
- Reduction of transit time.
- Strengthening of multi-modal infrastructure as international container traffic has been growing rapidly and is expected to grow further in future.
- Freight operation information system to ensure on line tracking of cargo. Phase-I (Rake Management System) of the project has been completed and Phase-II on the Terminal Management System is expected to run up by 2003.
- Computerized simulation techniques are being developed as Long Range Decision Support System (LRDSS) to identify capacity constraints and determine specific needs for development of Railway infrastructure.

In addition to above measures, initiative has also been taken to remove certain anomalies that have crept into the freight structure due to ad hoc changes in freight rate.

[Translation]

Adverse Effect of T.V. Serials on Children

1774. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:
SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the adverse effects of T.V. Serials due to which some children have lost their lives;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to ban such T.V. Serials;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the fact that many companies are

taking recourse to advertisements in the name of religion; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to check such advertisements?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The Ministry has not received such a complaint in the recent past. Doordarshan telecasts its programmes as per the provisions of its Broadcast Code, which permits telecast of programmes suitable for family viewing. Prasar Bharati has informed that as per their guidelines, no programme which involves or incites children to acts of violence, either as victims or as perpetrators, are telecast on Doordarshan. The programmes of all channels transmitted through cable network are governed by the Programme Code prescribed under the Cable Television (Regulation) Act, 1995, which also contains suitable provisions to address these concerns.

(d) and (e) Prasar Bharati has intimated that Doordarshan does not telecast any such advertisements. Advertisements telecast on television channels and re-transmitted through Cable TV Network, are required to adhere to the Advertisement Code prescribed in the Cable Television (Regulation) Act, 1995 which *inter-alia* prohibits advertisements, the objects whereof, are wholly or mainly of a religious nature, and directed towards any religious end. The Government has constituted an Inter-ministerial Committee to take cognizance, suo moto or on specific complaints regarding violations of the Advertisement Code.

[English]

Railway Projects

1775. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether only such projects were to be taken up in hand as could be completed within the funds available but the railways added thousands of other projects to the already going on projects during 1992-93 to 1996-97;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether those projects are still pending execution for want of money and other factors as given in para 5.3 of C&AG Report 9 of 1998 on page 176;

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal to order an investigation into the starting of new projects for which the railway board did not have the required funds and to fix responsibility and accountability of the officials concerned; and

(e) the steps taken to complete the execution of the pending projects on priority basis?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) All ongoing Railway projects are being progressed as per availability of resources.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) All ongoing projects are being progressed as per availability of funds. Details of individual projects are available in the Railway's Budget Papers. The dates of completion of these projects will depend upon the availability of funds on a year to year basis.

Report of Consultant Committee

1776. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received the report of Consultant Committee on Central Power Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made by the Committee in their report;

(c) whether the Government have examined the report;

(d) if so, the details of recommendations accepted and implemented by the Government; and

(e) the extent to which the Power Sector Undertakings have been strengthened thereafter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) 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. 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. Some of the CPSUs have decided

to explore the possibility of entering the capital market with a public issue of equity.

Profits of ONGC

1777. SHRI P. D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has recorded highest ever profit for 2001-2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the list of business adventures of ONGC, during 2001-2002 and 2002-2003, priority-wise;

(d) whether the Government have any plan to establish any new off-shore or coastal oil exploration and exploitation units in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Profit After Taxes of about Rs. 6197 crores, during the year 2001-02, was highest ever achieved.

(c) As a Navratna PSU, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) takes all its business decisions prudently on techno-commercial and strategic considerations.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of reply to (d) above.

Multi-Point Ticket Counters in Vijayawada

1778. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether railways have taken a decision to have multi-point ticket sales for reservation at various places in the city of Vijayawada;

(b) if so, the details of such a plan to have multi-point ticket counters in Vijayawada in South Central Railways;

(c) the steps being taken by railways to improve the railway commercial activities in Vijayawada;

(d) if so, the schedule for completion of such work;

(e) whether there is a proposal to involve unemployed youth in such work; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. In Vijayawada, reserved tickets are sold through two computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS) centers. However, five Rail Travellers' Service Agents (RTSAs) have been appointed in Vijayawada who have been authorized to purchase tickets from these PRS centers on behalf of passengers by standing in queue like a normal passenger an after realization of prescribed service charges from the passengers.

(c) and (d) Improvement in commercial related activities is an on-going process which is carried out based on need and as per prescribed procedure.

(e) No Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Electrification of Villages

1779. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have claimed electrification of 5,08,515 villages by March 2002;

(b) if so, the remaining villages yet to be electrified;

(c) the time by which the remaining villages are likely to be electrified; and

(d) the steps being taken to see that actual figures are provided in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) According to Central Electricity Authority's data, 5,09,053 villages have been declared electrified as on 31.3.2002 leaving a balance of 77,749 feasible villages for electrification.

(c) The priorities for village electrification have been determined by the State Electricity Boards who own and operate the distribution system and also on the policy directions of the concerned State Governments. However, the Chief Ministers Conference held on 3rd March, 2001 had resolved to complete village electrification by the end of 10th Plan i.e. by 2007. In order to attain this objective, rural electrification has been treated as a Basic Minimum

Service and has been included under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) from the year 2001-02. During 2001-02 the Government has released the following amounts to the State Governments for Rural Electrification Works:-

1.	PMGY	Rs. 412.236 crores
2.	Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) (To the eligible States)	Rs. 175.00 crores

During 2002-03, the Planning Commission have made the following allocation:

1.	PMGY	Rs. 2747.00 crores*
2.	MNP	Rs. 600.00 crores

*As regards PMGY, the allocation is for all the six components including rural electrification. Under the revised guidelines formulated by the Planning Commission, the States have the flexibility to decide the interse allocation among the six PMGY sectors as per their own plan priority and discretion.

(d) States have been requested to furnish the list of exact number of villages that are electrified along with the census code, besides preparing an Action Plan for electrification of villages for the 10th Plan.

Grant for NCES

1780. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to allow 90% grant and 10% loan for Non-conventional sources of Energy in the Sunderban areas of West Bengal as well as in some inaccessible areas in the country, where conventional power is not possible;

(b) if so, the recommendations of Planning Commission in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) Central Financial Assistance in the form of grants to the extent of 90% is already being provided for North Eastern States and Sikkim. Suggestions have been made for extending similar Central Financial Assistance to other Special Category States identified by the Planning Commission and certain other remote and inaccessible regions in the country, including Sunderbans area of West Bengal.

(b) and (c) No specific recommendation has been received from Planning Commission to allow 90% grant and 10% loan for Non-Conventional Sources of Energy in the Sunderbans area of West Bengal and in certain other inaccessible areas in the country.

Pruning of Popular Programmes

1781. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether some serials and other popular programmes have either been discontinued or pruned by the Doordarshan during the last three years;

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

(c) whether these serials or popular programmes were found commercially unviable;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government to protect the interest of those producers who have prepared educative programmes dealing with the upliftment of the Indian society but have little commercial viability?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan did not discontinue any popular serial/programme. All the serials either completed their run according to the sanctioned episodes or dropped out on their own due to withdrawal of support by their sponsor (s), non-payment of dues to Doordarshan, conflict with their agency etc.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) Prasar Bharati has informed that programmes which are educative and serve some public purpose are given a 25% concession in the telecast fee.

[Translation]

AIR Linked with INSAT

1782. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:
SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA:

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

(a) the names of Akashvani Kendra Uplinked with INSAT till date;

(b) the benefits occurred from uplinking the said Kendras with Satellite;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to uplink all the Akashvani Kendras of the country with INSAT; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Following Akashvani Kendras have uplinked facility with INSAT:

(1) Delhi (2) Chennai (3) Kolkata (4) Mumbai (5) Srinagar (6) Trivandrum (7) Bangalore (8) Ahmedabad (9) Bhopal (10) Shillong (11) Patna (12) Guwahati (13) Cuttack (14) Lucknow (15) Hyderabad (16) Jaipur (17) Itanagar (18) Aizwal (19) Kohima (20) Shimla.

(b) The uplink facilities at National Capital Delhi and the State Capitals enable distribution of National/Regional News and programmes produced at these locations, through satellite to other AIR Stations in the country/ States for relay.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

LPG Dealers in Tamil Nadu

1783. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to make newly started LPG distributors/dealers in Tamil Nadu to reach viability in market and to curb monopoly in LPG Sales;

(b) whether the Government have taken any action on certain established dealers of LPG in Tamil Nadu about their non-compliance of Government orders to transfer LPG connections to newly started LPG agencies;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) the total number of LPG connections with established LPG dealers in Tamil Nadu (having more than 20,000 LPG connections) and their refill cylinder sales during the last three years, month-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) Government have advised Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) for closure of extension counters operated by old distributors and transfer of customers to the newly commissioned distributors. In saturated markets, the customers are required to be transferred on the basis of viability limit of various markets.

(b) and (c) OMCs have reported that there is no such instance where the Government directions have not been complied.

(d) At present, 54 LPG distributors of OMCs in Tamil Nadu are having more than 20,000 customers. The refill sales of these distributors have been in the range of 40%-70% of their total customers strength during the last three years.

Development of First Aid Kits

1784. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the DRDO has developed new First Aid kits to treat nuclear injuries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the cost of development of such kits;

(d) whether any test was conducted regarding efficacy of such kits;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether similar kits are also developed in other countries; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

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

(c) to (e) Does not arise.

(f) and (g) To the best of our knowledge, no such kit is available with other countries.

Retail Outlet at Badli in Haryana

1785. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have intimated the IOCL regarding the cancellation of selection of first empanelled candidate for awarding its retail outlet at Badli District Jhajjar;

(b) if so, the time by which the IOCL shall complete selection process by preparing the field investigation report of the next candidate; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The decision of the Government for cancellation of the selection of the first-empanelled candidate for the retail outlet dealership of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) at Badli, Distt. Jhajjar, Haryana, has been conveyed to IOC, with the advice that further action may be taken as per the policy guidelines.

[Translation]

Installation of Ground Sensors

1786. SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI JAI PRAKASH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to install ground sensors to check infiltration from the line of control and International border;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard and the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

(d) the names of the countries from which these sensors are likely to be procured?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Unattended Ground Sensors are already being deployed by the Government along the Line of Control and International Border in Jammu and Kashmir to assist troops in detecting infiltration. The sensors have been deployed in considerable numbers. They are being procured indigenously.

[English]

Inclusion of Kutch District Under APDP

1787. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to cover Kutch district under the special category scheme of 90% grant and 10% loan as against the normal pattern of assistance;

(b) if so, whether any request from the State Government has been received in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The Principal Secretary, Energy and Petrochemical Department of the Government of Gujarat, vide his letter dated February 5, 2001 had requested for restoration of the power supply in the earthquake affected areas in Kutch District and requested that funds for rebuilding the sub-transmission and distribution network in Kutch District may be provided under the Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) under special dispensation. The Government of India has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 96.00 crores as financial assistance under APDP, for Bhuj in Kutch District, with 50% grant and 50% loan. The Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) now known as the Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme (APDRP) was introduced in February, 2000 with the focused objective of initiating a financial turnaround in the performance of the state owned power utilities. The scheme does not cover natural calamities. As of now, APDRP does not provide for areas affected by natural calamities under special category. This has wider ramifications and would require consultation/ concurrence of the concerned Ministries/Departments of the Government of India.

[Translation]

Prices of Petroleum Products

1788. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

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

(a) whether the Government have formulated any basic mechanism for determining the prices of products of oil companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for adopting this mechanism;

(c) whether the Government have felt the need to improve the existing basic mechanism for determining the prices of oil products; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) With the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism effective Ist April 2002, the pricing of all petroleum products, except for PDS kerosene and domestic LPG, which continue to be subsidized products, has been decontrolled. The public sector oil companies are now fixing the prices of these products after taking into account the prevalent international oil prices.

[English]

Bids for Exploration of Oil and Gas Under NELP

1789. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have invited bids for exploration of oil and gas under the new exploration licensing policy;

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

(c) the last date for receiving bids?

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) To intensify efforts for exploration of oil and gas in the country, Government, under the third round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), have offered 27 exploration blocks under the International Competitive Bidding (ICB). These include 11 onland blocks falling in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Tripura and West Bengal, 9 Deep Water Blocks and 7 shallow water blocks, located on both East and West Coasts. The Notice Inviting Offers for these blocks was announced on the 28th March, 2002 with the bid closing date of 28th August, 2002.

[Translation]

Price Fixation Formula on Sale of Crude Oil to Refineries

1790. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

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

(a) whether a price fixation formula has been devised to sell domestic crude oil to oil refineries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the implementation of formula has resulted in some differences between the sellers and buyers of oil;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Gvoemment played any role in solving the said differences; 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) to (f) With the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism effective 1st April 2002, the pricing of indigenous crude oil produced by the public sector oil companies has been decontrolled. These companies are in the process of finalizing the terms and conditions of the sale of crude oil produced by them with the public sector oil refining companies.

[English]

Increase in Price of Transportation of Gas

1791. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Limited has sought the permission for increasing the price of transporting the gas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) GAIL have sought increase in HBJ transportation charges on account of increase in fuel cost due to increase in gas price, adjustment of price inflation due to increase in consumer price index etc. No decision in the matter have been taken by the Government.

[Translation]

Kidnapping of Fishermen

1792. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some pirates have kidnapped the 22 fishermen in the Bay of Bengal as reported in the *Dainik Jagran* dated June 16, 2002;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to get the Bay of Bengal freed from pirates?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) On 15th June, 2002, District Magistrate 24 Parganas informed that some fishermen had been kidnapped from 60 miles into the sea, off Sagar Island. On 16th June, 2002, a Coast Guard Dornier was launched from Kolkata which flew low over the suspected area. Later, police authorities confirmed that the kidnappers fled when they sighted the Coast Guard Aircraft, leaving the kidnappers behind. A close vigil is being kept by Coast Guard, over the area by increased infrastructure in Haldia and Kolkata to prevent such incidents in the future.

[English]

Popularisation of NCES

1793. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a well thought plan to develop popularity for use of non-conventional energy;

(b) the extent to which the Government sought public cooperation and participation;

(c) the methods being used to create better awareness amongst the public;

(d) whether NGOs are being used to help enter into public activities in this field; and

(e) if so, the kind of cooperation being done with NGOs in making non-conventional energy popular?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry is implementing various schemes to develop popularity for use of non-conventional energy in the country.

(b) and (c) Public cooperation and participation is sought through organization of exhibitions, trade fairs, competitions, seminars, etc. Electronic, print, exhibitions and outdoor media involving Radio programmes, advertisements in newspapers, publicity materials, mobile exhibition vans, hoardings/kiosks/bus back panels, song and drama, etc. are used to create better awareness amongst the public. Besides, Energy Parks for demonstrating use of various non-conventional energy systems and divices, business meets, conferences & seminars are also supported.

(d) and (e) NGOs are involved in implementation, training and publicity of the non-conventional energy systems and devices. Financial support for these activities is provided to the NGOs.

Reduction in Rail Fares

1794. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have taken note of the recent reduction in airfares;

(b) if so, whether the Railways apprehend diminishing patronage for its prestigious Rajdhani trains the fare on which for First Class AC works out to be costlier than air fares;

(c) if so, whether the Railways propose to fall in line with the airlines in so far as the viability of continuing Rajdhani services; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

News-Item Dated 10 June, 2002

1795. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Trains at seven times" the speed of sound appearing in the 'The Hindu' dated 10 June, 2002;

(b) if so, whether the Railways have also taken cognizance of such developments being taken place in the changing face of passengers rail travel in the world;

(c) whether any research work has been done by railways engineers in this field; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) Indian Railways are aware of various developments taking place in the field of Railway Technology, including that of high speed trains, in the world. However, no research work has so far been initiated by Indian Railway engineers in the field of trains with speed in excess of speed of sound.

Selection of Location of RO's

1796. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for giving free hand to the four public sector corporations regarding the selection of location of retail outlets, selection of dealers, reconstitution, resitement etc.;

(b) whether the Government have still restrained these oil corporations to expand their trade volumes by increasing their number of retail outlets;

(c) if so, the motive/objective behind imposing unnecessary restrictions on these oil companies; and

(d) the time by which the Government will provide freedom in the working of these corporations?

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) In order to provide the commercial freedom to the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), in the wake of dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism w.e.f. 1.4.02, the Government has since dissolved the Dealer Selection Boards. The job of selection dealers/distributors of petroleum products will now be undertaken by the OMCs themselves. Also, the OMCs have freedom to select locations for retail outlet dealerships, provided that the locations meet certain norms like commercial viability and non-encroachment of the existing retail outlets. Powers have also been delegated to the OMCs for resitement of retail outlets other than those from low service/remote areas and the monopoly markets, which are not covered by National/State Highway and where there is no other retail outlet within a radius of 10 KMs. The Government have also delegated the powers, subject to certain norms, for reconstitution of retail outlet dealerships to the OMCs.

[Translation]

Issue of Free Passes for Travel by Rail

1797. SHRI MANSINH PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of free passes for travel by rail issued since the coming into power of the new Government;

(b) the State-wise details thereof;

(c) whether no action is taken on the letters of the Members of Parliament for issuing free passes and their letters are not even replied to; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the Governments reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Since the coming into power of the new Government, four complimentary card passes under discretionary powers of Minister for Railways have been renewed, 2 for Bharat Scouts and Guides, Delhi and 2 for Missionaries of Charity, Calcutta.

(c) and (d) In view of the need for austerity and economy, no complimentary card pass under discretionary powers of the Minister of Railways has been issued/ renewed since 15.11.1999. Keeping in line with the extant policy of not issuing/renewing complimentary card passes under discretionary powers of the Minister of Railways, requests received for issue of complimentary card pass are, generally, not processed further.

[English]

Agreement Between ONGC and Reliance Industries

1798. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement had been signed between the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and the Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) for the mega Gas Cracker Project in Assam in May this year;

(b) if so, the terms of the agreement; and

(c) the reasons for delay and the manner in which the difficulties and the issues resolved therein?

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 discussion between Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited and Reliance Assam Petrochemicals Limited (RAPL) on Gas Sales Agreement (GSA) have since been concluded. However, no formal agreement has been signed between the parties. The terms of the proposed agreement broadly will be:

(i) agreement will be for a period of 15 years.

(ii) for the period 2005-06 to 2011-12 1.35 Million Standard Cubic Meter Per Day (MMSCMD) quantity of gas will be supplied.

(ii) for the period 2012-13 to 2019-20, 1.00 MMSCMD quantity of gas will be supplied.

(c) There were technical details which required to be sorted out. Further, about 436 clauses in the agreement needed to be agreed to by both the parties. After protracted discussions, agreement on most of the clauses have been reached between the parties. 10 clauses on which no agreement was reached have since been settled by the intervention of the Government.

Installation of Petrol Pumps by Oil Companies

1799. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have permitted and authorized the existing public sector companies and new private sector oil companies to install their petrol pumps at locations selected by themselves;

(b) if so, whether the four oil PSUs already retailing transportation fuels are also authorized to prepare their marketing strategies with a view to face the competition to private companies;

(c) if not, whether it would not give unnecessary advantage to the private oil companies on the cost of the public sector companies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) After the dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) with effect from 1st April, 2002, Government have permitted two private companies to set up their own Retail Outlets for marketing the transportation fuels. In the de-regulated scenario, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) as well as private companies are free to set up Retail Outlets at the locations keeping in view their commercial considerations. However, to maintain the availability of product in remote and low service areas, the monitoring of setting up of Retail Outlets by these companies is required by the Government or the proposed Petroleum Regulatory Board.

Proposals Submitted by IWG

1800. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the IWG has submitted some proposals to the Government with a view to face the emerging competition from the private players;

(b) it so, whether the approval on such proposals is still required keeping in view the different Government notifications on the deregulation of petroleum sector; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Government have not received any such proposal from the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies.

Election in Jammu and Kashmir

1801. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the time by when the elections in Jammu and Kashmir are likely to be conducted;

(b) the details of steps being taken by Election Commission to conduct free and fair elections in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(c) the other steps the Government propose to take in getting the free and fair elections in the State?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) The Election Commission of India has informed that it has not yet decided on the programme for general election to the Legislative Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir.

(b) and (c) The conduct of elections to Legislative Assemblies and Parliament is the sole responsibility of the Election Commission of India. The steps taken by the Election Commission on its own/in consultation with the Central Government/State Government of Jammu and Kashmir in respect of conduct of free and fair elections in Jammu and Kashmir are summarized below:-

1. Making available to all concerned in the State clean, legible, computerized electoral rolls of high accuracy, which would form the basis for the electorate to cast their votes. The electoral rolls of all the 87 assembly constituencies in the State have been computerized in Urdu and copies thereof distributed, free of cost, to all recognized political parties as well as to all those registered unrecognized political parties in the State which have legislative presence i.e. which have even one representative in the Legislative Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir.

2. Using electronic voting machines in all the polling stations. Provision of voting through the electronic voting machines has also been extended to the Kashmiri Pandit voters stationed in camps in Jammu and Delhi.

3. Rationalizing the situation of polling stations by dispersing and locating them as far as practicable at the locations indicated in the lists of polling stations as available in the electoral rolls of 1998, subject to the changes approved by the Commission, so that not more than 3 polling stations are housed in one building and by and large no voter has to traverse more than 2 Kilometers to reach his polling station.

4. Issuing directions to the law and order authorities to ensure that there is a measure of equity amongst recognized political parties in getting security cover so that their election campaign can take place on an equitable basis. For this purpose, on the request of the Election Commission, the Union Government has directed the State Government to provide security cover, at the State cost, to one leader of each recognized National and State Party in each of the Districts in the valley and in the Districts of Doda, Rajouri, Poonch and Jammu.

5. Issuance of special Photo Identity Cards to voters in the State. The Election Commission, in view of the security implications of these cards, has entrusted to the India Security Press, Nasik, the task of preparing pre-formatted, pre-numbered photo identity cards on special security paper on which the elector's photograph furnished by him would be affixed and the card laminated and issued to him.

6. Generation of voters slips, through computerization of electoral rolls, on household basis for the voters in the State and issuance thereof to them at their door steps.

7. Sending senior civil servants with known capabilities, proven track record and dynamism as Observers to oversee the election process in the State.

[Translation]

Corruption in Purchasing

1802. SHRI MANSINH PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of scams unearthed in procuring the goods in various divisions of Indian Railways during the last three years;

(b) the quantity and types of goods seized alongwith the cost thereof;

(c) the number of persons found guilty and the action taken against them;

(d) the persons against whom action is yet to be taken alongwith the dates of action initiated; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to prevent recurrence of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) No scams have been unearthed in procuring the goods in various Divisions of Indian Railways during the last three years.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) Does not arise. However, Railways vigilance carries out regular preventive checks in the area of procurement of goods by Divisions. Appropriate system improvements are undertaken to prevent recurrence of irregularities in this area, if any.

Instalment of Metro Channels

1803. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representations from the State Governments, including Maharashtra for installing Metro Channel transmitters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken or being taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the time by which these transmitters are likely to be made functional?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati have informed that requests for establishment of Metro channel transmitters have been received from the Governments of Karnataka, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh during the last 3 years. No request for establishment of Metro channel transmitters has been received from Government of Maharashtra, but a request for establishment of HPT at Pandharpur, had been received in May, 2001.

(c) and (d) At present, there are 123 Metro channel transmitters functioning in the country. For further expansion of Metro channel coverage, 47 transmitter projects are under implementation in various parts of the country, including the following 10 transmitters in Maharashtra:

(i) HPTs-Pune and Aurangabad.

(ii) LPTs-Nasik, Amravati, Kolhapur, Sangli, Malegaon, Akola, Nanded and Dhule.

The above mentioned projects are expected to be completed in phases during 2002 and 2003.

[English]

Sale of LPG by ONGC

1804. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the decision of the ONGC to sell LPG to customers directly will have any impact on other oil companies; and

(b) it so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Government have not given any permission to ONGC to market LPG directly to customers.

Petrol Retail Policy

1805. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "APM gone, but where is petrol retail policy?" appearing in the *Pioneer* dated June 11, 2002;

(b) if so, whether after the dismantling of APM, the oil companies are not having any clear cut retail pricing policy of petroleum products;

(c) if so, the impact on consumers due to non-presence of retail policy; and

(d) the time by which a clear cut retail pricing policy of petroleum products is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) With the dismantling of the APM, the pricing of all petroleum products, except for PDS kerosene and domestic LPG, which continue to be subsidized products, has been decontrolled. The oil companies are fixing the price of petrol and diesel after taking into account the prevalent international oil prices.

While, post APM, the normal fluctuations in the international oil market would get reflected in the domestic consumer prices, in the case of excessive volatility, the Government would make the appropriate duty adjustments to partially contain the impact of such volatility on the consumer prices. The Government reduced the excise duty rate by 2% on petrol and diesel effective 4th June 2002 to contain such impact on the price of these products.

12.02 hrs.

[English]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA): Sir, on behalf of Shri George Fernandes, I beg to lay on the Table copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and the Department of Defence Production and Supplies, Ministry of Defence, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-5857/2002]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Delhi Advocates' Welfare Fund Rules, 2001 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. F.2/19 Lit./01/543 in Delhi Gazette dated 25th January, 2002, under sub-section (1) of section 37 of the Advocates' Welfare Fund Act, 2001.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-5858/2002]

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): On behalf of Shrimati Vasundhara Raje, I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under article 323 (1) of the Constitution:—

(i) Fifty-First Annual Report of the Union Public Service Commission, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.

(ii) Memorandum explaining reasons for non-acceptance of the advice of the Union Public Service Commission in respect of the cases referred to in Chapter 9 of the Report.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-5859/2002]

(2) A copy of the Madhya Pradesh Administrative Tribunal (Salaries and Allowances and Conditions of Service of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members Amendment Rules, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 485 (e) in Gazette of India dated the 9th July, 2002, under sub-section (1) of section 37 of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-5860/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Rehabilitation Industries Corporation Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2000-2001.

(ii) Annual Report of the Rehabilitation Industries Corporation Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-5861/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): Sir, on behalf of Shri A. Raja, I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 23 of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954:-

(i) The Prevention of Food Adulteration (2nd Amendment) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 310(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st May, 2002.

(ii) The Prevention of Food Adulteration (3rd Amendment) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 382 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th May, 2002.

(iii) The Prevention of Food Adulteration (5th Amendment) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 437 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th June, 2002.

(iv) The Prevention of Food Adulteration (4tth Amendment) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 438 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th June, 2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-5862/2002]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) a copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur, for the year 2000-2001.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-5863/2002]

12.03 hrs.

[English]

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

"I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on Monday, the 13th May, 2002 adopted the following Motion in regard to the Committee on Offices of Profit:-

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do elect one Member of the Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit in the vacancy caused by the retirement of Shir Banarsi Das Gupta from Rajya Sabha and resolves that the House do proceed to elect, in accordance with the system of proportional by means of single transferable vote, one Member from among the Members of the House to the said Joint Committee to fill the vacancy".

2. I am further to inform the Lok Sabha that in pursuance of the above motion, Shri Eduardo Faleiro, Member, Rajya Sabha has been duly elected to the said Committee.

12.05 hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

Central Advisory Committee for National Cadet Corps

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA): Sir, on behalf of Shri George Fernandes, I bet to move the following:-

"That in pursuance of Section 12 (i) of the National Cadet Corps Act, 1948, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps for a term of one year from the date of election subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of Section 12 (1) (i) of the National Cadet Corps Act, 1948, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps for

a term of one year from the date of election subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder."

The motion was adopted.

12.05½ hrs.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND FOR GRANT (RAILWAYS) 2002-2003

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Sir, I bet to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Supplementary Demand for Grant in respect of the Budget (Railways) for 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-5864/2002]

12.06 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS (RAILWAYS) 1999-2000

[English]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Sir, I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Demands for Excess Grants in respect of the Budget (Railways) for 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-5865/2002]

12.07 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377 be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

(i) Need for doubling of rail line between Rewari and Delhi and to run a D.M.U. train on this route.

[Translation]

DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV (Mahendragarh): Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Railway Minister regarding difficulties being faced on the Rewari-Delhi railway lines in my parliamentary constituency. Rewari comes under National Capital Region. Thousands of people commute everyday between Delhi-Rewari section to earn their livelihood. A demand has been made to double the Rewari-Delhi rail line for the last several years and a demand has been made by the local people for last many years to introduce a DMU train between Delhi-Rewari. But for want of the doubling of Rail line, the demand to introduce the DMU train could not be fulfilled. This has caused serious resentment among the people living there.

Therefore, I urge upon the Railway Minister to sanction the necessary amount for doubling of Delhi-Rewari rail line along with to give permission to run DMU train on this section. Besides providing relief to the people, it will also increase the income of the railways.

(ii) Need to implement pilot project of Hepatitis 'B' vaccination in Mumbai

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Seven people died of Hepatitis 'B' in Mumbai during the month of July, 2002. Immediate action and campaign for Hepatitis 'B' awareness and vaccination is needed in Mumbai. Action plan is needed to implement the pilot project of Hepatitis 'B' Vaccination of the Health Ministry.

(iii) Need to accord sanction to the proposal of Government of Gujarat for sharing of petroleum profit under New Exploration Licensing Policy.

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara): The Government of Gujarat has concurred with the New Exploration Licensing Policy and a decision was taken that the State Government would send a separate proposal for sharing of profit petroleum with the Government of India. Accordingly, the State Government had sent a detailed note on justification for claim of sharing of profit accrued on petroleum on 18.09.2002 to the concerned Ministry of Union Government. However, no decision has been taken by the Central Government on the issue till date.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to take the decision expeditiously.

(iv) Need for a metro rail system in Jaipur, Rajasthan

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rajasthan is a big State. Jaipur is the capital

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*Treated as laid the Table of the House.

of Rajasthan and the traffic in Jaipur increasing day by day. The common people are facing lot of difficulties. Traffic Jams continue for hours together. In order to improve traffic situation in Jaipur, metro railway on the pattern of Delhi should be introduced also.

I urge upon the Central Govt. to start this scheme and provide a major traffic facility to the people of Rajasthan so that their time and money is saved.

(v) Need for electrification and doubling of Bhusawal-Surat rail sector in Maharashtra

SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN (Jalgaon): Mr. Speaker, Sir there is an urgent need to complete the electrification and doubling of Bhusawal-Surat rail section in Maharashtra.

Therefore, through you I urge the Railway Minister to kindly take needful action to complete the electrification and doubling of rail line of Bhusawal-Surat Section without any further delay.

(vi) Need to take necessary steps to make Empress Textile Mill at Nagpur viable

[English]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur): Sir, in view of no clear-cut policy of the Central Government, many textile mills in the country are being closed. Some of these mills in the country are in existence for many years. One such instance is that of the Empress Mill, Nagpur. This Mill was established in the private sector in Nagpur about 125 years back. It was subsequently nationalised in 1986. More than 3500 persons are working in this Mill. The Government is contemplating to close down this Mill which will render a large number of workers jobless. There should not be any difficulty in the revival of this Mill as it is in possession of a prime land in the heart of Nagpur city which is valued at about Rs. 100 crores. This land can be disposed of and the money to be raised as a result thereof could easily be utilised for the revival of this age old Mill.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Minister of Textiles to take all possible measures in consultation with the State Government of Maharashtra by way of which this age old Mill is not wound up but allowed to function.

(vii) Need for proper maintenance of National Highway No. 44 between Suprakandi and Patharkandi, Assam

SHRI NEPAL CHANDRA DAS (Karimganj): Due to the wrong earth works done by B.R.T.F. on both the sides of National Highway-44 from Suprakandi to Patharkandi of Karimganj Parliamentary Constituency, Assam two years back, the road communication has been disrupted particularly in rainy season. National Highway No. 44 is the life line of the people of Karimganj District and the entire people of Tripura State. Due to disruption of road transport of N.H.-44, the people of Tripura State and also the people of Karimganj District have been facing more trouble for transportation of essential commodities and goods. The people of Karimganj District have been staging agitations continuously against the B.R.T.F. activities and requesting for improvement of the road but the B.R.T.F. is not doing anything to improve the condition of the road.

I request the Hon'ble Minister of Road Transport and Highways to take immediate steps to improve the condition of this road quickly and solve the sufferings of the people of Karimganj District as well as the people of the State of Tripura.

(viii) Need to safeguard the interest of investors of Unit Trust of India

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA (Chandrapur): There are lakhs of small investors who have invested their money in the Unit-64 Scheme of the Unit Trust of India and had opted for re-investing the dividend in the scheme itself. The U.T.I. had declared and disbursed dividend to the unit-holders of the Scheme for the 2000-2001 but those unit-holders who had opted for re-investment of the dividend in the scheme have not yet been informed about the units to be given to them in lieu of the dividend. There is great resentment among the unit-holders and they are very much disappointed and unhappy with the said attitude of the Government Finance Company, the Unit Trust of India. The Government should immediately direct the Unit Trust of India to issue units to them in lieu of the dividend for the year 2000-2001.

(ix) Need to ensure that all the bidi workers get the benefit of Provident Fund Scheme particularly in West Bengal

SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN (Jangipur): Majority of bidi workers in the country are deprived of the benefits of P.F. Scheme. In West Bengal the owners of bidi companies, in order to deprive the poor bidi workers, used to engage agents/contractors to collect the workers share of P.F. amount and to deposit the same to the P.F. organisation on behalf of the employers. Butt the fact is that most of the contractors collect money in the name of the P.F. but do not deposit the same with the P.F. account.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government:

(a) to bring all the bidi workers under Provident Fund Scheme;

(b) action be taken against those comtractors who collect P.F. share from the poor bidi workers but did not deposit the same in P.F. account;

(c) the owners of bidi companies be forced to take responsibility for P.F. deposit and keep account against each bidi worker;

(d) a P.F. office at Jangipur in Murshidabad district, West Bengal be opened at the earliest.

(x) Need to ensure remunerative price to tobacco growers for their produce

DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO (Parvathipuram): The Minimum Support Price for tobacco is fixed by Commission on Agriculture Costs and Prices (CACP). Even though there are about 20 varieties of tobacco cultivated in India, the Commission fixes the MSP for only the FCV variety tobacco. Further, it also happens that the MSP fixed is much lower than the prevailing market prices. Generally, the difference between the market price and MSP is about 40%. This causes a lot of hardships to the growers. Besides MPS, there is Minimum Guarantee Price in operation. MGP is fixed by the Tobacco Board. The MGP does not have a statutory validity. Because of this the growers are put to lot of troubles.

I, therefore, request the Hon. Minister of Commerce an Industry to advise CACP to hold consultations with the growers, traders and other involved in the tobacco production and also Tobacco Board before fixing the MSP and ensure that MSP is more remunerative.

(xi) Need to accord clearance to the proposal of Government of Tamil Nadu for construction of rail over-bridges at Stanley Hospital crossing and at Villivakkam crossing

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (Madras North): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in my Constituency of North Chennai, near Stanley Hospital, there is a railway level crossing which creates a lot of inconvenience to the public, since most of the time, it is kept closed. On one side, Government Stanley Hospital is located and on the other side of the track, RSR Maternity Hospital is located. Patients who come for delivery are also made to wait for hours together at the level crossing. Due to this, thousands of people are suffering daily.

Similarly, at Villivakkam which also falls in my constituency, is a busy area. Traffic is held up for a long time at the level crossing. I have raised this issue in the Railway Budget speech also. The State Government have also prioritised for construction of two Rail Over Bridge at the above two places.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Hon. Railway Minister to please sanction construction of Rail Over Bridge at Stanley Hospital crossing and at Villivakkam crossing since the railway authorities have already surveyed the traffic potential.

(xii) Need for early completion of construction work of National Highway No. 101 between Chhapra and Mohammadpur in Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the road from Chhapra to Mohammadpur in Chhapra division in Bihar has been declared as National Highway. This road known as National Highway No.—101 is in dilapidated condition. It was badly damaged by flood during last year. The repair work could not be conducted due to paucity of funds. The State Government does not provide funds for this road as it is a National Highway. This matter has been raised in this House and the Minister has been appraised of it through letters. But no appropriate action has been taken till date.

Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Govt. that the funds be allotted for the repair work of National Highway 101 between Chhapra and Mohammadpur and the repair work be completed at the earliest.

(xiii) Need to take steps to protect the interests of aluminium industry in the country particularly in Orissa

[English]

DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI (Bhubaneswar): National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) is considered to be a turning point in the history of the Indian Aluminium industry. As of today being an ISO 9002 & 14001 company, NALCO has emerged as the largest integrated bauxite-alumina-aluminium complex in Asia. It is also a fact that company's turnover and profit are increased from 10% in 1997-98 to 40% in 2000-2001. It is also expected that the net profit will be around Rs. 1000 crores per annum.

NALCO is the only highly profitable and supporting organisation in the State of Orissa for its economic and

social development. Keeping the above things in view, I would request the Union Government to take such steps so that it would benefit both the employees and the Indian aluminium industry. Thus NALCO should not go in for disinvestment.

(xiv) Need to withdraw the move for disinvestment of Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): The first Public Sector Drug Unit, M/s Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. (HAL). is now on sale-card. Since inception (1954), HAL not only produced major life-saving drugs in the form of raw materials as well as formulations but it made drugs cheaper too. Really HAL played a pivotal role in making the pharmaceutical industry of the country from Rs. 10 crores in 1947 to Rs. 20,000 crores presently.

Over the years, during any national disasters, like earthquake (Latur, Bhuj) break out of epidemics (plague in Gujarat, gastro-intestinal tract infections due to flood, cyclone, fear of anthrax), etc. HAL has sent anti-biotics and other formulations to meet the need It is an irony that recently this prime plants and also the R&D facility were leased out to a private entrepreneur (RPG life sciences). Earlier also (in the year 1993), the major portion of the plants were handed over to a 50:50 joint venture company, namely HALMAXGB.

HALMAXGB, though has trebled production of penicillin and its sale but due to open market policy of the Government it is incurring losses and failed to deposit the lease-amount to HAL (due a approx. Rs. 65 crores)-thus has made HAL further sick.

I urge upon the Hon'ble Minister to prevent the out-right sale of HAL, for the sake of millions of Indians and ensuring urgent Government's action in restoring HAL with all its set-up.

(xv) Need to set up WLL based telephone exchange in Mallakiall South 24 Parganas in Sundarbans areas of West Bengal

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar): The WLL telephones have recently started functioning in the Sundarban areas of West Bengal. However, some problems have arisen in their functioning which require urgent attention of the Government.

The Government is aware that Sundarban areas consist of remote and isolated villages. These villages cannot be covered by terrestrial means. Hence installation of more WLL based VPTs should be given top priority. Significantly the priorities formulated by the Government for the allotment of WLL connections are not being followed by the local authorities. Hence this matter should be examined and clear instructions should be given to follow the guidelines.

In this background there is a specific need for the setting up of a WLL based telephone exchange in Sundarban areas. Unless this is done the problems cannot be altered and for this purpose I may suggest Mollakhali under P.S. Gosaba in the district of South 24 Parganas.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take steps for the setting up of a WLL based telephone exchange at the above mentioned place and new technology for the WLL system at Canning for its further improvement.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Deputy Prime Minister did not respond to the fourteen major questions raised by the hon. Members *...(Interruptions)*

12.08 hrs.

RE: NEED TO SEND CENTRAL TEAM TO THE FLOOD AFFECTED AREAS OF BIHAR

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjarpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Agriculture has come to the House. There is a need to send Central team *...(Interruptions)* North Bihar has been devasted due to flood and people have been reported to have lost their lives. *...(Interruptions)* The situation is very grave there. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please speak one by-one

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Whatever questions raised in this House regarding Gujarat, the Home Minister did not give appropriate answers to the *...(Interruptions)* People there are panic stricken. This is a very serious question *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What is this? Please speak one-by-one. Otherwise nobody will understand.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There is no 'Zero Hour' today. Will you please resume your seats?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai, North East): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there was a discussion on Gujarat yesterday. The opposition always tried to politicize it *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Deputy Speaker. Sir, whatever destruction has been caused in Bihar by floods, my views on that should be heard *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your views will be heard.

[English]

Please speak one-by-one. If all of you stand up together, who will know what is going on?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we demand, from the Opposition, that the Deputy Prime Minister must come and respond to these questions *...(Interruptions)* He did not respond to any questions raised by the Opposition *...(Interruptions)* All the moot questions raised by the Opposition have not been responded to by the Deputy Prime Minister *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What is going on? As per the decision of the Business Advisory Committee, today there is no 'zero', no Lunch Hour. Now the discussion under Rule 193 has to start.

..(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, when Babu Jagjivan Ram ji had failed to respond to the queries during the war with Pakistan, he came back and again responded. The Deputy Prime Minister has also failed to respond to the questions raised by the hon. Members...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, my question is very serious and very important. Earlier a discussion was held on riots, killings and arson which took place in Gujarat. At that time also I asked the Home Minister what were the names of the persons who got their reservation in Sabarmati Express, names of the persons against whom the seats were reserved and the names of those travelling in the train? Names of the those who were killed. There may be a list of names of passengers with the Railways. What facilities were provided to them? When I had raised this issue during the discussion then, these questions were not replied. I fail to understand as to what is the difficulty with the Home Minister or the Government in giving reply to these questions? Why the list of the deceased have not been issued. Railway Minister Shri Nitish Kumarji may please explain. When replies to these questions cannot be given by the Home Minister then what was the use of this discussion. The question is why do this discussion accepted?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir till today the names of those 60 victims at Godhra, to whom we have paid our homage, have not been released...*(Interruptions)* we raised the point of the total amount of the hon. Prime Minister's package which which had been spent and in what direction...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a discussion was held on the subject day before yesterday and Hon. Members of Opposition expressed their views. Hon. Deputy Prime Minister has already given reply on that ..*(Interruptions)* raising issues in this manner is not proper and today issues of flood and drought should be discussed. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, we asked for the total number of persons now staying in the relief camps and the number of people reported to be missing in respective parts of Gujarat...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will allow you. I will give you the floor.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, all these questions have been asked. They should be replied...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, I raised some very important questions which have not been answered...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will give you the floor. Let us hear hon. Member Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please listen to me also for one minute...*(Interruptions)*. Please dispose of the issues one by one. We demand one thing...*(Interruptions)* . The hon. Minister of State for Home Affairs is sitting here...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, I do not want to take the time of the House because we have a very important discussion to be taken up. My notice to the hon. Speaker contains very important questions...*(Interruptions)* Sir, the very important points raised by the hon. Members of the Opposition have not been replied by the hon. Deputy Prime Minister...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU NATH SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Speaker wants to speak...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, I demand a reply to the points raised by me...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let there be some order. I am here to control the House...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Dasmunsi is speaking, we have no objection but our demand is that Hon. Minister of State for Home Affairs wants to say something here. Let us here him...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, if not today the hon. Deputy Prime Minister should come tomorrow or on Monday and respond to the queries raised by the Members in a befitting manner. He cannot simply browbeat the Opposition in this fashion...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Minister Shri Swami, do you want to speak on this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : Sir, should I speak on Bihar issue?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU NATH SINGH : Horible Minister of State for Home Affairs wants to say something on the important issue...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, I seek your protection on this issue...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, the hon. Minister wants to respond on the Bihar issue.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : No, Sir, this is important. We must know the facts...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is not good....*(Interruptions)*. People in Bihar are in distress, they are affected by the flood, but here proceedings are being interrupted intentionally....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today's issue is flood....*(Interruptions)*. This will not be allowed to prevail...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, the hon. Speaker has permitted this discussion under Rule 193 and allowed discussion not only on relief and rehabilitation but on all other issues. So many important issues were raised by the hon. Members. ...*(Interruptions)* The BJP and the Shiv Sena were totally isolated. ...

(Interruptions) the points raised by the Members of the Opposition have not been responded. Therefore, it is essential that they should be replied to. ... *(Interruptions)* The House should not be treated in this fashion and there should be a proper reply to the debate. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Members, you have already had a discussion on this subject under Rule 193. If you are not satisfied with the reply, you have some other form to raise the discussion

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You bring it in some other form and discuss. Who is preventing you? Nobody will reprimand you.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all, the issue related to Bihar will be taken up. They do every day like this, every day they raise the issue of Gujarat *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: He cannot simply bypass *...(Interruptions)* He has insulted the House. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Sir, Bihar is in distress. Lacs of people in Bihar are affected by the flood. Damage and destruction has taken place at a very large scale *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: He has got to come to the House and answer all these questions. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Members, we have decided in the Business Advisory Committee that today, there will neither be Lunch Hour nor the 'Zero Hour' and straightway, we will be going to discuss under Rule 193 the situation prevailing in the country as far as drought is concerned.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We do not demand anything extraordinary. *...(Interruptions)* We only demand the Government to respond to these questions. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsi, you had discussion. If you are not satisfied, you have every right to take it up again.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: He may be Deputy Prime Minister. He is not *de facto* Prime Minister. He is a Deputy Prime Minister. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: They are interrupting intentionally. They all are anti Bihar *...(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, both the issues may be taken up one-by-one.

12.17 hrs.

At this stage, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh came and stood near the Table.

...(Interruptions)

12.17$^{1}/_{4}$ hrs.

At this stage, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh went back to his seat.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Today, Bihar is in danger. The Hon. Minister wants to give reply in this regard, but they are not allowing him to speak. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, we request through you that if not today, tomorrow or on Monday, the Deputy Prime Minister may kindly come to the House and respond to these 14 questions raised by the distinguished leaders of the Opposition and satisfy the House. That is only what we demand. He must also take into account the pitiable conditions of the relief camps. He is not *de facto* Prime Minister. He is only the Deputy Prime Minister. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsi, there was a discussion under Rule 193 and the reply was there from the Minister. That was already over. If you are not satisfied with the reply, you have every right to take it up in a different form. I cannot take up this matter again and again.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, if these 14 questions are not responded to, we are not going to discuss drought situation in the country. *...(Interruptions)* We cannot co-operate with the Government in other business. These questions must be answered by the BJP Government. *...(Interruptions)* We cannot keep quiet. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: They are doing everyday like this. They do not want the discussion on Bihar to take place. Everyday, they are raising the issue of Gujarat. *...(Interruptions)* Today, in Bihar, more than 20 lacs of people are trapped in flood. Embankments at many places are damaged *...(Interruptions)* People have taken shelter at Railway lines and high places. No relief work has been done there. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please resume your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, please go to your place.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the discussion on an important issue was held for eight hours in the House and during the discussion, Hon. members of all the parties, had raised important and specific questions related to Gujarat. *...(Interruptions)* Out of those questions replies of 14 questions have not been given by the Hon. Home Minister. *...(Interruptions)* This is irresponsible act of the Government. If those questions are not replied, then what will be the utility to hold discussions for hours together in the House. *...(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please allow to speak on flood. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Today, it is a very important debate on drought. Let us discuss it. We shall raise it again tomorrow and again and again, thereafter. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: After today's discussion on drought, we will take it up again tomorrow. If tomorrow, the Government does not come forward, we will taken it up again on Monday and till these questions are answered, we cannot keep quiet. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Okay, you can take it up tomorrow.

Now, Shri Ajay Singh Chautala will speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Do you want to reply?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please resume your seat. The Minister is responding. You have already taken up the matter.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Yadav, you have taken up the matter in the morning, and the Minister is now responding.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): Sir, there is another serious matter which I would like to raise *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, so far as the issue of floods in Bihar is concerned, the State Government had asked for helicopters and boats. Three helicopters have been provided. Arrangements for two standby helicopters have been made and they have asked for boats. So far as the Central team is concerned, as soon as the proposal is received, we shall sent central team *...(Interruptions)* When the

Chief Minister of Bihar had met the Hon. Prime Minister in July, at that time, though, that money of which 25 percent she ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Coochbehar): It is not the question of Bihar alone; besides Bihar, it concerns North Bengal and Assam also.

[Translation]

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: So far as sending assessment team for relief is concerned, Central Government is always willing. We shall send the team which will assess there. Then Central assistance will be provided from the national calamity relief fund. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Our notice still stands and we will continue to raise it till the hon. Home Minister gives comes and answers us.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please take it up tomorrow. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): Will I get a chance tomorrow? It is a very serious matter. NALCO is being sold. I will take it up tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Yes.

...*(Interruptions)*

12.22 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

FLOODS AND DROUGHT IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House that Dr. Sushil Kumar Indora, in whose name item No. 12 regarding discussion under Rule 193 is listed, has requested me to allow Shri Ajay Singh Chautala to initiate the discussion on his behalf. I have allowed Shri Ajay Singh Chautala to raise the discussion. Now, Shri Ajay Singh Chautala.

[Translation]

SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA (Bhiwani): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today, we are discussing the issues of flood and drought affected areas in the House. What a paradox is that on the one hand there is very serious drought on the other hand life has been badly affected by the devastating flood. Eleven States are suffering from drought whereas in Bihar, Assam, Gujarat, West Bengal and in other States people are dying due to flood. People's lives have been affected and the condition of people is bad. Many people are leaving their places to take shelter at safer places, though many people are still trapped in it. Many people in Gujarat have been killed by this flood. Almost the same situation is prevailing in Bihar. Dozens of people have been killed in Sitamarhi, Muzaffarpur, Madhubani and other districts. Road links has been cut off. Transport system has been disrupted. Delhi, Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan are facing severe drought. ...*(Interruptions)* I am talking about all the States. In such a situation, people are in big trouble. Whereas 320 districts out of 523 districts in the country are facing acute shortage of water, many other districts are suffering from flood. In such a situation water management specialist of Maharashtra State, Shri Deshradha, who had prepared a report after studying twelve States, was of the opinion that after spending a huge amount on water projects, there was shortage of water in more than 50 percent villages and towns of the country, whereas 80 percent of agricultural land was facing water shortage problem.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Hon. Agriculture Minister is very much here.

Shri Singh, you please address the Chair.

12.30 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, All the Ministers related to this issue should be present in the House as this matter is very serious. You have accepted this issue ...*(Interruptions)* All the Members of Parliament are present here but the Minister is absent. Now the issue regarding irrigation is being

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

discussed but the Minister of Irrigation is not present here. I want to say that such instruction should be given to all the Ministers related to this issue should be present here ...*(Interruptions)* Such direction be issued. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the problem of flood and drought is being discussed here. This matter is being discussed here. This matter is also related to the Minister of Irrigation but the Minister of Irrigation is not present here. Besides, you may see the presence of the members of ruling party. It clearly indicates that they are not at all interested in this issue. They are anti farmers. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please instruct them to be present here. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The issue you are raising is likely to be replied by the hon. Minister of Agriculture. He is present in this House. Moreover, you have demanded that other Ministers should also be present here. Definitely, I will inquire on this subject from the Government. I will let you know about this matter in a short while.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the problem of flood in caused by the rivers of Nepal ...*(Interruptions)* the water causing flood comes from Nepal and it is monitored by the Department of Irrigation but the Minister of irrigation does not bother to sit here. It causes enormous loss. ...*(Interruptions)* Why is he reluctant to sit here? my point is that he should also remain in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say that the Government should take this matter seriously and the concerned Ministers should be present here. The Government is taking it lightly. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, what are the steps being taken by the Government for the recent flood? Neither the Government is taking this matter seriously nor giving any reply ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister of Irrigation is coming in a short while..

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, many such irrigation projects from the first Five Year Plan till today are lying pending. It is a very serious matter. The Minister of Agriculture is present here but the Minister of irrigation should also be present here because this matter is related to both the Departments. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Ministr of Irrigation is coming in a short while.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have called him. He is coming in a short while. You should not waste the time of the House because today we are discussing a very important matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to add to this discussion by saying that from the First Five Year Plan till today. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (Satna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ministers of all the Departments related to flood and drought should be present here ...*(Interruptions)* We should take this matter seriously. In this regard, the Minister of Rural Development's presence is also required here ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All the Members of Parliament should take keen interest in this matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Please listen we should also be allowed to speak. This is not correct ...*(Interruptions)* All the hon. Ministers should be present here. It is a very important discussion ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, from the First Five Year Plan till date there are 46 such projects which are lying incomplete. It is still more amazing to note that the Government is including the schemes of the First Five Year Plan in the Tenth Five Year Plan. You can very well imagine from this as to how alert and vigilant were previous Governments as well as this Government towards this matter and how much they are caring the people. The way people of the country are affected by the flood and drought, they are dying and are compelled to migrate to other States. In such a situation the Government should take appropriate steps.

The Hon'ble Minister has called a meeting in this regard. He has also called the people from drought affected States but the situation today is the same, and

nothing is going to change. The time till you start the relief work the situation of the drought affected areas will worsen.

I through you would like to urge the hon. Minister to take action immediately in this regard and provide relief and assistance to the drought affected areas. The farmers of the country have sown the seeds after the rain in June but now there is no monsoon rain. In such a situation the crops are dying for want of water. The Dying of crops and these things are not so serious but today in many States, there is no drinking water for animals. In such a situation, arrangement of water should be made immediately.

The Meteorological Department of the country is of the opinion that there has been normal rainfall in the country since 1988. Fifteen years have passed since then and there was delay in the monsoon this year. People of the country started crying for water, people stated performing and made every possible effort at their own levels. This uncovered the real picture of our schemes. So much money is spent on solving the problems of the country but by that no problems is solved. Instead of that, the money so allocated is misappropriated and he problems remain pending. For example, I would like to say that Delhi Water Board chalked out a plan of Rs. 200 crores for drinking water in the unauthorised colonies. This amount of Rs. 200 crore was to be spent for their assistance on laying pipelines and other arrangements but the major part of the fund has been used for other works and the work for which the fund was allocated has been ignored. In Delhi also the situation is very bad. If this problem is properly managed in the country, the plans are property chalked out and implemented by the National Flood Commission to assist the drought effected areas, we can get rid of this problem.

I represent the Bhiwani area of the State of Haryana in Lok Sabha. There is also drought situation. There is shortage of drinking water for the animals in winter but the Government of the State is well aware and alert. The Government of the State is making all kinds of arrangements there, when the situation in Haryana was alight then Haryana helped the adjoining States by all means in the time of natural calamities. The Chief Minister of Haryana Choudhari Om Prakash Chautala helped the adjoining Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh by supplying fodders fro the animals. But today Haryana, itself is facing the drought. I, through you, want to urge the Government that they should take the effective steps immediately so that the people can get rid of this problem.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): Mr. Speaker, Sir, after fourteen years of regular rainfall we are facing very dangerous situation. There is danger not only of drought but also of famine. The question therefore arises that whether the Government is ready to face this situation. Whether we are ready and whether the country is ready. Last time when such a serious situation arose, in the year 1987 when Hon'ble Rajiv Gandhiji was our Prime Minister. At that time Rajivji has converted this challenge into a chance. I have before me the economic survey of 1987-88 and I would like to quote two sentences from it. That year the following was stated in the economic survey in regard to 1987:

[English]

> "The country, this year, experienced poor rainfall for the fourth year in succession. The South West monsoon rainfall in 1987 has been the poorest as compared to the last few years and even as compared to severe drought years in the past. As many as 21 of 35 meteorological zones suffered deficient and scanty rains."

[Translation]

The Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi toured throughout the length and breadth of the country to assess the challenge put forth before the country. Wherever there were drought affected areas, whether they are Rajasthan or Gujarat, or Tamilnadu, or Jammu-Kashmir or Nagaland he himself went driving the car on shabby roads in the drought affected areas, he discussed with the people and come to know about what is happening in the country. He seldom came to the house visiting the country instead. He instead of talking to the experts, talked to the affected people and after talking to them he decided about the next course of action.

I, myself want to say that whether the present Prime-Minister can do such a thing or not? I admit that the age of our present Prime Minister is double the age of Rajiv ji and therefore it may be that he may not travel as Rajivji had done. But what can we expect this from our younger Agriculture Minister as was done by Rajivji at that time. Whether hon. Ajit Singh will do the same as Mr. Rajivji did? As far as the House is aware Shri Ajit Singh dances like a peacock on the banks of river Yamuna. He travel in his home state which is the green belt of the country, but no body knows whether he had visited this drought affected area.

Rajivji did not go to the drought affected areas because of his desire travel, there he prepared the programmes so that we can combat drought. That year he prepared so many programmes for combating drought

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

and it is very necessary to mention about them here. As far as I remember I do not want to say because you know that I was with him at that time but because whatever has been mentioned in the economic survey, that I would like to quote here. I am not reading it but I am referring only to the programmes mentioned therein.

[English]

"Detailed strategies were worked out for individual crops, regions and watersheds. Appropriate technological practices were devised for each region and adequate quantity of quality seeds was made available to ensure that in the *rabi* season, there would be no seed shortage. Cultivation of short duration cash crops was undertaken wherever possible.

Various employment generation programmes were supplemented by scarcity relief measures and additional foodgrains were released every month to support these programmes.

In Rajasthan alone about 11 lakh persons were covered by these special employment programmes and an attempt was made to rotate this employment between families to ensure that all affected families were covered.

For irrigation, the Central Government made an extra allocation of Rs. 236 crore to accelerate the execution of selected irrigation projects in drought areas alone."

[Translation]

In this year's budget only Rs. 370 crores have been earmarked for irrigation for the development programmes of Medium, Minor and command areas and at that time Rs. 236 crores which was more than additional Budget has been provided for the irrigation. Again when there was programme of emerging 2.27 lakh pump sets in the Five Year Plan, 6.35 lakh pump sets were energised within that one year. As regards fodder, as there was no sufficient fodder in Gujarat and Rajasthan, a message was communicated throughout the country that wherever fodder is available, that should be collected and supplied. For that special arrangements were made with the cooperation of railways that fodder should be dispatched to Rajasthan and Gujarat from Kashmir and Tamilnadu and as the State Governments were not having sufficient sources so additional sources were provided in advance so that there should not be any problem in implementing all the programmes. Besides this there are many other essential commodities like Paddy, edible oil, milk, milk powder, butter etc. for which full arrangement was made to provide these commodities to the people. During that one year 5600 PDS outlets were opened in those areas where people were drought affected and there was a new programme like mobile PDS units which were introduced to move into the drought affected areas so that essential commodities should be provided at the door step of the people affected by drought. In that year additional amount of relief of Rs. 1798 crores was provided as a relief measures and out of that the share of the centre was Rs. 1056 crore out of about Rs. 1800 crores that were given as relief, the burden or Rs. 1500 crores was shared by the Central Government. Rajasthan received so much relief in those four years which was not received in the last forty years. Such programmes were introduced.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai, North East): Which Government was ruling at that time? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Healthy discussion is going on. You may please sit down.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Will the hon. Member yield for a minute? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow you to speak. Please sit down.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: He is misleading the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can speak when your turn comes.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Are you yielding to him?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, the hon. Member has misled the House when he mentioned that the present Prime Minister had not toured any of the drought-affected areas. In his capacity as the Leader of the Opposition earlier, he toured the drought-affected areas of Orissa and other States.

Sir, any Government, which is ruling the country will have to go as per the advice of the Relief Board ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I do not want a discussion to take place like this. How can you do this?

[Translation]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: At that time a new programme was introduced as a model namely-National

watershed for development programme for rainfed areas and for drought affected areas coarse grain policy and in Technology mission DPAP and DPPP etc. were the programmes that were launched. Thus one more programme was launched, the name of the programme was

[English]

Separate strategies for each distinct agro-climatic region to suit the requirements of agricultural development specific to that region.

[Translation]

I would also like to mention one more thing as it will indicate that it is not just to play politics to counter the national problem and the Prime Minister of the country, and not any ordinary Minister, has very creatively countered the problem by paying his personal attention. I would like to explain you about its result. I was mentioning the year 1988-89. In this year agricultural production was increased by 15 percent. For the first time, in the same year i.e 1988-89 GDP in National income was increased by about 10.87. I would like to know from the Minister of Agriculture that in order to tackle the problem of the drought what steps are proposed by him to be taken? It is a matter of grave disappointment and it is a fact that since 1991 till today for the last ten years, the average rate of rain fall has been more than 90 percent every year, Even when our agriculture production increased, but as if today we are still at the same place. If we see agricultural growth rate in coarse foodgrain, pulses, oilseeds, cotton, silk, after every year we are still at the same place where we were before the rain fall. We do not have good rainfall and this Government cannot do anything. When God has decided that there will be no rainfall, then what can this Government will do. We are here to know this. We want to know what will this Government do to solve this problem? This is a big challenge. You are definitely neglecting agriculture. I am levelling the allegation on you that you are neglecting agriculture. I am saying this because if you see the budget of 2002-2003 then you will find that the integrated programme made for oilseeds, pulses, maize and plam oil, I do not understand how can you make one programme for these four different things but for the programme that you have made you are going to spent Rs. 150 crores out of the total budget.

However, it is 7% of the total expenditure of the office of the hon'ble Minister. The integrated programme is only for the foodgrains produced in drought affected areas. The special production programmes like special Food Production Programme. Foodgrains Production Programme for pulses, maize, oil seeds and other various programmes launched during Rajiv Gandhi's regime, have been discontinued. No new programme has been started in place of that while the country is facing a serious problem of drought. As such, what steps the Government propose to take in this regard. May be, the hon'ble Minister himself or his colleague Shri Sethi Saheb who has delayed this work, would tell us that the National water policy unveiled in April, 2002 states that

[English]

One of the most crucial elements in development planning is water.

[Translation]

Though initially it was stated that water is essential for country's development but Sethi Seheb himself knows how much funds have been allocated for the development of medium, minor and command areas. Only Rs. 370 crores have been allocated for this purpose. Whereas our budgetary provision is more than Rs. 3 lakh crores. Just compare it. A sum of Rs. 370 crore for minor, medium and command area development have been provided though the total budgetary provision is of 3 lakh crore rupees. Sir, it means only 0.1 percent of allocated funds have been provided. At least 15 crore people of the country are facing drought and only 0.1 percent funds are being allocated for them. The rest 99.9% funds are spent elsewhere. What kind of policy is this? What are the priorities of the Government? How can we rely on the Government when such a serious national problem is before us? Will the Government take needful action in this regard?

Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources may please clarify that is it not true that recently World Bank in its report has stated that the country has suffered a loss of 75 thousand crores in the absence of water arrangements. How can we rely upon such Government?

Besides, lastly, I would like to submit that during his tour to drought affected area he saw that the condition of the farmers was pitiable but the condition of agricultural labourers was worse. Keeping in view the condition of the farmers, Shri Rajiv Gandhi constituted National Commission for rural labour. Where is the report of that Commission? This Government has constituted one more commission for the benefit of their capitalist friends by removing labourers from their jobs.

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

13.00 hrs.

But Shri Ajit Singh ji, at least, please do not follow Shri Yashwant Sinha or Shri Jaswant Singh. It's a good thing that he himself belongs to a farmer family. Please take care of the interests of agricultural labourers and tell this House about the steps likely to be taken by the Government to improve their condition.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my last demand to hon'ble Minister of Agriculture is that he should not reply like Deputy Prime Minister. Rather, he should explain clearly about the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for the people who depend on agriculture and looking towards clouds. As Agriculture Minister, will he take care of us also. Though we do not have much expectations from him even then, we express our grievances and are ready to listen him. Please do not adopt the tactics of Shri Advani.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN (Vidisha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my learned friend Shri Manishankar Aiyar was saying that the then Prime Minister Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi had toured the country extensively in 1987 when the country was facing severe drought. However, I would like to tell him that since his childhood, Shri Atal ji has spent all his life in the villages of this country and is well aware of all the aspects of village life. He knows the reality of rural life, Shri Ajit Singh belongs to a farmer family and is very well aware of the condition of the farmers. Therefore, he dose not need to tour the villages specially. He often tour the villages whenever required. I want that this discussion should not be end in the allegations and counter allegations. Today the country is facing a crisis. The rainy season has arrived but till now even drizzling has not occurred. It seems God rain 'Indra' is displeased with us. Fields have been dried up. It affects the life of a farmer and his family also. Moreover, it ceases the future of his children. Several States of our country are not only facing drought but three of our States are under the grip of flood.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I hail from a farmer's family. I am aware that once the farmer's crop is damaged, it becomes difficult for him to lead his life for the next five year. He takes loan to sow the crop. When his crop is damaged, how will he repay the loan. Then he takes loan for bread and butter to his family and purchase seeds and fertilizers from the loan and in this way this vicious circle goes on. Farmer borns in debt, lives in debt and even dies in debt. Such is the condition of farmers. I would like to thank the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture for convening a meeting of Agriculture Ministers of 11 States. In that meeting he asked them to defer the debt recovery from the farmers. The orders in this regard have already been issued. But it is not sufficient under such circumstances. State Government recovers this loan adding the interest accruing on it in the next year. The interest on debt goes on accumulating which ultimately forces the farmers to commit suicide. Therefore, deferment of debt recovery will not serve the purpose. If not the whole amount, at least, interest should be waived off. I hope that farmers will get relief form this only, otherwise there will be no use of providing relief to them.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Chautala ji was saying that today out of 524 districts, 320 districts in the country are in the grip of drought. Out of 34 sub-divisions, 25 are facing severe drought. The figures furnished during yesterday's meeting of Agriculture Minister of 11 States show that coarse grain was produced on 126 lakh hectare of land during last year. However, this year it has been produced only on 75 lakh hectare. Last year oil seeds was sown on 90 lakh hectare of land which has declined to half of it during this year. I hail from Madhya Pradesh where soyabean is produced on a large scale. Shri Lakshman Singh ji is also aware that earlier 51 hectare land in Madhya Pradesh was under soyabean cultivation but this year it has been reduced to 18 lakh hectare only. I am giving the figures of soyabean cultivation which has been sown. After sowing. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Please ask the hon'ble Agriculture Minister to visit Madhya Pradesh.

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down. Such a meaningful discussion is going on, please let him speak.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: This is what my complaint. Hon'ble Minister will reply in this regard. I was telling about sowing. The Meteorology Department had predicted of a good monsoon and normal rainfall. The announcement in this regard was made on TV, radio and newspapers. The farmers believed in it and pre-monsoon rainfall at some places strengthened their belief and they sowed the seeds. However, some of them germinated and became plant but before that they began to dry up. If there is rainfall, it would not be helpful in any way as kharif crop has already damaged and I am afraid that the future of Rabi crop is also dismal if it does not rain. Therefore, through you, I would like to congratulate the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture for the immediate steps taken by him. All efforts have been made to provide seeds and fertilizers to farmers. Efforts have also been made for the payment of outstanding amount of Rs. 1000 crore to sugarcane growers and to provide

drinking water facility in far-flung areas. The issue of fodder and straw for animals has also been considered. However, there is a need to take long term measures in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, discussion on waiving of farmer's loan was also going on. I would like to thank the hon'ble Prime Minister because he is the only Prime Minister since independence who has understood the sufferings of farmers and formulated a comprehensive crop insurance scheme. But today there is a need to make comprehensive amendment in this scheme. It is an optional scheme. Many a States have not implemented it and wherever it has been implemented, many anomalies cropped up there. I would like to request you that crop insurance scheme should be made mandatory for every State. Shri Lakshman Singh is present here. Crop Insurance Scheme has been implemented in Madhya Pradesh. Many kind of Natural Calamities have occurred in my area. Sometimes there is hailstorm and sometime floods destroy the crops.

When the farmer take loan from co-operative banks and other banks, the amount of premium is deducted but not even a single penny has been paid to them as compensation. Whenever such an issue is raised, I feel pained as to what is the benefit of formulating such schemes.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: You have said that the Government of Madhya Pradesh, has not extended help. Last year, the Government of Madhya Pradesh had demanded 253 crore rupees from the Union Government but you did not even pay 253 rupees. ...*(Interruptions)* How much amount has been paid? Please explain.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: In the very beginning I had said that we should not conclude this discussion merely by levelling allegations and counter allegations. I was urging that Crop Insurance Scheme is incomplete. When we discussed about it with the concerned officials that the entire crop of farmers has been perished then why shouldn't he be paid compensation? Then we were told that they neither consider the farmers as a unit nor do they consider the village as a unit but they consider the tehsil only as a unit. If the entire crop of a farmer has been perished, he will not be paid compensation. If the crop of the village has perished then too they will not get the compensation. If more than 60 percent crop of a tehsil has perished only then the compensation will be paid. If the entire crop of a farmer is perished then he should pray to God and perform yagna and havan to wish that the crop of the entire tehsil should be perished because unless or until the crop of the entire tehsil is perished, he will not get the compensation. I fail to understand that what sort of schemes the bureaucrates formulate? I am endeavouring to rise above the party politics and any trying to express the pains of the farmers here. Not only Lord Indira is angry with us, we have been betrayed by the Meteorological department also. Time and again it was announced that there will be normal monsoon. First of all it was declarled that Monsoon is arriving by 20th June, later on it was announced that monsoon expected to arrive by 30th June and then it was said that it is arriving by 10th July positively and then again it was stated that it will arrive 20th July. The farmer went on believing and went on sowing seeds and pouring fertilisers but it did not rain. My submission to the hon. Minister for Agriculture is that the meteorological department has a technical and big set up. There are several scientists. Please analyse its functioning. Even the Ghag and Bhandri used to make better forcast than this. They used to guess on the basis of symbols and farmers used to make their future planning accordingly. Bhandri used to say:-

"SHUKRAWAR KI BADRI RAHE SHANISHCHAR CHHAY
TO YON BOLE BHANDRI BIN BARSE NA JAI"

Various such syings used to be true. So there is a need to ponder over the functioning to the meteorological department.

Not only the farmer is in trouble today. If the crop is perished then not only the farmer is ruined but the agricultural labourers are also rendered unemployed and they also suffer. The labour does the work of sowing paddy and soyabean. At this juncture he works to earn the bread for the remaining rainy season but when the farm is dried up where from the labourers get their wages they start migrating towards cities. The pressure on villages start decreasing but builds up on the cities. Pollution increases, new diseases come up, starvation grows and unemployment increases and due to this the labourer finds himself in trouble. Today not only the labourer is in trouble but the fact is that there is no fodder for the cattle. Ajay ji was saying that then such sort of crisis occurs in other States, fodder is sent from Haryana. Today 12 States including Haryana, where fodder was available are drought affected as a result of which the farmers who used to go for animal husbandry are compelled to sell their cows, buffalows and oxen. When crop is ruined once, it, affects the whole economy. The economic growth has been 5.4 percent last year. The Prime Minister was saying that we want to increase it upto 6 percent. If crop is not good then there will be

[Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan]

slow down in economy since the biggest consumer in our country is the farmer. The agricultural labourer is also a consumer. When he has money, it goes in the pocket of the trader. If the goods of the trader is sold, he picks up more food from he factory which runs the factory. When the factory runs the capital is built up. When capital builds up new factories are set up and employment opportunities are opened. If the farmer does not have money, the goods of the traders will not be sold. If the goods are not sold, the factories would not run which will cause a slow down in the economy and gradually the whole economy will be sick. Therefore, I would like to urge that this issue is concerned not only with the farmers but with the whole nation.

I would like to submit to you that the hon. Minister has made certain immediate efforts and comprehensive efforts are needed. We need cooperation from all quarters but we have to think over the point as to what causes drought, why it happens. Unless and until we do not find out the actual causes of drought I think we would not be able to frame any long term plan in this regard. You might have noticed that there has been no clear cut water policy, water collection and conservation policy in our country since the last 25 years. It is mentioned in the Athar Veda that drought can be prevented through the collection and conservation of water but we have failed in making proper arrangement for water collection and water conservation in the last 54 years. I would like to ask Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar ji as to why the successive Governments of India did not frame any compact water policy.

Sir, our forefathers were wise people, they might not be eminent scientists but you would have noticed that in ancient times there were ponds, wells, small pits filled with water in the villages. These were ponds in every village. In many villages more than one ponds were inexistence and those too were of bigger size. Many of you might have been Bhopal. In Bhopal there is Bada Talab and Chota Talab. The Bada Talab of Bhopal is small in size but another pond which is bigger than the first one was constructed by Raja Bhon and is spread over in a huge area and it was like a dam. People used those ponds for taking bath and meeting out their water requirements. The water needed for rest of the works was also met by the ponds. Wells of the villages were filled up with water as the ponds had enough water and in such a situation the potable water from wells were available and water conservation was done by ponds but what is the situation today. Areas of ponds have been encroached upon, buildings have been constructed or many people are cultivating the land. Our administrative officials were not firm to counter them and at times we submit ourselves for the sake of vote bank and who is to invite enemies unnecessarily and why to make these people our adversaries. In this way by giving up the land of ponds we extinguished ponds wells and other sources also. There was no arrangement for water conservation but we ensured the drilling of water. We fitted hand pumps and drilled tubewells we drilled out so much of water but did not do anything for water conservation. That is why in past water level was available at 10-20 feet beneath earth's surface, but today while drilling hand pumps in every State people know that 300-400 feet drilling has to be done to get the water level in the well. We went on drilling water but did not consume it water level is gradually receding. This is a subject of serious concern not for our country only but for the whole world.

I would like to request the hon. Agriculture Minister and the entire House to enact a law if it is necessary to have a central law, regarding maintaining the level of water to a certain level.

Just now Chautalaji was saying that irrigation projects of the First Five Year Plan are still incomplete. We have a vast network of rivers in our country. They are the Ganga, Sindhu, Kaveri, Yamuna, Saraswati, Ravi Mahanadi, Godhavari, Barahmputra etc. They have their tributaries also and many small rivers emerge from these rivers. Many nullah merge with small rivers. Mani Shankarji is a learned man. He can give figures. But I can only tell you that the water of these rivers flow into the sea without any use. We have not made any arrangement to store and make use of the water which flow into the sea. I would like to know the reasons for non-completion of construction work of dams and irrigation projects which started in the First, Second and Third Five Year Plans. It is a matter of shame that even after 54 years, they have not been completed. I am not alleging any political party but it is a matter of shame for the entire House.

I would like to tell you as to how the plan of big dams are made and how they are implemented. I belong to Vidisha. There are two irrigation projects for two districts of Vidisha, one is Vaha and the other is Sagar. After spending thousands of rupees on the construction work of these projects, now, the forest and environment Department has put objections. There is no coordination between these departments. I came to this House as an elected Member of Parliament for the fourth time. Since 1991 I have been approaching the Minister of Central Govt., and Minister of Irrigation and Forest in the State Govt. and Collectors but the formalities have not been completed so far.

They said that there are the formalities which have to be completed. From there, I rush to Delhi, A letter is issued from this end. The letter goes to the Secretary of the State Govt., and the Secretary sends it to the Chief Engineer, Chief Engineers sends it to the Executive Engineer. He sends it to the SDO. Then SDO and sub-Engineer prepare some letter and thereafter they send it back to this end which takes almost an year to reach here. I have tried my best but I could not get the schemes approved. Had these projects been completed, the problem of drought in Vidisha district would not have arisen. It is not a calamity for Vidisha alone but for the whole country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the time of elections new irrigation projects are formulated and our leaders perform Bhoomipuja, lay foundation stones and they make false promises that foundation stone of irrigation projects have been laid and now their fields would be irrigated. Sir, you know the fact of these foundation stones very well. How long such things will go on. The need of the hour is to store the water and tanks and small check dams be constructed. There is no need to construct big dams and wherever electricity is generated, dams should be constructed according to the requirement of power generation. Big dams may cause tragedies of serious consequences. It takes lot of time to complete, its construction, it requires large amount of capital investment, larger chunk of land get submerged, a vast population is displaced and severe damage to the environment is caused and for all this little relief is provided. Therefore, it is necessary to give priority to the construction of small dams so that the water of the village can be stored in the village itself. For this check dams and stop dams should be constructed.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I got an estimate prepared for the construction of an embankment at Betwa river in Vidisha and you would be surprised to know that the estimate of this embankment was Rs. 25 lakh. I sanctioned this amount and from MP Local Area Development Fund and the level of the water in an area of 9 kilometers would be raised and 13 villages would be irrigated with this water. The wells, tanks, tubewells and handpumps of that area will be revived and with the help of this water the people would be able to irrigate their land and the scheme would be completed in eight months. Likewise, if we formulate small schemes for a limited number of villages for example one, two or five to 10 villages, then it would take less time, lesser capital investment and lesser number of persons would be displaced. In this way we would be able to conserve water and utilize it in a proper way. We would be in a position to suffice the need of water in the village itself.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to request that the hon. Agriculture Minister has mentioned about 'Food for work' He has stated that assistance would be given under "Sampoorn Gramin Vikas Rozgar Yojana, Jawahar Rozagr Smridhi Yojana etc. But they have to decide as to which purpose the funds would be provided. If the fund is utilized for construction of ponds, check dams and stop-dams, then, the water conservation would be done in a proper manner and labourers would get employment. Apart from this the other objectives would also be achieved without fail.

We have to formulate a long term scheme in this regard. Just now Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar was saying that many schemes have been made. This Govt., is also implementing many schemes. There is a scheme for the development of drought affected areas and deserts. There is an integral waterland development programmes. It seems to me that we start many programmes at a time and we create so many departments for the one and the same purpose. Can we not merge all these into one. And formulate integrated long term scheme. Long term schemes are the need of the hour. I would request the hon. Agriculture Minister to coordinate some where and prepare a concrete plan after discussing common men and experts.

Previously also, on the issue of drought and water conservation the Government made several efforts to tackle it. This is not my views. Committees were constituted earlier also. Dr. K.L. Rao Committee and Hassim Committee were constituted and they submitted their report in 1999. We only form committees. Committees are constituted, commissions are appointed and their reports also come but how many, of their recommendations are implemented and how much time it takes, is known to very well. If any such report has been prepared then we should certainly act upon that. We shall have to strive to make all this possible.

The condition of Madhya Pradesh is very grim. 35 districts in Madhya Pradesh are in the grip of drought. Some of these areas are Vidisha, Raisen, Sreelor, Raigarh, Batool, Hoshangabad, Ratlam, Mandsour etc. My Parliamentary Constituency had witnessed hailstorms last year. The crops of farmers were damaged. Shri Lakshman Singh is saying that the Madhya Pradesh Govt. had provided assistance. But that assistance was not sufficient. Only a chosen few got this assistance and even that was not sufficient only the powerful people took away the lions share. In this way large scale corruption permeated at administrative level. The hailstorm ruined the farmers. They somehow managed to purchase fertilizers and seeds but then they were hit by drought.

[Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan]

My submission is that there is a need to provide assistance to the drought affected areas.

Whenever we raise the issue of waiving of loans of the farmers or some other similar issue is raised, people make lot of hue and cry over that. Specially the bureaucrats and intellectuals say that the Banking System would get disturbed. The farmers would become used to freebies and wrong precedence would be set. But yesterday our Finance Minister while giving figures stated that about Rs. 83 crores are lying outstanding against big industrial houses. So many hindrances are created by NABARD, Reserve Bank and other such institutions when we demand for waiving loans or interest on loans to the farmers.

I remember that when the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shri Sunder Lal Patwa during his tenure, floated a scheme to waive off the loans of farmers in 1990, many hurdles were created. The scheme got cleared after a lot of difficulties and upto ten thousand rupees of farmers were waived off. The total expenditure incurred on this was rupees 710 crore. I mean to say that loans of lakhs of farmers can be waived off in just rupees 710 crore and rupees 83 thousand crore stands outstanding against the industrial group. What to talk of others?

I would like to submit that today the farmers are in real need of help. We need to extend help to the farmers in the present times. Farmers of our country are getting ruined. I would urge upon my colleague, senior leader sitting on the other Bench not to get involved into unnecessary debate. Let us all make efforts to solve this problem, the Government alone would not be able to do it, nor can we do it alone. We shall have to seek help of the common people in order to combat the menace of famine. Such schemes are useless unless there is participation of the common people. Who can solve these problems? We are peoples' representatives and it is our duty to go amongst the people, protect them and create awareness amongst them. The power called 'people' may join hands to combat flood and famine. Things would set right when it takes the form of a mass movement. Everything has been left on the Government that the Government would make schemes. I feel guilty and also hold other political leaders guilty that due to this vote politics, we have always told the common people that it is the Government which would do everything and no one needs to do anything.

I visited a village in 1990 when I became MLA for the first time. About 15 to 20 thousand rupees were spent on my welcome and the villages gave me a red carpet welcome. Later on when they presented their charter of demands, it was mentioned therein that the only source of drinking water in their village, i.e. a well had remained dried since the last three years. This well may therefore be cleaned. I asked then how many rupees were spent on my welcome, they said 15-20 thousand rupees. I asked then how many rupees would be spent on cleaning work of the well, they said 5000 rupees are required for that. I said when they can spend rupees 20,000 in the welcome party of a leader then why not rupees five thousand can be spent on the cleaning work of a well. They said that it is not our job to clean wells, yes of course welcoming a leader is our job, but not cleaning the well, this is Government's job. We shall have to do away with such a thinking of the common people. Unless the people become conscious, we cannot tackle any menace competently. All people's representatives have to make efforts to increase peoples' participation. I can definitely say that the Government alone cannot do anything, they need help of the entire Parliament and the common people. When we all get resolved and stand collectively to combat famine and other natural calamities, only then the things would set right.

I would like to say one thing more that for every effort common people look at the peoples' representatives, so we can take initiative in this regard. All M.Ps. can decide, that if not much, we would give at least one day's of our salary for famine affected areas. If we take this wise initiative, such help would automatically be extended by other parts too, which are not facing this crisis, they would also come to our rescue. With this step, the common people would also believe that we not only deliver mere speeches, but also, from the core of our heart, wish to help the people of our country.

In the end, I would like to say that funds be released by the Government or steps to be taken by the Government need proper monitoring. No doubt lakhs and crores of people suffer when such crisis occurs, but some people feel happy too when such crisis takes place. Country faces famine but these people earn huge sums even under these circumstances. Due to corruption, neither money nor foodgrain in lieu of work could reach the farmer and then we came to know that foodgrain was sold in black market and this money went into the pocket of others. Funds would be received for various schemes in huge amounts but one has to monitor whether the money actually given for common man reaches him and the poor man gets benefit of this, or it goes into the pocket of middle men we cannot leave our people on the mercy of State Governments. It is often said that this is a State subject. It may be, but the States are not in

a condition of disbursing pay even. Many States do not consider it their prime duty to serve their people. The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh rightly says that elections are not won merely by providing roads or power, infact it is an art, science. And if Laloo Prasad ji can win elections without providing for roads or power. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Make a habit to listen against Shri Digivijay Singh. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: I should also come to know where it happened. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Entire country knows and it is also published in the newspapers that if Laloo Prasad ji can win elections in Bihar without providing for roads or power, then why not myself in Madhya Pradesh. If the Chief Minister associates everything with elections then six and a half crore people of Madhya Pradesh cannot be left at his mercy. And that is why, I, through you, would request the hon. Minister of Agriculture that the Central Government may extend its full help in this period of crisis and proper arrangements should be made to see that this help reaches the common man. I extend my thanks to you for having given me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): He spoke very well but later on all went wrong.

MR. SPEAKER: Mulayam Singh ji is right. His speech was right but why did he make allegation at the end.

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA (Kanakpura): Hon. Speaker, Sir, we are discussing about drought and flood. This is a normal feature. There is no need of mixing any politics, particularly on this issue.

In the past 50 years, several programmes have been implemented. Nobody can deny that, I am not going to say that this Government is not concerned about the drought situation or the flood situation that is prevailing in this country. That is why I said that there is no need for mixing politics.

As we have discussed in this very same House, particularly on this issue, every year, in one part of the country there would be droughts and in another part of the country there would be heavy rains, causing a lot of damage to the people who come within those areas. This type of an erratic rainfall has caused both droughts and floods. We have thought over how to have a permanent solution for these issues.

I do not want to say that the previous Government has not made any attempt. When Shrimati Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister, I was the Irrigation Minister in my State. She tried her best to evolve a National Water Policy but no State-I do not want to mix politics here-was prepared to accept some of the issues raised by the Central Government at that time. It was only on the issue of drinking water that all States unanimously accepted the policy. That is the only policy document we were able to produce, having had discussions for three days when Shrimati Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister.

Subsequently, when Shri Rajiv Gandhi became the Prime Minister, I was Irrigation Minister of my State during that period also. He tried his best to make all the States where people were suffering with heavy floods understand how we should tackle the problem. I am talking only about the flood damages. Again, as a result of short-sighted politics, parochial outlook and concern for their own States, nobody was prepared to accept it. There is no water policy. I do know what Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has quoted. What is that policy? Have we accepted it?...*(Interruptions)* Please hear me. I know a little about that....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): There was a New Irrigation Policy made by Shri Rajiv Gandhi. I attended that meeting. It was attended by many Chief Ministers. That Policy was objected to by some Chief Ministers and yet that Policy was adopted and was tried to be implemented.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: I was a witness to the Policy adopted. Every State agreed only to the policy on drinking water. I am sorry, the policy on transfer of surplus water from the surplus basin to the deficient basin was not at all agreed to. Let me be very plain. Nobody was prepared to accept that. Everybody started fighting that if there was water in the surplus basins it was required for their own States. They did not want to allow the surplus water to be carried to the deficient basin. This was the stand taken by almost all the Chief Ministers. You know that the cauvery basin is a deficient basin. I am mentioning this because from among the Chief Ministers who were at that time present at the meeting called by Shri Rajiv Gandhi-you were also there-nobody was prepared to accept that Policy so far as this issue is concerned.

[Shri H.D. Deve Gowda]

Today, during the Question Hour itself, our Bihar friends tried to obstruct the Question Hour and bring up the issue of how floods were affecting them, with the Himalayan rivers bringing a lot of floods. They are also suffering because of floods from the rivers along Nepal border. When Shri K.L. Rao was the Irrigation Minister during the period of Shrimati Indira Gandhi, he proposed a scheme to carry the flood waters from River Mahandi to River Cauvery. Those schemes were submitted during 1992 and they were updated during 1996. I have a copy of all those schemes. I must say that the hon. Prime Minister has taken some decisions so far as the construction of the National Highways is concerned. He has announced a programme to spend about Rs. 60,000 crore, to have a road network connecting all the major cities. Infrastructural facilities are one of the major components so far as National Highways are concerned. I welcome it.

So far as this particular issue is concerned. I think, during my period, I have also appointed a Technical Committee to update what was prepared by Shri K.L. Rao. Subsequently during late Shri Rajiv Gandhi's time also in 1992, it was updated. I had also appointed a Committee and that Committee had given a Report in 1996. I have then got a copy of the Report. The cost of the project may come to about Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 60,000 crore. A number of technicians have given their opinion particularly on how to use the Himalayan water.

Sir, we have a natural wealth in the form of water. But, unfortunately, because of the political conflict and because there is no unanimity among States, the country has to suffer. Water is a natural wealth. This Wealth has to be properly utilised for the welfare of the people. It is not the question of Karnataka, Bihar or Madhya Pradesh. We are not at all concerned particularly about using this natural wealth. It is a God given gift. Can we not come to a conscious decision particularly on this issue? I do not want to quote the figures. How much water we are yet to use? How much irrigation potential we have exploited and how much we have not exploited even after 53 years of Independence? The Report itself says all these things. I do not want to quote all these things.

Sir, all the major rivers have got inter-State water dispute. Madam Shrimati Sonia Gandhi also knows what is Narmada, what is Cauvery and what is between Punjab and Haryana. On all major issues we are unable to tackle the problems. The courts are there; the tribunals are there. I think, with all right earnest, the Union Government might have tried in the past. Even during my period on Narmada, I have called all the four Chief Ministers. I worked out an agreeable formula, which ultimately went to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court gave the same decision based on what we have agreed among the four State Chief Ministers. I do not want to elaborate particularly on these issues.

Sir, what is the natural wealth? I think, it is water. I would like to know whether we should think in terms of nation or in terms of our own State. If water can be treated as a national wealth, then we have to adopt a National Water Policy. Then, the water should be utilised from the surplus basin to the deficit basin. If that could be done, then most of the problems could be sorted out. This is my sincere opinion.

Sir, even now I urge the hon. Prime Minister about it. The hon. Minister of Agriculture cannot take this decision. It is a major decision. If all the Chief Ministers are prepared to agree, if all the States are prepared to agree and if all the political parties are prepared to agree, then we can find a permanent solution in respect of 60 per cent to 70 per cent people who are suffering because of drought. The Reports are there. The Ministry of Agriculture has given these reports, I do not want to read all these things for the purpose of convincing this august House. More than 60 to 65 per cent of the people are suffering today on account of drought. If they want to find a solution, these reports are now with the Government, with the Ministry of Water Resources. If the Prime Minister can take serious interest in the case of construction of highways by providing about Rs. 60,0000 crore, why not here also? I know the resource crunch. Every State which is going to be benefited, can contribute, if you evolve a conscientious decision by calling all the Chief Ministers for linking Mahanadi with Cauvery. So, this is one issue which I would like to stress. Even though there are fractured verdicts on various issues, we have arrived at conscientious decisions on those issues. So, why not on this particular issue also? On this particular issue, there should not be any politics. That is all I want to impress upon this august House.

I can elaborate the temporary measures like water management and all these things. Today, the problem of drinking water is acute because we have made excessive use of the ground water for irrigation purpose, for agricultural purpose and for drinking purpose. Even though we have done enough to provide either the bore-wells or other facilities to provide drinking water, but in most of the villages today, there is no water. The water table has come down., Through bore-wells or pumps, we are

not getting adequate water unless the water table is increased. For that, several measures were taken. To recharge the water table, we have formulated the watershed programme and so many other programmes, but unfortunately, the money that we have spent as an immediate measure, has not been spent properly. The late Rajiv Gandhi had said in this very House that in some schemes for which we give money for their implementation, only sixteen paise reach the beneficiaries at the end point. The very same words were told by the late Rajiv Gandhi in this very House. I am not saying that we are not spending money. We are spending money, but the money is being used improperly and there is no accountability. I know that with my little experience.

Today, what immediate steps we have to take is a major issue on which I would like to express my views. Yesterday, the hon. Agriculture Minister had called a meeting of the Revenue Ministers and Agriculture Ministers of all the four States concerned. They have drawn up certain programme. But my honest and sincere feeling is that there are discriminations from State to State. 'X' State may get more patronage, 'Y' State may not get as much patronage because of political considerations. I am not going to find fault with you, friends, because in a situation like this, you have to satisfy your allies. There are certain patronages only to save the Government. I can understand that and for that, I am not going to blame them. What can they do if the country is facing such a situation? Karnataka had submitted a report last time for Rs. 900 crore financial assistance. Has the Centre given even one rupee? My Congress friends should not mistake me if I say that we are facing a lot of financial problem. I am not blaming the ruling party. They have to spend money on various other problems.

Giving money from the Calamity Relief Fund is not any special favour. Based on the report of the Finance Commission it has already been fixed as to how much each State should get. It is not any special favour if the Government of India is going to provide about Rs. 75 crore to Karnataka. It is not a special favour. Even that amount is not fully released. I do not want to make a charge. But why is this so? Various types of financial support is given to some of your Allies and others who are in office and the same situation is not prevailing in other States.

Sir, when you were the Chief Minister, did I discriminate? I was there as Prime Minister for only ten months. Your goodself had telephoned to me saying you wanted to bring a delegation so far as the cotton growers are concerned as the problem was so acute. Sir, I do not want to take credit for myself, But, then I said to you not to bring any delegation but to fax the message to me as to what was the problem and I would solve it within 24 hours. You sent the fax message and the next day we allowed about three lakh tonnes of cotton to be exported. It is not on party lines that we took any decision.

Why am I mentioning all this? Shri George Fernandes, you are here. Why has Karnataka been given a step-motherly treatment? I am unable to understand it because if the Congress Party has got 18 Members with them on this side, you do not require their support. But in the election you fight the battle. I will fight the battle with both you and the Congress. That is not an issue. I want to ask as to why Karnataka State is being allowed so less. Last year, about 30 lakh tonnes of foodgrains were given to Andhra Pradesh. How much was given to Karnataka and why? The figures are here. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali): Sir, it is a question of utilisation of the thing. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: Please, your Chief Minister is capable enough. My Chief Minister is also equally worthy. I am not going to comment on this on political lines. I am not jealous. The farmers of Andhra Pradesh are dying and the farmers of Karnataka are also dying. At least the farmers who are committing suicide are competing with each other. Am I correct? Let us not have this type of partial attitude by the Government.

13.47 hrs.

(DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair)*

You have the *Annapoorna Antyodaya Yojana*. Did you release at least one kilogram of rice or foodgrain to Karnataka under this scheme? Can I make it as a political decision and if not why? Under this scheme not a single grain is released to Karnataka. There is this 'Food for Work' scheme which has now been converted to *Swarna Jayanti Rojgar Yojana*. The earlier programmes were converted into different names. It is all right; you take credit. It is not a new programme. I have not grouse about using a new classification at least by altering the name. I am not bothered on that. How much have you released to Karnataka under this scheme? Here it is said that Government of India gives 75 per cent of it free to the States. At the same time, they have fixed certain conditions and guidelines. They said 25 per cent is to be given as wages and 75 per cent as foodgrains and this

[Shri H.D. Deve Gowda]

75 per cent is to be given on the BPL rate. Am I correct? If I am wrong, please do correct me.

You said 75 per cent of the foodgrains are to be given to the workers who are engaged for this relief work; but that 75 per cent food component should be charged at BPL rate and the other 25 per cent as cash payment.

Sixty million tonnes of foodgrains are rotting. I read in a newspaper that foodgrains worth more than Rs. 800 crore were destroyed because they were not fit for human consumption. We are unable to store foodgrain in a proper way. The Food Corporation of India has so much of stock, but we are unable to preserve it and foodgrains worth Rs. 850 crore were destroyed. The Government is not prepared to give at least 50 per cent free. Why? How much subsidy are they giving to the exporters to clear the stock? On one side, people are dying in Orissa which the report I read in the newspaper said. In the beginning, I have said that I do not want to mix politics. When the people are starving and ultimately dying, what for have they got the stocks? When we introduced the PDS, our calculation was that about 23 million tonnes of foodgrains were necessary to meet the requirement. They have got 60 million tonnes to export, and to export it, they are giving so much of subsidy to exporters. Why not they consider giving it free when the people are suffering?

My friend from Haryana who initiated the discussion said that about 380 *talukas* or something like that are suffering and that yesterday, the Agriculture Minister has tried to get full information from the concerned States. Why do they not allow 50 per cent free? Why Should we not give it to those workers who are going to toil for their survival? These are some of the issues which I am unable to understand. They allow the foodgrains to rot and ultimately destroy them because they are not fit for human consumption. They cannot think in terms of people who are suffering today.

Yesterday, in the Rajya Sabha, there was some question about corporate houses. I am not going to deal with it. It is not the time for me to deal with it. I have gone through a number of items and under various sectors, the total amount of NPA is Rs. 88,000 crore. These sectors were classified as small-scale industrial sector, the monopoly houses, corporate sector and so on. So far as agriculture sector is concerned, hardly Rs. 7,800 crore are there as NPA. The country is going to think in terms of those suffering masses. There are 65 crore agriculturists and more than 80 per cent are small-holders. After land reforms were implemented with all seriousness in some States, only one or two States may be still lagging behind. I do not want to name those States. Several States like Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh have introduced land reforms so vigorously. There are several such States. Now, the holding is of half hectare, one hectare, one and a half hectare, two hectares and so on, barring a few big farms around Delhi and Bangalore where people own farms measuring 100 acres to 800 acres. They are fruit farms. That is a different issue. I do not want to deal with this subject now.

Out of the total NPA of Rs. 880,000 crore, about Rs. 7,800 crore is the amount due from the farmers. Can the Government not give one time concession to them? Can the House, which is going to vote for Rs. 4,50,000 crore Budget annually, not give one time concession to the farmers? It may be given in terms of converting short-term loan into medium-term loan and medium term loan into long-term loan. We are not prepared even to waive off at least the interest component of it. This is the type of a raw deal. Curing the days of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Shri S.K. Dey first started some of these programmes. In the last 53 years, we have drawn up several programmes in this country. With agony, late Shri Rajiv Gandhi said that only 16 *paise* reach the beneficiary. He said this knowing full well about the leakages that are there at various levels.

My appeal to the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Finance Minister is, without mixing politics, to give a one-time concession to the farmers. How much is the interest component? It may be Rs. 1,000 crore or Rs. 2,000 crore. Fourteen States are suffering, and some of them are suffering due to heavy floods. People are living under the trees like birds. I have seen it all with my own eyes in your home State. Can we not think on these lines? Let us forget about politics and not think in terms of who gets the credit. I am not bothered whether Shri Vijpayee gets the credit for this.

I want a major policy decision in respect of the farming sector. There are two ways to it. One is a long-term policy, and the other is to provide immediate relief measures. What are the relief measures that are being provided? The Britishers have fixed something and we are following the same thing. When Shri Balram Jakhar was there, I fought the battle here and there was a marginal increase. Please apply your mind to this.

I know that the Prime Minister has got a number of advisors, but I do not think that there is any farmer to

advise the Prime Minister. I have seen in the past 50 years of my public life that people who can speak eloquently in English or Hindi matter the most, but that would not be of any help here. People are struggling in the villages.

Sir, I come from a village with a population of 150. Today, the population figure has gone up to 1,200, but the conditions remain the same, barring one high school, one middle-level school and electricity. If you take electricity, there will be no power for three months or four months in a year. In the power sector, my friend, Shri Prabhu is here, has attempted to make certain major changes. He went to the extent of bailing out the State Electricity Boards. But the question is this. Have we been able to move forward an inch? Delhi is suffering because of power shortage. Today, the situation is very bad in the country, especially in the farming sector. Some of the people have got their own power generating units, but what about the villagers? On this particular issue, I can deal with for hours together.

I demand that the States should not be discriminated, so far as funding under various heads is concerned. Secondly, I demand a one-time concession to the farmers. It has been indicated yesterday in the Rajya Sabha that there are about Rs. 8,000 crore non-performing assets relating to the farming sector, and my demand is that it should be waived. If you are not prepared to do that, at least, the interest component should be waived and the recovery of loans should be deferred.

Under the *Annapoorna Yojana*, you are giving foodgrains to the poor people. However, if a person is getting old-age pension, he is not given these foodgrains. If a woman is getting widow pension, she is not getting these foodgrains. What is all this? A person who is getting Rs. 75 or Rs. 100 per month as pension should avail of the benefit of *Annapoorna Yojana* or whatever *Yojana* it is, instead of allowing the foodgrains to rot. Can you think on those lines?

14.00 hrs.

Sir, unless this whole House pledges to implement the scheme, that had been initiated by the late Indira Gandhi, of connecting all the major rivers of the country- a scheme formulated by Shri K.L. Rao and updated by our Government—things would not improve. If this scheme of connecting the major rivers of the country is implemented, then most of the problems would be solved. The hon. Prime Minister should evolve a policy for implementation of this scheme by taking all the States into confidence.

Sir, with these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH ROY (Bhagalpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, due to acute drought condition, many states of the Country are facing severe crisis and 20 crore farmers and labourers are passing their days in distress and are crying for help.

Sir, as per the available report, our Agriculture Minister had convened a meeting with Agriculture Minister of 11 States and after reviewing the condition said that 320 districts had been affected by drought. But the condition is worse than this. In the Southern States like Kerala which have been receiving adequate rains, reports say that water level in big dams have gone down which has affected the generation of hydro power, which in turn is adversely affecting the industries there. States of North India like Punjab., Haryana, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Praesh too have been affected badly, but it has not happened suddenly. It is true that we have been discussing the issue of flood every year and have warned the Central Government about he fact that the Caution, Vigilance and sensitiveness needed to tackle the situation are being continuously ignored due to which problem arises when it comes to extending relief to people in time and the whole system fails when it comes to help out the farmers and other persons in distress. It is a fact that extensive discussion was held last year regarding the drought in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa but no seriousness was shown in this regard. Today, the situation is that the 60 percent population of our country which contributes more than 26 percent of the gross domestic product in the form of foodgrains and other things is reeling under problem. As has been said by Shri Mani Shankarji, Chauhanji or Shri Chautalaji it does not seem that the Government is working with seriousness in this regard.

Sir, the decision which should have been taken after yesterday's cabinet meeting and which was necessary too, has not been taken and it seems that serious thoughts have not been given to it. The point is that the whole area of the country affected by drought should be declared as drought hit and loan alongwith the loans of big moneylenders loan and electricity bills of the poor and middle class farmers of that area should be waived off.

Sir, you know that though the Agriculture Minister announces waiving off the loans but the same is not

[Shri Subodh Roy]

implemented because the bank officials refuse to respect his announcement. They accept the orders of the Finance Ministry and the instructions of Reserve Bank of India. Unless a circular in this regard is issued by them they would not waive off the loans of the farmers. Therefore, when discussion is going on such a serious, sensitive issue like national calamity, the Finance Minister should have been present here. Who else would waive the loans of farmers in the absence of Finance Minister and in what manner?

Sir, we are saying that no steps are being taken to recover the loans of banks worth Rs. 83 thousand crores which remains outstanding against the big industrialists of the country, strict action are taken by the Banks to recover loans against farmers but no such action is taken against the big industrialists. Why the Government of India feels reluctant to recover the outstanding dues of the Banks against them? That is why it has failed to recover even 50 percent of its 83 thousand crores of rupees.

Sir, today, the Government is not in a position to extend relief and money to farmers, labourers, poor people to come out of this precarious situation but I think if the Government recovers the outstanding loans against the industrialists, it would face no problem in extending help to the poor. I, therefore, demand that strict action should be taken by the Central Government in order to recover outstanding dues against big industrialists of the country.

Sir, in this moment of national calamity, there is a great necessity of implementing 'Food for work' programme, but as the hon. Member was saying right now, the Government of India have a stock of 6 crore tonnes of foodgrains ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order. Hon. Member has been speaking about an important subject and serious and extensive discussion is going on but not a single member from the Congress Party is present here. It indicates that hon. Members of the Congress Party are not concerned about drought. It does not give a good picture as no member of the Congress Party is present in the House while such an important discussion is going on. We, the Ministers are present here through our leader is not present, if anyone among us remains absent, the opposition stalls are proceedings saying the Minister is absent. They are not present here and in that sense they do not have any moral right to speak about drought.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, she has won the day by pointing out that the main opposition party is not present in the House. I thank her for discharging her duty.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH ROY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was saying that as per the Cabinet meeting held on yesterday, Rs. 3 thousand crore are needed to help out the drought hit States. But his problem is not going to be solved unless the Finance Ministry, Government of India implements an intensive programme on priority basis and wins over the people of drought hit areas that they would not die out of hunger or their problems would become manifold due to some diseases on some other reason and this programme would be adopted for the persons living in the drought hit areas considering drought as the number one problem.

You would remember that non-Congress governments were formed in nine States in 1967. In 1967, Bihar was worst hit by the drought and famine but the then government tackled the situation with such a commitment that it did not let a single person die by opening fair price shops on the streets and lanes. All dams that were damaged were repaired, ponds were digged further deep and landless labourers were engaged in repairing roads through 'Food for Work' programme. Not a single labour or landless farmer had to move out of Bihar to earn his livelihood. Today there is need of the same determination and commitment.

Many of our friends present here were holding ministerial posts in that Government. I am only trying to remind you that it should be above party or politics. For this, the Government needs to take firm steps in this regard. A crisis management committee was constituted there. Indian Council of Agricultural Research had also warned and provided certain guidelines about the drought management. Besides, America based "National oceanic and atmosphere administration" had also warned and alerted the Government of India about this fesicious drought situation.'

You are aware that even in a country like America, the Government makes an allocation of Rs. 800 crore per year to combat drought situation. They make arrangements to combat such situation before hand but in our country the Government awakens only when the

drought situation has deteriorated and the Government is caught unawares when the natural clamities like this strike. This tendency should be done away with. Alternative crop should be sown and such an arrangement should be made so as to provide relief to the farmers and the poor people of the drought affected areas. We know that not only the farmers but lakhs of weavers, farm labourers and craftsmen engaged in various crafts are also a harried lot. There is a power shortage in the country today. The Ministry of Power and N.T.P.C. should ensure that those drought affected areas get adequate electricity supply on priority basis.

I hail from Bhagalpur where the paddy crop has been planted in only 20 percent area while it used to be planted in more than 60 percent area by this time of the year during a normal monsoon. Hence, through you I would like to say that the Ministry of Agriculture should formulate a programme in co-ordination with the Ministry of Water Resources and the Ministry of Power. Only a single Ministry should not be held responsible to combat the drought situation. It is the responsibility of the Government of India and all the political parties of India. All of us should try to provide maximum assistance to the people and the farmers by winning their confidence and also by working in co-ordination with each other. It is the need of the hour today. Hence, we should not resort to such political overtones and should not take such step which could disturb the harmony and create friction amongst the people. I would like to particularly know from the members of the ruling party and BJP as to what according to them are the priorities before the country? The priorities before the country today are to help the farmers and combat drought. In such a situation you should try to lead the nation unitedly with all seriousness and without indulging in any fissiparous tendency. I would like to apprise the House the latest situation in this regard. The owners of the sugar mills were asked to pay the outstanding dues to the tune of Rs. 1000 crore pending against them to the farmers but nothing happened despite appealing to them for several years now. This has resulted in worsening the condition of the farmers. The Government of India should ensure that the farmers get their outstanding dues by taking stringent steps in this regard. Today a grave situation has arisen. We want that their outstanding dues should be paid to them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, it is the turn of Shri Ummareddy but as Mulayam Singhji is to leave the House early. Hence, he should be called first.

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: I would not interrupt Mulayam Singhji during his speech but I would like to know whether you would call those Members who have given Notice as per the rule. ...*(Interruptions)* I have cancelled my visit despite a problem. Hence, I appeal that all those Members who have given Notice Under Rule 193 should be called.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time for each party is fixed and the names have been given on behalf of the party.

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Parties do indulge in partiality and injustice but you may do the justice.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): He was a socialist but has switched over to the BJP. He is right in saying that all the parties have become less democratic except Samajwadi Party. ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is deplorable that during the monsoon session of the Parliament when the discussion always used to take place on the situation of flood and rains, for the first time the discussion is being held on the drought situation. Almost the entire country is in the grip of a severe drought and the drought is so severe that the Government cannot shun from its responsibility by labelling it as a natural calamity. The Constitution maker had visualised the setting up of a welfare state in which the Government was expected to provide all the basic facilities to the people and retrieve them from the calamities like drought, flood, earthquake, cyclone or super cyclone which struck Orissa. A welfare state fulfils all such obligations. Today the entire country is in the grip of a severe drought. Let alone irrigation, water is not available even for drinking and washing clothes in several parts of the country. Hon. Shivraj Singh has raised many good issues and he has been able to do so because he is still associated with the village and had it been the case with the Agriculture Minister also he would not have made such statements.

I am not in favour of setting up Commissions and Committees which serve as excuses for not performing and fulfilling the Government's responsibility in combating drought. The Committee and Commissions submit their reports in two to three years. Facilities should be provided immediately. I have seen that Commissions and Committees keep on asking for extending their time so that all the facilities like accommodation, power, allowances and salaries continue to be availed. That is why, I said that if the Government do not want to perform then it constitutes a committee and commission.

Today the country is faced with the problem of starvation and even if there is satisfactory rainfall, crop

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remains completely devastated. Today it is hard to compensate the loss suffered on account of the failure of the monsoon and the whole of the country is facing the same situation as I have told here. In Rajasthan people have let loose their cattle because those are dying for want of water. Crops are totally devastated and there is no fodder to feed the cattle and the farmers do not want to see their cattle dying in front of their eyes. There is no drinking water. Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra are suffering from the same situation which I have mentioned. In Aurangabad and Marathwara people quarrels with one another over drinking waters. We have read in newspapers that in the capital of Madhya Pradesh the drinking water and the water for purpose of taking bathing is supplied once in every two days and even it is not supplied on time. The Chief Minister of both the States i.e. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Digivijay Singh ji and Chief Minister of Maharashtra Shri Vilasrao Desmukh had visited the Pandharpur temple to worship God and pray for the rains. Both the Chief Ministers agreed that they would not be able to combat drought. Nothing can be more disappointing than this. I would appeal to my Congress colleagues to tell the Chief Ministers of their party not to shirk their responsibility of providing facilities to the people by leaving everything to almighty. We have also faced this problem of floods and drought when we were in the Government. The Chief Ministers whether they are from Congress or from BJP are trying to divert the attention of the people from the central issue.

The situation is even worse in Bihar. Approximately 35 districts are drought affected and 22 districts are inundated in flood waters coming from Nepal. This Government has the maximum Ministers from Bihar and they also hail from that particular origin. The flood due to the rivers flowing from Nepal is perennial phenomenon of this area and Bihar comes in the grip of flood's every year but no permanent solution is found to this problem due to which the farmers and the workers are facing devastation.

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): The water from that area also flows down to Poorvanchal.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: You are right. Floods have hit Kushinagar in Uttar Pradesh. We have got the information that eight villages are completely in the grip of floods there. 90 percent of crop in Uttar Pradesh has been devastated due to drought and floods. You might have said today's newspaper. The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh has clearly stated that she had met the Prime Minister and those districts have been declared as drought affected. The hon. Prime Minister told her to work as per the rules.

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh did not say so.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I have not yet finished my speech. You may clarify your position when your turn comes. Only a blind person can say like that. You can read about it in newspaper. The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh told while addressing the Press Conference that she had declared the districts as drought affected as directed by the Prime Minister and the Prime Minister has asked her to work as per the rules and that she has been working as per the rules.

Rajnath Singh ji has been appointed national General Secretary of BJP, Shri Vinay Katiyar has been appointed party President of UP Unit of BJP, but they are not able to get anything done. If you talk to follow the rules then the district which has suffered losses more than 50 percent will be declared drought hit. This is the situation prevailing in UP. The CM of UP is very insensitive. We can not except any relief to be provided to people from such Governments. If Prime Minister, who represents this State, says that so many districts have been declared drought hit, then we shall talk to him, nothing could be more shocking than it in our country. You might be knowing that the same situation is prevailing in Bihar and in many districts in UP, such as Aligarh, Deoria, Ghazipur, Bundelkhand, women are ploughing the land in the night by putting off their clothes so that the rain god Indra may be pleased and rain pours down. Not only that on the burning land boys are lying on the land and burning their body so that God Indira is made pleased and rain down pours. What can be more shameful and sad than it. What can be said, hon., Agriculture Minister, whether you are aware of that. I do not want to repeat, Shri Janeshwar Mishra of our party has already said in the Rajya Sabha that when such a drought situation arose, Raja Janak had himself ploughed the land. At that time women were not required to plough naked and children were not required to lie on the hot land. It reflects the seriousness of the Government. A few days back we read two statements of Agriculture Minister.

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA (Muzaffarnagar): Ask them to plough.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I shall not say so. Prime Minister is very elderly, I can not say him to do so. Hon. Chairman, Sir, few days back I read two

statements of Hon. Minister of Agriculture on drought. One statement is that, have faith in God, pray to please God Indra so that God Indra is pleased and rain down pours. This is first statement of Minister of Agriculture and second statement was that farmers do not worry. Government godowns in our country are full with grains. There is no shortage of grains. Whether Minister of Agriculture is aware that situation have come in the country when Khattis and godowns were full of grains, though people kept dying due to starvation? Whether such situations have not come in the country? Whether Minister of agriculture is aware that 40 percent of the stored grains are not edible even for animals and no State is prepared to purchase wheat from FCI? Should such an insensitive and casual statement given by the Government? Sharad Yadav ji, I and you know very well that Choudhary Saheb has stated several times that I am son of a farmer, not a farmer myself. I am a lawyer. Then I am Minister and my son is a son of lawyer, is a son of a Minister, but not a son of farmer. If power goes to the hand of such people then remember, what was happening during the Congress rule. The same will be done by my son. Remember it. It has been stated before us. It has been said before the people of Samajwadi Party, it has been said before the people openly in a general meeting. I am proud that even now I get the farming done. When I find time to visit native village, I go to farm. I also suggest that in which farm what should be sown. I know what agriculture is and how to do farming? The condition of agricultural labourer and farmers are very miserable and they say that godowns in our country are full of grains. If godowns are full of grains, then I would like to ask Minister of Agriculture the reason of the poverty of farmers? Why the farmers are starving? Why the farmers are reeling under heavy loan? Your godown are full of grains then why their economic condition is not improving? Because they do not get cost of crops at proper time. Why the farmers are not getting payment for sugarcane, potatoes and wheat? At some places no payment has been made to any farmer. Just to say that Government has no money, remember it Hon. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say through you that people and facilities to be provided to the people can not be neglected on the pretext of lack of resources. It is the duty of the Government to generate resources and ensure all round development of the people and the Government which can not do this, can not generate resources, is inefficient and irresponsible. I have been in Government and it is therefore I am saying so. Today, the Government says that recovery will be made in the next year. If recovery will be made next year then what is the benefit of it because all the recovery will be made at one time. Interest will rise. I would like to say that this is not drought hit country, our demand is that it should be declared famine affected country. Kharif crop is already destroyed. You have already accepted it. We know that crop has been destroyed. Loans can be waived and it has been done earlier also. When Sharad Yadav was Minister in the Union Government, he had promised that Central Government shall share fifty percent. When I was Chief Minister of UP I had waived loan worth Rupees 1400 crore, I had waived loan of rupees 10000 per farmer but Central Government has not given a single rupee till date though they had promised to pay half of the total amount. Economic condition of UP Government was not satisfactory at that time. You have a Planning Commission. You can ask to him? They had said that the best performance in the economic front was 1989-90 which continued till 1997. When I was Chief Minister in 1993-94 of UP again then at that time we had approached the Planning Commission and they accorded approval to the amount we demanded. At that time Shri Pranav Mukherjee was Vice Chairman of Planning Commission. This is the report of Reserve Bank. Your assertion is that there is shortage of resources, on this pretext to neglect people and not to help them and not to pay attention towards them is nothing but to shirk responsibility. It is your responsibility to generate resources. We will cooperate with you in it. You should encourage all for it. Voluntary organisations will help you in it. We are ready to give one-two days salary on this account. To save the starving people we are prepared to give one or two days salary and all should give that. If this proposal is passed here then we are prepared to give it. This is a period of trouble. We are prepared to extend government our cooperation and are in favour of extending all types of facilities to the people.

Today what is the condition of country? There is situation of starvation in the whole country. Small farmers stores food grains for only two-three months. Small farmer knows that in the month of Bhadarpad maize and Bajra crop will be harvested and with this hope borrows for marriage and clothing purposes, but today he is not in a position to repay it. Labourer keep food grains for a month or two. Today he is on the verge of starvation. The situation of starvation is prevailing every where. It is therefore, in my opinion country should be declared famine hit. We do not declare drought hit on the pretext that only 20 percent or less than 50 percent crop has been destroyed, but crops in most of the villages have been destroyed. Whether farmer should pray for the destruction of more than fifty percent crops so that relief will be extended by declaring the area as drought hit. Is it

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practical? Should one pray that all the areas be affected with famine and whole village should suffer destruction only then relief will be given., All information village-wise and areas wise are there: Chairman of Zila Parishad will give all informations in this regard. Village Pradhan will give you facts. What the Lekhpals and Tehsildars are doing and how many people are starving in a block. You will get all the information, SHO knows about the dacoits, murderers and anti social elements. They know everything. Hon Minister of Agriculture, you are shirking from your responsibility. We quarrrel with each other and allege each other, we call all of us dishonest, but bureaucrats are enjoying. Are we all dishonest? In view of a few institutions they are honest. In your country CBI is honest, bureaucrats are honest but all politicians are dishonest. Now the bill which is likely to be introduced in view of that we shall fight election on the mercy of anti social elements and criminals. They will level charges of rape and will get reports lodged. You are going to enact such a law.

It will increase the number of criminals and they will come into politics. It should be reviewed as to how many members with criminal background are there in the present Lok Sabha. May be a few criminals are there in the present Lok Sabha. It is not proper to say that all the present Members or Parliament are criminals. I am proud that no criminal was provided assembly tickets in the last Uttar Pradesh Assembly Elections by our party. It might have resulted in the loosing of 2-4 seats but no such person was provided ticket to contest the election. Gill Sahib is not present here but he has all praise for Mulayam Singh for following the guidelines of the Election Commission by not providing tickets to any criminal to contest the election. I was sure if the assembly ticket was provided to a person to control assembly election for an adjoining assembly constituency near Delhi, he was sure to win but he was not given party ticket. I would not like to reiterate as to what type of persons we have to deal with. We don't know how they provide ticket to such persons to contest election against us. If they have fielded some gullible man against us then it will be a matter of pride for us. Doesn't B.J.P. has find any such person to field against us. Somnath Babu, whether you are also involved with them. We are to agitate.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Why are you involving us?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: It is to reform you, you should be reformed. Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are indulging ourselves in useless things. According to same institutions we are dishonest and offenders. The Government is created such type of situations against our political party thus we are being defamed in public. Please consider this practically. No criminal can enter Lok Sabha. The People will not elect criminal. I am finally of the view that no criminal can be elected after defeating me.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is grave crisis due to flood and drought. The water level is going down. I would like to say 2 things about Uttar Pradesh. In Lucknow the constituency of Prime Minister in our local area Etawah, the water level gone down by 20-21 %. both the districts have not been declared as drought affected districts whereas the parliamentary constituency of Shri Ajit Singh has been declared drought affected. Whether his duty was ended with this work. I would like to say that not only those districts but the entire nation should be declared as drought affected.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: The Government itself is drought affected.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: The Government is conspirator from within. Mr. Chairman, Sir, our hon'ble Prime Minister had convened an all party meeting two years ago to discuss serious water crisis in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan. In that meeting all the leaders have unanimously suggested to implement 'Food for Work' scheme in Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra and the second suggestion, was this that digging of Ponds can be done under this scheme. When I was Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, at that time, also we have formulated such a scheme. I would like to know from the Government that what action has been taken on this after taking decision two years back. The Government can not reply as to what is the fate of these schemes. What are the difficulties and shortcomings. Shri Ajit Singh ji you can enquire from the Prime Minister that what was the reasons for not accepting those suggestions. Inspite of the water level going down by 20-21%, Lucknow and Etawah have not been declared as drought affected districts. But you have declared your constituency Baghpat as drought affected. Will you ask the Prime Minister, which districts will come under this list. The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh has said the district which were suggested by the Prime Minister, we have declared them drought affected. 90% of crops of entire Uttar Pradesh have been destroyed. The Agriculture Minister has himself accepted 65% districts. Which figure is correct and which is incorrect, I don't know. But I have read his statement in the newspaper that 65 districts are under the grip of severe drought ...*(Interruptions)* You can ask the Prime Minister.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Now he has to ask the Deputy Prime Minister.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: A statement by the Prime Minister has been published in the newspaper is that there are many imitators in this country. Please do not mind. Pandit Nehru has said you should do cultivation on roof top of your house by putting mud there. Hon'ble Prime Minister says that you should store water on roof tops. Rain water is collected over the rooftop. ...*(Interruptions)* The Minister says to collect water. Matter is serious. You will store water. If you allow me to speak I will speak. I will not speak more, but I was having a lot of submissions.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Central Government have implemented crop Insurance scheme at national level in the country you have spoken correctly but this is only a show business. It is implemented in all the States. But there is no money to pay the premium of Insurance with Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, U.P. and Bihar. Whichever States have been mentioned by me and which are in my knowledge, but they do not have money. You know all these things. The same condition is of Bihar. Mr. Agriculture Minister if you know then you should refrain this when you reply. We are not saying about water crises. It is told by Shri Kofi Annan the General Secretary of U.N. that the next war could be fought for water. This anticipation is becoming strong. Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra are affected by serious drought. There is serious crises of drinking water in Aurangabad, Marathwada. Everyday there is same dispute about water such as Kaveri water, there is dispute for Narmada water between Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. We are affected by the dispute for Yamuna water. Delhi, Haryana, U.P. and Himachal Pradesh are fighting over the sharing of Yamuna water, Chief Ministers of these States used to fight, for that. Then Shri Vidya Charan Shukla was organising panchayat over Yamuna water. Today these disputes are occuring once again. Whatever the General Secretary of U.N. had said, and his hopes are being strongly felt. Today we are facing this situation. There is the dearth of water management.

I would like to say that among the five rivers flowing from the Himalayas river Indus is the main river and distribution of water of river, Indus was based on an agreement which was signed in 1953 with Pakistan. That was against the interests of India. I demand that the Government of India should reconsider it. Mr. Agriculture Minister you should after discussing the matter with the Prime Minister reconsider it and have full share after the dialogue with Pakistan delete the portions from the agreement which are adversely affecting India's water of river Indus which should be flown into India so that Punjab, Haryana, Himachal and Kashmir may not have the crisis of water and power, Pakistan is using that water against our interests. You have signed erroneous agreement. We had opposed at that time also and even today we are saying that we should have dialogue and reconsider that agreement. By this the problem of power and water of these four States can be solved.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Jal Purush, Rajendra Singh who has worked for converting the dry land of Rajasthan into greenland, the Government should take lesson from this and make an effort on experimental basis. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): I have intervened that in my districts Bulandshahar and Gautam Budhnagar are also drought hit areas.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: But when Shri Rajendra Singh was delivering a speech in a Seminar in Aligarh he was insulted by the Chairman of District Panchayat. He was imprisoned under NSA. The statement of Minister of Agriculture that what loss was occurred what anti national act happened by mere slapping. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): An agreement is being signed between Pakistan and India, where NSA is being imposed. You please talk about drought. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I am speaking on drought only. Rajendra Singh worked to counter drought and they are saying 'what is wrong in assaulting him'.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: We did not do so.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Will the water crisis will be solved through casteism?

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Mulayam Singh Yadav ji, please do not make baseless allegations.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I stand by what I have said. Please do not threaten me, hon. Minister? Are you flaunting your ministership?

SHRI AJIT SINGH: You are threatening.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I am not threatening. I am putting forth my views. I just said that being the Minister of Agriculture you ought not to give such statements. If you were quiet, we would not have forced the issue. I would not even have quoted your

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statement. Look in the newspapers what you have said in your statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT SINGH: You look at the list of criminals in your party, I do not need to look at my statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Power has gone to your head. If they get angry they can cause damage but I can do nothing if I get angry. This is the only difference. Since you are in power, you can do anything. That is why I say how that assault has endangered national security. A bijali jal-purush such as Rajendra Singh. ...*(Interruptions)* Jal Purush is sufficient for him. You should have been cautious.

Sir, low rainfall and imbalance in water environment are responsible for such a situation. Trees are being felled indiscriminately and the Government have formulated a number of schemes for plantation. After plantation, Union Government provides huge funds to the States for social forestry but plantation was not undertaken and entire money was wasted. If that money had been well utilized, India would have been a green country and this crisis could have been averted. Hon. Minister of Agriculture should look into it and reply accordingly. At present he is too angry to reply. My demand is that recoveries from farmers should be stopped. Interests due to them should be waived, even if in instalments. Loans should be waived. When I was the Chief Minister of U.P., I had waived farmer's loans. When I again become the Chief Minister of U.P. in 1993, the then Congress Government of the centre had announced Rs. 24 crore for weavers. I provided that amount of Rs. 24 crore from the funds of U.P. Government to weavers but as of now, the Union Government have not made available that amount nor any interest has been paid to that amount. But it did not obstruct either the economic development or the people's development. Development went on and I am pleased that during my Chief Ministership, the financial condition of Uttar Pradesh was very strong. It is not very difficult. Hon. Minister of Agriculture, why don't you waive off the loans of poor farmers? My submission is that all the crisis prone States should be declared famine affected and recoveries of loans should be stopped, rather the loans themselves should be waived. If not in whole, at least half of the loan should be waived off. At least, the interest should be waived. When I was the Cooperative Minister of Uttar Pradesh in 1977-78, we had passed a legislation that in cooperative sector, the interest would not be allowed to go to the double the amount of principal irrespective of the period of the loan. It was done in 1977-78 and then Chaudhary Charan Singh had appreciated it and now when I am speaking in support of farmers, his son gets angry. It is tough. I have said on a number of occasions that we avoid getting angry because the Minister of Agriculture is the son of our leader. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT SINGH: You have said it earlier also. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: We had not done anything. You may abuse me as much as you please, but you will continue to ride piggyback to BJP. If you were not so, you might have attained higher positions. If might have happened but you followed Congress policy to become another Rajiv Gandhi. That was the problem ...*(Interruptions)* They contested elections against me and now are riding piggyback to BJP and became Agriculture Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Please do not speak on your personal drought, speak on drought prevailing in the country.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Please tell me when you want to speak. You can only speak. We do not expect you to do anything. You know nothing about handpumps and canals.

Therefore, I would like to submit that as immediate measures, country should be declared under famine, the loans of farmers should be waived and the school fees for their children should be waived. There is no water in canals, drains, dams or tanks. All this point clearly to the severity of drought.

Sir, please immediately make the payment to farmers for potato and sugarcane. The Government should pay compensation for loans given to the farmers by the banks and interest may also be waived off. Please do not give the excuse that the Reserve Bank of India is not giving approval so what can the Government do. The Government should also make arrangements for fodder and medicines for animals in addition to making arrangements of medicines for farmers. A meeting should be held with the hon. Minister of Railways to chalk out a programme to carry water tankers immediately through trains. The Government states that godowns are overflowing with foodgrains. But I would like to submit that 40 percent of the foodgrains is rotten and the State Governments are not ready to lift the foodgrains. What to talk of human beings, even animals reject the foodgrains.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, facts as told by the hon. Member my be partially correct. I agree that there may be certain complaints about the supplies made by the FCI, but it cannot be generalized. Through you, I would like to state that if complaints regarding rotten foodgrains are received these are immediately redressed, but at most of the places foodgrains supplied are of good quality. So, the hon. Member cannot generalize. All the complaints in this regard would be definitely redressed.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I would request the hon. Minister to visit the godowns and check whether 40 percent of the wheat is rotten or not. The hon. Minister must visit Fatehabad, Prathapgarh, and Allahabad etc. to see the quality himself.

Although, Shri Rajiv Gandhi spoke in English and perhaps people could not understand it, but he stated that merely 16 pasia out of one rupee reaches the common people and 84 paisa get swindled in between. I, therefore, request you to not to be fussy about the reply given in the House, but to visit the godowns to see as to what is the reality. I would withdraw my words if I am wrong.

I would like to submit that India has made great strides in the field of space technology. But despite this we have lagged behind in Meteorology. All predictions of the Meteorological Department are proving wrong, but the scientists of the Department of Meteorology are not to be blamed. The fact is that they are not being provided with all the advanced instruments and machines and other facilities, but still are being blamed. Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Delhi, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Orissa may be declared drought-affected areas.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Department of Water Resources, Department of Agriculture and Department of Power-all these three departments, deal with drought and unless these three departments are given powers and resources etc., nothing could be done because at the moment none of these three departments has any powers or resources. For everything the approval of the Ministry of Finance is a must. Making speech is easy but rhetoric can't provide succour to the poor farmers and the country cannot tackle drought. The lot of the poor farmers cannot be ameliorated till all these three Departments are given adequate powers and resources.

With these words, I conclude and extend my thanks to you for having given me the time to speak.

15.00 hrs.

[English]

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali): Thank you, Mr. Chairman Sir, for having given me the opportunity to speak on this very important issue being debated in the House not once in a year but on two or three occasions. Almost every year it has become more or less a custom and ritual that is being performed at the misery of the nation and at the sufferings of the poor farmers.

These sad seasonal conditions, which have been prevailing across the country in several States and also leading to drought and flood situations, have been making the people miserable taking the lives of several people and also cattle, damaging the property, rendering several people homeless and reducing the people without having any employment opportunities. There are several cascading effects, not only on the agricultural side, not only on the employment generation side, including fodder, including drinking water and also on several issues.

It is with great concern and anguish that I speak on behalf of my party TDP to project some of the views as to whether we have been really concerned about this particular grave issue. I do not say that no effort has been put up by any Government; successive Governments have been trying to do their best. It is the concern of everybody. But still whether the steps that are being taken by Government are adequate or not, whether the Governments have been pulling out their strength in further augmenting the steps; and whether these are the long-term measures or short-term measures, is the real question.

For fourteen consecutive years, it has been said that there was a normal rainfall, though in several parts of the country there were several aberrations. The damage due to flood was there, the damage due to drought was there in several districts but by and large for about 14 years we had normal rainfall in this country. Meteorologists and Climatologists have predicted that the fifteenth year also will be a normal year and they have given the information to this nation and the people thought that normal rainfall will be there during this year i.e the fifteenth year.

Now, what has happened? Quite contrary to the expectations and predictions, there is an unprecedented and unusual drought situation that is prevailing in the country. What had happened to the predictions in the meteorological stations? Are we to blame the scientists who have predicted this or are we to blame whether the country is inadequately equipped with the sophisticated machinery and equipment for doing these predictions? Now, it is a question of soul-searching proposition for the Government.

[Prof. Ummaeddy Venkateswarlu]

It is a heartrending problem for the people. So, we will have to make a thorough analysis. I can speak about how my State is suffering. I can also speak about how the people in different States are suffering due to drought. But a little amount of analysis into the past is required. It is only the experience out of the past century or two centuries which gives us the scope for future planning and future formulation of the policies.

Sir, it has been predicted that in 20 out of 36 meteorological sub-divisions, the rainfall recorded was deficient. Even among the remaining 16, in 10 meteorological sub-divisions, it has been recorded that rainfall is deficient when compared to the long-term average of the rainfall. It amounts that in 30 out of 36 meteorological sub-divisions, the rainfall was deficient.

Yesterday, the hon. Minister for Agriculture has taken stock of the situation and had a meeting of the Agriculture Ministers and Revenue Ministers of 14 States. He said that about 320 districts out of 524 districts are reeling under drought. It is the most unprecedented situation.

Sir, with everyday passes without rain, 10 more districts will be added to the drought situation. It looks as if that there will be no rain in the near future. Even semblance of raining is not there. If this type of dry spell continues for another 10 to 15 days, more than 90 percent of the districts in the country will be drought stricken and the situation will be very alarming. So, drought is prevailing in 14 States in the country and several States are suffering with shortfall in rainfall. I have just collected some data. The deficiency is not to a small extent. West and East Rajasthan are suffering a lot now. The deficiency is—63 per cent as on today. In Western UP it is—68 per cent. In Haryana and Delhi, it is—63 per cent. In Chhattisgarh it is—60 per cent. In Orissa, it is—30 per cent. In Andhra, it is-39 per cent. In Pondicherry it is-34 per cent. In Karnataka it is between-24 and-42 per cent. In Kerala, it is-32 per cent. So, this is the level of deficiency with regard to rainfall as on today when compared to same day of last year. This is the severity of the problem. As a result of which, almost several districts in each State are reeling under drought.

15.07 hrs.

(SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair)*

In Madhya Pradesh, 21 districts out of 45 districts are under drought. In Haryana, normally, paddy to the extent of 6.67 lakh hectares is transplanted every year by this time but now the transplantation has not even gone beyond four lakh hectares. In Chhattisgarh, drought is prevailing in 16 districts. In Karnataka about five districts, in Himachal Pradesh, six out of 12 districts are under drought. In Tamil Nadu, eight delta districts are under drought.

Rajasthan is heavily reeling under drought and it is the worst sufferer. In Andhra Pradesh, out of 23 districts, 144 districts are reeling under severe drought. So this is the gravity of the situation. That is how, the drought is prevailing in various States. So, at this point of time, I would only like the Government to consider one particular thing. No Government can be blamed for this drought situation. It is a natural calamity. But when you just consider the various problems, there is a need for a scientific analysis of the past. In the absence of this type of analysis, no future can be planned.

What are the causes for the growing calamities? Have we ever checked with the earlier position? So you just analyse the drought situations and the natural calamities in the past 200 years. In the 19th century, how many natural calamities have taken place? In the 20th century, what was the position? If you just look into the data, it is really a very surprising.

During the 19th century, that is, between 1801 and 1900, there were 20 natural calamities of severe nature. It amounts to one in five years. During the 20th century, this number has increased to 26. So as the century passes on, as the decade passes on, severe calamities have also been increasing. So, when it was one in five years during the 19th century, it is one in four years in the 20th century.

Take for instance the past 25 years, the quarter century from 1975 to 2000, there were nine disasters, calamities in this country. It works out that there is a calamity of one in three years. So if you just analyse the data, the natural calamities have been increasing. The frequency is increasing in this country. There must have been some substantial reason why this drought situation is increasing from time to time. There are several scientists who have warned the global network about the causes. Several observations are there.

I quote from *The Hindustan Times* of 18th May, 2002:

"None of the findings suggest—as some climatologists would have us believed—that the unseasonal rain and shine the planet has been experiencing lately has anything to do with normal fluctuations in the atmospheric systems. On the contrary, they turn out to be only a precursor to the kind of climate changes that can be expected from the global warming fuelled by the build up of CO2 and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. The world was warmer in the first three months of this year than at any time in the past, 1000 years..."

When compared to the past 1,000 years, the warmth in the globe during the past three months was very high.

There must have been some substantial reason for that. That is why, besides going into the short-term measures that any Government would take, why should we not have a thorough scientific analysis as to what exactly are the reasons why droughts are increasing from time to time and why the temperature is increasing from time to time?

In my own State, this year, the highest temperature recorded was 51 degrees Celsius. Never in the past has the temperature gone up to 51 degree Celsius. Here is a warning that at this rate global temperatures would be increasing by as much as four degree Celsius by 2080. By 2080, in our country too, there would be an increase of four degree Celsius. So, in my State, if it were 51 degree Celsius this year, after some seventy to eighty years, if, it would increase by four degrees to 55 degree Celsius, no living creature would be able to survive. That is the gravity of the situation. It depends on how much carbon dioxide is released in the atmosphere.

The urgency of the situation is easier to gauge than the consequences, which would be much more than mere mega-storms and droughts. One shudders to recall how in 1994, a long monsoon in north India, followed by scorching temperatures drove all the rats into the cities. This caused an outbreak of pneumonic plague in Surat, killing scores and costing dearly to this country; 90 long days of dry spell costed so much. These are some of the issues here. So, why should we not have a thorough scientific analysis of the past and build plans for the future?

It has been warned that it is time for a planetary health check up, which would examine the impact of the changes in environment like loss of bio-diversity, indiscriminate use of fertilisers and pesticides, consistent pollution of water bodies, etc. and imbalance in ecological systems. All the major environmental concerns have got a contribution to the present state of affairs. That is where we would have to make a thorough analysis of these issues. Between 23rd of October and 1st of November this year, India is going to host a major international conference called. "The Conference of Parties to the United Nations' Framework Convention on Climatic Change". We are told that we are going to host an international conference on climatic changes and about 5,000 delegates are expected to attend this conference.

Before we host the conference, what is the thorough analysis that we are going to make? Being the host country, what is the type of scientific analysis that we are going to have to make a presentation in such a high level conference on climatological issues. If there were any analysis, we would be happy if this House could be taken into confidence. If they share with us the issues, we would be happy. We would get educated as to how this planet is behaving and as to how this country is going to suffer. We would be happy if the hon. Minister of Agriculture would get the information from the hon. Minister of Environment and Forests, who would be normally doing this job, and disseminate this information among all those concerned, whether it is the farming community of any other community.

As such, natural calamities play a very vital role. Instead of just discussing every year on this issue and just asking for some short-term measures, which are inevitable to mitigate the situation at that point of time, a long-term policy on this issue is much more useful and meaningful, particularly during this age of 21st century where globally we talk about the technological revolution. If we express our inability to predict and educate the masses it will be really disastrous.

I remember to have seen one item in the media recently that Governments cannot come to the rescue of these victims and it is only the God who can come to the rescue of these victims. If this type of helplessness is expressed by the Governments, we will be shattering the very confidence of the people, leave aside the succour that you are going to provide. The very confidence is now being shattered when we say that the Governments cannot come to the rescue of the people, but it is only God who can come to the rescue of the people.

Somehow, very alarming situations are prevailing. I will come to the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission. I am not going into the details of the Ninth Finance Commission and Tenth Finance Commission. Every Finance Commission is adding one type of relief fund. When the Ninth Finance Commission came. it gave the Calamity Relief Fund; the Tenth Finance Commission has provided for National Fund for Calamity Relief; and the Eleventh Finance Commission has abolished it and then said let there be a National Calamity-cum-Contingency Fund. Whatever the fund might be, the people are not bothered. You may call it with whatever name you want. But it is the relief that the Governments are providing which matters whether it is at 3:1 ratio between Central Government and the State Government or any other thing. It is ultimately that at a right time right size of relief is being expected by the people.

[Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu]

The Eleventh Finance Commission has recommended for creation of a National Centre for Disaster Management on a permanent basis to monitor the natural calamities. I do not know whether it has been created or not. I have to get the information on it. I do not know whether it has started functioning or not. If it has started functioning, what are the findings of this Committee which has been created on a permanent basis? I want to know whether any analysis is being made or being attempted by this Committee or not, as I said, to got into the past and to see how it is to be analysed. What is the analysis that this particular Committee has made?

Several teams have been sent when there is a drought, on the invitation of the State Government. Drought relief assessment team is sent and ministerial team is sent when there is a demand. The Ministers will be going. There is an inter-ministerial group constituted under the chairmanship of the hon. Minister of Agriculture. But why should we wait till such time that there is an invitation from the State Government? When we are convinced that in about 14 States severe drought situation is prevailing, that too at a very alarming rate, why should we not constitute teams right now and send them to different States? Why should we not get the information periodically? Why should we always say that it is only the prerogative of the State Governments as far as the relief measures are concerned and that the relief and rehabilitation are the headaches of the State Governments?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Venkateswarlu, please be brief.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Sir, I will take just five more minutes. I am only trying to convince as to how we should have a scientific analysis of these issues. I am not wasting any time nor it is my intention to waste the time of this House.

Here, several teams are being constituted. By the time, the relief is actually handed over, how much time is being taken on an average? When there is a drought, it takes a minimum of three to four months by the time all this process is over and then, relief is provided to them. When there is a flood, the same thing happens. By the time the flood assessment team goes to different States, drought will be prevailing there. What is that anybody can see. This is the situation and on several occasions, scientists and study groups nationwide have also suggested that this is one of the very important issues.

Earlier, in the same House when Shri Nitish Kumar was the Minister of Agriculture, he made a commitment on this particular issue that "flood-prone zoning programme" would be undertaken by the Union Government. The entire country is to be covered with this flood-prone zoning programme. What is the progress of it? Has any attempt been made?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): Have all the States agreed?

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Why not? Is there any discussion with different State Gvoernments, he may kindly put it up to this House. Let us also know if the States are not agreeable. Let us know which States have rejected this proposal. There should be some attempt. This flood-prone zoning programme has not been taken up so far. This is the reason why flood situation is getting from bad to worst.

Secondly, the NCCF, National Calamity and Contingency Fund has been started on the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission, with Rs. 500 crore, which is really a meagre amount looking at the size of this country and also the size of natural calamities which we have been facing. It has been said that it will be further improved by collecting cess from different sources. What is the surcharge that has been levied on the cess to enhance this Fund? When there were natural calamities in Orissa and Gujarat and when there was an appeal from the Government, the hon. Prime Minister and Members of Parliament also have contributed from their funds under MPLADS at the rate of Rs. 10 lakh on each occasion. We did not mind.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Not all have contributed.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: At least, many Members have contributed. If he wants to give the figures, he may kindly provide the figures and once again make an appeal. ...*(Interruptions)* If there is an appeal, kindly come forward.

Sir, my suggestion in this regard is that instead of giving Rs. 10 lakh on certain occasions, since the natural calamities have become a regular feature every year in almost all the States, why not on a permanent basis, that every year Rs. 10 lakh is contributed by all the Members? After all, out of Rs. 2 crore, Rs. 10 lakh contribution to the people, who are living under misery, is not a big amount. The Chairman of Committee on MPLADS, Shri B.B. Ramaiah is here with me. Why should not every year, on a permanent basis, Rs. 10 lakh be contributed? ...*(Interruption)* I think, the Prime Minister is already considering increasing this amount. So, every year, there will be Rs. 80 crore contributed by the Members.

On an earlier occasion, the Government had expressed the desire to bring about a model "Disaster Management Act". I would like to know whether they

have brought out that Act and what happened to the recommendations of Pant Committee. These are some of the issues that are to be looked into.

Coming to my own State, I would say that Andhra Pradesh is reeling under drought situation consecutively for the past 5 years.

Sir, when Shri Deve Gowda was speaking, he mentioned that there is a discrimination being shown by the Government of India; certain States have been given more foodgrains under the 'Food for Work' Programme, and certain States have not been given the foodgrains to the same extent. Last year, 22 districts out of 23 districts were reeling under severe drought in Andhra Pradesh. We requested for a relief of Rs. 1,150 crore. That relief was not given, but the Government of India came forward and said that instead of cash relief, they would give foodgrains. We have taken that. Instead of cash relief, the Government of Andhra Pradesh had taken 31.5 lakh tonnes of rice. It is a record quantity, but these foodgrains were utilised for creation of assets, for generating employment—about 35 crore mandays were created for those who were denied of their employment opportunities-and nearly 5.8 lakh assets were created. It was mainly utilised for desilting of the tanks, for improving the water holding capacity. The disiltation process has been taken up State-wide.

This year, the present situation is such that from the third week of June till today, there is no rain, and a severe drought spell is going on. This has resulted in the reduction of the cropped area. There is a large-scale unemployment, particularly in the agriculture sector, coupled with scarcity of drinking water and fodder to the cattle. Out of 1126 *mandals, 929 mandals* in my State of Andhra Pradesh are affected by drought. In most of the reservoirs, the water-level has gone down and there is a shortfall The water level in Singur has gone down from 1717.85 feet to 1706 feet. In Nizamsagar, the normal water-level in the reservoir is 1405 feet, and it has gone down to 1370 feet. In Sriramsagar, from 1091 feet, it has gone down to 1069 feet. In Tungabhadra, from 1633 feet, it has gone down to 1602 feet. In Jurala, from 1045 feet, it has gone down to 1034 feet. In Srisailam, from 855 feet, it has gone down to 783 feet. In Nagarjunasagar, from 590 feet, it has gone down to 503 feet. In Somasila, from 330 feet, it has gone down to 275 feet. In Kandaleru, from 278 feet, it has gone down to 205 feet. We have got nine reservoirs in the State. In all the nine reservoirs, there is a shortfall in the total holding capacity.

Sir, the total cropped area is 81.80 lakh hectares. Out of this, only in 22.07 lakh hectares, the plantation has taken place. That means, only 26 per cent of the total area has been sown or planted. Even in this, in 50 per cent of the area, the crops have dried up. It is a very alarming situation. In a State like Andhra Pradesh, which is said to be the granary of the country, like Punjab and Haryana, a miserable state of affairs is prevailing. So far as coarse grains are concerned, 9.25 lakh hectares are the normal cropped area, but today only 5.21 lakh hectares are being sown. The total cropped area for pulses is 8.66 lakh hectares, but today only 4.43 lakh hectares is being sown. In case of oilseeds, the production has gone down tremendously. Out of 21.55 lakh hectares, only 4.25 lakh hectares are being sown for oilseed production. The total dry crop area is normally 52.54 lakh hectares, but now only 30 per cent or 17.89 lakh hectares are sown. As such, the cropped area itself has gone down and this is a very sad situation.

Lastly, the drinking water supply is also in a very precarious condition.

Now, we are in a situation where we are transporting drinking water on vehicles to most of the villages in our State. How long could a State Government or any individual be in a position to supply drinking water to villages on trucks?

Sir, fodder and seeds are in scarce and there is also need of employment generation. This year, our Government has requested for a relief worth Rs. 960 crore to meet the present situation. Out of this amount, the agricultural sector would require Rs. 550 crore; for drinking water supply, both rural and urban, a sum of Rs. 350 crore would be required; for fodder and seeds etc., a sum of Rs. 60.9 crore would be required and there would also be a requirement of ten million tonnes of rice.

Sir, in conclusion what I would like to impress upon this august House is that the situation, as prevailing, is very bad. The crop insurance scheme in most States is not in operation. Since there has to be a matching share of both the Centre and the States, this scheme is in a very bad shape. It has been proposed by Shri Deve Gowda and Shri Mulayam Singh that loans to farmers should be waived. If most of the States are in the grip of a drought consecutively for four to five years, then how could the farmers be in a position to pay off their loans? The percentage of NPA in the agriculture sector is negligible in comparison to the total NPA of all the sectors taken together. Therefore, several factors need to be taken into consideration for providing relief. What

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is being provided now by the Union Government is not even five per cent of the total demand made.

Sir, in the year 1996-97 demand was made by AP State for a sum or Rs. 896 crore but only a sum of Rs. 142 crore was given. In the year 1997-98 demand was made for a sum or Rs. 1159 crore, but only a sum of Rs. 42 crore was given. In the year 1998-99, a demand was made for a sum of Rs.. 600 crore but only a sum of Rs 265 crore was given by the Union Government. So, in all these three years not even five per cent of the total demand made by A.P. Government was given by the Union Government. The Government has to think about providing long-term relief to the States in order to relieve the people of their miseries arising out of such a situation.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE (Ramtek): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today we are discussing in the House the serious problem being faced by the country.

Sir, the tradition and history of this country has given an important position to the farmers and we have even many proverbs eulogizing that farmer is everything for us and infact is made the central point of all the things. I have been listening to the lines 'Mera Bharat Mahan' (My India is great) since childhood. Lal Bahadur Shastri gave the slogan-Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan. Then one more slogan became famous that the country will be saved if farmer is saved. But I think this slogan was wrong, because country was saved but farmer got ruined. All leaders of the farmers in their speeches definitely say one sentence that even the Chief Ministers say that India is a country of farmers. But I think, this sentence used in every speech, is wrong. This country was the country of the farmers in the past.

Sir, if we analyse the situation prevailing in the country we find that this is not true. This country was the country of the farmers one hundred and fifty years back when the British came here. At that time the country was called as "Sone Ki Chidiya" (the Golden Bird). The soil of India was the most fertile in the world. Due to regular rainfall, water of this country was of the best quality in the world. India witnessed all the four seasons as compared to other European Countries and these were quite regular. Rising of the sun everyday was almost certain in India, unlike the European Countries where one was never sure whether Sun Would rise the very next morning or not, because Sun has been rising here since the origin of earth itself. And that is why at that time the farmer of this country was happy and prosperous.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if one really wants to observe the time and phases of starting of ruination of our farmers, one has to read history quite patently and have also gone through each law enacted in this regard. The British found that farmers of this country are quite strong and know how to weaken them. And for this purpose, the British levied taxes. One film has also been released by the name of "Lagaan'. A law for levying taxes was enacted in 1760. according to which, it was made mandatory that the farmers of this country would give 50 percent of whatever they grow in their fields to the Government in the form of land revenue. If any farmer did not pay 50 percent tax, his house was seized, his cattle and other assets were seized. Not only this, if somebody raises the voice, he was shot dead.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, after this Land Acquisition Act was enacted 103 years ago to ruin the farmers. It is true that Land Acquisition Act was brought because thousands of farmers of this country used to consider their land as their mother and for them selling their land was like selling their mother. Therefore, they did not sell their land. There was a strong love bond between farmers and land. No farmer was willing to sell their land. Therefore, the britisher's brought Land Acquisition Act, whenever the Government requires, it can acquire the land of farmers. Act regarding tax and then Land Acquisition Act was enacted. After this, Indian Forest Act was enacted. Today, in the morning, an hon'ble Member was saying that due to India Forest Act, a project has not been completed in 20 years in his area. We still are implementing the legislations of 1760 and 1870 as per our Constitution. Still we call our country an agriculture-based country.

Sir, I would like to say that this country is no longer an agriculture-based country. Our country was agriculture-based when East India company was operating here. At that time, there was only one East India Company, today at least 4000 multi-national companies are operating in this country. How can we agree that this country is an agriculture-based country. At the time of British rule, there was only one East India company and after independence there are 4000 companies. Where will the farmer go and how can we say that our country is an agriculture-based country.

Sir, the kind of scams which have taken place in our country, has never occured in any other country of the world. If I will start speaking about those scams, it would

be deviating from original issue, but it is true that this country is being sold by taking the bribe. If the biggest share, telecom, fertilizer scams have taken place anywhere in the world, it is in India. Not only this the world's biggest fodder scam has also taken place in India. Not only we have encroached upon the rights of human beings, but of animals also. If we can deprive animals from fodder, we do not have any moral right of talking about farmer's right? Therefore, I do understand that no solution can be sought from this discussion.

There is a WTO agreement, We have got commitment towards World Trade Organisation, we have to abide by it. I would like to tell that the hon'ble Minister should review WTO conditions. If conditions are there for agriculture production, it will become very difficult for us. The condition of farmers is very pitiable. They are asking the Government the farmers are facing a lot for their survival. The hon'ble Members are answerable to them. The farmers are very hopeful from their representatives. They think that the representatives can decide about them. It appears to me that we have to discuss this issue here.

I would like to draw your attention towards 'The Economic Times' dated 21st July. It has been reported in it that there are 36 divisions as per the Meteorological Department of India, out of which there are 20 deficit rainfall divisions. It means, rainfall is less than normal rainfall. In 10 divisions, it is normal but it is less than surplus. In six divisions, it is excess rainfall. It means in 26 out of 36 divisions, rainfall is not average. It means more than 50 percent or 60 percent of the country's area is affected by the drought. I can understand what would be the condition of the farmer of the country, whose 50 percent area is affected by the drought. These are official figures. The condition of the farmers of the country is very pathetic.

It is very amazing that on second Wednesday of October, we celebrate "International Day for Disaster Reduction" ...*(Interruptions)* I have taken only three minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have been speaking for the last eight minutes.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon'ble Members are being called according to the time allotted in the list. Any hon'ble Member should not have any doubt in this regard. Time is allotted to all parties, Members are getting time according to it.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: We pledge on 'International Day for Disaster Reduction' that whoever would be in power, would try to check natural calamity. We make this pledge every year in the month of October, but it appears to me that this pledge is taken on papers only because in present scenario drought declined situation is there and not practical one. The problem of drought is well known. It is not so, that this situation has arisen suddenly. It happens every year. Everybody is aware of its dreadfulness. Who is affected by it? The farmers are most affected by it, everybody is aware of it, Despite knowing this every year we discuss this issue in Parliament.

I would like to ask you that when the Government are aware of forthcoming problem of drought, then it could had find out the solution to overcome it. The drought affected farmers have committed suicide, I understand that we would be able to pay tributes to them by finding out the solution. I will not take much time. I would like to tell one valid point, Shri Venkateshwarlu has quoted data of global warming. I would like to submit to the hon'ble Member that this point is very important. He said that as per global warming the temperature of this country will increase by 4 degree centigrade. It means it would be 54 degree centigrade. You know that what is one degree centigrade. I do not consider drought as natural calamity because I am a very analytical person. It is not natural calamity but man made calamity. There are several reasons of drought and one reason is global warming. There are three reasons which can be checked by us but global warming is not in our hand, Meteorological Department makes inadequate predictions, as said by an hon'ble Member. When Meteorological Department says it is going to rain, rain comes after ten days, when it says, it would be sunny, it rains. The Union Government spends thousands crores of rupees every year on water harvesting, but is unable to provide any kind of relief to the farmers. Even today, there is lot of sea-water in Mumbai, but they are unable to provide drinking water and water for irrigation to the farmers.

The hon'ble Minister convened a meeting yesterday. I do not want to embarrass him or dare to say anything to him. I have read in newspapers that hon'ble Minister has convened a meeting of 10-11 States wherein he gave three assurances-the first assurance is that date for insurance cover will be extended, secondly, the date for payment of loan will be extended and thirdly some subsidy has been provided, I feel that it cannot be termed relief. The extension of period for payment of loan can not be a relief because anyhow they have to pay the loan. I

[Shri Subodh Mohite]

feel that it is quite late to convene a meeting on drought on 24th July, as half of the rainy season is over and month of July is waning. Now after passing half of the rainy season a meeting is being convened. I feel we are late. It seems that problem is at bottom and treatment is being done at top. Villages are in grip of drought and meeting is being convened in Delhi. Chief Secretary and Chief Ministers are coming here. I request the hon'ble Minister that instead of going from top of bottom we should start from bottom to top. I feel that there is no need of convening a meeting. I have also stated earlier that why a standard package is not prepared for tackling drought situation when in absence of rains drought was expected. We are discussing drought situation here but what would be the degree and nature of drought next year ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: I am concluding.

Instead of convening a meeting a standard package for implementation from Zero date should be prepared so that there would be no need of convening meetings in comings years. This is the theme of my today's speech.

I come from Ramtek parliamentary constituency which is the most backward area. I am not talking about the State. My area alone suffered a loss of Rs. 900 crore. 90 lakh trees of orange which is a cash crop have been damaged. Shri Muttemwar comes from the neighbouring areas. He knows that newspapers have reported a loss of Rs. 900 crore in my constituency. No work of E.G.S. is being done there. Drinking water is not available but wine is easily available there. Vidarbha is considered a backward area and funds meant for it has been diverted and the Government have no time, to take measures in this regard. This is the reality and I am presenting here. When there was drought the Government was busy in expansion of the Cabinet. Instead of discussing the issue of drought a meeting of MLA's was convened in Indore and Bangalore. In such a situation, where will the farmers go? I do not want to take the name of any person but a Minister in the Cabinet itself has raised demand to provide financial relief.

[English]

Why, you are the decision-maker and you have to take the decision.

[Translation]

He has stated in public that money should be given.

[English]

You are the decision-maker and you are the Supreme authority.

[Translation]

Public is being misled in this regard. I feel that it should be exposed. I would like to inform the hon'ble Minister that so far no survey has been conducted for estimating loss due to drought in constituency of Shri Muttemwar and that of mine. Today itself I discussed the matter with the Collector. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: 55 hon'ble Members are yet to speak. All should speak as per the time allotted to their parties ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Some people from Western Maharasthra have told no compensation would be given for damage to orange crop ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mohiteji, there is long list of Members who want to speak and all the hon'ble Members should get a chance to speak. It is an important issue.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Therefore, hon'ble Minister should visit the area. My last request is that Central Government should intervene and provide direct relief to farmers. With this request, I conclude.

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN (Banda): Mr. Chairman, Sir, our country is in grip of severe drought. Most of the parts of the country are in grip of drought and this problem is being discussed here today. I have got several chances in Legislative Assembly and Lok Sabha to listen to debate on the problem of drought during last 35 years.

This issue is debated very seriously and unanimous opinion is expressed to deal with the problem of drought. Certain decisions are taken but irony is that after some days all these decisions disappear and nothing is done. The main reason for it is that issues related to agriculture, farmers, villages and poor are raised occasionally and not very emphatically, what after sometimes got vanish. Earlier a slogan was raised- 'Chalo gaon ki aur', what has happened to that slogan now. The objective behind "Back to villages" was that attention should be paid towards problems of agriculture, farmers, villages and poor but that was not done. As a result thereof these problems keep on becoming serious and villages, poor people, farmers and labourers suffer.

Several big plans were formulated. This situation would not have arisen if former Governments, which were party it belonged to had paid serious attention towards these problems, Irrigation projects lying pending for the last 10,15 and 20 years would have completed. But irony is that cost of these projects keep on increasing. How drought problems can be solved if projects remain incomplete. All the political parties, especially the Government should resolve to pay attention and take measures to counter drought problems.

The whole kharif crop of Jowar, Bajra, Arhar, Moong, Pulses and maize have got damaged. The crop of paddy has also got damaged. Several other crops have also got ruined in other areas. I do not think that any Government would provide compensation for loss to farmers, but measures should be taken immediately to provide relief to farmers. We still hope that if it rains in the coming 2-4 or ten days then perhaps farmers will get relief in regard to the rabi crop. From the weather conditions it seems that there would not be any rain in coming 2-4 days and there are apprehensions of severe drought. Thus as per the demands of hon'ble Members. the districts under grip of drought should be declared as drought affected areas.

16.00 hrs.

He can waive off revenue only when it has been declared as famine-affected area. Even the law states that if there is 50 percent loss nothing can be done and unless the information is received that there is more than 75 percent loss, land revenue cannot be waived off. No Government have paid attention towards this point.

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (Satna): Not drought but the country is facing severe famine and for this both State and Central Government will have to make efforts.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt. Shri Ram Sajivanji, you please continue your speech.

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN: The area of Bundelkhand. which belongs to both of us, is the most affected region and that is why we are much more pained.

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: My district is adjacent to his district. His State Government have declared it as drought affected area but my State Government has not declared so far. My State Government should also be asked to take the same step.

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN: His government is helping him and he is seeking our help. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramanandji, you speak when you get your chance.

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN: First of all Uttar Pradesh Government declared 26 districts as drought prone districts. Other Governments are also doing the same thing. Our Uttar Pradesh Government is also considering the reports which it has received from other districts. The number of drought prone districts is increasing. We should think about the lacuna of law enacted in this regard. There should be a provision, be any Government to waive off land revenue in the districts where 50 percent area is declared under the grip of drought. But there is no such provision instead the interest accrued on the loan is recovered next year. Therefore, law should be enacted wherein a provision of waiving off interest, loan and land revenue of farmers should be made if they suffer 50 percent loss instead of 75 percent.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: This is very important thing.

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN: I have seen various governments during last 35 years but no government have made any changes in it. I am sure that even today no government will make any change in this law. If we have the courage then we should ask the Government to make the provision that if there is more than 50 percent loss then the interest and loans of farmers should be waived off. We should ask the Government for the same. But we are afraid that if such demand is raised the Party would not give ticket or we may lose election.

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: We do not fear that we will not get party ticket. We are among those who speak in clear cut manner and we always talk about the interest of farmers.

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN: I have put up this proposal here and if the entire House unanimously agree then we should pass it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Government is noting all your points.

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN : Food for work programme has been implemented. Workers and the poors get the work under this programme. However my experience in this regard is that this programme is being implemented for deepening the ponds in drought affected areas. This is true that a condition has been imposed under this Programme that other work would also be done under it but it is not possible to deepen a pond in an area of 15-20 bighas for filling up water whether a number of workers

[Shri Ram Sajivan]

be engaged therefore there must be some relaxation in it. The use of trucks should also be permitted in drought relief works and deepening of ponds so that this work could be done quickly. We do not oppose that roads be constructed, wages be given and rule of man days be followed but law be changed to deepen the ponds and tackle the drought. We should make submission to Shri Ajit Singhji in this regard. Though he is our agricultural minister, he is not concerned with drought because it relates to the problem of power supply, diesel and rural development. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now your time is over. You please sit down. I have got long list of speakers.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN: My submission is that Ministers of various concerned departments should pay attention towards it. Apart from, there is a need to pay special attention towards the Bundelkhand region. This area suffers drought almost every year and I raise this issue whenever debate takes place in the Lok Sabha on this subject. The Southern part of Bundelkhand and Chhattisgarh is also covered under it. Many parts of Bundelkhand are also drought affected. The crops of this region has dried up. These crops cannot be revived but relief to the farmers can be provided by launching special drive. A scheme has been formulated for Bundelkhand. I do not know whether the U.P. Government or the MP. Government have formulated that scheme but by giving subsidy of Rs. 1 lakh to farmers. U.P. Government have formulated free boring scheme. The Government implement this scheme by investing Rs. 1 lakh in farmers field but the Uttar Pradesh Government resources crunch. I have raised this issue several times. I have raised this issue under Rule 377 also that the Government should provide assistance in free boring scheme and the Minister of Irrigation says that we do not have any such scheme.

Therefore, I would like to say that the Government, be they are formed by any party, are influenced by the people who are elected from Metropolitan cities. Therefore the system should be changed because the people who have been elected from cities and metropolitan cities are not aware of the problems being faced by farmers, poor people as compared to those who have been elected from rural areas. I therefore, request the hon'ble Members, of rural background to get together and force the Government for the development of rural areas.

SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA (Dahanu): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. First of all, I would express my gratitude to the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture as he has announced to give relief to the farmers after convening a meeting of the Agriculture Ministers of 11 States. In the present situation of drought, he is providing assistance to farmers having the land less than two hectare. I do not understand how to describe the situation prevailing in my area. Should I call it flood affected or drought affected? I belong to Thane district, which witnessed the continuous rainfall on the last 25th, 26th and 27th June. On 26th, 29 inches rainfall was recorded. It rained continuously for 10-12 hours which resulted in heavy losses. However, since the last 27th, this area has not received any rainfall. Paddy sapplings are prepared in my area for transplantation. However, in the absence of rainfall, these saplings were not transplanted and dried up. The entire tribal area has been submerged by the floods caused by rainfall. 66 people have drowned, 18 are missing and 25 thousand houses have collapsed. Besides, several schools, hospitals and roads have washed away. About 50 km long railway track of Western Railways has also been washed away. As a result of which railway traffic coming from Mumbai city was paralysed for 10 days. People of my area have suffered heavy losses due to this flood. A Central team was sent by the Government to assess the situation. Thereafter, the Maharashtra Government has demanded assistance from the Central Government.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Government provide assistance of Rs. 600 to an individual in case his house is washed away in the floods. This compensation is given to the people living below the poverty line. Only Rs. 600 are being given for such a big loss. They have to construct their houses also. It has been stated that the assistance would be provided only to those who are living below poverty line. Several small traders have suffered losses. Dahanu is a tribal area under my constituency. There is textile industry in the Bhivandi city. Half of Bhivandi city which has a population of approx. 10 lakh was submerged in water. The other big city Dahanu with a population of about one lakh people was also submerged in flood water. Small traders and industrialists have suffered heavy losses there. But the Government have not made any provision to give them compensation. Those who had taken loan from the banks to start their business have also suffered a loss of about 25-30 lakh. Now it will take 5-10 years for them to restart their business. My submission is whether the Government would again sanction a loan to such people or they will be given a relief in the interest or in income tax.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, my area is affected by drought also. Transplantation of Paddy saplings prepared by the

farmers could not be undertaken in my area. Despite, having such a heavy rainfall, my constituency is facing drought. The issue of water level and water management is being discussed here. Throught you, I would like to suggest that if the Government take any steps in this regard, we can also utilize the funds given to us under MPLAD Scheme for constructing check dams. Out of the total funds given under this scheme, about 10-30 percent should be spent on check dams. Guidelines in this regard should be amended.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Anna Hazare is a well known personality in my State who has placed an example of constructing check dam in Maharashtra for water management. There is a saying in Marathi language-"Pani arava chirava". He has accomplished a great task for water management. Water conservation is essential to tackle the drought situation. The person like Anna Hazare should be consulted for water conservation in the entire country. Drought is a natural calamity and we can not solve this problem permanently, but still water conservation is necessary today.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, discussion was also held here about the level of borewell. Today, water level is going down in the entire country and even in the entire world. There is no check on the depth of borewell. People are competing in this regard also. Suppose I dig the borewell with the depth of 100mt., my neighbour will dig up 300 mts. and the next to him will dig up 600 mts. I mean that there should be water level management. My constituency fall under coastal area. Plantation crop is undertaken in my area for which people use borewell water. There is a competition among people in this regard also. Borewells are dig up with the depth of 700 or 800 mt. According to the report submitted recently that due to the depletion of water level, the ocean water, seeps into the surrounding areas and one day it causes drought there. The Government must think over it.

We should have fodder management also. I hail from an area where dry grass grows abundantly. We provide dry grass to Gujarat and other parts of Maharashtra. Today dry grass is required in the whole country. It is still lying in the godowns of my area. My suggestion is that Government should acquire it. Water is supplied to Mumbai from my constituency. There are three ponds-Lansa, Vatarna and Mansa in Mumbai for water supply. These are situated in my area which is also affected by drought. If it does not rain in the coming days, the dam supplying water to Mumbai will also dry up and Mumbai will face scarcity of water. Water supply to Mumbai is also made from the Damanganga dam in Dadra and Nagar Haveli. This dam has huge water capacity. A dam has also been constructed in Surya Nagar area of Mumbai in my constituency under a tribal sub-plan. But whenever, Mumbai faces the scarcity of water, it leads to drought like situation, as such, the Government get water from this dam. In this regard, my suggestion is that to meet the additional demand of water in Mumbai, supply should be made from Damanganga Ganga dam situated at 150 kms away from Mumbai. The recently constructed dam in my area is also situated at a distance of 70-80 km. from Mumbai. Water supply to Mumbai can also be made from this dam. In this way Mumbai would get enough water.

In the end. I would like to thank you once again for giving me an opportunity to speak.

DR. GIRIJA VYAS (Udaipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, so far as the topography of India is concerned it is said that even heaven is envious of India which is endowed with six seasons. However it is ironical and paradoxical that 28-30 percent cultivable land of this country always remain drought prone. Similarly, 16 lakh hectare land is destroyed every year due to floods and nearly 1500-2000 people die on account of floods and drought.

Sir, the poor people are the most affected as the flood prone areas comprising of eastern Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Meghalaya, Bihar and other such areas are inhabited by poor people. Similarly, drought prone areas include Rajasthan, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Marathwada, Karnataka and Gujarat. This year Punjab and Haryana have also entered into the list of drought prone areas. This phenomenon goes on increasing every year. As the hon. Members who spoke before me have also submitted that if we look at the history of natural calamities during the last hundred years we will find that every year we have been suffering on account of the ever increasing fury of drought. Drought is likely to occur every third year in future. In this situation the House should seriously brood over the reason of such phenomenon and the ways and means to tackle such situation.

As far as the reasons of it are concerned, whether it be mountain ecology, the merciless exploitation of ground water or destruction of forests due to developmental works like building of roads and other such activities nobody can deny the fact that all these factors have adversely affected rainfall. Sir, it has been noticed that there are areas where drought occurs time and again and people have to face the sufferings of drought every third year. Presently, drought has gripped the States of

[Dr. Girija Vyas]

Rajastahan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa etc. It we recall the drought of 1987 in the country one finds that 58 to 60 percent of the land area was affected by drought, 287 districts were reeling under famine and 166 millions people had to suffer on account of it. However, the way the situation was tackled during the premiership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi was lauded not only by the ruling party but also by many hon'ble Members of the opposition and other political parties. The reason was that proper arrangements were made at that time to tackle the drought situation. Arrangements were made to provide relief to the affected people.

Sir, at that time late Shri Rajiv Gandhi the husband of our leader of opposition hon. Sonia Gandhi had himself visited that region in Rajasthan which was situated adjacent to parliamentary constituency of an hon. Member of Gujarat to meet the people suffering due to drought. He not only assessed the shortage of foodgrains but also made arrangements for the distribution of food grains to the farmers affected by drought and provide jobs to the people. Even today, the arrangement made at that time are appreciated. Since then such arrangements and administrative competence was never visible at the time of subsequent famine and droughts.

Sir, presently the drought and famine have occurred in nearly 14 States of the country and on the basis of the report which is likely to come in the coming week. I can say that more than half of the country is likely to fall victim to famine. The situation in Karnataka is very bad. In view of the shortage of drinking water in every district, the State Government have demanded more funds from the Government of India. In Madhya Pradesh Soyabean and Millet crops have been completely destroyed. The rainwater harvesting situation in Tamil Nadu has improved, however, it is very difficult to describe the sufferings of coconut growers there. Saurashtra and the Kutch region in Gujarat are in the grip of severe drought condition. Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput (KBK) in Orissa are faced with the scourge of severe famine. The twin States of Punjab and Haryana which used to protect us under such circumstances are themselves in a pitiable condition.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Mr Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member has just mentioned about KBK Region of Orissa and that during the Congress regime they had initiated a programme for that region. It is true that when Shri Narasimha Rao was the Prime Minister he had come to Kalahandi and announced a long-term action plan worth Rs. 4,500 crore to be implemented in KBK Region. But to our utter dismay, only Rs. One lakh was sanctioned then and that also for soil testing and purchase of an ambulance. ...*(Interruptions)* Today, this Government has come up with a genuine long-term action plan for KBK Region of Orissa. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. GIRIJA VYAS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it wouldn't be in the fitness of things if the hon'ble Member raises such political questions. By mentioning Orissa I only meant to say that the situation there is very bad. K.B.K. region of Orissa is a very backward area and separate budget allocation was made therefore by the Government of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. If he interrupts me like that then may I ask him as to how much amount was allocated by the Central Government and utilised in Orissa at the time why it was hit by a severe cyclone? It is a matter of long drawn debate.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, the Planning Commission had brought out a book.

[Translation]

She may read that book then alone will she come to know how much assistance was provided.

DR. GIRIJA VYAS: Sir, I would like to tell the hon. Member that I have read that book. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards Rajasthan. The name of Rajasthan appears not only in Indian newspapers but also in the newspapers published all over the World. There is a hearsay in a village in Rajasthan to which Col. Sona Ram Choudhary belongs. Once the mother of famine asked her son, the famine as to where she would look for him if any thing untoward happened to her. Then famine told his mother that he had a permanent dwelling in Rajasthan though some times he used to visit Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, however if she had to look for him she should look for him in Rajasthan only. This is the reason that Rajasthan has to face famine all the time. It is not for the fourth but fifth year that Rajasthan is facing severe famine.

16.31 hrs.

(DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*)

We may have some relief if we take into consideration the data of the last year however 18 districts were affected by it. The situation as on date is that out of the 32 districts 31 districts have been affected by it.

It will not be an exaggeration if we say that all the 32 districts are affected. 330 lakh people and 400 lakh cattle have been affected by it. 90 percent of the crops have been affected by it. The people had sown the crops as per the announcement made by the meteorological department regarding the early south west monsoon whether it is the rainfall of 17-18 June or 21-22 June there had been some rainfall till 2nd July so the farmers had completed 40 percent of sowing. Out of which pulses comprises 41 percent, oil seeds 42 percent and other crops that includes millet was 41 percent. However presently the situation is such that 100 percent crops have been destroyed.

I would like to draw your attention to the geographical condition of Rajasthan. The Western region of Rajasthan has maximum livestock and this region extends from Ganga Nagar to Jodhpur via Barmer. The situation in that region is more grave. On the one hand there is severe famine and on the other hand our region falls along Pakistan border. There might have been good monsoon or otherwise and the irrigation system might have been in place or not, but the fact remains that there was no crop over there during the previous year and all this happened due to the apprehension of war. The situation is even more grim as of now. The question of cattle feed is already haunting. Besides, the factor of social system is also there. In one region people keep animals for their livelihood while in another region or say the hilly areas, the ground water level has gone down by more than 500 meter while there is yet another region which generally witnesses rain but the rain has not occurred there for the last five years. We do have areas there which come under irrigated areas, but Indian as well as Pakistani troops are camping there. All those things have made the conditions pitiable and difficult in entire Rajasthan.

We have frequently sought assistance for Rajasthan from the Central Government. I must make it clear that I do not intend making any allegations against the Central Government. I was just amazed to listen as to what was being spoken by an honourable Member from Andhra Pradesh. I do not want to give any data, but I must say that this Government is particular in providing assistance only those who are in the N.D.A. and to those M.Ps. who could led their support to the Government. As I was just now referring that 18 districts of the State were hit by drought during the last year. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV ((Alwar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister of Agriculture is sitting here. I have had a discussion with him. He has told that the Government of Rajasthan has not so far declared Rajasthan as a drought hit ...*(Interruptions)* Why the matter is being so much delayed in spite of the fact that you have your own Government there? Your Minister is in deep slumber. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. GIRIJA VYAS: You should say all those things when you get your turn. It is at the moment my turn to put things. I was telling that 18 districts of our State were hit by drought. Contrary to this, Andhra Pradesh was having only 6 percent deficit which got Rs. 148 crore and three lakh tonnes of foodgrains as assistance from the Centre whereas Rajasthan did not got even a single penny even though 18 districts of the State were hit by the drought. Likewise, in other States, which are ruled by the Congress Party, or by some other party which do not form part of the B.J.P. or its partners are deprived of monetary assistance from the Centre. I would like to draw your attention to the areas where 40 percent of Kharif crops have been destroyed and Rabi crops are also likely to be destroyed.

Protection to the cattle has always been a focal point in Rajasthan. We need to make arrangement of 27.8 quintal of foodgrains. I have made a demand from the Centre and I am hopeful that as our colleague was saying and he should support in getting Rs. 165 Crore released from the Centre which has to be allocated for making arrangements for cattle protection in Rajasthan.

The hon. Minister of Agriculture has always been sympathetic towards Rajasthan but the irony is that while the Agriculture Minister is taking care of the drought while the disaster management is being looked after by the Minister of Home Affairs. Now how they will have coordination and how to provide succour to several States like Rajasthan is a big question, which must be taken into consideration.

I would like to be thankful to the Central Government because it has made an arrangement to supply free of cost water to the State through railway for the last nearly three years and my constituency has derived maximum benefit out of it. However, recently I have come to know and to which I would also like to have the attention of the Govt. drawn through you that water being supplied especially to Rajasthan through railway will now no more be free of cost and that it would be a paid service. In such a situation I would like to request the Government through you that the said supply of water through railway should not be stopped particularly in view of the fact that the State has recorded only 25 m.m. rain since 17th June and water is being supplied in different places of the State through tankers. My request to the Central

[Dr. Girija Vyas]

Government is that it must provide us funds on regular basis so that water supply through tanks may be maintained and that it must also ensure free of cost supply of water through railway.

The concerned Minister is sitting here. I would like to submit that several districts including mine have been provided funds for the purpose of sectoral reforms. A sum of Rs. 74 Crore has been provided in this regard. Earlier there was 20 percent share now it is 10 per cent share. Similar arrangement was made in respect of Alwar at the time of drought. Here once again I would like to request that the 10 percent share in regard to sectoral reforms may kindly be waived off.

Much of the problem that has been cropped up is due to the fact that the drought management has not been done properly over the last five years. Such situation is created when the State talks only of its own interest in drought whereas proper management is missed by both the State a well as the Central Governments. The most important thing is that there should be a plan for Desert management. But the Plan is made when there is no rain. The hon. Minister of Agriculture should at least stick to what he announced yesterday. He has spoken about postponement of debt recovery. But I would say that the Government should instruct the State Government from here that they should not only postpone the recovery of loans but also be completely waived off alongwith the interest amount considering the drought situation over these.

I am also thankful for the proposal of providing C.R.F. money to the farmers having more than two hectares of land. This will benefit a large member of farmers. But it should not be only a paper work and it must read to the targeted people. There is a need of a plan, machinery, funds and coordination between the Union and the state Governments. So that there is no dispute. The important thing is that people should get the information through some system and all the decisions that are taken must be communicated to the people. Everybody is aware that such a vast areas of our country is under the grip of drought. The condition of women and the poor is no secret. They have to fetch water from distant places. Their children have to face starvation. The concerned Minister is not present here but I must remind that in 1987 Rajivji had assured to provide money to the women and child department separately. That time I was heading that ministry. He talked of nutrition in respect of women. Regarding the availability foodgrains particularly 60 million tonnes of foodgrains about which there was so much publicity on T.V. on yesterday, that must be distributed properly not only among the people B.P.L. category but also among the A.P.L. families. That is what I demand from the State Government. There are nearly 31 lakh family belonging to B.P.L. category. People are living in worse condition. They should also get foodgrains.

Employment is very important our therefore. 'Food for Work' scheme must be implemented soon. The State Government particularly drought hit States must get free of cost foodgrains especially the States which have not got this help for the last five years. Similarly, productive works should be undertaken. 25 percent works which are carried out without any proper planning and hence there should be a change in the norms whether the matter concerns with Madhya Pradesh or Rajasthan. If things are not done in a planned manner, we will not be able to ensure development and cannot fight against drought. Afforestation work should be linked with drought work. Desilting of canals should also be taken up under 'Food for work' programme.

Similarly, there should be a permanent scheme, Semi-Permanent scheme and contingency plan in regard to drinking water problem. Today it was the first Address of the hon. President. I do not want to take much time of the House because all the Members want to put their points about their respective constituencies. However, this much I must say that Plan Management is a must whether it is D.P.A.P. or D.D.P. or the National Watershed Development Programme. Had we utilised water in a prudent manner, we must have been able to tackle with the drought situation. I would also like to say that you should not only immediately initiate work in regard to water harvesting, but also constitute a standing committee comprising of some technical people and some Members of Parliament, because people are aware that every man needs 2464 cubic water, but he gets only 900 cubic. If there would be proper arrangement, whether it is surface water or ground water, the water will not be wasted, it can prove helpful.

Alongwith it he said, that the President has expressed hope and the way he nas expressed his views in regard to future generation is very good, but what can be said of the generation whose 70 percent population is affected by drought and five year old kids living in villages have not seen a drop of water and you are talking of school for them. In these circumstances, it is the duty of Union Government and State Governments to do physical verification in time and should defer loan recovery and loans. Alongwith it the relations of Union and State Governments should be cordial, because the problem can not be solved by passing ball in each other's court. Our

main concern is that to save the coming generations of 21st and 22nd century from malnutrition, so that a healthy generation comes up.

The women shall not have to go for 10 kilometers to fetch water, we may get pure water, we may get food; to ensure all this proper management is required. Therefore a poet has said:

"Jab Pet mein roti hoti hai, jab jeb mein paisa hota hai;

Us vakt yeh Jarra Heera hain, us vakt yeh shabnam moti hai"

Then only our country, India would be considered as prosperous due to its rich culture, but first of all we require food to eat, water to drink, and fodder for cattle. We have to make arrangement for this.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today the House is holding discussion on drought and flood situation prevailing in the country. Today, on one side large area of the country is affected by flood while on the other side, large parts of Bihar and Assam are severely affected by the floods.

Since 12 noon, the hon'ble Members are discussing this issue, but it is very unfortunate that even after 54-55 years of independence, we are still dependent on rainfall. We have not properly managed irrigation, we have been unsuccessful in controlling the floods, everyear we shed our responsibility by alleging each other in discussion on this issue in the House. Yesterday hon'ble Minister of Agriculture had called some Agriculture Ministers/Revenue Ministers to discuss the drought condition. Some decisions have also been taken, the decision about waiving the loan has been taken. It is said that Crop Insurance Scheme should be implemented. It is also said that drought should be declared. There is definitely drought situation, but at the beginning of the Question Hour, I said that Bihar is adversely affected by the floods and 22 districts of the State are affected by the floods. This problem is not a new one. The rivers coming from Nepal bring flood every year to Northern Bihar, Eastern Uttar Pradesh and some areas of Bengal. In my State, 61 percent of water catchment area is in Nepal. More than ten lakh acres of land has been affected by the floods. Water-logging takes place in nine lakh acres of land. Due to heavy erosion caused by the Ganga river from Buxar to Farrakka the villages are altogether getting vanished. We discuss it in the House and outside also as to how to control floods. Bihar is not having adequate resources to control or to check the floods. Even if it wants to do, it cannot do it because water comes from Nepal and Bihar is not authorised to talk on its own with Nepal, but the Union Government is capable of doing it. The Minister of Water Resources is not present here, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs has said in the morning that Home Ministry is looking into the flood situation. It is very good. 22 districts of my State are affected by flood. Half of Bihar is disconnected with other parts of the country. At dozens of places, rail lines are lying damaged. Lakhs of people have found refuge on river banks and other higher places. The roads and bridges have been badly damaged. National Highways and bridges have been washed away by floods. It has been reported that dozens of people have died. But till now, the State Government and Union Government have not taken any action. We are glad that the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs has said that he would send a central team over there. You have got standby helicopter. People are pining for drinking water, they are not getting it. Water level is continuously increasing in Gopalganj, Eastern Champaran, Western Champaran, Shivhar, Sitamarhi, Darbhanga, Madhubani, Khagaria, Samastipur, Muzaffarpur, Araria and Saharsa, and is causing damage. The Piprasi dam and Bagmati dam are damaged. The bridge over Bagmati river between Shivhar and Sitamarhi has got damaged. The bridges have been broken down due to river flow. The road between Sitamarhi and Muzaffarpur is lying closed. Water has entered every house in Shivhar Block and Piprasi. All crops have been damaged. The Government have been unsuccessful in providing any kind of help till now.

I would like to say one thing from core of my heart. There was a leader named Karpori Thankur ji in Bihar. He had also been the leader of opposition, and the Chief Minister of Bihar. He had repeatedly said in the Legislative Assembly that poverty, helplessness and starvation could not be rooted out in Northern Bihar till the Union Government made effective management of rivers originating from Nepal. If it is done, so much electricity can be generated out of it that we would not only be able to cater power need of India, but would be able to provide power to foreign countries at cheaper rates. Our crops are being ruined. Water has entered the town of Gopalganj. The houses of Collector and S.P. are also water logged. The irrigation system of British time, Triveni Canal System and som canal system have also got damaged. The Bihar Government is not having any resources. Many schemes for Bihar are lying pending with the Government of India. We repeatedly demand resources and aid from the Government of India. So that Bihar may become self reliant and able to complete those schemes and repair those systems. In the British time nine ring dams were constructed on Sarsha bank and

[Shri Raghunath Jha]

the villages were not uprooted. In local language, it is called Dhadki dam. Ring Dams were constructed, but funds are not available for their repair. When banks and Dhadki dam are broken, people get affected by floods. Heavy damages are going to be caused from Gopalganj to Chhapra. Not saying much, I would like to submit to the Government of India that there is a dire need to provide relief to the people of flood affected people of Bihar. There is a need to rehabilitate those, whose houses have been washed away by water. There is a need to provide readymade food and drinking water to them. I demand to waive off their loans. I also demand that drought should be declared in Bihar for providing relief from Bihar. All pending irrigation projects of Bihar be finished and a dialogue should be held with Nepal for control on flood. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI K. MALAISAMY (Ramanathapuram): Thank you Mr. Chairman, Sir. At the outset, I hasten to appreciate the whole House and the Members concerned for having brought this subject as one of the subjects to be discussed, which is particularly a core subject and it is felt need of the hour. It has been rightly taken for detailed discussion.

For long, Sir, drought has been the usual feature in India. It has been in existence for years and years from time immemorial, but this discussion on drought this time has got a special significance because its gravity and magnitude has been more than the expectation.

Secondly, it has been said that it is wide-spread and thirdly, pretty large-scale areas have been affected. Quoting the figures, they have said that out of 424 districts, more than 320 districts, that is more than two-third districts in the country, have been affected. That is why, it has been rightly taken up for discussion. As far as we could see, India by virtue of its location, its peculiar physical feature and its size, India has been considered to be the most drought-prone country in the world. This is how they have assessed. Drought comes very often because as far as our country is concerned, nearly 68 per cent of the total area are rain-fed and when monsoon fails, drought occurs.

As such, we could see that our Indian economy depends on agriculture and our agricultural economy depends upon the vagaries of monsoon. We are told that of all the monsoons, this South-West monsoon is vital. It plays a very important role in the economy of the whole country. I am told that 75 per cent of the total rainfall is concentrated on South-West monsoon alone. Then, South-West monsoon is responsible for 25 per cent growth of the GDP. Seventy per cent of the total population of one billion people are employed only during South-West monsoon. That is why, we are more concerned about South-West monsoon. When South-West monsoon behaves well, everything goes well. When it behaves bad, and when it fails, everything fails.

As far as South-West monsoon is concerned, I am told, it started very early in Kerala rightly, but unfortunately, during its progress and growth, it has been very erratic. The rainfall happens to be either scanty, or deficient not only in a few States, but as many as 14 States, including Tamil Nadu, have been affected.

According to today's newspapers, this is what our hon. Minister of Agriculture has said. The whole country has been affected; a majority of the States has been affected. What could be its effect? The effect has been well expressed by many of the speakers. They referred to the shortage of drinking water and fodder. They have also said that people are migrating from one place to another highlighting how things are pretty bad and wrong and how the people are suffering at different stages. It has been listed out by many of the speakers and I do not want to repeat them.

As far as drought is concerned, I would like to tell you Sir, that Tamil Nadu is no way in a better position. We are as bad as the other States affected. The rainfall is much low. Out of the 27 districts in Tamil Nadu, nearly two-thirds of the districts, that is, 18 districts including my Ramanathapuram Constituency are affected by drought, which is due to deficient and scanty rainfall. This year, the percentage of rainfall has very badly come down.

I will take a minute to tell you how the storage position in the reservoirs in Tamil Nadu has declined. My colleague from Andhra Pradesh has stated that there was a decline in the normal storage of water in their reservoirs that was marginal. As far as water storage in reservoirs in Tamil Nadu is concerned, we have reached a precarious situation. In Mettur, as against the normal level of 140 feet, the storage now is 41.40 feet. As far as Bhavanisagar is concerned, the storage is only 35.10 feet as against 105 feet. In Amaravathi, it is 56.17 feet as against 110 feet. In Periyar, it is 111.40 feet as against 152 feet. In Vaigai, it is 25.40 feet as against 71 feet. In Krishnagiri, it is 41.75 feet as against 52 feet. In Sathanur, it is 72.7 feet as against 119 feet. In Papanasam, it is 50.55 feet as against 148 feet. In Manimuthar, it is 58.5 feet as against 118 feet. In Petchiparai it is 2.70 feet as against 48 feet. In

Perunchani, it is 9 feet as against 77 feet. In Parambikulam, it is 9.13 feet as against 72 feet. In Aliyar, it is 60.80 feet as against 120 feet. In Tirumoorthy, it is 33.88 feet as against 60 feet.

What I am trying to highlight here is that there is not even one-third or not even 20 per cent storage. This is what I am trying to say. The total storage at present is only 25,024 million cubic feet as against the normal storage level of 78,666 million cubic feet. Not only the monsoon has failed, but the storage position in the reservoirs also is found to be very bad. This is why, our dynamic Chief Minister has studied the situation very carefully and she visited Thanjavur and other places and took the initiative to launch a special relief programme with an amount of Rs. 164 crore and odd. For Madurai and Coimbatore, she has given a relief amount of Rs. 36.08 crore. In addition, she has initiated change of cultivation practices.

One more important factor that affected the sowing of paddy has been the non-release of water from Mettur Dam and other sources. Due to this, nearly one lakh hectares have not been brought under cultivation. With the result, the shortfall in the foodgrain production was 5.04 lakh metric tonnes; nearly 132 lakh mandays have been lost, and the loss in terms of value was nearly Rs. 260 crore. I am citing this example to highlight the magnitude of the problem in Tamil Nadu.

The condition could be grave in other States also but the submission I want to make is that the condition is equally bad in our State. As far as the remedies are concerned, many of our friends mentioned a number of points. As a student of management, I have been taught that a single problem will have more than one solution. Now, the problem is that the rainfalls minimal and, therefore, the storage position is low.

17.00 hrs.

Sir, many States have come under the grip of drought. What is the remedy? We can think of dividing the remedy into two parts-long-term remedy and short-term remedy. Many speakers have said that this is a recurring affair and why is the Administration so silent on that? Why are they not taking a permanent measure? What could be the long-term measure that would enable us to get rid of this problem? One problem leads to the other. Many speakers have suggested many things and I am inclined to suggest that we should have an effective water policy. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has mentioned as to how the Government has been lacking in its efforts for having an effective water policy. I endorse his views and would like to say that this country needs a proper water policy that could be useful for every one of us.

Sir, secondly, inter-linking of the rivers is a must and is also a long felt need. But unfortunately that aspect has not been given enough thrust. As far as the thanks and wells are concerned, I would like to mention that the sub-soil water table is going down everyday and there is scarcity of water. What should be done? I would suggest that more and more percolation ponds should be constructed.

Sir, next I would like to mention about water conservation. As a short-term measure, generation of sub-soil water table and rain harvesting should be made one of the important principles for water conservation.

Coming to management of drought, it is to be analysed whether something is wrong at the organisation level or at the manpower level or at the operational level? Many times crisis management is resorted. It warrants all out effort.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: Sir, you have given so much time to so many other Members but you are not willing to give me even two to three minutes more.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have given you much more time than allotted for you.

SHRI. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, I would take another three to four minutes to conclude my speech. Till that time please allow me to speak.

Sir, during drought management three things are to be kept in mind. They are, planing, preparation and performance. It has to be seen whether they have assessed the situation correctly or not; whether there has been proper planning and preparation; and finally whether they are performing efficiently. The top officer goes to the spot and he cuts across hierarchical disciplines in taking decisions and at the same time he deploys all the resources available so that the crisis is handled effectively.

Sir, what is the basis for providing Central assistance to States? There should be some scientific and objective basis for arriving at the requirement of assistance for undertaking relief measures.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. I have given you much more time than allotted.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: Sir, while doing this kind of gigantic physical operation, cases of misuse and corruption also come into play and on many occasions the intermediaries take away the major chunk of the assistance provided. So, a foolproof system should be devised so that the assistance provided reaches the beneficiaries.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur): Sir, I must begin my speech by offering my warm greetings to the Meteorological Department... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Acharya, two people from your party have given names and time for it is fixed. If both of you want to speak, you have to conclude earlier.

[English]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, I am withdrawing my name in favour of him. So, he will be the only one speaker from our side.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Sir, so far nobody has spoken form my Party and this is a serious matter and our State is also very much affected by this calamity.

Sir, I would like to begin my speech with a warm greetings to the Meteorological Department for their correct forecast of the monsoon this year?

I fail to understand as to how they did forecast a very good and normal monsoon this year! By doing so, I should say, they misled the whole farming community, the entire Government and everybody. Therefore, my warm thanks to that Department! In future at least they should not give such 'correct forecasts'.

I need not go into detail on the national scenario of drought and flood situation, as all the hon. Members who have spoken so far have vividly described it. A major part of the country is now affected by drought situation and two-three States are reeling under serious floods.

As you know, out of 142 million hectares of cultivable land in the country, around 100 million hectares of land is rain-fed. The remaining 42 million hectares are dependent on irrigation. The 100 million hectares of rain-fed area contributes to about 30 percent to 35 per cent of the total foodgrain production in the country. Therefore, the Government may not have any problem so far as foodgrain production is concerned. We heard from different Members, hon. Member and ex-Prime Minister Shri Deve Gowda also mentioned it, that there are enough stocks of foodgrains with the Government and most of them are stinking in this warehouses. Therefore, there will be no problem for the Public Distribution System so far as foodgrain stocks are concerned. The people who would be suffering most due to this unprecedented drought situation in the country are the small and marginal farmers.

In the morning I was listening to the speeches of Shri Deve Gowda and a few other hon. Members. They were talking about discrimination that is sometimes shown by the Union Government against some Sates. Sir, I want to draw your attention, and through you the attention of the hon. Minister of Agriculture who has just left, to an important issue. The hon. Minister of Agriculture convened a meeting yesterday of representatives of some of the drought-affected States. We were surprised to know from the newspapers of the day before yesterday that Orissa, which is one of the worst affected States was not invited for the meeting. I have no way out but to agree with Shri Deve Gowda and other Members who made those remarks about discrimination. It was only after our Chief Minister Shri Navin Patnaik contacted the Union Minster of Agriculture and requested that Orissa should also be invited to the meeting, at the eleventh hour, that an invitation was expended to Orissa.

I do not understand how the Central Government or the Ministry of Agriculture decides these things. The Agriculture Secretary was sent by the Union Government to Orissa on 19th and 20th to take stock of the situation in the State. Very surprisingly, he made a statement in Bhubaneswar itself that the situation in Orissa was not alarming and that everything was all right there. He could, perhaps, make such an observation because there was a very good shower for an hour or two in the temple city of Bhubaneswar when he arrived there. Perhaps that made him give such a statement that the situation in Orissa was not alarming. I do not understand how the officials of the Union Government make assessment of the situation. If this is the situation, you can imagine what would be the fate of the millions of farmers now suffering due to flood and drought situations!

As I have already said, I would not go into the details of national scenario. I will just mention certain points about my own State. The whole world knows that for four consecutive years, the State of Orissa has been suffering from different types of natural calamities. Everybody knows about the super cyclone of 1999 in which thousands and thousands of lives were lost and

many properties were destroyed. Orissa is still reeling under the after-effects of that super cyclone. Subsequently, in 2000, there was a drought in more than 50 per cent of the Districts of Orissa. The State had again faced unprecedented flood last year, and this year there is this drought situation.

This year again, there is a drought situation.

As you know, the economy of our State has totally crumbled due to these consecutive natural calamities year after year. And, under this situation if the Union Government officials make the observation that everything is all right in Orissa, nothing is more unfortunate than that.

Here, I would just like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister. I am sure, he must be having the correct report. The rainfall position in my State in June, 2002 is like this. The normal rainfall should have been 219.0 mm whereas the actual rainfall was 108.9 mm. Similarly, in July—I am having the report up to 19th July. 2002-the normal rainfall should have been 351.60 mm whereas the actual rainfall was 84.45 mm, which is (-) 62.08 per cent of the normal rainfall.

There is an alarming position due to this scanty and erratic rainfall in our State as well as in other parts of the country. As regards my State, there are three-four major irrigation and river dam projects. The biggest one is Hirakud Dam which falls in my constituency. In Hirakud, the dead storage level is 590 feet, and you will be surprised to know that the actual water level is only 594 feet. So, it is only four feet, and this four feet is also due to rain on 19th and 20th July. So, it is a precarious position.

Likewise in Rengali River Dam Project, 109.72 mm is the dead storage level whereas now, the actual level is 110.12 mm. This is the report up to 15th July.

Similarly, in Upper Kolab, 844 mm is the dead storage level, and now the actual level is only 845 mm. It is just one foot extra.

So, Sir, the State irrigation potential cannot be made use of at this crucial juncture to save the Kharif crop. It has already been destroyed.

Now, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the paddy position. Around 60 per cent cultivation is through sowing of seeds and 40 per cent is through transplantation. Through direct sowing has been completed in many districts of the State but the rice crop, in general, has only survived with poor growth, and Beushaning has been held up. The germination of seeds sown in uplands has been affected due to moisture stress. Rice seedlings in nursery beds have turned sick and stunted. Further transplantation could not be started due to want of adequate water in the field.

Sir, due to high temperature, evaporative loss of water from the crop fields has increased significantly. I give you one example. The daily evaporation at Bhubaneswar since 10th June has increased by about 40 per cent. This has accelerated the water loss from the soil. Low soil moisture supply to the plants on one hand and high transpiration loss from the crops on the other have adversely affected the crop condition, particularly, the paddy crop which is the major crop in the State, whose water requirement is generally high.

As has already been said by other hon. Members, there are manifold repercussions of the situation. Though there is thermal power production, we mostly depend on hydel power. As I said, the water level is very discouraging, it will affect the hydel power production as well. Ultimately, it will also affect the Rabi crop.

Sir, another thing where I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister is this. We have experienced severe drought situation in 2000 after the Super Cyclone. At that time, everybody thought about human beings and nobody thought about the animals. We all know that thousands and thousands of animals in the rural areas died because there was no fodder for them. So, I think, it is the prime duty of the Government of India to look into this problem of animal by giving them enough fodder.

Sir, due to this situation, the ground water level is depleting everyday. I would not say that all the tube-wells are defunct but most of the tube-wells are getting defunct because of the depletion in the ground water level. the hon. Minister of Water Resources, who hails from my State, is also present here. So, the Central Ground Water Survey Board should be put to use immediately. The State Governments should be extended all the help. In order to have more drinking water facilities, more tube-wells should be dug in all the States. I do not say that it should be done only in Orissa, but it should be done in the entire drought affected areas.

Sir, please give me 2-3 minutes, and I will conclude my speech. I want to draw the attention of the Government to another aspect. You may say that it is not directly linked with the flood and drought situations, but I would say that this problem is linked with the

[Shri Prasanna Acharya]

farmers. Wherever there are no irrigation facilities, there is drought; but wherever there are irrigation facilities and wherever there is proper production-in some pockets-the farmers have no market to sell their products. This distress sale of paddy particularly in Orissa, in Chhattisgarh and in some such States, almost killed the farmers. When there is no rain, the farmers are starving and the commonmen are starving; and when there is irrigation system and when there is sufficient production, there is no market for the farmers to sell their products.

Some hon. Members have made this point and as I said, this is my feeling also. Sometimes, I feel that the Union Government is not giving equal treatment to all the States, to tackle this problem. When there was distress sale in Orissa, we broke our heads before the Food Corporation of India, before the Agriculture Ministry, before the Food Ministry, etc., but there was nobody to look into the problem.

My suggestion is this. The drought situation is prevailing now and I know of yesterday's meeting taken by the Agriculture Minister, where some decision had been taken and some assistance had been declared. My Government has also asked for three million metric tonnes of foodgrains, particularly of rice. My suggestion to the Government of India and particularly to the Food Ministry is this. Please do not dispatch paddy for storage purpose only to other States like Orissa, which will be just to facilitate some other States which have some political clout here or whose leaders have some political clout in the Government, who can blackmail the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. The time allotted to your party is only eight minutes, but you have already taken 13 minutes.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Poor States like ours or the parties like ours are the sufferers of this. No doubt, we are in the NDA and we will continue to be with the NDA. We are sincere supporters and we do not believe in the politics of blackmail and we do not believe in pressurising the Government on every matter. Due to this, there is nobody to listen to us. Therefore, my humble submission is that whatever foodgrains that are available in the godowns of Orissa or Chhattisgarh or any other small States should be consumed first during the drought situation and then only, we should dispatch foodgrains form other States. Just to facilitate some kind of storage or stocking in other States, they are dispatching foodgrains, particularly rice to those States. This is not a good system and they are not doing justice to such States, by means of this. This is my submission.

As some hon. Members have mentioned, I feel that it is a welcome step that an amount of Rs. 60,000 crore has been earmarked for constructing road from Himalayas to Kanyakumari and from Atak to Cuttack, that is, from North to South and from West to East. It is a very welcome step. But from the First Five Year Plan onwards, there are so many irrigation projects which are pending.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. There are other hon. Members to participate in the discussion.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: I will conclude within a minute. My humble submission is that whatever projects are pending should be cleared first. I will give you only one example of Orissa. There are a few projects in my State. In my own constituency, there is a project called Aung Dam Project which is pending since the last 40 years. Dr. Ayodhyanath Khosla was a great engineer of this country and who was, once upon a time, the Governor of Orissa and this project was his brainchild. That took about 40 years to get the sanction of the Technical Advisory Committee alone. Thanks to my Minister, we got the sanction.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. Kindly cooperate with the Chair and conclude.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: I am concluding. Therefore, my humble submission to the Government is this. This a very serious and a precarious situation that the whole country is facing. The Government of India should have proper coordination with different State Governments and should come up with a very concrete planning to face this situation.

Last but not least, let not the Union Government discriminate between different States.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V.PATIL (Latur): Sir, it has been decided not to have the 'Zero Hour' and Lunch Hour ever tomorrow and continue with the discussion. It seems the reply will be given tomorrow.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, once again we have gathered in this august House to hold discussion on famine and flood as we have been doing in the yesteryears. But no concrete results have been achieved so far and even this time also, we do not hope much from the Government. Last year the hon. Minister of Rural Development gave reply on the discussion held on flood and famine. The Government took one complete year to decide that the reply to his question should be furnished by hon. Minister of

Agriculture and Minister of Irrigation, hon. Minister of Rural Development has a comparatively lesser role to pay. What should we expect from this Government. Reason behind these wrong policies, or wrong decisions was that we depended less on the people's representatives and more on the bureaucracy in order to combat the problem of flood and famine. This was the reason that the States did not get the funds as demanded by them due to which people affected by flood and famine could not be given funds needed by them.

Moreover my colleague has told that the hon. Deputy Prime Minister Shri L.K. Advani would look after the disaster management while flood and drought would be looked after by the hon. Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Irrigation. How a person who could not tackle the problems and terrorism created by human beings can tackle natural calamities, I am unable to understand it. ...*(Interruptions)*

What does the report of Meteorological department say South-West Monsoon arrives in the second week of June and the entire country was anxiously waiting for the onset of Monsoon so that people could sow their fields, But all the predictions of the Meteorological Department under the Department of Agriculture proved wrong. The report says-

[English]

"The Indian Meteorological Department has predicted a normal 2002 South-West monsoon. Quantitatively, the rainfall during the period June to September 2002 for the country as a whole is likely to be 101 per cent of the long period average rainfall."

[Translation]

I.M.D. says this. What is more ironical is that they do not get satisfied with this. After misguiding 16 crore farmers of the country, affected by flood and drought, they further predict:-

[English]

"It has also predicted 2003 monsoon to be quite close to long term average'.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara): It means next year also we will have drought.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Infact this year they could not predict rightly and are making predictions for the next year...*(Interruptions)*. What type of Department and Government is it which is giving wrong information to the farmers in this 21st century of this scientific age. The Department of Agriculture could nct do anything even after wasting one valuable month from 16th June to 16th July. Thereafter the hon. Minister of Agriculture awakens on 16th July. This is the news published in the newspaper 'Hindu' dated 17.7.02.

[English]

Delayed monsoon worries Government.

[Translation]

The Government awaken after sleeping for one month and the hon. Minister of Agriculture says'.

[English]

"The Union Agriculture Minister, Shri Ajit Singh, reviewed the situation with senior officials of his Ministry, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, and the IMD."

[Translation]

and later it was concluded after the meeting:

[English]

"Later he said that a contingency plan was in place and an officer of the level of Joint Secretary would coordinate relief for farmers."

[Translation]

And again the same mistake that an officer of Joint Secretary level i.e., a bureaucrat would provide relief to al the farmers affected by drought as also all the people affected by flood, which is a matter of shame for the Ministry of Agriculture. It is the result of these wrong decisions that today we find that the area of cultivation of Pulses and oilseeds has been restricted considerably in poor States *viz.* Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh, it is only because we did not take right decision at the right time. If we see the number of floods and famines that occurred in the last 200 years ...*(Interruptions)* I will not take much time.

Broadly speaking, drought, in the last two hundred years, has taken place for around 45 times and the maximum number of (578) drought has taken place in our country between the year 1970 and 2000. I would like to present some figures in connection with the

[Shri Lakshman Singh]

assistance given by the Central Government to drought affected areas. State of Bihar asked for Rs. 1003 crore in the year 1998-99, but was given only Rs. 11 crore. Then Rs. 701 crore were demanded by Bihar in 1999-2000 but was given Rs. 38 crore. In 2001-2002 Bihar asked for Rs. 735 crore, but the Central Government virtually gave nothing. The Madhya Pradesh Government asked for Rs. 251 crore in 1998, but the Central Government gave nothing. The reason behind was that we all held demonstration under the leadership of hon. Chief Minister and hundreds and thousands of farmers came here. We asked for 556 crore rupees, but were given only 38 crore rupees. Last year, we demanded for 253 crore rupees, but the response was that our case is under consideration, and we have not received any amount till date. This year we have demanded for 600 crore rupees due to severe drought, but we do not know what we would actually get. Maharashtra and Punjab are also having the same fate. Rajasthan had asked for 113 crore rupees last year, but not even a single Penny was given.

[English]

Karnataka asked for Rs. 903 core, but not a penny was given.

[Translation]

Result of wrong policies is that today we are given wrong figures, and wrong information is given to the House as also the country. Government figures show that the number of persons living below the poverty line in 1973-74 was 55 percent and in 1999-2000, during the tenure of the present Government, it deceased to 26 percent—this is the claim made by the Government. And contrary to this, what the eminent Agriculture Scientist Dr. S. Swaminathan, who brought 'Green Revolution' in the Country has stated would be more correct than the Government figures. He says that 260 million people in the country live below the poverty line. This number is much more than the figures showing 26 percent. That is why claim of the Government that only 26 percent people in this country live below poverty line, is totally incorrect. I would finish my statement with some figures, I would not deliver just a general speech. 130 million hectare of land in the country gets eroded every year. Area affected by drought in the country was 55.3 million hectare in 1974, which increased to 74.6 million hectare in 1996. Then how one can say that poverty has been eliminated when the area affected by famine or drought has increased. If famine has increased, this would lead to more poverty.

A very good survey has been published in the 15th May edition of an English Magazine "Down to Earth'. They have evaluated the areas worst affected by drought in the country. You would be surprised to know the case of a district in Andhra Pradesh called 'Anantpur'. Our hon. M.P. of T.D.P. is not present here, the case of this district is—

[English]

> "Water was never so scarce as it is now with an average rainfall of 520 M.M. Its history is replete with one of finest India's water harvesting traditions. Some five thousand tanks harvested enough water till the sixties."

[Translation]

Five thousand ponds were there in this district alone and water harvesting was done there.

[English]

> "This sustained traditional agriculture. Till the seventies, these tanks ensured prosperity. Legend has it that in the 15th, till the 18th century, its local markets used to sell pearls and diamonds along with groundnuts."

[Translation]

This district was called land of jewels however, this district has become the land of rocks due to the wrong policy of the Government.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have taken fifteen minutes whereas your party allotted only ten minutes for you.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: I would like to make the last point. I admit that long speech is not going to solve this problem. Devegauda ji has rightly stated that Ganga-Cauvery link project is the necessity of the day. He has rightly said that when Rs. 60,000 can be spent on building road then so much of amount should be spent on those projects which are aimed at channelising water from flood prone area to drought prone areas. I also associate myself to this and urge upon the House that let us unitedly help implement this project.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am obliged to you and admit this that unless people's representative visit people residing in drought and flood affected areas and work

with them, this problem will not be solved and the Government will not be awakened.

SHRI CHHATTRAPAL SINGH (Bulandshahar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today discussion is being held on flood and drought occurring in different parts of the country. Nearly 14 States of the country are reeling under drought. In fact, it comprises two third part of the country. The unfortunate thing is that, leading grain-producing States are in the grip of drought. States like Western Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana, which used to export grains to other parts of the country are likely to face flood problem in the coming days. Punjab, Haryana, Ganga-Yamuna basin of western Uttar Pradesh which are considered to be one of the most fertile area are presently in the grip of drought. 60 to 70 percent of the crops have been destroyed. Even if there is rainfall in coming days and crops are planted, there will be no yield in the absence of further rainfall. If the climatic condition in these areas is not changed, there will be no crop production and seeds will not be sown. Especially the sowing of coarse grains has been affected. Earlier while 90 lakh hectare of land was cultivated, this time only 40 lakh hectare of land have been cultivated. Earlier, while millet was sown on 30 lakh hectare of land, this time only 16 lakh hectare of land has brought under its cultivation. Similar is the case with soyabean which was exported to foreign countries in the past and was also a source of foreign exchange. Last year, 51 lakh hectare of land was sown; this time only 18 lakh hectare of land have been sown. Many Members have participated in discussion about meteorological department. No single weather forecast of the meteorological department turn out to be true while it has a set up at large number of experts. It is better to seek services of four pandits for this purpose because chances are that their forecast might prove to be true. There are 26 sub divisions which have received scant rainfall or had no rainfall at all and the experts in meteorological department could not forecast whether there would be rainfall in time or not and kept on misleading the country that monsoon was about to come farmers had sown their fields and the fields were dried. There are 70 water reservoirs in the country. Presently their capacity have reduced to 17 percent only. If there is no rainfall, their 17 percent water will also be dried up and there will be crisis even of drinking water. I am not telling it, rather it is the figure supplied by the newspapers. The traditional means of water storage have also disappeared. Population in the villages have increased and shallow ponds have converted into playgrounds. The Supreme Court has instructed that old ponds should be vacated and should be excavated however, as per my information no State Governments have paid any attention to this direction and now there is going to be a drinking water problem in coming days. Even cattle are dying due to the scarcity of drinking water.

Average rainfall is gradually decreasing in the country. Forest cover is also shrinking at the rate of 1.5 lakh hectare per year. While prior to sixties, 60 percent area of the country was covered with forest, presently the forest cover has decreased to 32 percent and we are heading towards drought condition. One scientist had predicted that if the destruction of forest cover continues and the monsoon condition remains the same, then the condition of Ganga-Yamuna basin will be the same as is the case of the present Bharatpur. There is no facility of drinking water and the means of irrigation is even worse. If the condition of Ganga-Yamuna basin deteriorates further, the country will face the shortage of foodgrain. I would like to make a mention of Uttar Pradesh. Recently, some of the districts of the State have been declared as drought hit. I would like to make no comment on the State Government. In fact, the entire State is in the grip of drought. The district administration did not submit recommendations in time and did not supply the figure in regard to the percentage of crops destroyed in the districts. This is the reason that the State Government could not declare drought in time. Bureaucrats have no concern regarding the death of the people and cattle. They do not have time to visit villages and see the condition there.

Bulandshahar is a prosperous district, however, 60 to 70 percent of the crops have been destroyed there. Even if there is rainfall, the situation there can not be revived. Presently, 14 districts have been declared drought affected and so people were worried as to what was going on. Several districts of Bulandshahar, Agra and Kanpur commissionaire should have been declared as drought hit area much earlier otherwise people become anxious because if the Government adopts the policy of neglect, how the drought situation will be tackled.

Sir, presently the Congress people are blaming that the Government is not doing anything. The Government is not providing full assistance. Although it is natural calamity, however, it is due to the wrong policy of the Congress in the past that the country is unable to tackle the drought situation unable to tackle the drought situation. 55 years have elapsed since independence of the country and out of the 55 years, the Congress have ruled this country for 45 years. It did not implement even Hanumantaiya Report in these 48 years. Whatever has been said by hon'ble Devegowda ji is correct. Hon. Prime Minister has envisaged a major scheme for building roads with the objective of connecting every village with roads.

[Shri Chhattrapal Singh]

All the major cities will be connected by roads. Similar schemes should be prepared in the field of water resources. Besides, regarding the water resources schemes lying pending for 20 years, the hon'ble Prime Minister has said that these projects will be taken up first then other schemes will be taken up. First of all, the farmers of the country will be protected. The country will be saved if the farmers are saved. If the farmers are not saved, the country will not survive either.

Sir, Ganga water keeps flowing and only two canals from Ganga river have been constructed. One upper canal has been made in Haridwar and the second one has been made in Narora. After that there is no canal on Ganga river for one thousand km. There is no single canal from Ganga river all over Bihar. Similarly, there is no canal in eastern Uttar Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)* Lift canal caters to the need of irrigation at a smaller scale. Unless there are major projects, nothing substantial can be done. Water is flowing in vain. Bihar is afflicted of flood and floods are also occurring in Brahamputra river in Assam. Floods are occurring in North East. It is irony of the situation that at the same time people are dying due to flood and drought in the country. Here people die due to heat and Loo and also due to cold and rainfall. There is hardly any country in the world where people die in every season. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVASH PRASAD SINGH: People also die in riots. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHHATTRAPAL SINGH: You people are responsible for this.

Sir, I would not like to go into the data. However, the fact is that in the year 2000-2001, 2694 people have died due to flood and drought. If we add in it the number of people who died in earthquake in Gujarat, the figure will shoot up to 22,633. It is a very unfortunate situation that people are saved neither from Loo for from flood. Besides, water table is also falling. The tubewells that have been installed by the Government are all lying dried. Fifty percent crops have been damaged where there are some amount of water. The way temperature is increasing, it seems that remaining planted crops will also be damaged. Maize crops will be destroyed if temperature goes up and there will be no grain left in it. Similar will be the fate of other crops. Crop production depends on climatic condition. The Minister of Water Resources is present in the House and I would like to submit to the Minister of Agriculture that attention should be paid to complete those 20-25 projects which are lying pending. Water should be diverted by way of digging canals Arrangement should be made for irrigation by way of providing electricity to tubewell otherwise it will be difficult to tackle the drought situation. Suggestions have been given regarding flood for work scheme and I am associating myself with that suggestion. The hon. Minister comes from Western Uttar Pradesh which is a sugarcane producing area. The dues of sugarcane farmers are outstanding against sugar mills. If the outstanding dues are given to the farmers, they will invest money for improving agriculture. On the one hand dues are recovered from farmers on the other hand dues of the farmers are not paid to them. The amount of interest is heaping on farmers. In case of default they are imprisoned. Thus double standard is adopted with farmers which is quite oppressing. I am sorry to observe it. They also have right over the Government fund still they are being put in jails. The matter should be taken up with State Government in this regard and such thing should be stopped. It is not only your department but the Ministry of Health should also prepare themselves to fact the drought situation that may take place in coming days. It will have to ensure that diseases may not spread at the time of drought. If disease spread, it will take very dangerous form. The Government will have to arrange for drinking water. More and more financial resources will have to be arranged for installing India mark pump. The Government should increase the budget for agriculture in coming days. Only then, the Government will be able to tackle the situation more efficiently at the time of emergency.

Presently, other countries are crying about WTO that subsidy on agriculture should be reduced, however, America is increasing subsidy given to farmers. They are telling us to reduce the subsidy. You should not succumb to the presume exerted by other countries and should pay attention to farmers. I would like to suggest that subsidy should be increased in agriculture sector.

[English]

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN (Sangrur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, somebody from Punjab also should speak. It is an important agricultural State. We have been totally ignored. Will you please give us some time?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will get a chance.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, it is ironical that we are holding discussion on drought in the monsoon season. People say that farming in India is just like gambling and the actual Minister of

Agriculture in India is the monsoon itself but not Ajit Singh Ji. Monsoon has betrayed us this year and the Government has been exposed. What kind of management is this? Hon. Prime Minister is the head of disaster Management. What happened to that commission? There is disaster everywhere. Where is his management? People are dying due to flood and drought. Hon. Prasanna Acharya ji of Orissa has gone. He was saying that the Orissa Government was not invited in the meeting. The Government have already left Bihar but at the same time Orissa also. Discrimination was committed even in the matter of providing funds also but the same treatment was shown in inviting in the meeting. Is this justice? Why they were not called? 16 States, 183 districts and 971 blocks have already been declared 'Drought Prone Areas'. These areas witnessed rains in monsoons but this year there were no rain. That is why today we are holding discussion on drought. Besides, the Government have given figures of 524 districts in this book but 320 districts out of these are affected by drought. I would like to know from the Government whether 183 districts are included in it or not. What is the calculation. Whether the Government do not even go throughout the newspapers!

"Yada yada Hi Dharmasya Glanirbhavati Bharat,
Abhyutthanam Adharmasya Tadatmanam Srijamyaham."

The Almighty appears on earth whenever there is any loss to the religion. I doubt that Almighty may not have knowledge about the atrocities being committed here otherwise he could have appeared. So, it seems that the Government do not go through newspapers. It is published on front page of Hindi newspaper 'Hindustan' in Bihar dated 22nd July, 2002 in Bihar-'Kudrat Ke rang' Kahin Jhamjham Baarish, Kahin Baadh, to Kahin Sookha'.

Some places in Bihar are facing flood while some parts are reeling under drought. The report says–"Poor farmer in Siwan district has started to use his standing crop of paddy as fodder for animals. His pocket has emptied due to continuous operation of diesel pump set. The entire situation indicates that all the people in district Siwan are crying due to drought and they are calling it famine. Its not that clouds do not get formed or winds to not blow, but rains do not take place. I have given an example. I am surprised to see the report with the Government where so many districts and States have been left out. Even Bihar and are left out. Rains occurred late at some places there. It is also said in Ramcharitmanas that when the crop dries up, rain has no meaning.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I request the Government to get the reports and see as to how many districts have undertaken paddy sapling. 6 districts were already under the grip of drought. Farmers have ruined financially as they are bearing diesel expenditure from their own pocket. Shri Lakshman Singh Ji was just now reading from the report that as compared to other States, foodgrain was provided to Bihar under 'food for work' programme, of which one lakh tonnes foodgrain was totally rotten which was not procured by the people. Bihar also did not get funds from the National calamity contingency Fund, while other States got it. I level allegations on the Government for committing discrimination. A memorandum was submitted by the Government of Bihar. A special team was sent there, enquiry was conducted in which it was found that crop worth Rs. 976 Crore got ruined. We also gave memorandum to the Government but no action was taken on that. Some of the States of the country are affected by floods while the others are affected by drought, but besides flood and drought Bihar has been wrecked by the discriminatory attitude of the Government. One crisis can be overcome, but Bihar is facing crisis from three sides. The Central Government have not given the assistance of even a rupee. Bihar is a poor State but discrimination has been committed to it. I would tell about it in short. Bihar was not given even a single rupee from the National Calamities Fund. The 11th Finance Commission made recommendations for it but the Government committed discrimination even after dividing Bihar. Bihar was divided on the basis of area and the funds of National Calamities Fund was also given on the basis of area by the 11th Finance Commission. The Commission is of the view that average of the losses suffered during the last ten years be considered while providing funds. Very few natural calamities occur in Jharkhand. Floods take place there. Occasionally one or two districts have floods. Everyone knows that Barh district has been ruined because of overflow of waters in rivers of international level. Districts from Gopalganj to bordering area of Nepal viz. West Champaran, East Champaran, Shivhar, Muzaffarpur, Vaishali, Chhapra, Siwan, Madhubani and Darbhanga have been ruined. Dams broke there and houses were submerged. Roads of Sitamarhi, Muzaffarpur were blocked. Till yesterday 12 to 15 persons have reportedly killed. Besides we are still receiving reports ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: He is speaking on Bihar only, please speak on Rajasthan too.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yadav ji, please speak when your turn comes. Your name is there in the list of Members who would speak, please speak then only.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I will speak on Rajasthan also. But gross injustice has been done to Bihar. Bihar has experienced injustice by nature as also by the Government. Bihar has been ruined by floods, drought as also the Government. Gandak, Bagmati etc. rivers have played havoc there also. Devastation takes place by the international rivers. Right now, Raghunath Jha raised a question and he has raised it not once but several times. However, the entire responsibility was thrust upon the Minister of Irrigation despite the Minister of External Affairs and the Minister of Finance having been present. When will the agreement between the Government of India and the Nepal Government would take place. Kanwar Sen Committee was constituted by the Reserve Bank of India. It submitted its report that so much devastation occurs in Bihar due to floods, water logging and drought that it is not possible for the State Government to manage it. Hence the Union Government should take the responsibility to tackle these problems. I would like to know as to why the Government do not take action on the report of Kanwar Sen Committee. I demand that the action be taken in this regard. Further, injustice has been done against Bihar as regards to the allocation of the Calamity Relief Fund. Bihar has been allocated a share of 56 percent while Jharkhand 44 percent on the basis of the area. Jharkhan faces almost negligible natural calamity. However the record of the last ten years should be taken into reckoning in the areas affected by the natural calamity. The Government of India should bring improvement in it. Government of India have committed injustice against Bihar.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I demand that agriculture crop Insurance policy should be implemented. The Government of India should take responsibility for tackling the problem of water logging, floods and drought. Indo-Nepal agreement be signed and the hon. Minister should himself look into Gandak phase-2, Kosi phase-II and Bagmati project. Right now hon. Raghunath Jha has said that package is to be given for the water logging in ten lakh hectares of land. However nothing is being done. Rental is still charged from the farmers. Hence these problems need to be tackled on top priority basis.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the scheme of installing one million swallow tubewells is pending with the Government of India and the Government has also given its approval for it. The petition of thousand of farmers are pending under this scheme. However the banks are not co-operating as regards this scheme. Which will fix the responsibility of the bank men to whom shall we ask this question. There is a proposal of providing assistance to 64 thousand individual farmers by the Union Government, State Government is also included in it and the farmers would also contributed on their own. They should get loans from the banks. The name of this scheme is 64,000 million swallow tubewell., This scheme is going to prove very beneficial for the farmers. However, bank are not providing them loans, hence the farmers are a harassed lot but nothing is being achieved.

Besides, barren land development project is pending with the Department of Agriculture. It need to cleared. The transmission line project is of no use to the farmers due to power crisis. Farmer would install pumpsets only when power is made available because the power costs cheaper than diesel and the farmers have been ruined due to the spending on the diesel required for operating pumpsets. The rupee 335 crore scheme pending with the Planning Commission be immediately cleared in that the transmission lines these could be set in order. The scheme be entrusted to the Power Grid Corporation of India for implementation.

18.00 hrs.

FCI foodgrains are not being supplied to the Sitamarhi district. When I talked on the telephone, it was replied that the Minister in charge of FCI has left and it would be dealt with. However FCI foodgrain did not reach Sitamarhi. The connection between Sitamarhi and Muzzaffarpur broke off. Foodgrains is not available there. Devastation is occurring due to the Bagmati and Adwara group of rivers. ...*(Interruptions)* Entire country is reeling under the drought and he is saying that only 32 districts are drought affected. 570 districts in the entire country are in the grip of drought while he is saying that only 524 districts have been affected. Hence the entire area of the country affected by floods and drought be declared famine (calamity) hit and the loans of the farmers be waived off. The loans and the interest component thereof keeps on increasing on the farmers hence it should be wrote-off. Such an action should be adopted through which farmers could face the drought problem. Priority be given to the irrigation and farmer be given assistance, else the farmer would be ruined. ...*(Interruptions)* Everything is being ruined in this regime but the farmer is still progressing despite all the calamities. Hence farmers should be given top priority. Our's being agriculture based economy, Government should provide assistance to the farmers to face the problems of floods, drought and water logging.

[English]

SHRI A.K.S VIJAYAN (Nagapattinam): Hon Chairman Sir, this august House is discussing the drought situation in the country. I thank the Chair for giving me an opportunity to speak on this haunting problem.

The Indian sub-continent is so vast that natural calamities in various forms affect the country one and at the same time. Droughts and floods have become recurrent features. If one part of the country is hit by floods, another part of the country is hit by droughts. It is 55 years since we have attained freedom. The successive Governments have failed over the years. National disasters cause a great threat to national resources. But we have not evolved a viable mechanism all these years.

It is true that vagaries of weather and fury of nature are unpredictable, but mother nature will definitely help those who have effective disaster management system. Drought has seriously affected our people. More than the drought, it is our systemic failure that has hit us hard.

Sir, India assumes the top position in foodgrains production. That is our mainstay. In a thickly populated country like ours, food production must be given top most priority. Even when we rank first in foodgrains production, people below poverty line (BPL) are on the increase. People who are left with just one meal a day are more than 37 per cent of the total population.

Our efforts must be on to overcome this situation. There must not be any let up. At the same time, care must be taken to ensure that neither droughts nor floods affect our target for food production. This can be achieved only with a vision, dedication and political will. Overall growth of the country must be ensured by the Centre. National Democratic Alliance or for that reason any future Government would depend on the coming together of regional parties. So, it is the bounded duty of the Union Government to ensure National Disaster Management effectively in all the regions.

Short-term relief measures like doling out two to five kilograms of rice or 'Food for Work' schemes cannot be a lasting solution. That is why, we have a cycle of bad monsoon and badly affected food production as recurring events.

Shri K.L. Rao, the then Irrigation Minister in the Government of India chalked out a plan to link river Ganga with river Cauvery. Had it been put through, we would have wiped out drought in many parts of the Central India and Southern India.

Cholamandalam comprises of Thajavur, Thiruvarur and Nagapattinam used to remain the rice granary of Tamil Nadu. Now, people with parched throat look for the trickling water in Cauvery. Even drinking water is a problem there now, leave alone water for irrigation. Agricultural laborers are in a pathetic condition. Some of them are forced to eat rats and die.

The fertile land of Thanjavur Cauvery Delta region used to go for elephants than bulls to thrash the harvest crops. But there is no water in that region now to feed even the bulls.

Linking of rivers and canals for irrigation system and their scientific management are the need of the hour. That will help us to withstand the onslaught of both drought and floods. We should not have rulers who are like King Nero who was fiddling with violin when Rome was burning. Our rulers must understand the ground realities especially when our ground water level is also falling below and failing us.

Agricultural production and livestock situation are the worst hit due to monsoon failure and drought conditions.

So, I urge upon the Government to come with immediate relief measures both short-term schemes and long-term plans.

Agricultural loans must be waived. The interest burden must be curtailed. Subsidies must be ensured when the nature fails. Effective water management policies must be evolved to link the North-South rivers. Diverting of the West flowing rivers must be ensured.

The Garland Canal Scheme can still be thought of. Only with a vision and commitment we can overcome drought.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have conveyed to hon. Speaker and also to you that several Members from various Parties want to take part in this debate. They should be allowed to speak. My submission is that you can accommodate as many Members as possible and even the remaining Members can be allowed to speak tomorrow if time permits or they can be allowed to lay their speeches so that everyone will be satisfied. By this way, we can accommodate all the Members who gave their names. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, as has been said by Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsiji, hon. Members can lay their written speech on the table of the House during the discussion on the Railway Bill. They should be permitted to do so right now else. Tomorrow being Friday, only hon. Minister could give his reply owing to time constraint. All the hon. Members desiring to speak

[Shri Kirit Somaiya]

on this subject should be given an opportunity to speak, be it for five minutes or more.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, we do not agree because we are discussing the matter of a grave situation. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is here. You please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: When he was speaking no such suggestion from any hon. Member was secured.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, they do not understand what I was saying....*(Interruptions)* Sir, I plead from our side that those Members who would like to speak on this should be accommodated. And if anyone is left out tonight, please allow them to speak tomorrow if time permits or to lay their speeches. Sir, we want to co-operate with the Treasury Bench and we do not want to deprive any Member from making his speech. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, let me clarify. What the hon. Member said is that anybody who wants to lay his speech can lay his speech. Today, the matter which we are discussing is of a rare consequence. It is the question of drought. We are having the discussion on the Railway Budget every year. It goes up to early morning. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Let it be throughout the night. We do not mind. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the first thing which I understood from the Chief Whip of the Congress Party is that it is not mandatory or compulsory for anybody to write his speech and give. Nobody is compelling. If some of the Members think, with no compulsion, 'I would write it for record', they can do so. That is only a request.

Secondly, I appreciate that this is a very serious situation. All the hon. Members would like to speak. We have no problem. They can speak. Tomorrow is Friday. We will have a little of Zero Hour. So, we will be left with only hour and a half. Naturally, after so many speeches, you will expect the Minister of Agriculture to give a detailed reply.

So, my only request would be that let us try to finish the discussion today and keep the reply tomorrow. That is only my request. Whatever time is needed, we can sit today. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Sir, we agree. After the Question Hour, the hon. Minister of Agriculture can reply....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: We can finish the discussion today and the reply will be tomorrow. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: As suggested by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, we will sit today till the completion of this subject and the reply will be tomorrow.

[Translation]

If the House agrees this discussion may continue and the hon. Minister may give his reply tomorrow.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I was saying because I was informed that the discussion on the subject would take place today and tomorrow. Hence I had divided the speakers in two lists so that some Members could speak today and the remaining could speak on tomorrow. When a decision is being reached I would urge upon you to accept the written speeches of the hon. Members who may remain devoid of the opportunity to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any hon. Member can lay his written speech on the Table of the House if he is so desires. The Members who get an opportunity to speak would certainly speak. Though no one is being presented from delivering speech. Now the the House is agreed to continue discussion on it.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I am of the opinion that an hon. Member speaking for ten minutes would also listen the speech of 10 speakers also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would request all to speak precisely so that maximum members could get an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR (Patiala): Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity

to speak on this very grave and important matter which is touching the life of every Indian today.

It is ironical to be speaking about drought in this monsoon season and in Monsoon Session of Parliament. The situation is very critical especially in the crucial North-West agricultural States of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Chattisgarh, Western Uttar Pradesh and parts of Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh where the kharif crop was partially or to tally failed due to lack of rains.

The Indian Meteorological Department's predictions, as very rightly quoted by many hon. Members today, have been a failure for the month of June and the first week of July. This is a very serious matter. They either do not have the capability to give us the correct information or something is wrong. If this is the case, then there is no point in wasting the taxpayers' money on this.

Sir, I also have information that there is a facility in the Ministry of Science and Technology, known as the medium range weather forecasting system which had acquired a super computer, which developed this system a couple of years ago, costing hundrds of crore of rupees.

Sir, during the last two or three years, it is said that they have acquired another such super computer spending additional hundreds of crore of rupees. It has facilitated and helped them and they have developed that capacity to give a fairly accurate forecast for five to seven days in advance in a reasonably good manner. So, why is it that all these forecasts have not been published properly? Is there a conscious decision not to give this information out? Is there an internal problem with the Ministry of Science and Technology, which is hampering these publications? If these publications had been given on time, I am sure, the farmers could have saved precious money and time in not sowing some seeds for which they had to pay heavy loss.

It was in the Paper today that one farmer had sowed seeds worth Rs. 15,000 which has gone at a loss, and this must be happening all over the country. In Punjab, in the Bhatinda area, they have ploughed their paddy back into the soil.

With the advancement of science, what we need now is good planning. This should be done in advance and we should not have to wait until the crisis is upon us. I believe that there is a report of the Planning Commission which has given Rs. 75,000 crore to be spent over 25 years. Can it not be that it could be done over the next ten to fifteen years so that we get some reasonable insulation against drought?

After having a look at the last three years' budget, I notice that approximately Rs. 60,000 crore have been spent on communications and Plan outlay, and Rs. 42,000 crore on fertiliser subsidies, out of which I do not think more than 50 per cent has reached the farmers. I would like to suggest, through you Mr. Chairman, Sir, that Rs. 1,00,000 crore should be spent in the Tenth Plan and the Tenth Plan should be declared as the Water Plan for India.

Rainfall is said to be between 25 to 50 per cent deficient this season and the water level in the reservoirs is 48 per cent that of last year. What is worrying is that the low moisture content of the soil and the inadequate water reservoirs will stretch this present drought crisis into the next *Rabi* crop in which the wheat is sown in the month of October.

A drought-like situation exists in most parts of Punjab as well. This is partly due to the sequence of the paddy growing.

The underground water resources are depleting at an alarming rate. In my parliamentary constituency of Patiala alone, it has dropped by 30 to 40 per cent. Punjab has always made it known since the reorganisation of the States in 1966, that we are short of surface water irrigation.

18.16 hrs.

[DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

We made it clear that a time would come when over-usage of ground water would be uneconomical to pump. That time has come now. If our waters had not been planned to be given away, Punjab would not have reached this crisis.

Rain water harvesting, crop insurance, saving of forests and trees are our main protections against drought. States like Himachal Pradesh, which have large forest reserves, should be compensated so that they can keep their forests and not slowly give them up to the timber industry and to farming. There should be widespread publicity for the preservation of forests and also we should think of adding in the school curricula this environment subject to teach the children how to preserve the environment and the water, which will go a long way towards water preservation.

Water management and water harvesting in every house should be made a must. The National Calamity Fund should be enhanced and besides planning, water collection holes, fodder banks should also be created so that we can use them in emergencies. The States alone cannot solve the disaster problem. Besides the loss of

[Shrimati Preneet Kaur]

foodgrains, many things like rural unemployment, poverty, drinking water problems, diseases and deaths by starvation of human beings and animals, take place.

Sir, 70 to 75 per cent of the population is engaged in agriculture and without water there is no production and there will be no life. The problem of drinking water is not only concerned to the rural areas but it is part of our urban society and urban living. The urban people are mainly dependent upon tube wells to get their water. If there is no water, we have a power crisis. So, power and water are very much inter-linked. Until we can solve this problem, we are going to continue to having a very miserable existence with no power, no water and our overloaded grids will be more and more difficult to maintain and the problem is just going to escalate.

The power for the domestic sector has gone up by two to four per cent. The industrial sector is also not left out of this. the small-scale industry has been badly hit. They cannot afford large power generation through diesel engines etc. and at the moment even though we are diverting most of our power to the rural sector it is neither the rural sector that is getting enough nor is the urban sector getting enough of it; and hence we have come to this very sad situation today of this drought-like situation.

It is with this dismal and dry note that I end my speech and I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Thank you Mr. Chairman. After a long wait you have given me a chance to speak. I come from the area which is one of the most drought-prone areas of the country known as Kalahandi which is part of the KBK region of Orissa. Sir, before I start my speech I want to say that drought has been recurring since time immemorial and it has been seen that the post-Independence Government have done nothing to tackle the problem of drought in the country. Every year there is a precipitation of about 4,000 billion cubic metres of water including snowfall. Out of that, the monsoon rains contribute about 3,000 billion cubic metres of water. For the last 55 years we have been able to tap only 609 billion cubic metres which is hardly 22 to 23 per cent of the total precipitation which we got in the country. We have enough of water which could have saved us from the drought of today.

I would say today that the drought in the country is more man-made than natural. It is because billions of cubic metres of water is running away into the sea. There is a run-up of 1,819 billion cubic metres of water. With this situation, when the meteorological Department made a forecast throughout the country, the Department of Agriculture became active and they planned cropping pattern and how much land is to be brought under paddy cultivation, how much land is to be brought under groundnut cultivation and much land is to be brought for lesser millet cultivation. But, today it has become the opposite. The normal rainfall predicted this year in the monsoon has completely vanished.

It is nice of the hon. Minister of Agriculture to have done his duty by calling all the Chief Ministers for a meeting. I was sorry to hear that apart from the Chief Minister of Orissa, no official from Orissa was invited for that particular meeting. But later on it was realised and the concerned officer was called. So, this clearly indicates the seriousness of the Department in mitigating the drought in Orissa which has been prone to it; since the past two-three years it is prone to cyclone to floods and to recurring drought in parts of western Orissa and parts of KBK region of the State.

Sir, the debate which we are having today is of very serious consequence. What does drought mean? Drought means starvation; drought means malnutrition in the rural areas; drought means over-crowding of the urban areas; drought means migration; drought means evacuation of villages; and drought means shortage of drinking water. I would not like to elaborate on this because after hearing the sense of the house it is evident that most of the country is suffering from drought. In the country, 35 meteorological stations are located in different areas and in most of them, there is a condition of drought.

Sir, there are anomalies in the Relief Codes of the States because drought is usually dealt with by the Agriculture Department of the States. These anomalies which are there in the Relief Codes of the States should be rectified. How do we come to a conclusion that there is a drought until the crop cutting is done, until the Revenue Department gives its report, until the records of Agriculture Department and Revenue Department coincide, until the crop cutting report comes? By that time, it becomes very late. It becomes October by the time first crop cutting takes place in the villages and by that time, most of the cattle, most of the poor people in the rural areas, the agricultural labour who depend totally on agriculture, are completely devastated. So, considering these anomalies in the Relief Codes, the Central Government should come up with some type of legislation or some type of disaster management programme by which immediate and emergent measures should be taken to mitigate drought in the areas. Therefore, immediate steps should be taken.

Then, I would say that there has been a fall in the level of reservoirs throughout the country, which will affect electricity production and growth of industries. Sir, we should see what the water resources of this world were, say 2000 years ago, when the population was very, very less and the rate at which they are depleting. In this regard, I would like to quote from *The Statesman* dated 25th July, 2002. It reads:

> "The situation is worse in developing countries, birthplace of about 95 per cent of the 80 million people added to the world each year", says a John Hopkins Institute study—Solution for a Water—Short World—conducted by Don Hinrichsen, a United Nations consultant. The study believes competition between industrial, urban and agriculture use for water is increasing."

So, where will the rural masses go today? There is a competition for water. The *per capita* consumption of water has gone down drastically. We have not been able to take any steps to mitigate that hardship also, to solve that acute problem of fresh drinking water and water for the farmers. How do we intend to feed our millions of people?

Since you have rung the bell, I would like to tell about my district Kalahandi. I would just quote facts which I have received from my Collector and which he has sent to the Relief Commissioner. Sir, up to 18th in the month of July last year, there was a rainfall of 8,84.3 mm and till the 18th of this month, there has been a rainfall of 74.7 mm only. So, you can very well imagine the condition of the crops. In respect of all the crops which were sown in KBK and Western Orissa, there is a loss of 70 per cent, and with recurrence of drought in our areas, farmers have become very poor. I would mention not only small farmers but also the farmers having 15 acres or 20 acres of land. They have been completely devastated. They have migrated.

I would like to recollect one incident. When Shri A.B. Vajpayee was the Leader of the Opposition, he had visited Kharial, Koraput and Kalahandi areas. People came to meet him. What was the property that a poor lady had? The lady had only one *sari*, but there were three other ladies in the House. The eldest lady was given the *sari* to wear so that she could go and meet the Prime Minister. She narrated a tale of woe. This is the condition of rural areas today; the backward places of India have been negleted for the last 50 years.

I was hearing the speeches made from the other side, the speeches made by Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar and many other eminent parliamentarians from the Congress Party. They were saying that they had done a lot of things during Rajiv Gandhi's time. When he visited Kalahandi, I had the opportunity to meet him. Shrimati Sonia Gandhi had also visited Kalahandi at that time. We received them at the airport. Then, I was the MLA from Junagarh. They visited the areas and some schemes were announced. However, they never took off. The programmes or schemes for making water conservation structures never took off because the Congress Party, under the leadership of Shri Patnaik, was ruling the Orissa State at that time.

Now, the KBK prgoramme has started. The pamphlets on KBK programme are now being distributed. Our Government has announced a long-term action plan for the KBKs, which is worth Rs. 9,000 crore. It is slowly taking off and, I am sure, it will mitigate the sufferings of the poor people and the poor farmers of those areas.

We have got a lot of ground water in the country and that will deplete as a result of failure of the monsoon. Therefore, programmes should be initiated for recharging the ground water. The hon. lady Member from Punjab talked about recharging of ground water. We have to save the forests, ecology, which are slowly dwindling. They have to be restored back to the normal position.

This year, the Earth Summit or the World Summit for Sustainable Development will shortly be held in Johannesburg. About 20 years back, in 1980, when the Earth Summit was held in Rio, Agenda-21 was drawn out. I am sorry to state that not a single clause or not a single article of Agenda-21 was implemented by the then Governments that ruled this country. From 1980 till 2000, for 20 years, Agenda-21 was not implemented.

Before I conclude, I would at least pray and lament to the Meteorological Department and the Agriculture Department that they should make proper forecasts in future because 80 per cent of our nation is bound in agriculture and in rural activities. It is a question of the poor man because the man below the poverty line is going to suffer. The PDS has to be controlled. Today, in certain backward pockets, the PDS has not taken off. Those important things have to be done.

Looking at the calamity that we are facing today, I demand that the drought problem should be declared as a national calamity. As a Member of this august House, I demand that it should be declared as a national calamity. Otherwise, we cannot imagine the horrendous problems which we are going to face in future.

*SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (Jalpaiguri): Hon. Mr. Chairman Sir, drought and flood has been discussed umpteen times in the House. All of you are aware that severe drought is prevailing in many parts of our country. But if there is drought in many regions, States like Maharashtra, Gujarat, UP, Bihar and North Bengal in West Bengal have been facing severe flood. We are a free country. But it is a matter of regret that even after 55 years of independence, the Government has not been able to come out with a comprehensive plan to tackle this natural calamity. The farmers face immense difficulty due to drought. The whole cultivated field parches the peasants cannot irrigate the land resulting in loss of crop and immense hardships for the poor farmer. There is no drinking water, no power and everything is in bad shape. But the Government instead of taking any positive step unfortunately plays a negative role. Erosion of riverbank is intimately connected with flood. Of course erosion of riverbank does not happen only during flood. It goes on the whole year. Ganga and Padma in West Bengal faces erosion severely. The problem of erosion in Ganga has been raised many times in the House. The State Government has tried to draw the attention of the Centre on so many occasions. The State Government has asked for necessary fund so as to tackle the problem of erosion. But I am sorry to state that the Centre has not paid any attention to their plea.

Sir, I represent Jalpaiguri District in North Bengal. The nature and character of rivers and the flood in North Bengal is totally different.

Sir, the situation in flood hit areas of North Bengal is very grim and serious now. In the last 72 hours water level of Sankosh, Raydak, Kaljani of Jalpaiguri and Mansai and Raydak No. 1 in Coochbihar, alongwith their tributaries have crossed the danger mark due to excessive rain.

Sir, I want to state with utmost importance that the flood in the Ghis river in Odlabari of Jalpaiguri has caused severe damage on 200 mtr of national highway No. 31 and 300 mtr of railway line has been severely affected due to incessant rain. The overall loss in Kumargram Block and Block No. 1 of Alipurduar is not known till now. But the loss and damage in Kalchin and cultivated land and ten gardens in Kumarganj block has been immense. The information I have gathered from the administration is that 3 people have died due to flood and 12 people have been missing. 100 acre cultivated land has been submerged due to flood in the two rivers Paro and Garom. Houses of 400 families have been washed away. The Guidebund of Shiltorsha river, which is under construction has been damaged. The slums in Jaigaon have been washed away. The 12 municipality wards in Alipurduar have been submerged under water. 12 hundred families have been affected. 1.2. No. Block of Toofangunj in Coochbihar and Falakata block of Jalpaiguri have been damaged. The rainfall recorded in Jalpaiguri is 2543 mm and 1825 mm in Coochbihar.

I want to draw the attention of the House to a very important issue. The source of most of the rivers in North Bengal except a few is in Bhutan. Recently there has been illegally and unscientifically dolomite and felling of trees have been continuously undertaken in Bhutan. As a result, there is large scale siltation and debris are accumulated in the riverbed causing heavy damage to the flow of the river. The rivers are forced to change direction and so many habitation roads tea garden, forests, sanctuary are being severely affected since last 2 decades. This is causing serious ecological problem. If measures are not initiated right now then the tea industry and tea garden of this region will be totally ruined. The forestry and sanctuary of this area will also be wiped off. Moreover due to annual flood the connection link between North Bengal and the rest of India will also be affected resulting in widespread danger of defence.

I want to emphasise one more important point. The militant activities in North Bengal have taken a serious turn. These militants are being trained in Bhutan by the ISI. They are intruding into North Bengal after training and creating terror. The innocent people are being targeted and killed. These problems cannot be tackled singly by State Government alone. The Government of India must form the joint river forum after consulting the Government of Bhutan. We have raised this important issue umpteen times in the House and we the members from North Bengal had a meeting with the Minister of Water Resources Shri Arjun Sethi and discussed the matter with him. He assured us and said that since the matter concerns a foreign country, he has to discuss it with the External Ministry. After that a decision by the Cabinet will be taken. The Hon. Minister Smt. Vijaya Chakravarthy wrote a letter to me last November informing that a joint team of experts will be formed after consulting the Government of Bhutan.

I would like to know through the hon. Chairman whether the joint team of expert has been constituted after consulting the Government of Bhutan. If it has been formed I shall be obliged to know their opinion, their suggestion and recommendation.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

Sir ! want to mention another important issue. As per the road development programme of the Government of India East West corridor from Gujarat to Assam has been planned and will be undertaken. This will go via Dalkhola, Chalsa, Balarhat, Telipara, Veerpara, Hashiwara, Sankosh of Jalpaiguri and then reach Assam. The whole programme is totally unscientific, unplanned because this region is flood prone. There are protected forest, tea garden, hilly rivers which will create serious problem of erosion and siltation. There won't be any industrial region and it won't be of any benefit for large section of the people. We have submitted an alternative plan after consulting the State Government and we hope the Government will reconsider its decision and examine our plan favourably. Drought and flood are the two staggering problems of our country. Respective State Government cannot tackle this serious problem due to paucity of fund. The Government of India must evovle a comprehensive plan and assist the State Government so as to tide over the crisis of both drought and flood.

I urge upon the Government to take some appropriate measures so that we don't have to face the problem every year. With this request I conclude my speech and thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in this important discussion.

*SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY (Cuddapah): Speaker, Sir, it is very unfortunate to discuss the drought situation in monsoon season. Through you Sir, drought situation is very severe in our Constituency and my State of Andhra Pradesh. We need to come to the rescue in this harsh situation.

As temporary measures, I would suggest Contingent action plan, waiver of loans, food for work programme, pensions for old and widows, fees waivers for students, fodder and concentrated feeds for cattle, sufficient grant provisions for drinking water and water harvesting structures for augmenting ground water, crop loss compensation to farmers.

As permanent measures, I would suggest National project of Garland canal connecting all river basins in the country should be sanctioned and taken up on par with national highway network. Creating a national water grid. Farming should be given industrial status. Insurance for failure of crops due to any reason should be made available to farmers like any motor vehicle insurance of life insurance. Cuddapah District of Andhra Pradesh be given a Special Development Package along with considering the proposed Gandikota Reservoir, a national project. Power subsidies or free power to farmers be provided as this subsidy is production related subsidy.

Afforestation should be given top priority. Thank you, Sir, for the opportunity given.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today this august House is discussing the problem of flood and drought prevailing in the country. It is a very important issue and we discuss it every year but without evolving any solution for the problem.

18.44 hrs.

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you must have seen and are aware also of the situation in flood affected Bihar. Every year crop worth crores of rupees gets damaged due to flood and lakhs of people become shelterless. Life of thousands of people come on the verge of death. Recently six people including a student have reportedly died in Madhubani district. There is a Harijan Hostel in Balirajgarh. It is a historical and archaeological place under Government of India. This hostel is a two storeyed building. That student was not well for the last two days. He remained in his room but nobody went there to give him food. Other students went to the 'uncha teela' (high place) but he remained in his room. His dead body was found yesterday only. I contacted the District Magistrate in this regard who confirmed the incident and informed that the student was belonging to some other district. The situation is so pitiable that I can not explain. I would like to know from the Government whether any long-term scheme is being formulated to control floods?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, recently, Kamalabalan river originating from Nepal has breached embankment at four place in my Lok Sabha Constituency Jhanjharpur. Bhoothibalan flows from Lokaha to Phulparas. There also the embankment has been breached at one place. There is danger of breach of embankment at one more place in Rajpur. People are taking shelters on trees and at higher places. All the places have submerged. I can not explain the situation prevailing in Supaul, Madhubani, Sitamarhi, Sheohar, Gopalganj, Muzzafarpur, Darbhanga, Khagaria and Saharsa districts. In 1987 also there was unprecedented flood in this area but this time the flood situation has surpassed the previous record. Breach of embankments has resulted in destruction of standing crop in thousand of acres of land. Sudden floods have destroyed the houses and properties of people. People have become shelterless. This time 25 lakh people have been affected by floods in Madhubani district though it was 10 lakh people in 1987.

*Speech was laid on the Table of the House.

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon'ble Minister has replied that a stand by Helicopter has been provided for the affected state. Before coming to the House, I have got telephonic information that only 2 tonnes of 'Chura' or 'Gur' would be sent by this Helicopter. Will it be sufficient for 1000 people? Only the State Government has sent relief material for the victims. Special relief has not been sent. Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources is present here. I would like to tell him that there is hue and cry among the flood affected people. As it is a very important issue. I have explained my concern.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Kamlabalan, Kosi, Bhootibalan, Gandak, Bagmati and Adhwara group of rivers originating from Nepal have created devastation in the area. Lot of water has been released from Balmiki Nagar to Birpur of Nepal. As result of it rivers are overflowing. I remember that the same situation was there in 1993, 1994 and 1995. Earlier people of Northern Bihar used to get information through Flood Forecasting Network of Nepal and saved their life by taking shelter at higher places. However, this time they did not receive such an information. I would like to know from the Government whether Flood Forecasting Network is working. Will the Government conduct an inquiry in this regard? Secondly, the network should be installed at 16 more places under Indo-Nepal Agreement. At least the Government should provide relief to them and save their life. Long term planning would not be formulated because every time the inconclusive discussion will take place on this subject and the Members of Parliament will think that they have done their duties by just participating in the debate. Therefore, I would like to submit that the Flood Forecasting Network should be extended to the Indo-Nepal border areas including Madhubani, Sheohar and Sitamarhi and Shri Raghunath Jha was stating that the people of these areas do not get the forecast and get affected by the flood.

Sir, this is a very serious and painful issue. I would like to submit that not only the people are affected but the road links have also got disconnected. All the main roads of PWD on Nepal border in North Bihar be it in Ladania, Jainagar, Khajedih or Dharamban have been damaged. People there are unable to move between district headquarters and Babubarahi. The whole Jhanjharpur has been disconnected by the main road which has got damage by the breach of river embankments. People there are unable to get essential commodities like onion and salt from outside. They are dependent on whatever holdings they have at present. We can not imagine how their lives have been disturbed. How they can take their livestock for shelter on higher places when human beings have no place to live. There is scarcity of fodder around the embankment areas. People are taking their livestock for shelter at the embankment. The remaining embankments are also coming in the grip of flood. Even a scanty rainfall in Nepal causes overflowing of water in these areas. I had expressed my concern and stated that a high level central team should be sent there within 24 hours to survey the devastation created by the flood and provide economic package to affected persons. We have told the Government that services of a single helicopter will not serve the purpose. People who are surviving there on the roof tops, tree tops are in distress and army boats in large number are required there to save them. It is unfortunate that people of these areas suffer from flood and drought every six months.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to state the condition of relief work there. I want to say something about the Calamity Relief Fund. as per the provision, the funds given under this fund are used only for the flood relief work. It has no provision for the flood damage repair work which include the repair of the damaged routes. This should be rectified and a suitable provision should be there. Secondly, I would like to state that the Calamity Relief Fund can not be used for the repair of damaged Jamindari dams. The dam in western area of Madhubani has got damaged and will remain in the same condition but can not be repaired from the Calamity Relief Fund. The area will remain submerged and people will continue to suffer but the funds can not be utilized for repair.

Thirdly, no substantial amount is available to construct the washed out houses of people living below the poverty line. Fourthly, after the division of Bihar, scarcity of resources has arisen due to which no new plans can be started. Therefore, I would like to state that flood has become a curse for Bihar and the State has become a permanent flood affected State. The problem of flood arises due to the rain in the water catchment area. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to make a final suggestion for permancent solution to flood problem. The Government should be sensitive. A survey was conducted in 1991 and 1993 on the rivers flowing from Nepal and a team from Japan also made a visit. It was assessed that the permanent solution is to construct a dam on Kosi river in the Barah area involving an expenditure of Rs. 1200 crore.

All those sites were identified. A scheme for constructing a high level dam for the flood control and management of river Kosi was formulated. it would generate 3300 MW electricity and the hydro power can be supplied at cheaper rates to Assam, West Bengal, Eastern part of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa. If multi purpose high level dam is constructed it may lead to the permanent solution of floods. If high level dams are constructed at the proposed sites of Nunthur, Sisapani and Varrah regions of Nepal, then the permanent solution could be found and it is the only way out to save the flood-affected areas.

Lastly, I would like to say about drought. As far drought is concerned, the Government has declared 12 States namely Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Arunachal Pradesh as drought affected States. The survey in this regard has been conducted and the hon. Minister of Agriculture is well acquainted with the condition of the farmers. He has also held meeting with the Agriculture Minister of States. I would like to say that Shekhpura, Monghyr, Lakhisarai, Rohtas, Arrah, Jahanabad in Bihar are drought affected areas, while South Bihar is drought affected. North Bihar is facing the fury of floods and both of those are fighting with natural calamities. The ground water level has sunk and it is not raining and the fields have dried up. The village ponds have no water. A ferocious situation is awaiting and the crisis of flood alongwith the poverty and starvation is looming large. Hence, these areas need to be freed from famine.

With these words I thank you and would like to submit that whereas gold and silver serve decorative purpose, bread is essential for life. Hence, a long term solution for providing food be found. Besides, water management be made and the permanent solution to the problem of floods be found and a long term plan for the drought affected areas be also formulated.

[English]

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA (Alipurduars): Respected Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for having given me an opportunity to speak on this important issue. A number of Members have taken part in this discussion and most of them have concentrated on drought. Although I am very much concerned about the drought-affected areas, as more than 14 States have been affected, since a number of Members have already talked about drought, I will confine myself to floods particularly to the area to which I belong.

I belong to Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal. This area is being affected by flood almost every year. Flood has become a regular phenomenon there. A number of rivers like Sankosh, Teesta, Torsa, Kaljani, Paro, Raidak, originate from Bhutan and flow through this region. Since these rivers pass through the tea gardens, the tea industry is also badly affected due to the flood in these rivers. This time even the Cooch Behar district particularly Balabhut which is on the border of India and Bangladesh has been badly affected. It has almost become an island. Hundreds of people have been rendered homeless. We had taken up this matter time and again with the Water Resource Minister and requested him to take it up with the External Affairs Minister so that he in turn could take it up with the Bhutan Government. We had requested the Government to take the initiative to set up a joint Indo-Bhutan River Commission.

19.00 hrs.

This is the only solution. Unless and until, this Commission is set up, the problem of flood in Cooch Behar and Jalpaiguri Districts cannot be solved. Therefore, once again, I demand that this issue must be taken up with the Government of Bhutan as early as possible so that the difficulties of the people of tea gardens in North Bengal and other areas can be mitigated.

Sir, I am equally concerned about wild life. There is a rhinoceros reserve at Jaldapara in Jalpaiguri District. There is also elephant reserve, and it is a tourist place also. There are a number of forests. I demand that in order to protect all those reserves, forests, wild life, an appropriate and comprehensive planning should be made so that the reserves for animals like elephant, rhinoceros, etc. can be protected. If these things are done, I am sure it will also help in promoting tourism.

Sir, I would like to request that in Mal Bazar Sub Division, the National Highway has been affected very badly due to flood water. The rail connection has also been affected. I have already told that it has become a regular phenomena. Therefore, I would request you to accept the proposal for a new railway line from New Mainguri to Jogi Ghopa. It would work as an alternative line. So, once again, I would like to impress upon the concerned Minister that this railway line should be taken up as early as possible. This will serve not only the people of West Bengal, North Bengal but also the people of North Eastern region. It is because people of North-East are always affected due to disruption of rail services whenever any railway line or rail bridge is damaged due to flood.

[Shri Joachim Baxla]

Sir, I have already mentioned that these rivers are coming from Bhutan. Therefore, this is a very important issue. I demand that appropriate action should be taken. Sir, I know that for the maintenance of river banks of Brahmaputra, some money is being allotted by the Central Government. I would like to mention that all the rivers, namely. Sankos. Tiesta, Torsa, Kaljani, Ramsai, Garam, Paro, Raidak and Jaldhaka are ultimately meeting with the Brahmaputra river. Therefore this is my demand that West Bengal should also be sanctioned some money for the maintenance of these rivers. Otherwise, it will be very difficult to control these rivers. We know that every year people of these areas and particularly the tea gardens are suffering. It is because the tea bushes are washed away because of flood water.

Sir, a few days back I visited Lankapura which is near Bhutan. I also visited Jaigaon. There is one river called Hansimara Jhora. I found that all the river beds are rising like anything. If there is torrential rain, we can imagine the fate of the people residing there. The entire area, including tea garden belt will be washed away. Therefore, I demand that the Central Government should take appropriate steps so that some protection work can be taken up and these people can be safeguarded. Some precautionary measures have to be taken in advance. We know that whenever some natural calamity takes place. only then we think of sending the relief material to the affected areas. That is why I would request the Minister to take precautionary measures in advance instead of waiting till the last moment. I know that natural calamities cannot be stopped totally, but we can save the lives of the people by taking precautionary action.

In Cooch Behar two persons have died. The West Bengal Government has already taken steps. They are providing relief materials within their capacity. I know that their resources are very limited. However, they are trying their level best to stand by the side of the affected people. Therefore, I demand that the Central Government should think over this matter and take appropriate action, so that in future we can mitigate the sufferings of the people.

[Translation]

DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV (Mahendragarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, since morning the discussion on the flood and drought situation prevailing in the country has been going on. I would like to extend by thanks to the hon. Minister of Agriculture for calling on a meeting of the Agriculture Ministers of various States in view of the prevailing drought situation and for taking such decisions in the meeting which would provide some relief to the farmers. The truth is that today the country is in the grip of severe drought. Similarly, the flood situation in some other areas has turned very grave.

I hail from Haryana and the name of Haryana makes one imagine that it is a very lush green State. However, a region in southern Haryana has been reeling under the severe drought since long. Elections to the Legislative Assembly in Haryana were held in 2000. 25 villages of district Mahendragarh in my parliamentary constituency boycotted the elections in protest against the unresolved problem of drinking water there. Let alone the water for irrigation and for livestock even drinking water is not available for humans. The district did not get the normal rainfall even when the rest of Haryana received normal rainfall.

Today the situation is so grim that the women folk have to walk several kilometers to fetch water. The ear of wheat is burnt on the festival occasion of Holi in our region because doing so is considered auspicious. Now the situation is such that level alone the possibility of following the ritual of burning ear of wheat, farmers have not even sown wheat this season. Farmers were expecting a good monsoon as was being forecast but monsoon was not good and in one of the areas not even a single drop was received as rainfall. The farmer is gazing towards the skies in the hop of rain and is extremely worried on the account.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, my region has neither any river nor canals and it is not raining also. The ground water level is continuously declining and the villagers are forced to flee from these villages in such a situation. I would like to present the figures in that the districts of Rewari, Mahendergarh and Gurgaon better known as South Haryana have recorded a rainfall of 680 mm. during the 1993 to 1997, 300 mm in the year 2000 and there was no rainfall this year. If we look at the decline in ground water level after the job in this regard was entrusted to the ground water cell, water level has sunk from 16.77 in 1974 metres to 23.2 metres in 1994. Today the ground water level is below 33 metres in district Mahendergarh and 28 metres in district Rewari in one of the block in my district. The ground water revel is 1600 feet and it is even hard to imagine to extract water through boring. The canals were dig 32 years ago but I won't hesitate even a bit to apprise the House that not even a drop of water flown through these canals and these canals have got filled with soil and have developed cracks along their embankments. Cultivation is being done with the help of water from tubewells because there is neither rain nor the river nor the canals have any water in them. The

dam have been constructed on the perennial rivers in areas where there are being fed by rain water and naturally the water flow has been checked. I we continue to cultivate through tube well water the ground water level would sink so that it would become even hard even to cultivate crops and it is due to this reason that we are not able to think of wowing Kharif Crops as Rabi Crop had not been sown. 90 per cent crop has been damaged in areas where it was sown. The expected development of canal network could not take place despite our best of efforts. The issue of Sutlej-Yamuna link between Haryana and Punjab has been going on for years. The Supreme Court has also given the order to complete the work of link canal so that the dry and parched land of Haryana could gain some water. So far no work has been initiated in this regard which is really unfortunate. The situation in the country is such that some places there is dearth of water and at some it is an excess but we are not able to evolve a mechanism for equitable distribution of water in all parts of the country either due to some political or administrative hurdles. I would submit to the hon. Minister of Agriculture to try to do away these bottlenecks by formulating proper laws in this regard so that the equitable distribution of water could be ensured. Farmers are entirely at the mercy of monsoon for cultivation and he is gazing at the skies in the hope of rains his face is looking faded. Main crops in my region are millet, jawar and gowar. We cannot even think of sowing such a crop which require more water. That crop could be sowed even in low water and today this crop has been devastated 90 per cent. You can yourself assess the situation. After furnishing these figures to the hon. Minister I would like to thank hon. Minister for doing a decent job of postponing the tax realisation through NABARD. However, I would also like to say that when the oil depot can be set up in Russia and oil can be supplied there by connecting it with Assam by laying pipes, why our arrangement for water can not be made. We should try to make such an arrangement that the regions facing scarcity of water should be connected with the water abundant areas by laying down pipes in the same way as the oil is supplied to desert areas from Assam oil fields through pipelines. When the water has become such a precious thing for the farmer and every individual then what is the problem in making an arrangement for water in the above said way. Today the people have deserted their cattle for want of water and fodder and there is a need to provide fodder. Water borne diseases are spreading very fast. There is need to think in this direction and evolve a proper water conservation policy. I am also of this opinion that there is a need to effectively run the watershed scheme and rainwater harvesting programmes. We are talking about rainwater harvesting but as no rain is taking place which water would be harvested. Through you I would like to submit that the schemes and policies formulated after due deliberations in this regard be implemented efficiently. Today there is a need to make arrangement for seeds and foodgrains. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have given five minutes to each here, else it would not finish by the next morning.

DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV: I would like to submit to the hon. Agriculture Minister that he is personally well aware about situation in South Haryana. Both these Ministers sitting here are personally well acquainted with the situation of South Haryana. I would like to submit them to provide a special package there because this region is genuinely drought affected. Today, the situation is such that even the village ponds have to be filled through river.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI C.N. SINGH (Machalishahar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the discussion on drought is taking place and he is not speaking. The Members of the ruling party are so serious about drought situation that only 13 persons are there to speak ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (Varanasi): He was untraced for entire day, has just come and is saying this to us.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You sit down. Shri G. Putta Swamy Gowda

SHRI C.N. SINGH: All these persons are not sitting, the Members of the ruling party are least bothered about drought and flood. Their strength is 13 and it seems that this Government is likely to meet its doom. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except Shri Puttaswamy Gowda's speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You sit down, why are you disturbing. He is speaking. Let him speak.

[English]

*SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA (Hassan): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very grateful for having given me an opportunity to speak on this important subject. Permit me to speak in Kannada.

*Hon. Mr Chairman Sir, hon. Members from all sections of this august House have sincerely expressed their anguish about the havoc created by the severe drought in the country. I join them to express my concern regarding this serious situation and I thank you Sir for giving an opportunity to speak on this important issue.

Many States in the country are reeling under severe drought situation. Karnataka is one of the States which has been severely affected by the drought. In fact, unfortunately this is the third consecutive drought year for Karnataka. I would like to mention that the Centre has completely failed in in its duty to protect the people particularly the farmers who are affected by drought.

154 taluks in 25 districts of Karnataka State are in the grip of drought and even drinking water is not available in these places. There is no fodder for the cattle and many people who do not have anything for their living have already migrated to the neighboring States. Our Chief Minister led an all party delegation to the hon. Agriculture Minister and the hon. Prime Minister. He has requested the Centre in his memorandum to release 958 crore of rupees for the flood relief in the States. So far, unfortunately not a single rupee has been released for Karnataka to tackle this problem. The State till today has not received any reply from the Centre in this regard. The Centre is bringing in politics in this matter and that is my complaint against this NDA Government.

11th Finance Commission has recommended an amount of 78 crores of rupees for Karnataka from the calamity fund. The Centre has cleared only 58 crore of rupees and this amount is being paid in two equal instalments. In fact this has become an important national news and the BJP leaders are indulging in an unnecessary propaganda about the release of this calamity fund.

The Chief Minister of Karnataka has done a commendable job in releasing a substantial amount for providing drinking water in the drought affected areas.

When Karnataka has received nothing how some States have got relief funds. Let him sanction any amount to any State but I want that Karnataka State should also get the relief fund. About 238 crore of rupees and more than 10 lakh tonnes of foodgrains have been released to tackle the drought situation. My State also should get its share. There is no need to bring politics in this matter. All the States should be treated equally on the basis of the losses suffered by them due to drought. It is not good for the nation to allow such a disparity to continue in the future. You cannot rule the country in this fashion. Step motherly attitude and negligence of some States by the Centre cannot be tolerated. The farmers will revolt if this kind of attitude continues.

Sir, now I would like to give some suggestions for the consideration of the hon. Minister. During rainy season, huge quantity of water goes to the sea. This loss of water should not be allowed to continue like this. Water should be conserved and stored and this decides the future of our farmer. Unless we develop the capacity to store the flood water we can't find solutions to the multifarious problems of the farmers.

There was a proposal to link Ganga and Cauvery. The Centre has not given its thought to this proposal. The Centre has to take up such innovative and scientific plans and programmes and implement them for the prosperity of our nation. Similarly they have to take up desilting of tanks particularly on the river basins. There are a number of tanks on the Cauvery river basin. We can provide jobs to thousands of poor people. It will enable us to revive the employment guarantee scheme and food-for-work scheme in drought hit States and for employment generation under the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana project of the Rural Development Ministry. On the other hand you put hurdles to States like Karnataka which is very keen to take up such programmes. Karnataka had approached the World Bank for its assistance to take such a programme. Unfortunately you have not given clearance for this programme till today.

It is high time to take up immediate desilting of tanks on the river basins throughout the country.

While sanctioning the amount the Centre should be very careful about monitoring the schemes. They should ensure that the amount reaches the needy persons. Many times major chunk of this amount do not reach the people to whom the fund is meant.

Sir, recently Central team which had gone to Karnataka could not conduct any survey of the affected areas. I urge the Government of India to send an expert

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

team to Karnataka to assess the situation accurately. In the meanwhile I request the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Agriculture Minister Shri Ajit Singh Ji, to release at least 100 crores of rupees as an ad hoc drought relief fund to save the people of Karnataka from the severe drought situation prevailing in Karnataka.

Once again I thank you Sir and I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI (Bijnor): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak in the flood and drought situation. I also extend my cordial thanks to the hon. Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Shri Pramod Mahajan for their concern to start discussion on the severe drought and flood situation striking the country. Our country is an agriculture dominated country. 80 per cent population is dependent on agriculture. Hence, we should spare a thought for the farmers. Approximately 11 States of our country have been affected by drought. The Minister of Agriculture had earlier declared 11 States drought affected but what relief was proposed to be provided by the Government to the farmers should have been made clear from the beginning. Last time, when floods had struck my district Bijnor on 9th June, 2000, I had demanded to provide a relief of Rs. 50 crore. Five bridges and two roads were damaged but the Government of India had provided only two crore rupees. It might happen that like the previous year when the money for flood-relief was not given, this time also the Government may withdraw from its responsibility of providing relief to the farmers in drought affected areas to repay their loans or their loans etc. are not waived off. We will have to think over it and the hon. Minister of Agriculture should especially think over it. Our's was a agriculture dominated country and there was an old adage 'Uttam Keti, Madhyam Baan, Nishit Chakri Bhikh Nidaan' in vogue wherein the agriculture was considered as the best source of livelihood but today the trend seems to be reversing wherein the job is considered as the best, trade is considered second best and even beggars have gone ahead of farmers who has been relegated to the bottom. Nobody is concerned about the farmers and the Congress Government also had not bothered about the farmers. Today sugar mills are closing down. Sugarcane is not being churned and the farmer is not being paid the price of sugarcane and farmers are in the grip of drought. This scheme had been pending for the last 40 years. It is in view of this that hon. Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had launched this scheme of gasol and ethanol for the benefit of the farmers. I would like that alongwith drought relief work gasol and ethanol schemes should also be implemented. I submit that the Government has not implemented the announcement made regarding ethanol produced by the sugar mills for use alongwith petrol and diesel. The Government have announced that decision to mix ethanol and gasol with diesel on the lines of petrol would be taken and it is indeed the right step. It is the need of the hour that we should think about the farmer because he is the supreme in the country. I hail from district Bijnor where 60-65 per cent crop has been damaged in drought and the cattle have started dying for want of fodder.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

19.29 hrs.

I would submit to the hon. Minister to devise a scheme for clearing the outstanding dues worth crores of rupees pending against the sugar mill owners in Uttar Pradesh especially in Western Uttar Pradesh. The Government should also provide relief to the farmers at the rate of Rs. 20,000 per acre in those areas where the sugarcane and paddy crops of the farmers have been damaged due to drought so that farmers may survive. The country is facing a severe situation and at least the farmers should be convinced that the Government are bothered about their plight. Hon. Minister of Agriculture is sitting here. I would submit to him to waive off the rent and loans of entire Uttar Pradesh and farmers should also be paid a compensation to the tune of Rs. 20,000 per acre which is in approximation of the losses suffered by the farmer due to drought. Crop Insurance Scheme should also be implemented properly and the State Government should be given instructions to implement it. The discussion on drought is going on in the House. The suggestions given by the hon. Member should be implemented and a scheme be formulated to provide relief to the affected people. Uttar Pradesh is also facing severe power crisis. There is not even a single bigha land in Uttar Pradesh which is not cultivable hence the Government should make special arrangement for providing electricity besides feeding canals with water. If these problems are not addressed in Uttar Pradesh then not only the cattle population but even the humans would be on the verge of starvation and it will lead to a situation of crisis in the entire country.

Sir, not taking further time of the House I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Lastly, I would like to say that 11 States in the country are in a grip of drought and in view of this drought situation the rent and loans of the farmers should be waived off

[Shri Sheesh Ram Singh Ravi]

besides giving them an amount of Rs. 20 thousand per acre as compensation.

SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI (Kurukshetra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today the issue relating to drought and flood, which is quite serious and an issue of urgent public importance is being debated in this apex House. Several regions of our country get affected of drought every year. After almost 15 years, this year Haryana is also in grip of severe drought as a result of which ponds, rivers and nullahs have been dried up there. Availability of water for irrigation purpose is a different thing, even cattle are not getting water to drink. The crops on thousands acres of land have been destroyed. Farmers have tilled thousand acres of land on which the damaged crop was standing. Farmers have suffered a lot and now looking towards Centre and State Governments for getting financial assistance.

Sir, the area under cultivation of coarse foodgrain in Haryana has declined from 126 lakh hectare to 75 lakh hectare. Water resources have also been affected. Millet and paddy crops have suffered a lot in Haryana and Rajasthan. Kharif crop has cultivated on 232 lakh hectares of land in the country which has declined to 74 lakh hectare. The Union Government have issued instructions to State Governments for implementation of emergency plans to provide relief to affected people under which seeds and foodgrain would be provided to farmers. Along with this drinking water would also be made available. There is also a proposal to implement 'Food for Work' Scheme. Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture Shri Ajit Singh has stated that State Governments have been issued instructions to implement emergency plans. But I would like to emphasize that due to corrupt bureaucracy and failure of Government machinery, benefit of these schemes do not reach to needy persons. Common poor people are deprived of benefits of these schemes and bureaucrats are benefited by these schemes. It is an irony that even so many years after independence we have been able to provide irrigation facilities for 40 percent area only. We have to depend on tube-wells for irrigation but non availability of power makes things more difficult. We have also not been able to develop our canal system to the desired extent. In such a situation not only farmers but administrative officers look at sky for rain. I would like to know that will the Government officials sit over the files. Will the days be spent in this manner. It should not be so. Even 55 years after independence, neither we have been able to develop some system to collect water from other available sources to tackle drought problem nor any arrangements could be made to save crops from flood in flood prone areas. On the one hand we want to develop India as a developed country during 21st century but on the other hand the basic requirement of farmers, who are considered backbone of the nation, are being neglected. The Drought Prone Area Scheme was launched in 1973 but it could not show desired results. The objectives of this scheme were to increase production of crops, productivity of land, livestock and to find out more sources of water, tackle drought problem and help in social and economic upliftment of poor people of the affected areas by providing employment to them. This scheme should be reconsidered, reviewed and re-evaluated so that its objectives could be achieved. Dams should be constructed to stop flood waters flowing waste so that problem of drought could be tackled effectively. The problem of shortage of water in Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat and several other states could be solved if rainy water of Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab is collected by constructing dams which otherwise flows waste. 25,000 Megawatt hydro-electricity can be generated from rainy water of Himachal Pradesh alone. Shahpur Kandi Yojana, Tehri Garhwal Dam, SYL Link Canal for which a judgment has been given recently by Court are such schemes which are pending since long and have been put in cold bag. These projects should be freed from red tape of bureaucracy and implemented with immediate effect. These projects can cover risk factors and earn profit if completed by obtaining loan for this purpose.

I would like to say that option of water-recharging should also be considered. Deep boring can be done to collect water during rainy season for bringing up the water level so that it could be used during drought. It is necessary to stop rainy water of ponds, rivers and nullahs going down to drains. Effective arrangements should be made for that. After construction of Sardar Sarovar Dam and Bhakhra dam no effective project has been formulated by any Government for agriculture sector. It was stated once that Bhakhra Dam would prove to be a milestone in development of the country and it was proved laterly. Today our country needs such more projects for development. Such projects should be implemented and guarded from corrupt practices.

The Union Government have issued instructions to State Governments to enforce Crop Insurance Scheme for farmers to avoid sufferings from natural calamities. This scheme should be implemented effectively. Agriculture should be accorded the status of industry and it should be ensured that in case of natural calamities farmers should get remunerative prices for their produce. As per the cost, sale price should be remunerative. 'Food for Work' scheme is going on paper and it should be

implemented honestly for strengthening financial position of farmers who are considered backbone of the country.

Hob'ble Minister should convene an emergency meeting with Water Commission. Flood and drought are the burning problems of the day and through it this problem should be tackled at the earliest for providing relief to affected people.

SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA (Bhatinda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today the problem of flood and drought is being discussed here. We have witnessed devastating floods in Northern Bihar, Northern Bengal and Assam. In Assam 15 persons and in Bengal 5 persons were killed due to this flood. It is really sad that even 55 years after independence we could not tackle flood problem. It is our failure and lacunae in our plans are responsible for that.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to cite an example of Patiala. Earlier, it used to witness flood every third or fourth year. At times of floods people used to go to king and asked him to offer golden bracelet from the back of elephant to get relief from flood. Later on the king constructed a dam and now there is no danger of flood in Patiala. Therefore, I request the Government to construct a dam to check floods. The reasons for the flood should be found out for protecting interests of the people. This is a Monsoon Session and in present situation its name should be changed.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, people of our country are quite superstitious and they have organized several 'langars.' In my area there is a place 'Nathana' where wine is served in langar to please the God. Its photograph has also been published in newspapers. I request the Government for propaganda against that and advise people not to indulge in such things. Bhatinda district faces acute shortage of wager. Rajiv Water Scheme has been launched there in two districts. Moga, Muktasar and half district of Mansa has been dropped from this scheme. I have written about to the hon'ble Minister but he has not given any reply. People have to go to far flung areas to fetch water but that is also not potable water. Punjab is one of those 12 states which have experienced no rainfall this year. Earlier there had been 221 mm. rains in June but this year only 36 mm. rains have been received. Position of Punjab is quite serious and attention should be paid towards that.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, a mention has been made regarding water in Punjab and Haryana. The time when Punjab and Haryana were divided, Haryana got 80 lakh hectare area of land and Punjab got 1 crore 5 lakh hectare of land but at the time of division of water Haryana was given 16 million acre feet water and Punjab was given 12 million acre feet of water. Haryana got less land and more water. The issue of SYL Canal has also been raised here. Last time your party was in power in Punjab, why this issue was not decided at the time. Why the Union Government kept the issue burning and did not solve this water dispute. This issue can be solved by both the States but the Government do not want to decide it to score political mileage out of that ...*(Interruption)*. Now I would like to raise issue of drought. The debt of farmers should be waived off on the ground of drought. Agricultural labourers are most affected by it. Agricultural labourers are rendered jobless when crop is damaged. Some compensation should be given to them for protecting their interests. Foodgrains is distributed under 'Food for Work' scheme. Large quantity of wheat has rotten in godowns of Punjab. It should be distributed among poor. What is this policy that wheat may rotten but not given to poor. I request to think over this suggestion and this wheat may be given to poor people at Re. 1 per Kg. so that they may be able to combat scourge of hunger and unemployment to some extent. I hope that hon'ble Minister of Agriculture would pay attention towards these points and waive off loans of farmers.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the premium set under Crop Insurance Scheme is very high and farmers are unable to pay that and thus farmers have not taken any interest in crop insurance scheme. Therefore, another alternative scheme should be formulated for benefit of common farmers. I hope that Government will pay attention towards it.

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (Satna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, for how long this debate will continue. I hope that the Members from all the political parties who have given notices under Rule 193 should be given a chance to speak. My name is also there. ...*(Interruption)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Chowdhary Talib Hussain wants to lay down his speech.

CHOWDHARY TALIB HUSSAIN (Jammu): I would like to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: If you want to speak, then you will have to wait for some time.

CHOWDHARY TALIB HUSSAIN: Sir, I would like to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: If you want to give a written speech, then you can do it. But if you want to speak, then you have to wait for some time.

[Translation]

CHOWDHARY TALIB HUSSAIN: Sir, it will be good if I will be allowed to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. You will be called afterwards.

Shri P.R. Khunte.

SHRI P.R. KHUNTE (Sarangarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak. ...*(Interruption)*

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, list of names have been given to you and it has been told here that number in the list does not change. My name was seventh in the list. I have asked. ...*(Interruption)* I am waiting for my turn.

MR. SPEAKER: I am checking as to what has happened. I will tell about it laterly.

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you may allow us even if political party does not allot time for that. There is partiality within the parties. I request that before the speech of hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, the Members who have given notices to speak on this issue should be given a chance.

MR. SPEAKER: I have already told that I will permit you to speak.

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: His name was not there but now that has been included. My name was seventh in the list, how that has changed? I have seen the list myself.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN ((Firozabad): Today, Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra is not here and Kirit Somaiya is looking after the work. Our friends from BJP are making complaints. They should complain to Shri Somaiya as this was done by him. ...*(Interruption)*

MR. SPEAKER: I explain that. Sometimes, hon'ble Members could not understand the actual position.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, their complaint is genuine. Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra is not here today and this responsibility has been given to Shri Kirit Somaiya. This confusion has been created by him. so hon'ble Members should complaint to Shri Kirit Somaiya.

MR. SPEAKER: Yadavji, I would like to tell that your name is first in the list but that is another list. So far my first list has not been completed. Mr. Khunte's name is last in the first list. Thus no injustice has been done or will be done to you by the Chair. You should not worry about that. Your name will be the first in second list, I have told you in chamber also that you will be allowed to speak. Today Ramdas Athawale's name is not in the last of the list.

Khunteji, now you can start your speech.

SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, today a debate on drought and flood in the country has been going on in the House since 12 o'clock. ...*(Interruption)* Akhilesh ji, I never interrupt you. Now, as I am speaking, so let me carry on.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: You make a remarkable speech.

SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, our's is predominantly an agricultural country. Our economy also depends on agriculture. But, it is an irony that every other day, the farmers in this country keep facing drought, flood, insects, hailstorms or natural calamity. Unfortunately, at present, 12 States are in the grip of drought. Farmers in these 12 States are facing severe drought. Chattisgarh, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are worst affected. Some states are facing the furry of floods. Chattisgarh is facing most severe drought of this country. I would like to say that the situation is so serious that people are forced to eat tuber-roots. It is almost total famine. The aged persons tell that the state faced similar famine in, 1963-64, when the situation became worst that the poor peasants and labourers were compelled to search for grains in cow-dung. Now, Chattisgarhh is facing similar condition. The farmers planted paddy in the hope of rain, but rain played truant and paddy planting work came to a halt. The crops which have taken roots are dying without water and in fact, neither the Government are able to tackle drought nor able to face it.

A year back also, Chattisgarh faced severe famine. The leader of opposition, Shri Nand Kumar Sai and some BJP Legislators asked a question to the Chief Minister of Chattisgarh regarding availability of funds with the State

Government to tackle severe famine being faced by Chattisgarh, which has caused exodus of lakh of people from the state and created serious problem of drinking water and fodder for animals.

Sir, in reply to above question, the Chief Minister of Chattisgarh has stated in the Legislative Assembly that the state has a provision of only Rs. 3,00,000. I would like to tell the House that the population of Chattisgarh is 2 crore 7 lakh. This paltry sum is not even enough to provide 'Prasad' to the State's 2 crore 7 lakh population.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to hon. Prime Minister who provided relief to the drought affected and starving people of not only Chattisgarh, but all the four states facing drought under 'Food for Work' and Gaon-Ganga jal schemes. Chattisgarh is facing similar crisis today and farmers, poors and labourers are making hue and cry. But the Chief-Minister of Chattisgarh is not all bothered. The farmers and the poor public is praying rain-God Indra-dev for rain and protecting their crops whereas the Chief Minister is praying for no-rain so that he can seek relief package and make something out of that.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I request hon. Member not to say such things that Chief Minister of a State praying God for 'no-rain'. It is not good to say so. He can oppose, but not up to this level.

MR. SPEAKER: I agree with you. Shri Khunte ji, do not put allegation of this sort. Tell what do you want to say.

SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the farmers of Chattisgarh arranged marriage of frog and she-frog. It was reported by the papers on 20 July. All the formalities, such as rubbing oil and turmeric-paste, pooja, reciting of mantras and even marriage party was arranged, putting 'tika' on forehead and a feast and then the he-frog and she-frog were thrown in water. If you permit, I can read out the entire news-report, but it will take more time. So, this way the public resorted to recital of mantras to please rain-god. The State is facing severe drought. I mean to say that the situation has reached a serious proportion.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not the case of Chattisgarh alone, throughout the country the farmers have become bankrupt. Who is responsible for pitiable condition of farmers. 55 years have gone by since India became free, and most of these years, except a few, Congress party have ruled the country. Unfortunately, Congress has been ruling Madhya Pradesh for the last eight years and the State is facing severe drought. All the Congress ruled states are facing drought and the people over there are facing famine. Anti-farmers policy of the Congress has rendered the farmers in such a pitiable condition. The farmers are debt trapped. Even a newly born baby in a farmer's family carries the burden of loan on his head. The farmer is hungry, he is debt-trapped whereas the Congress are enjoying. Had the Congress party made adequate arrangements for irrigation the farmers would not have had to face such condition and he would have been prosperous. But Congress did not adopt any policy beneficial for the farmers and failed to provide enough irrigation facilities. Anti-farmers policy of the Congress have rendered the farmers in such a horrible condition.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank hon. Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee for announcing Agriculture policy for the first time in the country. The Government have introduced crop-insurance scheme. The farmers in Congress ruled States are not getting any benefit even under these scheme and they are not getting their insurance claims. Under this scheme, even in Chattisgarh people have not been extended benefits.

20.00 hrs.

How unfortunate it is that even today, crop insurance scheme has not been introduced in Madhya Pradesh. We make lengthy speeches, speak about rights of farmers, but when the issue of their interest and benefit is taken up, we backtrack and shed crocodile tears. It does not behove at all.

I am shocked to see the poor attendance even when the House is seriously discussing the problem of drought. I am not talking about one State, the farmers of 12 States are facing severe drought. ...*(Interruptions)* They have no alternative before them. On the one hand rain has played truant and secondly the Government are not extending any support. They are facing power, seeds, irrigation and water problems. Take the case of Chattisgarh, people are unable to run their tubewells in absence of regular power supply though the Chief Minister had claimed that his State has surplus power supply. There are several villages without electricity who are forced to live in darkness. Most of the people say that interrupted power supply has rendered their tubewells useless.

[Translation]

Besides, the crop is perishing. Who is responsible for it? I am also of the view that leave alone permanent connection, not even an ordinary connection has been provided to thousands of pumps. The farmers there are a harried lot.

[Shri P.R. Khunte]

I would like to submit in this House that enough politics has been played in the name of farmers. Such 12 States are facing the drought situation. The weather is totally unpredictable. If this thing is not taken seriously entire country would be in turmoil. Farmer would have nowhere to go. People have started to migrate in large number from Chhatisgarh.

I would also like to say that as per the Government laws the relief work has been to ceased in all the States after 15th June. I would submit that the drought relief work be restarted in those States where it has been stopped since 15th June so that the landless and poor labourers may get food.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am speaking for the first time in your presence and I am speaking one very serious subject. You give one time to speak for one more minute. I don't want to waste the time of the House. I would like to submit that in Chattisgarh. ...*(Interruptions)* that the labourers have not been paid their wages by the Government of Chattisgarh for the services being rendered by them in various development construction works. On one hand the work in fields is not available and on the other workers also do not prefer working in fields. The problem of earning their livelihood is looming large on their faces. The people who worked have been given coupons but have not been paid their wages. I would submit to the Government to give directions to the State Government for immediately making payment of their wages.

I would like to make one more submission that I hail from Sarangrah parliamentary constituency through which all the main rivers of Chattisgarh like Mahanadi, Hasdo river, Kelo river, Mand river, Joke river, Sone river, Arpa river, Peri river etc. flow but it is the most drought prone area. Several irrigation projects have been lying pending there for the last 22, 28 to 32 years. All those projects be completed within time and the farmer's fields be provided water. The Union Government have provided Rs. 272 crore for Hansdeo Irrigation Project to be completed by 2003 but the Chief Minister of Chattisgarh has indulged in large scale corruption in this. As per my information in Chattisgarh. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now you conclude.

SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: There are talks of Rs. 100 crore scam in it and it would severely impinge on the sights of the farmers. I request you to conduct a high level probe into it.

Many-many thanks for giving me an opportunity to speak on this occasion.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want your ruling within a minute or half. We would like to thank you for giving the MP's an opportunity to speak on this subject of floods and droughts. I would request that the Members who have not got opportunity to speak be given permission to submit their speeches by tomorrow afternoon.

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to finish this discussion today, tomorrow only the speech by the hon. Minister would take place.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs had said this. We would be obliged if you permit the laying down of the written speeches of those Members who were benefit of the opportunity to speak today.

MR. SPEAKER: Only one or two Members could be allowed to speak not many of them would be given time.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: His request is to give permission for the submission of written speeches tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: Members willing to submit their written speeches can do so tomorrow.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I would speak tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: Not tomorrow, I would call your name after him. Your name is next in the list after him.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I will speak tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: Written speeches would have to be delivered tomorrow.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Give only five minutes.

MR. SPEAKER: No, speak today. Everybody want to hear your speech.

[English]

Shri Bijoy Handique to speak now.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE (Jorhat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think that within the strictly rationed time, it is not possible to make a coherent speech. Yet, I make a few points drawing the attention of the government so that they can take pointed action. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please keep silence in the House.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: Sir, in Assam the first wave of flood hit the State in late June and has gone well into July. As a matter of fact, the State still reels under flood. The toll the first wave is staggering—13 districts are affected. They are Dhemaji, Lakhimpur, Tinsukia, Jorhat, Sibsagar, Morigaon, Darrang, Sonitpur, Nalbari, Bhorpeta, Dhubri, Goalpara and Kamrup. The number of villages affected is 457 submerging 57,162 hectares of land with 50 per cent of the land under crop; and the number of people affected is about 4,59,079. The biggest below is the washing away of a strategic railway bridge in Dhemaji district cutting off the district from the rest of the country. Road communications including National Highway No. 52 in the district are also disrupted. This district is again hit during the last three days causing more depredations and washing away of long stretches of embankment.

Sir, a few other districts have been affected recently, in the last three to four days. The National Highway Nos. 31 and 37, the lifeline linking Assam to the rest of the country, are under water at a few points in Nalbari, Dhubri and Goalpara districts. The indications are very clear that the second wave of flood has already arrived.

This is the damage tally in the first wave of flood. What worries us is the pattern and intensity of the flood and going by the past experience this is going to stay and will further deteriorate with more waves coming. A State like Assam, weighed down by resource crunch over the years, is hardly in a position to afford to handle the overall situation all on its own. Besides relief and rehabilitation in all flood situations, it is vitally essential to take up some emergency protective work to minimise the devastation before the next waves of flood hit the State.

It is even necessary to repair the damaged infrastructure between two waves. It is really an intriguing situation. For on-going protective projects funds released by the Ministry of Water Resources are only in trickle. As a result, the projects remain incomplete when the flood season arrives and the State faces fresh attack. Unless these damages are repaired and embankments strengthened, they fail to bear the brunt of more on-rushes in between the waves.

Sir, the only source of fund available at this juncture is the one sanctioned by the Ministry of Agriculture from Calamity Relief Fund. This was the convention till 2000-2001. Due to inadequacy of funds for repair works, Departments like Public Works, Public Health Engineering, which used to get funds from the Revenue Department of CRF for repairing flood damaged infrastructure, are not able to carry out repairs.

The Central Government, in the mean time, in the Ministry of Agriculture by a Circular issued in September, 2001, taking cue from the recommendations of Eleventh Finance Commission, have rejected the proposal to meet expenditure on restoration and reconstruction from Calamity Relief Fund. This is a major departure from the earlier system of utilising CRF for restoration of damaged infrastructure and public assets to pre-calamity level. There is however, a point which I want to place before the hon. Minister—of course, the Agriculture Minister is not here—a point on which the decision can be revised. The Central Government has reportedly emphasised that the scope of utilising Calamity Relief Fund is confined to repair and restoration of immediate nature. If so, this expression 'of immediate nature' can cover emergency protective measures that particularly need to be taken in the time between waves of flood from funds sanctioned for relief and rehabilitation work. Even recent Conference of the Relief Commissioners held in New Delhi two month ago reiterated that the money for relief and rehabilitation cannot be utilised for other than relief work. This is an unrealistic approach, interpreting the recommendations of Eleventh Finance Commission in a perfunctory and casual manner. To earmark some amount for most urgent protective work out of Centrally sanctioned fund for relief and rehabilitation in no way violates recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission. It should be rather borne in mind that more devastation means more and more expenditure on relief and rehabilitation. So, instead if some allocations are directed to some essential protective measures, there will be less devastation and to that extent, the expenditure will be minimised. I am not pleading for dodging the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission, but what I emphasise is a meaningful and more pragmatic interpretation of the recommendations of Eleventh Finance Commission.

I conclude by referring to an important point. Sir, the traditional drought area of a State does not remain the same. It has been expanding with the years. Though Assam is not a drought-prone area, we must not lose sight of the fact that over the years, some areas have been growing and expanding significantly as drought prone. Sir, at this rate, it will not be long before a drought zone emerges in Assam too. I urge the Ministry of Agriculture to identify these areas in different States and advise the State Governments to take measures right

[Shri Bijoy Handique]

now to arrest the advance of drought conditions. Sir, it is a sort of slow desertification. One of the causes is that sand-casting occurs particularly when river banks are breached and flows into immediate neighbouring paddy fields around it.

Sir, it is, however, mostly the weather factor and failure of vegetation that causes the drought condition. In this sense I do appreciate that the debate on flood and drought—the twin challenges to the farmers—is taken up together. All said and done, it is also true that unless the Government of India provides adequate funds for all the ongoing projects, it is not possible to contain and control floods in States like Assam. These proposed projects only can give long term solution.

Some of the projects that we have been hearing now soon will pass into legends. People of North-Eastern Region will talk about them as stories. They have already started telling them as stories. I hope, the Government will take immediate measures for releasing adequate funds for the on-going projects. So far as the Eleventh Finance Commission recommendations are concerned, I am not pleading for dodging the recommendations, but my emphasis is on one particular point that there should be more meaningful and more pragmatic interpretation of these recommendations.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Coochbehar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

India is a vast country, and 14 States are suffering from drought. At the same time, three States—West Bengal, Bihar and Assam—are also suffering from floods. Floods have caused so much havoc that many people died. I would like to confine myself to he flood situation in the North Bengal area. As you know, North Bengal comprises of Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Coochbehar and other districts. In the last 15 days, incessant rains were there and, naturally, they resulted in heavy floods. The river was in a spate, and you will be astonished to learn that three people lost their lives in my constituency, Coochbehar. One rescue motor-boat with 12 people lost its control in the midst of heavy currents of the river *Kalyani* and must have been carried away to Bangladesh. We do not know the whereabouts of them and we do not know whether they are alive or not. Let us all hope that they will be alive when the boat reaches Bangladesh. That is the position. You will be astonished to learn that in that area, nearly two lakh people have become homeless and people have lost hundreds of cattle. As has already been mentioned by Comrades Minati Sen and Joachim Baxla, the national highway and the bridges on the river have been damaged. It is still raining in the morning today. I had a telephonic talk and I was told that there was a heavy rainfall this morning. I do not know what will be happening tomorrow.

Sir, at this juncture, the estimated loss may be more than three hundred crore rupees, I do not know. Where is the Agriculture Minister, Shri Ajit Singh? He has called a meeting of the representatives of 11 States and not 12 because just now, the Members from Orissa said that they have not been called. The representatives of 11 States have been called and I thank you for that. However, there are also those States where the floods are devastating and they are causing havoc. People have lost their lives and also their cattle. Many houses, including double-stories and multistoried houses, have been washed away. This being the position, I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Agriculture whether he has called a meeting of the representatives of these three States. Has he sent any Central team to that part of the country?

It has not been done. Have the Central Government provided any funds to that region? The Government of West Bengal with their limited resources is trying their best to carry on with the relief and rehabilitation programmes. We expected much more from the Central Government but it is a matter of regret that they did not respond to our request.

Sir, it has been our long-standing demand, the hon. Minister for Water Resources is here, that if the Government is serious about controlling floods in North Bengal and in North Bihar, then an Indo-Bhutan Joint River Commission, for controlling floods in North Bengal, and an Indo-Nepal Joint River Commission, for controlling floods in North Bihar, are a must. We had approached not only the present Minister for Water Resources but also his predecessor about this. I would like to recall on this occasion that even in the year 1969 when North Bengal was reeling under severe flood conditions and around five thousand people were killed, I led a delegation to the then Prime Minister, the late Indira Gandhi and the then Irrigation Minister, Shri K.L. Rao. They assured me that having a River Commission with Bhutan was the only way for controlling floods in the region. If that be so, then could the Government take up the issue with Bhutan? Bhutan is a separate country and it has its own geographical location. They are extracting dolomite for their cement factories and also are collecting stone chips

and exporting them to Bangladesh. Deforestation is going on unabated.

Sir, I would like to invite your goodself to visit this region. If you come there, then you would find that most of the houses in and around the rivers there have sunk into the riverbeds. The North Eastern is the connecting link and one cannot afford to avoid this region. My friends from the State of Assam are here. Can they afford to avoid this link? Geographical location of the region would suggest that this part could be used as a corridor. If this is the position, then I would like to request the hon. Minister, we have good relations with Bhutan, to take up the issue of having a Joint River Commission with the Government of Bhutan for controlling floods in North Bengal. Similarly, he should take up the issue with the Government of Nepal for controlling floods in North Bihar.

Sir, in conclusion I would like to make a few suggestions for control of both floods and drought. The first thing that should be done is that the agricultural loans should be waived. Secondly, food for work programmes should be started immediately to save the poor workers. Thirdly, for the flood prone areas, seedlings should be made available. It is because seedlings would be required for sowing after the water levels recedes. With these few words, I conclude my speech.

SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH (Lakhimpur): Sir, I wish to lay my speech on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Sir. Jaswant Singh Yadav, Shrimati Ranee Narah moved to take her speech before you start your speech.

[English]

*SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH (Lakhimpur): Honourable Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw kind attention of concerned Minister through you over the situation of flood in my Parliamentary constituency, Lakhimpur, Assam. The two Districts, Lakhimpur, Dhemaji and Majuli Sub-Division (district Jorhat) of my constituency are affected very badly by flood.

Around four lakh people of these two Districts have been affected. Four hundred and thirty six (436) villages of Dhemaji District is completely submerged in flood and three lakh people have been affected in this District. 24,046.00 hectares crop of the District is completely damaged. National Highway-52, the only connection to Dhemaji is also washed away in flood and Samarjan wooden bridge No. 400 A(1) and Samarjan Railway bridge has also been completely washed away. There is no connection by road or train to Dhemaji District by rest of the country, the people of this district is in very horrible condition. The Kareng Chapari Dyke of Dhemaji is also completely washed away in flood.

In Lakhimpur, there is around one lakh people who have been affected by flood. 140 villages of Lakhimpur is completely submerged in flood and 29,034.00 hectares crop has been damaged. Two neighbouring LACs, i.e. Nowbaicha, Dakuakhana are also affected by in this flood. In Dakuakhana and Nowbaicha around 80 village have submerged in flood and the boat is the only way of communication in these two LACs. The Matmara Dyke near Bakulguri Tekelifuta in Dakuakhana Sub-Division is also washed away in flood.

If the Lilabari Airport of Lakhimpur District, where all technical facilities are available is started shortly, it can be of great help for the people of Lakhimpur, Dhemaji and Arunachal Pradesh also, for delivery of relief materials to these Districts.

The world famous river island Majuli sub-division of Jorhat District is completely submerged in flood and there is no way of communication. The only way of boat/ferry is also stopped due to heavy flood. No option is there help the flood affected people.

I would like to request the concerned Minister to take necessary and immediate action to provide help by coins and care to these two District Dhemaji and Lakhimpur and Majuli Sub-Division of my Parliamentary constituency.

[Translation]

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I am not in a habit to speak only for the sake of speaking alone and to get my speech recorded. The condition of the people in the State from which I hail is so pathetic that it may cause others to shed tears in sympathy. Every person has a right to live in the country in all circumstances and it is the duty of the State Government as well as Union Government to meet the basic need of the people.

*Speech was laid on the Table of the House.

[Dr. Jaswant Singh Yadav]

Sir, Rajasthan has been facing drought for the last four years due to which the people have left their cattle including severed cow at the mercy of fate and in the vain hope that those may find some fodder to feed themselves somewhere else. Similarly old persons are also in a pathetic condition and their agony and pain is enough to cause one cry. Today those persons do not have money for medication. The discussion in the House to combat with the situation has taken place are the hon. Members have presented figures in this regard. Every Member has highlighted the problem being faced by his own state and the country at large but discussion alone won't resolve the problem, infact we are trying to find fault with either the State Governments or Union Government. The Prime Minister has for the first time started a scheme to connect villages to the cities through roads. Everybody wants that the development of the villages take place but none of them would have imagined that there villages could be connected by road. Besides, farmers were also given the facility of credit cards and now they can purchase with dignity. A lot of discussion on the crop insurance scheme has taken place and the hon. Minister himself discussed it in detail but I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the fault of the people of Rajasthan that they are still devoid of these facilities. The Government of Rajasthan do not even provide 50 percent matching grants and the farmer is suffering. The Crop Insurance Policy is in vogue in the entire country including Gujarat but not in Rajasthan. The Members of Rajasthan who are present in the House would speak on this subject. However it is unfortunate that the Rajasthan Government, in an effort to save 50 percent of its funds, has left the farmers in lurch. I have collected the figures of the last four years. As per these figures, the Rajasthan Government received Rs. 1900 crore from the Government of India but the people of Rajasthan are craving for even too little. The parents are facing problem as to how to bring up their children and how to manage their livelihood? The Government of Rajasthan has not been able to spend Rs. 1900 crore so far.

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (Barmer): These figures are wrong ....*(Interruptions)*

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Let him provide exact figure. I will accept his version ...*(Interruptions)*. I am not politicising it ...*(Interruptions)*

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : At present, I do not have figures. I will provide tomorrow ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Whether Crop Insurance Scheme is being implemented in Rajasthan? I would like to know whether the Union Government are discussing to implement Crop Insurance Scheme? ...*(Interruptions)*

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: It is already in many states and several states are not implementing it ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: We are discussing Rajasthan. Are you not disturbed over the benefits not accruing to the people of Rajasthan under this scheme? What can a farmers do? 60 per cent of the Members of Lok Sabha represent farmers' community. Everybody sought vote on farmers' card and is playing politics now. It is not a question of BJP or Congress. I discussed this matter with the Minister of Agriculture. Hon. Minister of Agriculture is present in the House. I asked him that he has made announcement regarding relief for U.P. and Orissa but no announcement has been made in regard to Rajasthan. He expressed his inability. He said that what he could do? Until and unless the Government of Rajasthan send us demand for drought relief after declaring the State as drought affected, how can the Government make any announcement. It is unfortunate that the farmers and others in Rajasthan are dying and we are plying politics. The Government of Rajasthan has not even initiated anything in this regard, then how will it be able to send the report? When the farmers and poor labourers will avail its benefits? Will they send the report after monsoon is over and Rajasthan has suffered a lot. People have started migrating from there. It is unfortunate that Rajasthan is facing total drought, the crops have been destroyed and the Government are paying no heed to it. If you look at aged parents, tears will roll down from you eyes. People are penniless. People sell their ornaments for getting their ailing children treated. But when their old aged parents fall sick they are forced to think whether to get them treated or go for earning their bread and finally they are forced to leave their ailing parents behind. We will have to rise above politics and find a solution to it. You are talking about the Government of Rajasthan. I am not producing wrong figure. Rajasthan is reeling under famine like situation. There is hue and cry everywhere. Which way the farmers harmed the Government that they are not getting power supply. I

would like to thank the Minister of Agriculture for the announcements he has made. He took the initiative and convened meeting of 12 States. But he announcements are not adequate. He is talking of waiving off loans taken by the farmers. There are so many mega rich persons sitting silent with loans of Rs. 55 thousand crore of NPA, they face no calamity and the Government writes off their loans. When poor people face national calamity the Government provide them no proper help. The Government grant Rs. 5 lakh as compensation to a plane-crash victim. The people are facing total drought and the Government talk of providing Rs. 2500 per acre as compensation. My soul is weeping today. Will Rs. 2500 be enough for them? The Government will provide grain to the poor people and paying paltry sum to middle level farmers who have taken loans for purchasing tractor on or boring tube-well is unjustified. He is not going to get anything except death. He should get subsidy, free power supply and such a scheme should be formulated whereby he can avail benefits. The experts all over the world say that the future will see grave water crisis. There is a limit for atrocity. My district Alwar has been declared a dark zone and farmers over there neither get loan for tubewell nor they get power connection. but, if any industrialist wants to set up an Industry, be it distillery or Bislery factory he gets every facility including power connection and grants. Why so much injustice is done to the farmers? Since my district has been declared dark zone, the district should get every facility. Small farmers in my area have only 1-2 beegha land and they have no other source of income and their children are unemployed. The Government cannot provide them electricity as the area has been declared dark zone. The farmers cannot irrigate their fields nor they can bore tubewells. Industrialists bore tube-wells for industrial purpose in this area and get power connection too. Under such circumstances, the poor man repents and says the people whom we have sent to State Legislators and to the Parliament have done nothing for us. They are same people who cast as high as 70 per cent votes. People sending their representatives to the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha face atrocities. When the issue of providing facilities to them is taken up, we merely finish up politicising.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission is that whatever decision the Government of India want to take, it should take collectively. The State Governments also put blame on the Union Government that is is not providing them financial assistance whereas the fact is that most of the States do not utilise the funds allotted to them. The game of politics is going on and the farmers is dying. The State did a wrong once, now it is not going to repeat it. At least it should stay above politics and work for the people. How hon. Minister of Agricutlure announced a relief package of Rs. 2500 per hectare? Is this much amount adequate for their livelihood? What is the harm in waiving off loans of small farmers when the Government have waived off loans worth crores of rupees of leading industrialists? Rajasthan has been facing drought for the last four years. How the farmers will be able to feed their children within so meagre amount? Therefore, my submission is that the Government should waive off loans of the farmers and not the interest on their loans. Today, the way road network is being expanded and information technology is advancing a time will come when the children of farmers will switch over to terrorism as they will have no means of livelihood. As he is aware, drinking water will be a great problem in the coming years. Therefore, through you, I urge the Government to formulate long term plans and provide canals in every areas so that development of India could take place.

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (Barmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for holding discussion on drought and flood.

Today entire India especially Northern India is under the clutches of famine. This has worsened the condition of farmers. If you look at the figures of last 3-4 years, you would find that it is the farmers in agricultural sector who have given maximum contribution in improving the economic condition of the country. Due to the Export-Import policy in the last 3-4 years, farmers are not getting the minimum support price of their produce. Country is facing consequent famines and condition of farmers is pitiable. Now it is for us to make deliberations on this aspect.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Kharif Crop has been ruined in Rajasthan due to drought. Cultivation of Baljra is more in Rajasthan. And even if we have rainfall now, still Bajra cannot be grown. Besides Gawar, Moong etc. can be grown. I mean to say that farmers are really suffering a lot. Rajasthan has also been included amongst the States which are under the clutches of drought. Rajasthan is experiencing continuous drought for the last five years. 31 out of 32 districts in Rajsthan were experiencing famine during the year 2001. 30 thousand out 35,000 villages in Rajasthan were under famine. 2900 villages out of 3 thousands villages of my constituency had experienced famine. Figures of last year show that more than 50

[Col. (Retd.) Sona Ram Choudhary]

percent crop in 18 districts out of 32 districts got ruined. Cultivation of Bajra was quite good last year but the Government declared its minimum support price very late. And so the middlemen purchased it at throwaway prices, which resulted in a big loss to the farmers.

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: The State Government could have purchased it. They could have requested the Central Government. It should have been done by the Government of your party. ...*(Interruptions)*

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: They can only take after fixing the support price, but they delayed. Bajra arrives in the market in May-June. You had fixed support price in September, 2001. You know everything in this regard. This lead to a loss of around rupees four hundred crore to farmers in Rajasthan. I had visited my constituency recently on 20th and 21st of July. The condition prevailing there is really pitiable. Water and fodder is hardly available there. Some projects should be made there. All sources of water have dried there and the underground water level has descended to 10 to 30 feet below. The situation is that all schemes initiated for water have failed. People are bringing water from a distance of 30 to 35 kilometers. People have left many villages. There is no labour, they also have fled. I beg your pardon, my district—Barmer is just adjoining to the State of Gujarat ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Rajasthan Government was getting wheat from the Centre, but they could not procure it. They could have got wheat free of cost. But the Government even could not do that. They could get eight lakh tonnes of wheat. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister would give reply.

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Sir, they are disturbing me. I would ask for time separately from you.. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI (Rewa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is no way. He is unnecessary interrupting in between. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have delivered your speech. Please let others speak now.

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: There is no such State which procured wheat early. He is wasting time of others. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Jaswant Singh ji, I request you that it is too late now.

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Sir, whether the chair has allowed him to make objection.

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: The hon. Minister of Agriculture is new ...*(Interruptions)*. I was saying that labour is fleeing from there and ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria): Many States are not ready to procure wheat, they want funds ...*(Interruptions)*

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: They want to procure wheat but then why rotten wheat is supplied which is discarded even by animals. Who would like to take such wheat. I was saying that many people from my State used to visit Gujarat but by the grace of Narendra Modi ji, all industries got closed there. People used to come from Punjab and Haryana but the situation prevailing there is also bad. Livestock is very much effected there. 20 lakh out of 28 lakh people in my area are affected. We have a livestock of 50 lakh. My district has massive livestock. But we have suffered a great loss of livestock. 3.4 crores of population out of 5.4 crores has been affected in Rajasthan. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru started Indira Gandhi Canal in 1952 in order to solve the problem of water. It has reached upto Jaisalmer and Barmer. Funds were given by the Central Government for national project during the last two years, but this too has been discontinued. I had raised this matter but Sethi ji told us that they do not have funds so they have discontinued it. Similarly the work on Sardar Sarovar Project is going on a very slow pace. I mean to say that the Government should give more funds for long term plans asl also for resolving the problem of water.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to make some demands from the Central Government. My first demand is that famine may be declared as soon as possible. So far as our Chief Minister is concerned, I will also pressurize him. He has come today. Moreover, the Goverment waives off the loans of big industrial houses, they may kindly do so with the farmers also and their interest may also be reduced. Just now my colleague was saying that the Government may constitute some Parliamentary teams or teams of officers, so that they can make on the Spot assessment place. By saying that Rajasthan, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh should get this much amount cannot

solve everything there. If tomorrow they say that they are giving rupees 7,000 crore, then the Government should receive feedback as to under what heads should the mony be spent.

Moreover the help given by the Government viz., we asked for rupees 460 crore in 1998-99, but were given rupees 33 crore. In 1999-2000, we asked for rupees 960 crore, but were given rupees 130 crore. And last year we asked for rupees 1140 crore, but were given just rupees 152 crore. What I mean to say is that no politics should be played in this. Funds should be given keeping in mind the prevailing conditions.

A lot has been said about food for work scheme. People get rotten foodgrain still they are working because they do not get bread. Moreover I wish to submit that water should be sent through train in drought affected areas. Since the last two years water is being transported through train, so this year also it should be done. Lakhs of army men are deployed in my areas Jaisalmer and Barmer. The stretch of border area in my constituency is 850 kilometres. People there given less water to their animals and more to the army men. Last year we were provided water through train facility so this may kindly be done this year also.

Sir, today the water level is going down. Wells have dried up. So kindly send machineries and rings of the Central Ground Water Boards so that dried plants could also get water.

There are many schemes initiated in desert area viz., Desert Development programme and desert prone areas programme. The Government provides fund for them. I request that this funding may be properly done keeping in view the conditions of these areas. The Centre provides assistance for certain schemes while for certain other schemes contribution is made by the Rajasthan Government. Their conditon is very deplorable. You must provide more assistance to the Rajasthan Government.

Sir, my submission is that the Centre should provide a special package to Rajasthan. You must provide a special package on the lines of package provided for hilly areas because the situation here is very bad. I remember a question asked by me in Lok Sabha on 30th June, 1998 which was replied by the hon. Prime Minister. He had given an assurance and I am reading out the same:-

"Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member has raised the question about that region of Rajasthan which is most neglected one and is a desert area. I agree with him that we have to formulate special schemes for such areas. These schemes do not exist for the desert areas. This suggestion is quite good. It would certainly be taken into consideration and action be taken thereon".

I am of the view that the hon. Minister of Finance is also from same area from where I hail. I have wirtten to him as well. I have told him that if a package is given, it would be credited to his account. Hon. Minister of Agriculture is sitting here, you are his colleague you tell him that the hon. Prime Minister had also assured—I shall be grateful to you if you convey this to him.

Lastly, I conclude by thanking you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (Satna): Mr. Speaker, Sir a big problem has emerged before the country owing to the failure of the monsoon. It is a countrywide problem. 12 States of the country have been reeling under drought as per the information given to the hon. Minister of Agriculture himself. Madhya Pradesh is faced with famine instead of drought since for the last three years, Madhya Pradesh has been facing the scourge of drought. This year the rainfall took place in only 5 of the 45 districts in States. Only the paddy and soyabean crops had been sown by the farmers after some rain falll occurred in the month of June but whatever little germination had taken place, was scorched by the severe heat. Even if it now, it would not serve any purpose because the sowing reason of paddy and soyabean crops in this region dominated by there two crops has elapsed because the plantation time for paddy is between 15th June to 15th July and the paddy is sown before 5th July. The geographical conditions in Madhya pradesh are different. The regions of Central India, Mahakaushal and Vindhya have different geographical and climatic conditions. The irrigated land in the entire country is 36 percent and this figure is 18 percent i.e. half of the national average in respect of Madhya Pradesh. In Vindhya region comprising of Satana, Rewa, Sidhi, Sehdol. Panya and Chattirpur etc. the average irrigated land is only two and a half percent. The Banasagar dam to be constructed there and for which the foundation stone was laid by Shri Morarji Bhai Desai in 1978 remains to constructed despite the passage of 24 years. Cnaals are not being dug for want of funds. That is the joint irrigation project of all three

[Shri Ramanand Singh]

States. The right side canal of the Bargi dam on Narmada which was to pass through Vindhya region has still been lying pending for the last 22 years for want of funds.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of India passed and enacted the Central Forest Act, 1980 as a result of which 14 irrigation projects in my district Satana on which crores of rupees have so far been spent by the Madhya Pradesh Government have been lying pending. Only headworks have to be constructed. That work has been pending. Today, Union Minister of Forests and Environment is not present here. Hence, in the morning when the debate had started, I had said that not only the Agriculture Minister but all including the Irrigation Minister, Power Minister, Minister of Food and Civil supplies etc. should be present in the House. Sir, over 300 irrigation projects of Madhya Pradesh have been pending with the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Mr. Balu is really like 'Balu' (Sand) for he is not listening to any views however hard I may try. The situation in Madhya Pradesh is quite terrible. In its report submitted by it to the Centre, the Government of Madhya Pradesh had mentioned that all the contingency plans formulated before the rainy season have proved inadequate. This report has been submitted by the Chief Minister, Shri Digvijay Singh. It proves that all the schemes formulated in the part have proved a failure.

Sir, it is true that though the Union Government formulates and implements majority of the rural development schemes, these are not implemented properly. If these are implemented properly poors can get a lot of relief. However, unfortunately, the State Government take all these grants and funds provided by the Centre as an alms and even the pension meant for the destitutes, old aged and handicapped is not paid for six months at trot in Madhya Pradesh which is giving rise to starvation and of starvation deaths have become a regular feature. These are terrible times.

Mr. Speakr, Sir, thousands of people collect fire wood from the forests and sell it in Satna to earn bread. The marginal and the landless farmers are the worst hit by the drought but it is really sad that no Member in the House made any mention of them. Landless farmers comprise a big section. 60 percent of our population depends on agriculture to earn their livelihood. Landless farmers undertake weeding, tilling and embankment works in fields. Today, they have been rendered jobless as the rain has not taken place and the pitch dark future is lying ahead of them and it is the reason why I am sad.

Sir, these are the people having royal or feudal lineage are the part of various State Governments who have no concern for the poors. One such feudal lord is the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh. Their only concern is to have maximum grants from the Centre and to use it to serve his own purpose. An amount of approximately Rs. 800 crore has been allocated to Madhya Pradesh under the Pradhanmantri Gram Sadak Yojana out of which 600 crore rupees have been pocketed by the Chief Minister and his ruling party and only 200 crore rupees have been spent. I am very sorry for it. I did not want to raise it today ...*[Interruptions]*

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member has levelled allegation against the Chief Minister and it is not right. I would like to ask him whether did he ever ask the Chief Minister to hold a probe into any affair? If not, why did not he do so?

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to ask Shri Sunder Lal Tiwariji to resume his seat. He is my nephew by relation. I would like to tell him that I wrote several letters to the hon. Chief Minister but unfortunately he does not even reply to the letters written by the Parliamentarians. It is not my subject. Therefore, I don not want to discuss it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of India have set up National Calamity Relief Fund which has funds of Rs. 11007.59 crore. The Government have funds under National Calamity Exigencies Funds Scheme. Fortunately, Shri Ajit Singh is the Agricultural Minister of this country. He took initiatives for tackling the drought situation and called the meeting of Agriculture Scientists, people of Indian Council for Agriculture Research and Metrological Department. We cannot blame Metrological Department and the Minister of Agriculture. There could be rainfall in Bhopal, it is cloudy in Chandigarh, there could be rain in Kerala and elsewhere. This year, a lot of predictions regarding rain were made on TV. "Ghaag" and "Bhadduri" community of our region used to make prediction regarding rain which was based scientific facts. They used to say that

"Kalsa Pani Garam Hain, Chidya Nahave dhool.
Chinti le anda chali, ho varsha bharpoor".

It was based on scientific approach when ants carry their eggs, it rains. They used to say that when water in pot becomes hot it rains, when birds throws dust on themselves it rains. Today, the Metrological Department

is having super computer which predicts, there could be rain, but it does not rain. I respect hon'ble Ajit Singhji, you are a son of farmer. You have taken initiative as a farmer leader. I appreciate you. I have congratulated you through letter for expressing concern of drought as Agriculture Minister. You called the meeting of Agriculture Ministers, Meteorological department and agriculture scientists. I hope something will come out of this. I cannot remember any such Agriculture Minister in India like Shri Ajit Singh, who had announced the States should declared drought first in their State and then approach the Centre for help. Unfortunately, the entire Madhya Pradesh is affected by the drought. Shri Sundar Lal Tiwariji is trying to defend the Chief Minister. He has declared drought in only five districts. Whether Reeva and Satna are not affected by the drought? You should tell about the present situation of the State. You are my nephew, therefore, please sit down.

There is a grave drinking water problem in Madhya Pradesh ...*(Interruptions)*. You too will get the chance. No part of the country is facing so much drinking water crisis. The water flows down to other States. Water level is also going down over there. When I was Minister in Janta Party regime, I had run many water supply schemes for the villages of State. We have provided taps to the 350 villages. Today, those schemes are not being implemented. All schemes have been ruined. All handpumps have gone dry. All schemes which are being run. should be integrated and the Government of India should take this calamity as challenge and should consider it as a national calamity. If we want we can turn this opportunity into a golden opportunity. We can spend the funds of all these schemes in making ponds, canals and to construct grid by linking rivers. I am not criticising but had the grid on rivers Ganga and Cauvery would have been constructed 50 years ago, then we would not have faced this problem. We have to formulate two kinds of schemes. One is emergent scheme to provide immediate relief like 'food for work', cheap food grain, all rural scheme like Annopporna Yojna and JRY, should be integraged and implemented to provide work to the people. The scarcity manual will not help. Hon'ble Minister, you should not only take the opinion of the states, but should also declare drought. The Monsoon has failed, now whose advice are you asking. The Government of India should announce and take initiative in direction of providing relief to the drought affected States. The responsibility for it should be fixed on State Ministers. Hon'ble Shivraj Singhji has said in the beginning that before the entire systems go away, we should and people start taking it on a dole we should cooperate in construction and formulation of a plan to link the rivers. We should try that there should be a reservoir in every village and every village should have drinking water source.

21.00 hrs.

Every unemployed should get employment, and every worker should get food for work. I would also say that every sick man should get food. I would like to say that, the British Government had made a provision of scarcity manual in 1936 and Famine Code was also laid by the Britishers. It is very unfortunate for the country that in last fifty years no amendments have been made in Drought Manual and Famine Manual. Please make amendments in it. Shri Ajit Singhji, since you are the Agricultural Minister, I request you to kindly bring necessary amendments in the manual of Famine and Drought Code so that the sentiments and feelings of the independent India could be honoured. Are you going to provide employment and food to sick and helpless people? Today, the country is having enough foodgrains in its storage. If Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee will start distributing foodgrains free of cost, nobody will die of hunger. At the time of famine in bengal, Shri Kedarnath Agarwal had written a peom-

"Baap beta bechta hain
bhookh se behaal hoker
dharam, dheeraj, pran khoker
ho rahi anreet barber
rashtra sara dekhta hai
baap beta bechta hain."

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru visited Bengal, when lakhs of people over there were dying due to starvation and he asked them that why you people are dying due to hunger, why not you loot the Government godowns. I am not saying this, because I am from BJP, but I am an old socialist. Many a times I have been arrested for encouraging the people to loot the godowns. The BJP is in power at Centre. If food will not be distributed to the poor, I, Ramanand Singh, despite being MP of BJP will ask the people to loot the Government godowns. Therefore, please make announcement to make foodgrains available at lower rates to the people in villages, so that not even a single man should die of hunger.

Shri Ajit Singhji, you are holding portfolio of Agriculture Minister in the leadership of senior leader like Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. You are the son of farmer. Since you are Agriculture Minister, crores of farmers and poor people of the country would get benefit of schemes like Drought-Code, Calamity Relief Fund and National Calamity Contingency Fund and Government of India should accept it as challenge to convert this natural calamity into building the new India, to root out corruption,

[Shri Ramanand Singh]

to carry out proper monitoring, we accept this challenge, otherwise it is very difficult to fight the nature, but after all Government too have some power. It is not appropriate that people of the country having population of hundred crore die due to hunger, despite having wealthy of natural resources, rivers and forests ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Ramanandji, I have given you much time, you may please sit down.

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: I would like to say that after making optimum use of all resources we should formulate schemes for future in order to provide relief to the people of this country so that famine should become blessing for us.

With these words. I thank you.

CHOWDHARY TALIB HUSSAIN (Jammu): Hon. Speaker, Sir,

"Hazaron Khawaishen Aisi ki har khwaish pe dam nikhle,
Bahut nikhle mere arman, lekin phir bhi kam nikhle"

When you callaed my name initially, I thought that I have got the permission to speak, thought it was nothing for which I would have felt sorry. A long debate has taken place here. Some Hon. Members even termed the drought as famine which in my opinion is far more an intense and out of proportion description. There is a great difference between drought and famine "Khuskal" is drought and presently our country is facing drought but God forbid, we are still to fall victim of famine. Many solutions can be found out for drought and it can successfully be fought with but if famine strikes, then there can be no way out except declaring emergency and taking desperate measures. Drought has various causes and the Members speaking prior to me, also touched upon various points which I do not want to repeat right now but at the same time, I would like to bring it to the notice of Hon. Shri Ajit Singh Sahib that though the causes of drought are global phenomena and it signifies some global warning but at the same time, there are various common factors which are responsible for covering either floods or drought in the country. The large scale deforestation which has taken place and the rate at which it is taking place in the country has been manifesting itself in either floods or droughts.

The Ministry of Agricutlure is a very important one but unless this Ministry work in tendem coordination and in cooperateion with other Ministries or departments, like Environment and Forests, Power and Irrigation and the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Heavy Industries etc. the problem of drought can not be resolved. Union Goverrnment's task force of the Ministry of Agriculture under one umbrella should be constituted which would cover the various schemes under various Ministries like the Environment and Forests, Power and Drinking Water Supply Schemes etc. and should work under one umbrella in such a manner so as to resolve this crisis like situation. I would like to submit to hon. Choudhary Ajit Singh Saheb who is a popular leader and also the leader of the farmers and also the son of a popular leader, that though fortunately we have still not been hit by famine but our country is facing the challenge of drought and unless it is addressed to systematically it would'nt get resolved.

In developed countries, there is such a system in vogue that the emergency of contingency plan measures automatically come in force in the hour of crisis but unfortunately in our country, we resort to finding solutions only when the emergency arises or in other words we try to dig well when it already catches fire. We should have a long term policy in which the causes for the drought in our country should be clearly spelt including the causes which at once strike the mind of a layman like the deforestation which is resulting in the decreased flow of water and increasing pollution and similar other causes. However, unless cases are identified, we would not be able to find its remedy. I would request the Hon. Minister to take all possible steps to address this problem including taking other Members into confidence and holding deliberation with the bureaucrats and the Chief Ministers, the Agriculture Minister of the State but I would pray to God that this situation proves temporary and do not intensify and you must take all the necessary possible steps. God forbids this drought like situation may's grow into famine like situation. Besides, care is also to be taken to identify the famine affected pockets in the country which are situated in between the large drought affected territory. However, this issue will have to be resolved by making the distribution system proper.

Hence, I would like to submit that though the Ministry of Agricutlure is important, unless you work in tendem and bring various departments under one umbrella, and constituted a task force, issue can not be resolved. Everybody is aware as to under which situation Jammu & Kashmir has been passing through. I would like to assure the Hon. Minister, Sir, that the people of Kashmir are patriots and intend to work for the unity and integrity of the country and are also doing so and there is no dearth of such persons. However, there are several

possible reasons for the situation prevailing there. Government is neglecting various sectors of Jammu & Kashmir. We demand have kept on for providing several packages and we would also like to demand that the horticulture and agriculture sector be given priority there. The Doda district in Jammu Division, Kandi areas in Udhampur or the upper sidges in the valley are drought affected areas. If more funds are not made available then these areas would be doomed and be ruined.

As far combating drought is concerned, irrigation has a big role to play in it. What would happen to the country of Iqbal when the rivers dry up due to monsoon failure here and it is in such a situation of failure of monsoon and lack of rain fall that the role of irrigation system assumes importance but one irrigation system is not working properly. Adequate funds are not being provided for the irrigation system and very inadequate funds have been made available in irrigation sector especially in our State Jammu and Kashmir. Such a crisis of failure of monsoon or rain is the nature's punishment to us due to our acts defying laws of nature like indulging in deforestation, causing pollution, changing in courses of rivers without any compulsion due to which distribution system is in jitters and godown are rotting. Looking at all this situation, the only conclusion at which we reach is that such a task force comprising all the concerned Ministries especially those of Ministry of Irrigation, Food and Public Distribution etc. be constitute so only then this problem of drought could be resolved.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Singh Kaswan lays his speech on the Table of the House.

*SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN (Churu): Hon. Speaker, Sir, the country is facing severe drought for the first time in the last 15 years. Today, we are discussing this situation in this House. The crops at most of the places in the country have been ruined due to drought. Further, due to the monsoon failure, the farmer has suffered a lot and the problem of fodder and drinking water for the cattle has also arisen. Most of the water sources have dried up. The problem is even more grave in Rajasthan where the monsoon rain has not occurred in most of the districts. Leave alone sowing in most of the districts in Rajasthan, farmers have not even ploughed their fields. In some parts, premonsoon rain had occurred one month ago. The farmer had sown the costly seeds, but in the absence of rain later, that crop dried up in its infancy. Rajasthan has been facing severe drought for the last three years and as a result there has been severe water crisis also. Most of the livestock of the farmer have perished in the famine which has been occurring on for the last three years there and if the same situation persists, the remaining livestock would also be lost this year.

Rajasthan Government has completely failed to tackle the problem of famine during these three years. Neither the workers have got their wages, nor the cattle have got fodder, nor the public have got drinking water. The Government has proved quite inefficient on all the three fronts. The Union Government extended sufficient assistance to the State Government financially and also provided foodgrains, but the Government of Rajasthan failed to further extend this assistance to the farmers and the workers. Last year, only the millet crop was produced which the farmers had to sell at a price of Rs. 300 per quintal. The millet of the farmer could not be procured despite the Union Government making available money and the farmer is forced to purchase the same millet at the rate of Rs. 600 per quintal. Thus, the farmers are suffering both ways. Union Government had made arrangements for making available drinking water by train but the Rajasthan Government failed to reap full benefits of this arrangements and the water could not be utilized appropriately. In the matter of electricity, the farmer's condition is even more pitiable. The power tariff was hiked so much that farmer is finding it impossible to make payment of the electricity power bills at hiked rates.

The situation in my parliamentary constituency Churu is even grave. Most of the livestock have perished. Workers are not getting any work and the drinking water is not available to the people. Water was to be made available to the villages of Rajgarh tehsil of my district through Sidhmukh Canal Project but most of the villages connected to this scheme have been left out of this project. Further, the village after which this project was named Sidhmukh Canal Project is not getting any benefit from this project.

Besides, several villages of Rajgarh and Taranagar region were also to be connected by the Indira Gandhi Canal Project for the purpose of irrigation. The construction work of canal had also started in some villages of Taranagar but now it has stopped. The arrangement for irrigation should be made by immediately connecting the villages of Rajgarh and Taranagar tehsil fo Churu district which are facing severe famine so that some relief could be got from the recurring famine. For

*Speech was Laid on the Table of the House.

[Shri Ram Singh Kaswan]

providing drinking water, the work on second phase of Apani Yojna should be immediately undertaken so that this problem could be resolved. Power should be made available to the farmers for 12 hours everyday so that more time could be available for irrigation and the farmers could get relief. The entire region should be declared drought affected by doing 'girdavari' so that the Union Government could provide assistance from National Calamity Relief Fund. The recovery of all the loans given by all the co-operative and Government banks be stopped and their interest be eaived off. Government of Rajasthan must be directed to formulate a contingency plan immediately. A team shouod be sent from the Centre to assess the situation and all possible assistance should be provided. If the said measures are not taken immediately then the situation can go out of control. The situation in Rajasthan is extremely grave.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this important subject. Several hon. Members have expressed their views on the discussion regarding famine and flood situation which is continuing for approximately last eight hours. I would like to draw your kind attention to a few points only. The situation in Uttar Pradesh is such that the farmer faces drought and flood in every season. There is no one to procure paddy, if it is produced in larger quantity. During the last Kharif crops, Government announed the MSP for Kharif crop but 90 percent of the paddy crop had to be sold by the farmer to the middlemen and brokers instead of Government agencies. The reason for this is that though the Government has fixed the price of paddy at Rs. 5 per kg. farmer is compelled to sell it at a price of Rs. 3.5 to Rs. 4 per kilogram to the middlemen and brokers who in turn supply this to the Government agencies. The same story is repeated in the case of wheat and other rabi crops. No Government agency directly procures foodgrains from the farmers at the rate fixed by the Government. Farmers have to sell their foodgrain to the middlemen and brokers under compulsion who pocket 25 percent of the farmer's share in the process. It is not something to be laughed at. It has been seen in Uttar Pradesh that 80-90 percent of paddy and wheat is sold to Government agencies through middlemen and brokers. It is very unfortunate. It is the misfortune of several States in the country that they are facing severe drought this time. Weather forecasting about monsoon arrival being aired on T.V. and radio has proved false and I feel that the direction in which wind has been blowing also indicates that even if monsoon arrives in two to four days, it would not be of any use for the cultivation. The late arrival of monsoon may help raising the depleted ground water level a bit but so far as Kharif crop is concerned, it has completely been ruined. The pulses, including 'Arhar' which is sown in this month, are not likely to be sown at all and in such a situation, how the production can be expected?

The drought and floods have become a part of our destiny for long. Flood strikes every year affecting 25 to 35 percent area and drought has been affecting several States for the last many years. Unfortunately, 13 States have been affected by the drought this year. I would like to focus myself on U.P. only. Drought and flood occur due to natural reasons. Neither any political party nor any leader is responsible for it. If someone is blamed for drought and flood, then it will be a political issue and it has no importance. I would like to draw your attention towards U.P. during the last ten years? The Minister of Agricutlure is present here. He should ask the State Government of U.P. as to how many canals have been constructed during the last ten years? Alongwith this, I would also like to ask whether even a single unit of power generation has been set up there during the last 10 years, whether power generation has been increased? I would like to bring to your notice that more than half of the handpumps, installed in U.P. after independence, are not in working condition. MLAs and representatives have been raising their voice since long in this regard. They have been demanding that either reboring of these handpumps should be done or these should be replaced by new handpumps. But during the last 10 years neither any new handpumps has been installed nor any arrangement for power generation and power distribution has been made. Besieds, the Governemnt have also not paid any attention towards construction of canals.

Today we talk about globalisation and computerisation. We are applying scientific methods in almost every field. There is revloution in the field of communication. But have we formulated any long-term scheme to overcome the situation of drought and flood? Had we done so we would not have been in such a pathetic condition. In our State, only 40 percent of the lands is irrigated i.e. means of irrigation like handpumps and canals are available there. Rest of the 60% land is dependent on rain water for agriculture. If there is timely and average rainfall then the production is good and if there is no timely rainfall or there is heavy rainfall then

production decreases. Through you, I would like to urge the Union Government that in such a big country where climates vary, where season changes every month, unless and until any long term scheme is formulated to tackle the situation of drought and flood, we will have to face drought and flood every year and due to this farmers and labourers will continue to suffer loss.

Sir, I would like to tell one more thing. It has come to my knowledge that the godowns of Food Corporation of India contain 60 lakh tonnes of rotten wheat. Its reason is that the foodgrain has been kept in open as a result of which it gets rotten within a year or two. The officers of F.C.I. are planning to use this rotten wheat for drought relief programmes. We should pray to God that there should not be drought anywhere so that FCI officers do not get chance to distribute rotten wheat to the farmers under various schemes. The minister of food and civil supplies is present in the House, through you, I would like to submit to him that if the need arises to distribute foodgrain on war-footing through FCI, then it should be ensured that this rotten wheat is not distributed among the farmers.

Finally, I would conclude by saying one more thing. U.P. has practically no power generation today. Whatever electricity is there, there is not proper distribution system for it. Canals have not been cleaned for a long time. In such a situation U.P. is the only State which is affected severely and it is not a matter of surprise. Unless and until long term plans are formulated and implemented to tackle these problems farmers and poor people will not be benefited. Hence steps on a war footing should be taken to implement these schemes.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful that you have called me to participate in the discussion regarding flood and drought. It is ironical that even after 55 years of independence majority of the farmers and population of the country are compelled to depend on nature for their livelihood. After independence tall talks were made about progress but the fact is that even after 55 years of independence the House has been fulfilling its duty merely by discussing the issue of drought and flood every year. When we discuss this issue and fail to show positive result to the people then resentment against democratic system arises amoung common people which is a matter of concern for all of us.

The Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Water Resources are present here. Only two ministries are not sufficient to tackle drought and floods Various ministries must have co-ordination among themselves. We should take concrete steps to solve these problems. Today we are facing the situation of drought and flood due to imbalance in nature. The Minister of Agriculture is the son of that great Kisan leader who worked for creating new hope and trust among the farmers for the first time after independence. When Congress was in power at that time also he worked for creating a big force in politics throught hope and confidence. We expect that you should also come forward to create that hope and trust. We should honestly evaluate the situation, which has arisen today. Have we taken any initiative to solve these problems even after 55 years of independence? Israel, which is a small country, took the initiative for supply of foodgrains in peculiar circumstances. It can be an example for both of us. We are lucky that we have got good natural climate. Other countries of the world do not have such a good climate. Today a lengthy discussion on changing climate will take place. If we discuss that subject, it is my opinion that when we talk about environmental pollution and gradually move towards development then cretainly development will influence environment. Today increasing population is also playing an important role in affecting environment.

21.28 hrs.

[DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

My colleague, Shri Shivraj, despite being a member of the ruling party, has honestly and clearly raised many relevant points. If we honestly want to redress the problems of the farmers, we shall have to honestly implement these programmes. We shall have to keep in view the impact of our policies on the people. Shri Shivraj has also made a mention of the crop insurance scheme. The premium of the crop insurance scheme may be enhanced, but it should be implemented taking into account on individual farmer as a unit so that the farmers may get its benefits. In the present scenario, we do not talk about increasing the price of sugarcane, paddy and wheat. It would be a great help to the farmers, if we are able to facilitate them sell their grains at minimum support price fixed for the purpose.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would now like to express my views on the scourge of drought. Due to climatic changes, the condition of drought and floods has prevailed. I would

[Kunwar Akhilesh Singh]

not like to repeat the lengthy discussion on drought, which has already taken place here. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Water Resources Ministers towards the fact that a large part of our country is affected by floods, because the glaciers are melting and the Himalaya is changing its geographical feature. In the very House, last year we had discussed that Uttar Pradesh is the biggest State of the country and Bihar is next in row. The rivers flowing from Nepal are ruining this area every year. If you leave the State Governments on their own to tackle this situation, then I think, it will be unfair.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it was said in this very House that the Government have constituted a joint group of Nepal and India, which will submit its report after visiting both Nepal and India. I would humbly like to submit that when I was the Member of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly, our respected leader, Shri Janeshwar Mishra was the Union Minister of Water Resources, what he had told me during personal conversation is being said by the hon'ble Minister here in his reply. I would like to narrate my personal experience in this regard. My parliamentary constituency is situated on Indo-Nepal border. I went there during the last weekend. A heavy rainfall has taken place there. After seeing the rainfall, I was not in a mood to come back to Delhi. The fields were full of water. At that time, I apprehended that there was a likelihood of floods in my area, because the adjoining low-lying district of Kushinagar and Padrauna are already affected by the floods. There are many small nullahs in Nepal. If a survey is conducted in that regard, their existence can not be traced but the Government of Nepal is trying to change the nature of rivers by joining those drains. The Government should not take it otherwise. I demand that Central survey team should visit the area, or a joint Parliamentary Committee should be constituted for the purpose. The MPs of Nepal are themselves fed up with it. We have personally tried to talk to them. Therefore, a joint task force should be constituted, which may submit its report after conducting a practical study of it. The effective steps could be taken to control the floods.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, many of my colleagues have mentioned that Rs. 56,000 crore are being spent to construct highways in East, West and North-East corridors. We are not against the construction of highways, but if the Government is having resources, what should be their priority. We shall have to decide what are our priorities in the agriculture sector. It would be beneficial for the country if Rs. 56,000 crore are spent for making arrangements of drinking water and water for irrigation. It will not only be good for farmers, but for the entire humanity. The problem of water has posed a challenge not only to us but to the entire world, therefore funds for solving this problem should be allocated on priority basis. I do not know whether water is in the concurrent list or not. If it has not been included in it, then, through you I would like to urge upon the entire House to include it in the concurrent list.

With these words, I would like the Government to take initiatives in solving the problem of floods and drought.

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria): Mr. Chairman, Sir, many State of the country are reeling under the scourge of drought and floods so much so that people say that they have never come across such unprecedented floods in Bihar, Bengal and Assam during the last few years. I have been informed, that the main canal emanating form Bhimnagar on Indo-Nepal border has got damaged at many places. The main roads of PWD, railway lines and national highways have been washed away, what to talk about civil hospitals and schools. The condition is so bad that people are unable to travel from one place to another. There is shortage of food and Kerosene oil and people are living in an atmosphere of fear and apprehension as to what will happen in the near future. The Government should try to find a way out so as to save people from rainfall and floods caused by the rivers coming from Nepal. The life of lakhs of people of 22 districts of Bihar has become miserable due to floods.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit that 90 percent of paddy sowing was done in our area. In some areas, 'Jute' and 'moong' crops were sown. The standing crops have been completely immersed. Through you, I would like to urge upon the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture that a high level committee should be constituted without delay, which may visit Bihar, Bengal and Assam and the Union Government should give maximum assistance to flood affected areas. I have been informed by telephone, that an hon'ble Member of Lok Sabha. Mohammad Anwarul Haque has got stranded in Shivhar and Sitamarhi due to prevailing flood situation. He wished to attend the House, but after walking 8-10 kilometres in water logged roads, he found that the dam is broken and roads are damaged. Hence, he is unable to attend the House. I would like to say that 80 percent population of our country is dependent on agriculture. But at the time of crop-sowing, 12-13 States of the country are affected by the drought and another 4-5 States by floods.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you hail from a farmer's family, the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture too hails from a farmer's family. He is the son of the former Prime Minister of the country. Therefore, he is concerned about farmers. I would like to know as to what is the cost of fertilizers at the time of sowing the crops and what is the cost of crop, after it is harvested? The farmers uses fertilizers in his fields, irrigates them, puts in hard work, but does not get remunerative prices. Even after 55 years of independence the condition of the farmers of the country is still pathetic. Most of the members of Lok Sabha hail from farmers' families, but even after 55 years of independence, we have not been able to achieve desired results in the interest of the farmers, whichever political party may be in power, the condition of the farmers is miserable. The farmers are producing foodgrains for the entire country. We have not been able to ponder over the problems of the farmers the way in which we should have done. On the one hand the farmers are hit by floods and drought and on the other hand recovery of loans from the farmers will be started. Police personnel go to the House of the farmers to ask them to repay their loans. Crop Insurance Scheme is in operation in various States. But this scheme has not been implemented in Bihar. Today Bihar is facing devastation caused due to floods and drought simultaneously. Therefore, Sir, I would like to tell the Minister of Agriculture through you that the Government of Bihar is not in a position to make the payment of crop insurance which includes contribution of amount of the Union Government, the State Government and the farmers. Therefore, I would like to urge that the Union Government should certainly bear the share of the State Government towards the Crop Insurance Scheme so that the farmers could be benefited. Besides the Crop Insuarnce Scheme should be implemented in Bihar also for the benefit of the farmers. This Scheme is in operation in various States.

Sir, the rivers originating in Nepal and flowing towards India are causing floods in Bihar. At the time of carving out Jharkhand from Bihar a core committee was constituted. Both you and Shri Nitish Kumarji were the member of the committee. That was an all party committee and the members of that party called upon the hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and it was the first and foremost demand of the committee that in order to tame the rivers which are originating in Nepal and causing devastation in Bihar, a dam should be constructed at Chatra so as to check flood in the State and to generate hydel power which will immensely benefit the people of that region. Crops worth thousands of crores of rupees on lakhs of hectares of land are destroyed every year due to floods. The Union Government should formulate schemes to check floods and generate hydel power in that region and if it is done I am sure the people of that area will get rid of floods.

Sir, the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture held a meeting of the Agriculture Ministers of twelve States. In that meeting he advocated the interests of the farmers and laid emphasis on findign out permanent solutions to the problems of flood and drought. To achieve this goal we should formulate a long term plan.

We should formulate long term plans instead of short term schemes for the development of States and should find out permanent solution to the problems of floods and drought so that the country could prosper.

With these words I conclude my speech and thank you for giving me an opoortunity to speak.

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI (Rewa): Hon'ble Chairman Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards Madhya Pradesh. Though the situation all over the country is bad for want of rain as most parts of the country did not receive any rains and there are some parts of the country which received excessive rainfall. A grave situation has arisen before the country which is a matter of concern.

Sir, the situation all over the country is more or less the same for want of rain. Therefore, there is no hitch to the Government in accepting the fact that there is acute water scarcity in various States and they are in the grip of drought. It is the need of the hour that the Government should give a healing touch to the farmers of the country. A number of speakers here have commended the Union Government. Till now the Union Government have not released even a single penny to any State for providing relief from drought but it apperars to me that the speakers from that side are adding insult to the injuries of the farmers.

Sir, the hon'ble Member of Parliament Shri Ramanand Singh whose Parliamentary Constituency is adjoining to that of mine raised the issue of drought here in the House. Mr. Chairman Sir, I endorse his point of view to some extent. It is true that Rewa, Sidhi, Satna, Shahdol, Panna and Chhatarpur are in the grip of drought. Shri Chauhan has also said the same thing and I support his contention also. But the question is that it is the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh who has been made the

[Shri Sunder Lal Tiwari]

target for criticism. Hearing that criticism it appears to me that the memory of Shri Ramanand Singhji is fading gradually. The hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee himself has appreciated his performance ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: If somebody touches the feet of the Prime Minister, he will definitely bless him. He bleasses one and all ...*[Interruptions]*

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: It was not blessing his performance was commended. Not only this, when the present President of your party Shri Venkaiah Naidu visited the State during his tennure as a Minister of Rural Development he could not help lauding his performance. Therefore, when I am saying that the memory of Shri Ramanand Singhji is fading gradually he should be serious and cautious about it.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Chariman Sir, which of the doctors the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture propose to appoint to help him regain his memory.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Brahmibooti is used to regain and increase the memory.

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Mr. Chairman Sir, almost all the districts of Madhya Pradesh are in the grip of drought and in several districts like Sidhi, Satna, Sahdol, Panna and Chhatarpur sowing of crops has been undertaken but in two divisions i.e. Rewa and Sagar sowing operations have not been started as yet and if sowing has been done at all it is one or two percent which is negligible and whatever sowing has been done is destroyed due to drought and the farmers have suffered huge losses. Loss of crop is coupled with shortage of water and the State is in the grip of drought for the last three years in succession. The Madhya Pradesh Government have sought assistance from the Union Government several times. The State Government demanded Rs. 256 Crore last year to deal with drought situation but the Union Government did not sanction even a single penny to the State for providing relief to the people. But the Chief Minister of our State hon'ble Shri Digvijay Singhji firmly stood by the farmers and provided maximum relief to them in adverse circumstances. Therefore, I would like to tell hon'ble Shri Ramanand Singhji and Shri Chauhanji that it is our right to get assistance from the Union Government. That is why we are demanding funds from the Union Government. But if the Union Government do not sanction funds to us, our Chief Minister Shri Digvijay Singhji is competent enough to deal with the adverse circumstances.

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Hon'ble Shri Sunder Lalji, 94.96 percent of the States's budget is spent on salaries. If the Union Government do not help the State the State Government cannot be urn. It is shameful that payment of Pensions have not been made in the State to the destitudes, handicapped and the aged for the last six months. The entire budget is being spent on salaries of officers and employees. Therefore, you should be ashamed of lauding the performance of that Government.

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we cah thrash out this issue when both the parties meet face to face. We should work jointly to deal with the present situation. Today the Union Minister of Agriculture and Union Minister of Water Resources are present here in the House and I want to tell them that the discussion on this issue is taking place belatedly. This issue should have come up for discussion on the very first day of this session. Now when will a decision on this issue be taken and when the Government will provide relief to the States?

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: The State Government of your party has not yet forwarded the list of drought affected districts.

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in order to prevent the situation from worsening further and to provied relief, the Central Government may immediately release atleast rupees 50 crore to the State Government. In this way, the State would get some funds otherwise the situation will deteriorate all the more. Everyone knows about the foodgrain situation there. A substantial part of land in my State in unirrigated. There is shortage of seeds. Next Rabi crop would also get ruined. The condition of farmers would worsen further if the Central Government does not give any assistance to the State. Atleast for one year the crop would remain badly affected. The question is that we are facing this problem every year. Madhya Praesh is in the grip of drought for the last three years due to failure of rains. Today even if the Central Government makes efforts to give them relief. ...*[Interruptions]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: It is matter to ponder over whether the farmers would get these funds. I would like to submit that a scheme should be formulated for this purpose. The Panchayati Raj system in Madhya Pradesh is quite strong. And through this system, we should make arrangements that the Panchayats should

automatically start the work of tackling the drought once the Central Government issues directions in this regard. Funds released by the Central Government would be sent to the State Government and the State Government would allocate these to the districts, which would then in turn formulate schemes and release the money to different areas. I fear that the money released would never reach the farmers.

Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi had visualized that through Panchayati Raj system most of the poor people, who live in remote areas, would get relief. I would like to submit that Panchayati Raj system should be fully utilized and Panchayats should be entrusted with the task to make India, drought free.

As far as the problem of drinking water is concerned ...*[Interruptions]* This is my last point. I would like to bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister of Irrigation that there have also been adverse effects of our policy of making available water. The Government have installed five or six hand-pumps in every village but wells have become dry. Poor farmers are suffering a lot since they cannot purchase hand-pumps costing Rs. 40,000.

I am not talking about the areas where the water table is high. Existing sources of water and the current methodology of water harvesting have definitely suffered. The well have dried. The plight of the farmers is a matter of concern as they cannot make arrangements for installing hand-pumps because their economic condition is not strong. There is no policy regarding installing of the hand-pump and anyone can install hand-pump at any place. On the one hand we are trying to develop new sources and on the other hand, old sources are becoming non-functional. I am not going into partisan politics while dwelling on this policy. The need of the hour is to discuss the issue threadbare and to formulate a policy of conserving existing sources of water.

I urge upon the Government to fulfil the demands raised by Madhya Pradesh Government under such adverse circumstances. Funds should be released by the Centre to the Madhya Pradesh Government. Moreover, funds of the last year may also kindly be released.

At the end, I wish to submit that even if the hon. Minister of Agriculture and the hon. Minister of Irrigation join hands and formulate a policy, they can neither give water nor foodgrains but can only provide funds. That is why all the desired arrangements cannot be made with those funds. And so, a long-term policy may be evolved that these two hon. Ministers, together, could provide foodgrains and also water.

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY (Banaskantha): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I extend my thanks to you for having given me an opportunity to speak in the important debate on drought and flood. All the hon. Members are concerned over the situation arising out of flood and drought in the country. The Hon. Minister of Agriculture had called Ministers of Agriculture of 12 States, but unfortunately the Minister of Agriculture from Gujarat was not invited. In the entire discussion I heard that there is no drought in Gujarat. It was only Saurashtra that witnessed rains in the entire Gujarat. ...*[Interruptions]* When we repeatedly refer to Shri Narendra Modi then on this occasion also we should not forget Gujarat. Saurashtra witnessed rains for the first time but North Gujarat and Kuchh are such areas where during the last thirty years floods were witnessed only twice and all the dams are dry. My constituency Banaskantha, falling in the border area of Rajasthan is adjacent to the constituency of Sunder Lal ji and also the Pakistan border. This land is saline like the land of Kuchh, and only one crop is cultivated during the year on this land that too depending on the rain. In the present times water table in North Gujarat has gone down to one thousand feet. After first showers were received everyone cultivated crop but it is now getting ruined. Since the creation of Gujarat, famine and drought have occurred 22 times in the last forty years. ...*[Interruptions]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: What are your suggestions, please tell.

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: I am rising for the first time to speak. I would finish my speech within five minutes if given a chance to speak. ...*[Interruptions]* Please listen to me. I am being interrupted by both the sides ...*[Interruptions]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please give the suggestions.

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: I will give the suggestions. We can solve our problems with the suggestions we have. If all the hon. Members extend co-operation problem of North Gujarat and Kuchh can definitely be solved. We have 30 dams which are dry. Sardar Sarovar project is pending for the last 40 years. We are reaping no benefits, only Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan are the beneficiary States. All the hon. M.P.s may pursue the Governments of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan to extend

[Shri Haribhai Chaudhary]
co-operation to us and clear all the outstanding dues. If the Sardar Sarovar project gets completed, the water from link canal would reach 30 dams and this would meet demand of water in North Gujarat and Kuchh and these areas would witness less number of famines and droughts.

Crop Insurance Scheme is very good but there are flaws in this policy as they calculate the average. Last year, I was given two percent insurance. Farmers paid Rs. 300 against insurance of Rs. 10,000 but we got Rs. 200. This shoud be improved.

NABARD lends money to the co-operative Banks at the interest rate of 7 percent. The State Co-perative Bank lends money to the Central Co-operative Banks at the rate of interest of 8 percent and the District Cooperative Bank lends money to the farmers at the rate of interest of 16 percent. Farmers get loans at the rate of interest of 7 to 16 percent. If the hon. Minister of Agriculture directs NABARD, then this 7 percent can be brought down to 4-5 percent and farmers would get money at the rate of interest of 12 percent, which would benefit the farmers.

22.00 hrs.

My second point is that the Government of Gujarat has decided to construct 24,000 check dams which would definitely benefit Bhavnagar, Saurashtra. In the relief works, irrigation should be given importance, as construction of roads would not solve the problem. I am of the opinion that under relief works construction of canals, check dams and other developmental works should be undertaken.

My second submission is that the agreement of the Indian Government regarding the river Indus has elapsed and recently Gujarat Government has written that at the time of Indus Agreement, it was agreed upon that water of river Indus would reach North Gujarat and Kuchh, but this had not happened till date. Recently, the Government of Gujarat has sent a proposal and I feel that it should be considered by the Government. The rate of interest of NABARD should be reduced. Regarding construction of check dams in hilly areas, there is one problem that the authorities do not give assurance for increasing even one feet of forest land. So the Forest Department should also state that if water level increases due to the construction of check dams the forest area would also increase. But the Forest authorities do not understand all this and they should also be convinced.

I reiterate that under relief works construction of irrigation facilities should be undertaken. Permission should also be given for construction of canals. I extend my thanks to you for having given me an opportunity to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Give suggestions within five minutes and finish your speech.

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (Arrah): Mr. Speaker Sir, today we are discussing and debating on the issue of drought and flood in the country in the House. Drought and flood have become the permanent problem for the country. Discussions have taken place on drought and flood each year in last 10 years but to no avail. We are where we were 10 years before. There have become permanent problems for us. This House will find it hard to stumble on any remedies thereto. The Ministers are well aware of the circumstances and sent limitations as well.

You have called the Agriculture Minister of 12 specific States for which I congratulate Hon'ble Union Agriculture Minister present here. Bihar continues to be the most unfortunate State severely hit by drought and flood. 22 districts are flood hit and completely innundated. Road network in those districts has been badly damaged.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your suggestion? That conditions of severe drought and flood exists, has been accepted.

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: I am giving my humble suggestions. Whenever you speak and, you first dwell on the background. You please allow us people to speak at least.

I would like to bring into the kind attention of the entire House that in Bihar 22 district are facing severe conditions of flood and 16 districts are badly hit by drought. To name them—Chapara, Siwan, Gopalgonj, Arrah, Bhogpur, Buxar, Caimour, Aurangabad, Gaya, Part of Patna, Jamuai, Lakhisarai, Shekhpura are western district are severaly drought hit. In fact, entire Bihar is drought hit. As you stated, on one side there are natural calamities like flood and drought and on the other, and Government is there. God knows what has happened to this Government? As all people know most of the M.P.s from Bihar belong to your party. People of Bihar have voted for you but what you are giving them in return is their open exploilation and are denying them of their legitimate right. The much awaited package is also not

being announced. All are out to destroy Bihar but the Government must know one thing there we all are united on this issue and also on the issue of railway zone and we are determined to fight it out. However, I would request the Government to be little forgiving and benevolent towards Bihar. I would just request that Bihar should get its due share of developmental assistance, not anything more, Bihar should get its due share out of the total revenue proceeds we collect and give to the Central Government. We must work out a permanent solution of floods. Our revered leader Shri Karpuri Thakur has suggested that all the rivers originating in Nepal and flowing through India should be desilted and digged deep and should be used for irrigation purposes and that can solve the problem. However, this suggetion has not been adhered to. Therefore, both the Government of India and Nepal should enter an agreement on this issue and resolve this issue. Soan canal system was put in place in the year 1875. At the time its likely span of life was estimated to be hundred years. But now it has completed one hundred thirty years. Its canals have shattered. The Bihar Government has asked several times to renovate this canal system which happens to be one of the largest canal system and caters to twelve lakh hectares of land. With renovation of this canal system, irrigation could be undertaken in districts like Bhojpur, Gaya, Patna, Jahanabad etc. mentioned by me earlier. We can have huge stocks of foodgrains provided floods are controlled and flood waters are taken to drought hit area. Then we could feed the entire State as well as eastern Uttar Pradesh. If we do not give foodgrains to Jharkhand then the people may have to face starvation. A large number of landless labourers and farmers are being adversely affected due to it. If it has to be resolved permanently then the plan mooted by the State Government involving the expenditure of 1600 crore of rupees originally, sent to the Union Government in the year 1992 should be cleared immediately. The original cost has escalated from rupees 1600 crores to 2200 crores of rupees. Several good projects have gone to Jharkhand after division of the State. We do not have any industries and what we have, is droughts and floods. Therefore, I earnestly request the Union Government not to mete out step brotherly treatment to Bihar.

Our Union Agriculture Minister is the worthy son of great son of India—Chaudhary Charan Singh. He is a veteran socialist and has been influenced by Shri Lohia. Therefore, the interest of farmers should be uppermost in his mind as one country is predominantly an agriculture country. The country will be prosperous only when our farming community becomes happy and prosperous. Indian soil is quit fertile and no where in the world such a fertile land exists. Every day a new crop is sown in the country. Bihar is faced with scarcity at electricity and there are also no industries. In Bihar only 400-500 M.W. of electricity is generated after creation of new State of Jharkhand, several power plants have gone to the new State. Our Soan canal system should also be made available for this purpsoe. The farmers should be supplied sufficient amount of power. Food for work scheme should be introduced in our State for the welfare of landless labourers. 'Takabi' loans should be provided to the farmers. Only 20 to 30 precent water is left in the Canals. The right crop season in Bihar is upto 15th August but water is not available. The farmers had sown Rabi crop in this season but the land had dried up and the seads have also gone waste. Therefore, loans should be waived, adequate power should be supplied and 'Takabi' loans should be given to the farmers. Our due share out of revenue proceeds should be given. Panchayat's 600 crores of rupees are outstanding which should be released to enable us to implement hard and light manual schemes through panchayats for poor people. Therefore, I would request the hon'ble Union Agriculture Minister to declare Bihar as drought and flood affected and call the State minister consultations so as to provide adequate sources to the State.

[English]

DR. C. KRISHNAN (Pollachi): Mr. Chariman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to bring out the actual picutre of my constituency, Pollachi. Coimbatore and Erode districts fall in this constituency. The monsoon has failed and there is no rain for the past two years. Due to this, my area is drought-hit and the people are very much worried.

The farmers are facing a lot of problems due to failure of monsoon for the last two years, particularly in Coimbatore and Erode districts in Tamil Nadu. Due to failure of rains, the ground water has gone down to the level of 1000 feet. Many bore-wells have become dry and water is not available when new bore-wells are attempted even at a depth of 1000 feet. There are about ten lakh coconut trees in these districts. Coconut trees are long standing crops. It takes, at least, seven years to get yield from a coconut tree. In my Pollachi parliamentary constituency alone, about four lakh yielding trees have become dry and dead once for all. The small and marginal farmers are unable even to remove the dried up trees and to plant new saplings for want of funds. Further, the coconut farmers were suffering due to

[Dr. C. Krishnan]

poor yield caused by Ereophyte mite attack for about three years. Even for the poor yield, the farmers could not get reasonable price. The benefits of purchasing dry coconut or copra by Government have not reached the farmers. All these difficulties and the present severe drought conditions due to failure of monsoon have created great financial loss to the farmers. Hence, I would request the Central Government to provide Rs. 1000 per dried up and dead tree as compensation to the affected farmers to enable them to plant new saplings.

Further, the failure of monsoon has caused scarcity of drinking water in many places in Coimbatore and Erode districts. Hence, I would request that Coimbatore and Erode districts may be announced as drought affected districts and all remedial measures shoudl be extended to these districts on war footing treating this drought as a natural calamity on par with other natural calamities like flood, storm, earthquake etc.

The only permanent solution is to take initiative by the Central Government to link the southern rivers like Krishna, Mahanadi, Godavari, Cauvery, Vaigai and Periyar so that the entire South India may have sufficient water facility for drinking and irrigation purposes at all times for the future generation.

On 28th June, 2002, about a month ago, we conducted a massive rally of farmers in Pollachi, my constituency. Hon. Shri Vaiko, Member of Parliament and the leader of MDMK. Party led the rally with a great success. It is unfortunate that he is now in prison by the dare misuse of Prevention of Terrorism Act by the Tamil Nadu Government.

I have brought in the actual picture of drought position in my constituency. I would request the Central and State Governments to take proper action safeguard the interests of the farmers.

Sir, farmers have lost about four lakh coconut trees in my constituency. I would like to request that compensation for this should be paid by the Central Government and the State Government should declare Coimbatore and Erode districts as drought hit areas.

[Translation]

PROF. I.G. SANADI (Dharwad South): Mr. Chairman Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity for speak in the issue of drought and flood. I would like to say one thing-

"Ashok Vrachh Ki Chaya Me

Sashok Sita Ko Paya Tha

Aaj Ashok Chaakra Ke Dhwaj Ke Neeche

Sashok Kisano Ko Dekh Raha Hun."

The India farmer today, is looking up to the sky with hopes faced with severe drought and on the verge of destruction. The seeds sown and the hard work put in by the farmers have been wasted. The farmer provide subsistence which we can not pay back even in next seven lives. In the words of the first Prime Minister of India:

"Kisan Annadata Hai

Main Uska Rin Chuka Nahi Pata Hoon

Jab Main Duniya Se Chal Basunga

Tab Mujhe Chita Par Jalaya Jayega

Tab Mere Sharir Se Jo Rakh Banegi

Us Rakh Ko Desh Ke Kisano Ke Khet Me Jot Dena

Taaki Main Unake Rin Se Mukta Ho Jaunga."

Pt. Nehru had so great feelings. But today farmer is in a pitiable condition. The entire House is discussing and debating the issue and I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Union Agriculture Minister to the State of Karnataka. During the year 2000-2001, 20-25 districts out of 27 districts were badly hit by the drought and around 140-150 Tallukas were severly affected. Keeping in view these condition an all party delegation met the Prime Minister and submitted a scheme involving 900 crores of rupees. Therefore a team visited the area. I would not say that we were not destined to get this amount. I strongly feel that the conditions are much worst this year than the previous year. Shri. I.N. Krishna is the C.M. of the State. He would pay his level best to mobilise the funds however if we are able to get the Central assistance, our strengh will be redoubled. He has not demanded much. He has sought 132 crores of rupees for the agriculture sector. Whether sum or rupees 50 crores have been sought for horticulture. He has sought Rs. 21 crore for drinking water Rs. 17 crore for drinking water in the urban area, Rs. 25 crore for special nutrition, Rs. 22 crore for health care, Rs. 283 crore for farm related employment. Thus a total grant of Rs. 553 crore has been sought by him. I am grateful to you that they have invited the Chief Ministers of States to focus attention on this and they have also supported their

demand of the latter. This is really appreciable. Have we ever spent more than what we get out of the natural calamity fund? We have not received funds out of the NCR, so kindly get the same released. Ponds have dried up there and the farmers do not have work. We have not demanded much under the food for work programme. People of Andhra Pradesh are fortunate enough to have walked away with 30 lakh tonnes of foodgrains. We are not demanding that much. We demand only 8 lakh metric tonens. And if you could release Rs. 553 crore to Karnataka, that State would be grateful.

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH (Mandi): Our hon. collegue Chautalaji has invited the attention of the House and the Hon. Minister through you towards the situation arising out of floods and drought in most of the parts of the country. I have risen here to participate in this debate. As you know I have continuously been a member of this House or the Upper House since 1990. Earlier, I had been a member of the Legislative Assembly twice from 1977. In my political career spanning 27 years, perhaps there had hardly been a year in whch a discussion was not held on the issue of drought or floods or any natural calamity of this nature.

It is true that we only discuss over these issues but we have not been able so far to formulate a long term scheme. It is also a fact that earlier we used to depend on the two kinds of crops in this country—the Rabi and Kharif but the farmers now have become so disappointed with these that relief has become more important for them now. There is a need to review whether the funds amounting to crores of rupees provided by India actually reach the eligible persons or not? When a natural calamity strikes, several private and social service institutions come forward to provide money and relief. It also needs to be looked into whether the money and materials provided by them in fact reaches the affected people or not. One thing is clear from the discussion that environmental changes are taking place all over the country. I would like to cite an example from Himachal Pradesh you know I hail from an area which is spread over 32 thousand kilometers. I remember my childhood days when in Himachal Pradesh more than half of the area including the Rohtang Pass used to remain cut off from the rest of the country for 8-9 months due to snowfall. And it used to be accessible only for 3-4 months. Now, the situation is just the reverse. Now it remains closed only for 3-4 months and it remains open for the rest of the time. When it remains open at times, the Border Roads Organisation wants to take credit that it has cleared the road of snow. There cannot be two opinions that the Border Roads Organisation is doing a yeoman's service there. But the sole credit for early clearance of the road goes to the climate which has undergone a change and snowfalls have become rare. Himachal is the source of several rivers yet droughts do occur there. Clonds brust off and on and floods also occur there. When floods occur in the plains, it is considered as a boon at times becuase they bring silt with it and it is very fertile for the crops. But in our areas, floods really play hovoc with them. Two years ago when the Sutlej river was in spate at Kinnuar, not only Kinnuar district but several parts of Mandi, Kullu and Shimla were also affected by it. The Himachal Pradesh Government succeeded in undertaking relief works with the assistance of the Union Government.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as far as Himachal Pradesh is concerned, several hon. Members touched upon this issue and I express my gratitude to them. Himachal Pradesh is reeling under draught this year. Kharif Crops are normally Sown from the second week of May to the Second week of July. The rains' recorded this year were 40 percent as compared to the previous year. As per the figures, only 198 mm rains were recorded upto 22 July as compared to 324 mm. rains recorded during the corresponding period last year. The sowing of crops could not be undertaken anywhere, and if at all it was undertaken, the crops got withered. Our State is known for its fruit-harvests where besides apples several other fruits are also grown. The fruits borne by the trees this time are smaller in the size as a result of drought. The fodder problem has beocme so acute today that so fruitless branches of fruit bearing tree are being cut to serve as fodder for the cattle. There are several areas which face fodder problem during the winter season. In several areas the grass which grows in he months of Sravana and Bhadrapad is cut and collected and kept as fodder for winters. The farmers have lost their crops this year and their problem is where they will get the fodder from during the winter. What will they feed their cattle with during the coming winter? That is a big problem. That precisely is the reason that when the Hon. Minister called the meeting of Ministers for Agriculture, the Agriculture Minister of our State had to say that for our livestock we are even prepared to accept from the Centre even such stocks of foodgrains, which perhaps not fit for human consumption but are in abundance in the FCs godowns and 10 lakh tonnes of foodgrains out of that can atleast be used as fodder for cattle in Himachal. To may mind, perhaps no other State would have made such a demand. He had also demanded to provide subsidy on seeds and other equipments. It was told here that 113 hand-pumps would be installed ...*[Interruptions]* Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want your protection.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What kind of prrotection do you require.

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, inspite of a political career spanning 27 years, I had to take the obligation of several persons and try hard to get my name included in the list of Speakers. Please give me two minutes more. Himachal Pradesh produces 5 lakh tonnes of fruits but it is likely to come down to 3 lakh 37 thousand tonnes this year. I do not want to go into the details as to how much money has to be spent on producing fruits. But you know it very well that the situation has come to such a pass that even in the month of Sravana watch is being carried by the trucks to make it available to the people. The sources of water have dried up. We had never come across the water crises of such a magnitude. Therefore, I would like to request you to pay special attention towards Himachal. This is the age of science. Some hon. Members have also mentioned the cause of environmental changes, depletion of forests being the reason. Whenever there are floods in the hills they cause havoc there and when the clouds brust there, they also cause havoc. We need to pay attention towards these problems. This is true that the Van Mahotsav is clebrated but only on papers. It is mentioned that so many saplings have been planted but how many of them manage to survive, we do not have figures in this regard. We do not have figures as to how many saplings survived out of those planted and the extent to which they have increased the forest cover. When crores of rupees are spent on the Van Mahotsav, I would like to request that a review shoud also be made as to how many saplings out of those planted survived. The people who perform well in the Forest Department should be rewarded and those who do not perform well should be punished.

Mr. Chairman, it is true that the soil Conservation Act came into foce in 1980 which envisages that if it is at all necessary to cut forests for the developmental works, the Forest Department should provide so much of funds to the work concerned department as to take afforestation to the extent trees were cut. Not only that, in the case of the large number of power projects undertaken in the private sector, the private sector companies provide funds for planting saplings to the extent of the number of forests destroyed in the process. But it is also a fact that this Act of 1980 is proving a major hindrance to the developmental works be it the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana or any other scheme. The amount of funds which other departments provide to the Forest Department should be spent on afforestation in the same division. But instead of spending the said amount in that division, the same gets transferred to the Consolidated Fund of India. As a result of which new forests do not come up in place of those cut. Therefore, I would like to request the Hon. Minister that it should be ensured that if forests are cut in any forest division to undertake developmental works, the funds received by the department, shoud invariably be spent on afforestation in the same division.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, one thing has repeatedly been said here about the National Calamity Relief Fund, I would like to say on this count that there is a need to bring uniformity in this regard. When a disaster somewhere is declared as a national calamity, and if anyone lose his life there, he is given one lakh rupees. But due to paucity of funds with the State Governments, they provide Rs. 25 or 50 thousand only. Not only that, if someone manages to save his life but loses all his belongings, he gets nothing by way of compensation. But if he loses his life, he is given Rs. 50 thousand. Therefore, a person who loses all his belongings in any national calamity should also be provided relief amount.

In the end, I would conclude with one thing that the hon. Member Shri Ummareddy ji has just said in this House that the Government have announced that a National Calamity Disaster Management Committee will be constituted in order to tackle such Calamities, so the sooner it is constituted the better it would be. I have a suggestion in this regard that this committee should have powers similar to those of the Election Commission. All the employees belong to the State Government but during elections even a Patwari or lowest level employee is directly responsible to the Election Commission. If someone is at fault, the committee should have the powers to take action against him through the respective State Government so that one could not be discriminated against and in exercise of those powers this committee may ensure that the relief reaches the eligible person only.

And now with one more thing I would like to conclude that waiver of loans is being talked of. You have the experience that loans upto Rs. Ten thousand extended to farmers earlier were also waived. But some persons managed to get it announced by the Government that those who had already paid their instalments were capable of paying and the waiver did not apply to them. The shrewd ones who did not pay even one instalment were given amnesty from repaying their loans. So if you are in a position to waive the loans, you must also waive the loans of those who have paid their instalments. Otherwise, the clever people will get all their loans waived and the honest people who want to repay their loans to the

Government will suffer. It would be proper if you do it. It is well and good if the waiver is for all, but if you can't, at least the interest should be waived so that they could repay the principal money. With this I conclude my speech. I thank you for giving me a chance to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The speech of hon. Member Shri Ramesh Chand Tomar may be made part of the proceedings.

*DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR (Hapur): Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have allowed me to speak out my views about drought. I am thankful to you. The monsoon session of the Parliament is in progress, but the monsoon is missing from the country. Due to absence of rains, there is a drought like situation throughout the country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we all know that India is primarily an agricultural country. 70 percent of the country's population depend on rains for agriculture. Today the farmers of the country depend on conventional sources with rain water being the foremost among them. Irregular rains have created a drought like situation in the whole country. Due to delayed monsoon, the entire northern India is in the grip of drought. Not only the farmers but also the general masses of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Delhi and Punjab are affected by the increasing atmospheric temperature due to absence of rains. The common man are helpless. Paddy could not be sown.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the month of Aasadha has passed but not a single drop of rain has poured. The fields are parched, the farmers are sitting idle. The paddy crop is being delayed for watn of rain. According to the National Crop Forecasting Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture, paddy is cultivated on 406 lakh hectare area of the country, but this year only 20 lakh hectare area has been covered till now.

Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the biggest blow of the delayed monsoon seems to be affecting the production of coarse grain. Till the end of June this year coarse grain has been sown on 4.18 lakh hectare area in the country as against 10.12 lakh hectare of the last year. This show that this huge gap is due to lack of rains. This also indicates that if such a situation continues, it will lead to serious consequences in future. We are afraid to conceive even as to what is in store for us.

Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, when we discuss things in the context of meteorolgy and pass general meteorological information, we are very much surprised. Most of the forecasts made so far by the Department of Meteorology have proved false. In such a situation we are reminded of ghagh. Ghagh was a great meteorclogicst. His poems on environment are quite popular and more than 90 percent of them come true. There is a saying of his which we have tested and if you, too test it for yourself, it will prove to be true. He says:-

"Din ko baddar, raat nibaddar, bahe purvaiya jhabbar-jhabbar,

Ghagh kahen hum hoye viyogi, kuan khodkar dhoyen dhobi."

i.e. the day is overcast, the night is clear with the easterlies, this makes the poor farmer quite qpprehensive that famine or drought are going to fall in the coming days. On the basis of this the farmer used ot sow his crops and determine the plan for his crops. Ghagh has also said something about the coming of rains. The though of Ghagh was very much environment oriented. That's why he said:-

"ghele upar cheel jo bole, gali-gali mein pani dole" i.e. when the kite (bird) sits on the clay mound in the field of the farmer of starts screeching one should hope that heavy rain is about to fall. Similarly when the lizard is seen moving on the tree, it is said:-

"Ulte girgit unche chadhe, varsha hoye bhumijal budhai"

i.e. when the lizard climbs the tree with its back upwards, it should be hoped that heavy rain is going to fall, and it always comes true. Even today this village people observe such things and say that this or that is going to happen. Environmentalist Ghagh gave valuable meteorological information to the villagers through the languages of the masses. Had this been utilized properly, situation would have been quite different. It is quite unfortunate that the meteorological Department kept on announcing that the monsoon was coming but it did not come and due to short rainfall the entire northern India is drought affected.

The drought situation in Madhya Pradesh is even worse. Due to absence of rainfall the rural areas are faced with the crisis of drinking water. The seriousness of the water crisis in Bhopal is revealed to anyone who reaches the Badi Jheel. The Majaar where one could

*Speech was Laid on the Table of the House.

[Dr. Ramesh Chand Tomar]

reach only by boat is dried up and converted into a tourist spot. In June this year 114 mm. rainfall was recorded in Bhopal whereas it was 276 mm. in the month of June during the last year.

[Translation]

A water-crisis has arisen in Bhopal since the water level has gone down in the main pond and Golab-dam.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it represent a Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh. Forty-eight districts including the western part and Bundelkhand are in the grip of drought. Out of them 40 districts have received less rain-fall and 8 districts received normal rainfall. The problem of fodder and water for cattle has arisen due to the less rain-fall. NOt only paddy, but also 75 percent of Kharif-Crop has been destroyed and seventy percent of agricultural activitties has come to a halt.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the situation in Uttar Pradesh is very drastic. Total crops have dstroyed in Jalaun. Ninety-six percent of sowing could not be carried out in Agra. Bundelkhand is the worst-affected. Ninety percent and 84% of crops have been destroyed respectively in Hamirpur and Mahoba. The situation in Purvanchal is grim. The entire UP is crying. Hon. Minister of Agriculture himself came forward to announce in Lucknow on 20th July that the entire UP is in the grip of drought and hence this State should be declared as drought stricken. But the Government of Uttar Pradesh has declared only fifteen of its districts as drought affected. Entire western UP has not received rain but only three districts have been declared as drought stricken which is reflective of this fact that politics is being played on this score also.

Hon. Chairman, Sir, I am very much pained to say that although the entire UP is in the grip of drought and there is a cry every where, yet the officers there are observing negligence in dealing with the drought situation. The local administration of the affected districts have not sent report to the State Government till date and in anticipation the Government could not take any follow up action. What I support is a stern action against such officers. I would like to request the Hon. Minister of Agriculture to get it declared that entire UP is in the grip of drought and suspend all recoveries from the farming community by using his influence.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the entire UP is crying due to drought. Bundelkhand has received 65% less rainfall and thereafter comes western UP and Central UP which received 55% and 51% less rainfall respectively. As per a survey conducted under the auspices of Central Ground Water Board and the UP Ground Water Department, the water table in 29 districts out of 70 districts of UP has declined to a great extent. Out of these 29 districts, 13 districts are the worst hit and Ghaziabad and Meerut are among them. Handpumps are not functional. Tubewells have dried up. Water crisis has arisen in these districts and the cattle are dying in absence of water and fodder. The Government should come out with immediate and effective measures to overcome the situation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the cattle in five States of northem India are dying due to the drought situation there. Wild animals and birds have also started dying. The economists are forecasting serious implications of drought on economic-activities. Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Punjab which are the major agricultural States are also likely to be affected. Last year, the economy registered a growth of 54% though the situation was not much different. This was attributed mainly to the bumper crops. Delay in monsoon will not only affect the agricultural activities, but it is certainly going to affect agriculture based industries also.

Hon. Chairman, Sir, last year also this Holuse discussed the devastation caused due to floods during its monsoon session. This time it is drought. Whether it is drought situation or flood, hon. members accomplished their task just by advancing some suggestions or resorting to criticising the Government and deriving satisfaction in the process. My opinion is that this would not work for long. A concrete strategy should be worked out to deal with the drought and flood like situation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, a two pronged policy should be chalked out to deal with the drought situation, one for long term and one for a short period. The Government should reconsider the famous Dastur Yojana to link all the major rivers of the country. The Government had dropped it earlier on the pretext of huge cost involved therein. I think, this is not a deal going you to cost more than that of thousands of crore rupees, the Government spends every year to deal with drought and flood situation. To begin with the Government should try to link certain selected rivers of the country.

Sir, my second suggestion is that a permanent mechanism should be set-up at the Centre to deal with the drought and flood situations. A permanent organisation, likewise Central Drought Commission, or an Authority

should be set up to keep a constant eye on drought and flood situation and deal with them in an effective manner.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the drought situation inevitably leads to destruction of crops and the agriculture activities come to a stand-still. Crores of labourers working on farms, are rendered jobless and they have to face starvation. So, short term measures should be taken to help them out. Benefits should be passed on to them through various government sponsored Programmes such as Drought Relief Scheme and food for work scheme.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for providing me the opportunity to speak.

SHRI TILAKDHARI PRASAD SINGH (Kodarma): Mr. Chairman, Sir, whenever discussion commences on drought and flood situation in this house, the problems being faced by farmers always find place therein and the Government also respond to that. But we still wait for a permanent solution to these problems despite the replies from the Government several times. Avoiding going into details, I just want to say that ...*[Interruptions]*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Chairman Sir, Shri Jitender Reddy wants to submit his written speech.

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY (Mahbubnagar): Sir, I would not lay my speech, rather I would read it out.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not waste the time of the House.

SHRI TILAKDHARI PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that the decisions taken earlier and comprehensive schemes worth crores of rupees for the farmers announced in this House, have still not been implemented. The entire country is facing the problem of floods and drought. I would like to say that official notification has not been issued in regard to Jharkhand but it is true that paddy could not be sown in 22 districts of the State due to non-arrival of rain. There is a tribal dominated belt. Pulses and oilseeds could not been sown there. The Government must seek a report from the State Government to take stock of the situation.

I was comprehending about several Government sponsored schemes being launched for the welfare of farmers like the one which promises loans to farmers from the banks, but if you observe the trend, you will find that no bank grant loans to the farmers and hence they remain deprived of this facility. The Government in the past announced waiving of loans worth 10,000 rupees against farmers. The farmers understood that the arrears against them has been waived of by the Government but the true picture was still to appear before them? Now, they have been warranted to pay rupees fifty-thousand i.e. sum including the interest on the principal amount. I request the hon. Minister to review the situation and fulfil the assurance made by the Government because it is affecting the farmers community. If nothing more the amount of interest accrued thereon should be waived off.

There are several schemes to ensure water supply in rural areas. All of these schemes launched by the Government to solve the problem of drinking water in villages are not being effectively implemented hitherto. I would like to suggest that certain amount out of that fund may be diverted to install handpumps so that some rural areas could get drinking water. I would like to say one point regarding irrigation. Several big schemes like Kailkaro, Keso and Pechkhero are lying pending in Jharkhand from which I hail. Moreover, Konar dam scheme is lying pending. That too is not accruing any benefits to the farmers. What I like to suggest is that small wells and check-dams be constructed. You will get immediate benefits by doing so. Construction of Dam will take another 10-20 years. Even the older dams have not been constructed so far. How can the new ones be constructed? Several other problems crop up in between, sometimes objections by the Forest Department and so on. Fewer problems crop up in the matter of smaller schemes.

Through you, I would like to make another submission which can solve the problem of farmers. You facilitated them with credit cards and made arrangements for providing loans. You try to ensure, whether the assurances given by you are being implemented? Everything seems to be correct on the papers whereas when we go to the districts concerned and examine such things physically we do not find anything of the sort. This country has lot of expectations from the hon. Minister. You should ask the Members and officers to go in their constituencies and verify it. What is the use of such schemes if no benefits are being accrued? You should get this reviewed and try to find out as to what lapses have been committed.

Finally, I would like to say that entire country has been misled by the forecasts of the Meteorological

[Shri Tilakdhari Prasad Singh]

Department that it may rain on such and such day or the next day. seeds were sown by the farmers but there were no rains, the seeds dried and farmers suffered a heavy financial loss. You should also inquire into this sort of forecasting made by the Meteorological Department.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY (Mahbubnagar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. I thought that you will never given me the opportunity to speak because everybody was telling me to lay my papers on the Table but I did not do that. I am sitting since 12 o'clock to talk about drought situation. My wife is waiting for me to go to a party.

Sir, today we are discussing the drought situation. We come from the Telangana region of Andhra Pradesh. We can never get floods there.

As You know, the Irrigation Commission in 1972 had adopted the following criteria for identifying drought-affected areas in the country. The annual rainfall is less than normal in twenty years, out of the total number of years examined, and less than 20 percent of the cultivated area is irrigated. So, unfortunately in the Telangana region since 1901 till now we have never met this criterion. Every time it is less than what has been laid down by the Government. The rainfall has come down from 650 m.m. to 530 m.m. and there is always a drought situation in the Telangana region.

Even though the water level under the ground has come down from three metres to 30 metres, as you know, in Andhra Pradesh 80 percent people still live on agriculture. They are poor farmers; they have no other way to go. Every year they anticipate that there would be a very good rainfall. They go to the banks, take loans, plough their fields, sow the seeds and wait for the rains. But evey year there is a failure and these people accumulate even the interest payment year after year. All the agriculturists are having a bad time there. But this is the only profession that they can engage themselves in. Since ages from the times of their forefather they have been living with agriculture as their profession and they cannot leave it.

Some people tried to divert their profession after our Chief Minister, Shri Chandrababu Naidu took the State in the hi-tech way. We have also started exporting a lot of software from Andhra Pradesh. Unfortunately, after the 11th September, bad times set in as the exporting of software got stopped. Farmers who struggled to educate their children in order to take them out of agricultural profession as they were not getting anything from it and made them software engineers met with failure here also because their children have again become a burden on them.

Therefore, some measures will have to be taken to see that this drought situation is really eliminated forever. Many relief measures have been taken. Each and every time the Government comes out with some relief measures. The latest one is 'food for work'. The Central Government comes up with a scheme; we, the Member of Parliamnet, sitting so late in the Parliament, try to make some policies to give something to the States. Andhra Pradesh is number-one State in taking any scheme from the Centre. But the question is whether they are implementing it also. As you are aware, under the 'food for work' programme, Andhra Pradesh lifted 30 lakh tonnes of foodgrains and claimed that they are number-one in lifting so much quantity of foodgrain. But it has never reached the poor agriculturists. I demand that there should be a Central Committee. We have been telling that the Central Committee should come down to the States and assess the situation. The earlier Rural Development Minister Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu was in the process of getting an accountability test done. He was saying that in each and every village there shoud be a board kept at a public place wherein the scheme currently being undertaken should be specified, the amount received by the village should be mentioned on the board; and how much money has been distributed under the scheme should also be written on the board. But this kind of accountability test has not been there till date.

Coming back to the problems being faced in my own constituency, Mehboobnagar, it is the largest district in the Telangana region with a total of 18.4 lakh hectares.

Sir, I have two rivers, one is Tungabhadra and the other is Krishna, going through my costituency. These two rivers cross my constituency for 275 kilometres. But unfortunately we cannot even use 17 TMC of water. Sir, 811 TMC of water go through my consituency. It goes up to Srisailam and Prakasam. But we cannot even use 17 TMC of water because we do not have storage tank. The National Water Policy says that first Krishna basin should be utilised. But unfortunately there are no reservoirs in my district. All the farmers came here and met even the Prime Minister, but nothing has happened. I would request the Water Resources Minister to please go through the Mahboobnagar irrigation projects because

that is the entry from where Krishna enters into Mahboobnagar district from Karnataka. Then it goes up to Vijayawada. There we do not have any projects done.

There is no drinking water. Whenever we go into the constituencies, driving our cars, we can see the colourful vessels made by companies. They are all kept in a line near the tap. They expect that they will get some water from the tap. Whenever we go to the villages we feel shy to ask for a glass of water because we ourselves see a line which is a kilometre long near the tap.

I would request the Water Resources Ministry to come to the rescue of irrigation projects. It should come out with the relief measures. Whatever allocation is made to the State should be monitored properly. It has to be ensured that the end user gets it. It is not enought if the papers say that such and such State has picked up so much. We should see where it has gone; into whose pocket it has gone into.

We have modern technology. We are going in for so many things. As Shrimati Sudha Yadav said, we are trying to lay a pipeline from Oman to India for crude oil. We are trying to lay a pipeline between Iraq and India. Why can we not go in for latest technology in this matter also? I do understand the difficulties. When I was abroad for 25 years, when there was no rain, they used silver oxide in the clouds to get artificial rains. They used to get artificial rains so that it could be used for at least drinking purposes. The ground water level also could come up. I would request the Agriculture Minister to please see how latest technology could be use in order to rescue this drought-hit country. Thank you very much for this opportunity given to me.

I also would like to lay my speech on the Table, Sir, as Shri Kirit Somaiya wanted to do.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: When he has already spoken. There is no need to lay his speech again.

[English]

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN (Sangrur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on the drought and flood situation in the country. The monsoon very frequently has played truant with the country. It ha sdevastated the Punjab State which is the food bowl and granary of India. The situation in Punjab is so bad that horticulture has failed and milch cattle are dying. Farmers, seeing that they cannot feed the cattle, are selling their cattle to slaughter houses and butchers of Saharanpur. The forest land is also drying up. Widdlife without the water holes in the forest is dying. *Basmati* rice has not been sown, which is the main cash earner and foreign exchange earner. Dairy farming has also been finished. Citrus fruit is falling off the trees. The Punjab farmer feels so ruined that he is committing suicide. What solutions can we offer him? Punjab cannot do anything to ameliorate the conditions of the farmers. Let the Central Government cooperate in this matter with us. From 1947, the country has followed an impractical and unproductive foreign policy with the Islamic States with the result that our borders to the Islamic countries at Wagah and Hussainiwala in Punjab are consistently closed. We cannot trade our agricultural goods for the natural gas of Pakistan and its electricity that we can import. If the borders are open, we can sell our agricultural products to the Islamic countries and the Central Asian Republics.

The Defence Policy also has some deficiencies because of lack of coherence in the foreign policy. Our farmers have been facing a drought-like situation for the last eight months since the Indian Army was deployed on the borders of Punjab. Our three border districts Amritsar, Gurdaspur and Ferozpur have agricultural lands and they have been occupied by the Indian Army. It does not allow them to grow crops. Paddy cultivation has been stopped. The land mines that have been laid on the border hinder farming operations in Punjab. The BSF does not allow the farmers to till the land at the Zero Line. We need compensation for this. The Indus Water Treaty that was signed years ago gave unfettered powers to Pakistan to take the waters of the three rivers—the Indus, the Jhelum and the Chenab. But the river waters of Ravi, Beas and Sutlej, which form a part of the India's Punjab seep into Pakistan. We need Central Assistance to build dams and reservoirs on these rivers so that we can preserve the flood waters and not allow them to go into Pakistan. They can be used within Punjab and the surplus waters can be given. At present, waters going into Rajasthan and Haryana from Punjab are not in accordance with the Constitution of India.

Under the guise of drought conditions, there have been suggestions made in this House that the Constituional arrangement that waters are a State subject should be put on the Concurrent List. We do not want any tampering with the Constitution. We are against the changing of the riparian principle in favour of other States. We do not have enough water for our own State. So, we

[Sardar Simranjit Singh Mann]

cannot give it to any other neighbouring State. Therefore, we do not stand for a change in teh Constitution. Waters are a State subject. We want the waters to remain a State subject.

The farmer needs loans for boring of his wells because the water table has shrunk. Moreover, we want the Central Government to waive off all the loans of the farmers just as it has waived off the loan of the industrialists. Till the time the loans cannot be waived, repayment of loans should be suspended.

The question before Punjab is about having more power. We do not have hydro-electricity. We do not have coal reserves. So, we need atomic power, atomic power stations to power the Power Grids. Just in the Europe, we need more atomic power for the survival of Punjab's agricultural economy.

Sir, we have a river called Ghaggar, which forms the boundary between Haryana and Punjab. Every year it floods thousands of acres of Haryana and Punjab. We want Central assistance to tame and harness this river, which is called the sorrow of not only Punjab but also that of Haryana.

Sir, in my short speech I would like to say that I represent the entire strength of the Akali Dal. We find that the Agriculture Minister is working hard. He should try and get the Army out of the border from Punjab so that our economy does not suffer because we want open borders with Pakistan and trade with the Islamic and Central Asian countires.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Mr. Chairman, Sir, discussion under Rule 193 in regard to drought and flood situation in the country is going on in the House. I thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak.

Something devastating happened Dahanu in Thane district of Maharashtra in the month of July. Where 75 milimetres of rains recorded on a single day, which disrupted life causing loss to the life and property to the tune of crores of rupees. Rains and sea caused heavy damage to the crops and houses. Tribals suffered even more. The compensation and assistance provided by the Maharashtra Government is not sufficient. So it is my earnest request through you to the hon. Minister of Agriculture and hon. Minister of Finance to provide maximum help by sending a Central Committee there.

Flood and drought are, of course, natural calamities but are made more complicated by human interference and the Government. The rain water that fall on the earth flow into the sea. It is imperative to think upon the ways and means to make it useful for the agriculture and power by harnessing water. Hon. Balasaheb Vikhe Patil ji is present in the House. Onece a committee was set up under his Chairmanship and I was made a Member of that Committee. He gave very good suggestions at that time that there is one river flowing westward in Nasik district the direction of which should be made eastward, since entire water of the river goes into the sea and is of no use. Hence, he gave very fruitful suggestions. The Maharahstra Government has formulated certain schemes in view of those suggestions but due to lack of funds, the proposal is lying unimplemented. I urge upon the hon. Minister and the Union Government to contemplate upon providing maximum assistance in regard to this scheme. You may recollect Sir, hon. Hukam Deo Narayan Yadav ji is also sitting here, that Morarji Bhai had called his close confidants one by one and asked them about their demands. I kept a demand about irrigation water, there are few tribal IAS Officers and officers of Maharashtra Cadre, so there was a demand to start a course in Nasik. People complained about deforestation so a decision was taken to set up a Forest Development Division. We also raised the issue regarding deforestation. We had only these three demands. He commissioned Surjeet Singh Barnalaji to Nasik to immediately look into it as to what was going to on there and for irrigation certain 55 big and small dams were constructed.

23.00 hrs.

Even today my area ranks first in the vegetables that are exported from Maharashtra. Morarji Bhai used to say that the work must go on. Funds should be immediately released and schemes should be immediately implemented. It was because of this approach that we got drinking water and irrigation water. Morarji Bhai used to sit here. Once he said he would make arrangements for taking the waters of Ganga and Southern rivers to drought hit areas, so that the problems of water is met. Then a member pointed out the problem of funds. Upon which he replied that as long as he is there no such problem would crop up. That Government was outsted so did the schemes. My request is that there is a need to give it a thought.

There are 36 districts in Maharashtra. 33 districts were hit by drought during the year 2000, but all the districts are affected by the drought during the current year. I belong to Nasik area where there are 15 districts. It did not rain even a single day there. In the beginning there were some rains but now it is totally dry. The farmers there sold their crops but it did not grow and entire crop was hit by drought. There is scarcity of drinking water, there is no fodder for cattle. Farmers are worried. This is my request to you to immediately send a team there, to take a stock of the situation in Nasik and Maharashtra.

Lot of water flows into the sea. That water is neither utilised for drinking nor for irrigation. We should make some arrangements so that it is made available to people and to agriculturists.

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar): Sir. I thank you for giving me this opportunity. I would not take more than five minutes. There are only four or five points that I want to mention before this august House. Our hon. Minister belongs to the farming community. He has to take some drastic steps to protect the interests of the farmers in this country. We are all with him on this particular issue. Irrespective of party affiliations, the entire Parliament and the country are with him. He has to do some reformation to protect the farmers of the country.

How would it be done? I would like to suggest something. The global weather is increasing the heat by two to three degrees Celsius because of pollution from factories, petrol and diesel. What is the remedy for this problem? The solution lies in growing more trees. In Kannada, there is a saying:

> If there is a tree, there is rain. If there is rain, there is a crop. If there is a crop, we have food.

How are we to grow more trees? I would like to inform the hon. Minister that in my State, Karnataka, more than 50 priests belonging to different religions—Fathers from various Churches and *Maulvis* from *Masjids*—would be meeting together under the Chairmanship of Sri Sri Bal Gangadhar Swamiji of the Adi Chunchana Giri Math.

They have formed a Committee—the total population of Karnataka is 5.5 crore—and have decided to plant 5.5 crore trees. They have chalked out a programme in this regard. They have also asked some money from the MPLAD Fund Scheme. Now, they have decided and already started the work in this regard. They have to complete this programme in Karnataka and then they will coordinate with other States also.

So, my submission to the hon. Minister is, why not find a way out to have such programmes in the whole country. We have population of 100 crore. We can take the help of educational institutions and various departments to achieve our targets. The hon. Minister can chalk out a five-year programme and within this period we can have around 100 crore trees planted in the country. If he makes up his mind, it will be easy and that will save the country from drought. But we have to find a way out.

The next important issue is how to control the floods. Floods can be controlled by linking all the major rivers, like Ganga with Cauvery or Mahanadi with Cauvery. This way you can give water to the whole country and we can see the dream of Mahatma Gandhi fulfilled that food and shelter be given to the last person of the country.

We cannot give jobs to all the hundred crore people of this country at present. The NDA Government has announced creation of one crore jobs every year, but I do not think they will achieve this target. If you can achieve, we will welcome the efforts taken by the Government, but we have to solve the other acute problems, like food, unemployment, that the country is facing. We have to ensure that everybody gets shelter, everybody gets employment, everybody gets food in this country. Of course, it involves a huge expenditure but we have to ensure that for every citizen of the country. I think, under the hon. Minister's leadership we can achieve some of the targets.

The hon. Minister of Agriculture belongs to a family which belongs to farming community. His father has done remarkable work for the *Kisans* of this country. We can never forget his achievements and his contribution to this country. What to talk of our generation, nobody can forget what Ch. Charan Singh has done for this country. The hon. Minister has to do the same thing for the farming community. It may involve huge funds but we have no other way out and before spending so much of money, we need to have a comprehensive plan. Linking of various rivers should also be considered in that plan. That will solve most of the problems of the country. I think, the hon. Minister has taken a note of it.

[Shri K.H. Muniyappa]

Crop insurance is another important thing that needs our consideration. We have to involve the farming community and have to see that compulsory crop insurance must be there. There should be uniform electricity price in all the States. For that you have to give encouragement to hydroelectric projects and there should be equal power distribution to all the States and every farmer should have a price limitation, otherwise it will be difficult for his survival.

I must congratulate the Government for giving a minimum support price to the farmers. With the help of the support price for so many crops in Karnataka announced last year, lakhs of people belonging to farming community survived. We can never forget that. Otherwise, they could not have sold their produce in the market. The price as well has also stabilised in the market. I would request the hon. Minister to double the amount to be allocated in the Budget for support price in the interest of the farming community.

These are some of the important points which I have placed before the hon. Minister and this august House and I think the hon. Minister have made a note of them. I have also prepared a note on some of the problems being faced by the farming community and some issues relating to droughts and floods. With the permission of the hon. Chairman, I would like to lay it on the Table of the House.

*Sir, the country is moving through a phase of serious drought situation. Seventy per cent of the area has not received any rainfall so far. Monsoon is coming to an end, so far farmers are unable to complete the sowing process. Failure of Monsoon may lead to a serious set back for the nation. We have to be equipped to face the situation.

I would request the Minister of Agriculture to inform the House about the steps taken by the Government of India to face the serious drought situation. People are going miles together to fetch drinking water. Reservoirs are drying away in most parts of the country.

The lethargic attitude of the Central Government is causing serious concern for State Governments. Karnataka has been neglected by the Central Government. An all party delegation from Government of Karnataka under the Chairmanship of Shri S.M. Krishna, Chief Minister of Karnataka met Hon'ble Prime Minister, Hon'ble Agriculture Minister and other Ministers last year and submitted a memorandum and requested for the release of approximately Rs. 900 crore to tackle the drought situation, but the Union Government is least bothered even to reply to the request.

Due to hailstrom, Karnataka farmers have lost approximately Rs. 200 crore in the last year. The Government of Karnataka has submitted a memorandum to the Government of India but thus proposal has also met the same fate.

An amount of Rs. 78 crore which is the amount earmarked for the Government of Karnataka was released for the year 2000-2001 as calamity relief fund; it is surprising to know that the BJP leaders have repeatedly addressed the Press to inform this release, which is purely the entitlement of the Government of Karnataka.

This year, Monsoon is not courteous on Karnataka. On 23.07.2002, 81 Taluks have been declared as drought affected taluks by the Government of Karnataka.

On 24.07.2002, Hon. Revenue and Agriculture Ministers of the Government of Karnataka have described the seriousness of the drought situation in Karnataka in Agriculture Ministers' Conference.

Since three years, we have been facing drought in many districts of the State, simultaneously we are submitting proposals every year to the Union Government.

It is unfortunate to say that it has become a mere formality; Karnataka all party delegations have been neglected by the Union Government. I am sure, this is because the Congress Government is in power in Karnataka. This kind of step-montherly attitude will disturb the Centre-State relation in future.

Most surprisingly, you are announcing packages to Andhra Pradesh. One phone call from Hyderabad has been more effective than the Karnataka Government delegation!

You have allotted approximately 30 lakh tonnes of foodgrains to Andhra Pradesh but three lakh tonnes of foodgrain to Karnataka for Food for Work Programme, what is the yardsticks applied for the allotment of foodgrains. Many schemes have been hijacked by Andhra Pradesh. This is not my allegation but the Government records supplied to MPs are showing the figures.

This year so far, Government of Karnataka has spent approximately Rs. 45 crores for providing drinking water

..... Speech was laid on the Table of the House.

facilities and other immediate requirements; approximately Rs. 6 crore has been earmarked to give subsidy on seeds to farmers.

District Collectors have been given power to take decision immediately to tackle the situation such as attempt to suicides and other extreme steps by farmers.

You are aware that due to very low rainfall in Cauvery delta, water levels in Krishna Raja Sagar dam are alarmingly low. This has caused a serious concern for the farmers of Karnataka as well as Tamil Nadu. We have lot of sympathy for the farmers of Tamil Nadu also, because of myself being a farmer, I can understand the problem of a farmers of any State in India.

Added to the woes of Karnataka farmers, the prices of silk, arcanut, Coconut, vegetables have come down drastically. Farmers of south Karnataka are seriously affected by falling silk prices. Last week Hon. Textile Minister has announced to farmers to extend all kind of help, but so far there is no Government order in this regard. Last week, Hon. Chief Minister has met Hon. Prime Minister and other Ministers concerned to request for a financial package in this regard. Therefore, I want an assurance by the Minister to what is the actual help the Union Government will extend to the farmers of Karnataka.

Every year we have been facing either drought or floods in most of the States. This is high time that Government should apply its mind for long term projects. I hope the following points would be helpful for Government:

1. Linking of Ganga-Cauvery rivers through this project needs huge investment, it will be a dream project of the country and this project will lessen the floods in north India and increase the area of irrigation down south.

2. Renovation of Tanks: Lakhs of Tanks have dried away due to poor maintenance and improper supporting canals. The speciality of these tanks in Karnataka is that they have been connected to each other through canals by excess water and even they will form a river after flowing some distance.

Government of Karnataka has already started an initiative to renovate these tanks with the help of World Bank financial assistance. I would like to mention that in this matter also, the Union Government has intervened and ordered a ban on the work citing that these tanks fall in Cauvery area. This is really a meaningless decision and it will retard the growth of the State.

I belong to Kolar District in Karnataka which is my Constituency which has got approximately 4000 tanks. All of them have been constructed in such a planned manner that even today if properly renovated and maintained, these will be able to feed the fields for all 365 days.

My district has been a dry district, time and again, we have requested for all round development of the District:

I would request the Rural Development Minister to plan for a comprehensive project to renovate the tanks. If an amount of Rs. 200 crore is allotted to Kolar, major tanks can be renovated. I am sure the District can be a model district.

Drought monitoring cell: There should be a drought monitoring cell under a separate Ministry. This Ministry should look after drought and floods and its management. Every year during floods and drought, these issues are discussed, but no permanent system has been evolved so far. The existing calamity relief fund is not sufficient to tackle any situation; men and machinery are also required to help the flood or drought victims. We can utilise the services of para security forces such as Home Guards, Civil Defence Personnel, Anganwadi workers Teachers and we can also create a cadre to tackle immediate serious situation.

In view of the above few points, I demand the Government to take maximum possible steps immediately and to set up a permanent disaster management group so that the country can tackle any serious situation. I would request the Hon. Prime Minister to intervene and an amount of Rs. 100 crore as a special case be released to Karnataka as interim relief.

I also request the Hon. Minister to intervene to clear the pending proposal of rs. 900 crore submitted to the Union Government in the last year.*

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for allowing me to take part in the discussion on drought and floods in various parts of the country.

A general impression is carried that as if Gujarat does not have drought. My constituency, from where I come, that is, Kutch district is so unfortunate and is a victim of almost all the natural calamities—drought, cyclone and earthquake. Since last three years, we are facing

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*"....." Speech was laid on the Table of the House.

[Shri P.S. Gadhavi]

drought. In the period of the last 52 years, after Independence, my constituency had faced drought for about 33 times. In 1998, disastrous cyclone hit Kandla, in which we had lost about 3,000 precious human lives and poor farmers from Anjar, Mundre and Mandvi Talukas had lost more than 3 lakh fruit bearing trees. Thereafter, in 1999 cyclone, western parts of Kutch district—Abadasa and Lakhpat Talukas were also hit. At that time, we lost more than 50,000 valuable cattle heads. In both these cyclones, movable and immovable properties worth crores of rupees were lost. On 26 January, 2001, when the earthquak hit, Kutch was affected. Five bit towns and more than 181 villages were totally ruined. Sir, 581 villages were affected in that earthquake and our farmers had lost everything.

In this earthquak, we lost more than 18,000 precious human lives and property worth thousands of crores of rupees. Till now, we have not been able to rehabilitate and restore the loss suffered because of this earthquake.

Sir, we are facing threat of severe drought his year. This is the third year of drought situation in Kutch. I have obtained the figures of rainfall from the Collector. I have been given the figures up till 20th July. There are 10 Talukas in Kutch. The fitures of the rainfall in these 10 talukas are: Bhuj-53 mm; Mandvi-18 mm; Mundra-12 mm; Anjar-51 mm; Bhachau-82 mm; Raper-137 mm; Gandhidham-55 mm; Makhtrana-31 mm; Abadadas-40 mm; and Lakhpat-40 mm. So, the average rainfall in Kutch district comes to only 38 mm, that is about 1.5 inches. If we consider the average rainfall figures of two Talukas Bhachau and Raper, then it comes to 51.9 mm, that is about 2 inches.

A general impression in carried that Gujarat has got rain. Unfortunately, Kutch district, from where I come, and certain Northern Gujarat areas have not had any rain. In ten districts of Gujarat, the average rainfall is less than 30 percent. They are: Anand, Banas Kantha, Gandhinagar, Kutch, Mehsana, Narmada, Panch Mahal, Patan, Porbander and Sabar Kantha. They have not had any rain and the average rainfall is less than 30 per cent.

Sir, my request to the hon. Minister of Agriculture is to depute a high-level team to Gujarat to conduct on-the-spot survey to assess the situation faced by the farmers because of drought, particularly in Kutch. I do not know whether the Agriculture Minister from our State was called or not but he was not present in the Meeting. So, our Agriculture Minister should be called or a team may be deputed from here. As the other Members have said, please direct NABARD and other scheduled and co-operative banks to forego or postpone the recovery of dues and interest from stressed farmers.

Another request to the hon. Minister is that necessary amendments be made in the Central Relief Fund because Central relief generally gives relief to small and marginal farmers, who have got land less than two hectares.

In my constituency, we have got barren land. Even those farmers who have got more than 10 acres or 20 acres of land are not in a position to sustain their families. So, some relaxation may kindly be given. Otherwise, those farmers who have more than two hectares of land will not get any yield. Even the farmers who are having 40 acres or 50 acres of land are not in a position to sustain themselves.

My constituency is, in area, third largest constituency in the country. The area of my constituency is about 45,000 square kilometres. We have got very good grassland. We have got a large number of original breed of cattle, namely, cows, buffaloes, goats, sheep, camels, etc. Previously also, the Railways had given subsidy for transportation of the fodder. Transportation of the fodder was made free. We can get fodder only from South Gujarat which is about 700 kilometres away. My only request to the hon. Minister is that this type of free transport facility for fodder by Railways be made.

There is no drinking water for two crore people. The only permanent solution is Narmada. If Narmada dam is constructed or completed as early as possible, then only the North Gujarat and Saurashtra parts can survive. Our ground water level has gone down from 300 feet to 500 feet. We are not having any ground water.

Lastly I would like to submit that whenever any relief works are done, the re-changing works should be given priority. In that, people's participation should be there. Whenever you give any work, it does not yield any result. Many times, crores and crores of rupees are being spent. Even then the position remains the same. So there should be people's participation in the recharging scheme.

In Gujarat we have started Sardar Sarovar Sahbhagi Yojana. So people will participate; and re-charging facility may kindly be taken up.

I am submiting a written note so that it can go on record.

Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

*At times of drought, many farmers have even lost their labour and seed when they received first little rainfall. To compensate them, subsidised power, certified seeds fertilizers and loan facilities be given to them.

Comprehensive package be declared to help the poor farmers who have suffered heavily due to drought situation*.

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, twelve states including Chhatisgarh are reeling under the fury of floods and severe drought. I would like to give my suggestions only in the circumstances in which the debate is going on today since we don't have much time. When there was famine in Chhatisgarh last year, it was provided with one crore rupees and rice as well. Funds were also provided under the Ganga water scheme. Indira Gandhi scheme and Ganga water scheme were launched there. Construction of roads was undertaken in the name of Rajiv Gandhi and it was later known as the Jawahar Lal road. Dams were constructed in the name of Jawahar Lal and Rajiv Gandhi. The Government should ensure that the funds which are provided from the Central Government's head are fully utilised. Last time 100 per cent funds were provided. However, the State Government also shares 25 per cent amount. But this time around also, the Central Government should provide 100 percent amount since 12 States are reeling under devastating floods and severe drought conditions. What I want to say is that the Central Government should provide 100 per cent amount. If the State Governmet also wants to contribute, it should take relief work separately with its own funds. The relief work with the Central assistance should be undertaken simultaneously.

We are facing acute drinking water problem. The water table is depleting there and steps should be taken to augment the same. Rs. 30 thousand are spent on the boring of tubewell. Hand pumps are installed in villages. But there are ponds in most of the villages. The Government should take concrete steps to augment the water table to enable to tide over the drinking water problem and people will aso get water for bathing. Boring of tubewells shoud be undertaken where there are ponds. Special attention should be paid towards relief works. Tubewell water can be utilised for irrigation purposes. The entire crop has been damaged in our State.

The credit card scheme has been introduced to tide over the problems of farmers. Kishan credit cards should be distributed to all the farmers in the twelve States which are reeling under drought so that the farmers could start their own work to earn their livelihood and purchase inputs for farming purposes. The farmers would not be able to get compensation if the premium amount is not distributed under the Crop Insurance Scheme. In such circumstances, I would like to appeal to the Central Government that the premium amount should be deposited where people are affected by the floods. Farmers should get reasonable amount as compensation under the Crop Insurance scheme. The farmers would be grateful to the Government for this benign act. At times, farmers are ignored. If there is a Congress government in any State, the representatives of the BJP are not given due attention there and in such circumstances, the peoples representative have little role to plan. We cry at the top of our voice here in the House demanding funds for our area, but virtually we are non-entity in our areas if our party's Government is not in power in our respective State. This situation should be given due attention. If some work is done there, it should be on recommendation. When the Central Government provides the funds the Chief Minister of Chhatisgarh should not be at liberty to avoid monitoring of any meeting anywhere. Every month a meeting of MPs or MLAs should be called and work should be carried out with the recommendation of MPs. In areas where no work is being done. There should not be any step-motherly treatment. This money is given for the development of the common man and not for the development of a political party. It is true that wheat and rice are selling at Rs. Two and Rs. three respectively. It is true that the people below poverty line are getting the benefits, but in today's adverse condition all the poor people of the villages should get this benefit. The handicapped people who cannot work, and are affected by drought, cannot fend for themselves, so relief should be given to them. A huge quantity of foodgrains is rotting in the godowns. The people of our party referred to this. If foodgrains are not distributed, they will loot the godowns. I urge the Government to distribute the foodgrains before the godowns are looted. The hon'ble Minister of Agriculture is paying attention to this. He convened a conference of Agricultural Ministers from many States. Rs. 400 to 600 crore should be released immediately as grant to the States that sent their proposal first, so that people could be able to have the means to live their lives.

SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN (Basti): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

*.....*Speech was laid on the Table of the House.

[Shri Shriram Chouhan]

Drought has become the burning problem of the country. Majority of the States in the entire north India have been engulfed by the drought. The Government of India is quite sensitive to this issue. Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture has also shown his deep concern by calling a meeting of the Agriculture Ministers of the drought affected States. In my area of Basti, Gonda, Maharajganj and Siddharth Nagar, the sugarcane growers have problems. Their sugarcane is drying up in the fields alongwith other crops. Though paddy saplings have been planted in the 'Tarai' area, the paddy crop is drying up for want of water. The borewells should be made operational and water should be taken to this area through canals. Huge amounts of money are outstanding for payment to the sugarcane growers. Some farmers grow crash crops and got remunerations early. However, the sugarcane growers sell their yield on 15 days' credit. Their dues are not paid fully year after year. Their large amount of sugarcane dues are outstanding on mills including government mills. I request the union government to direct the State government to pay up the outstanding dues to the sugarcane growers. The state governments should introduce "food for work' schemes so that the State Government could take effective steps towards centrally sponsored schemes. The loans of farmers should be waived off. Loan recovery should also be stopped. All the taxes imposed on irrigation should be withdrawn. Arrangements should be made for providing fodder to cattle.

With these words I conclude my speech and also extend my sincere thanks to you for giving me an opportunity to speak here in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Debate is over. Tomorrow, Shri Ramdas Athawale will speak and thereafter hon'ble Minister for Agriculture will reply. The proceedings are therefore, adjourned till 11o' clock on July 26, 2002.

23.25 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday July 26, 2002/Sravana 4, 1924 (Saka)

PLS. 40. XXVI.9/2002
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Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha (Ninth Edition) and Printed by M/s. Jainco Art India, New Delhi.