

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

**Eighth Session**  
**(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)**



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## CONTENTS

[Thirteenth Series, Vol. XX, Eighth Session, 2001/1923 (Saka)]

No. 4, Thursday, November 22, 2001/Agrahayana 1, 1923 (Saka)

| SUBJECT   | COLUMNS |
|---|---------|
| INTRODUCTION OF MINISTER  | 2       |
| ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS   |         |
| *Starred Questions Nos. 61  | 2-9     |
| WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS  |         |
| Starred Questions Nos. 62 to 80   | 9-27    |
| Unstarred Questions Nos. 691-704 and 706-920  | 27-302  |
| PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE  | 302     |
| MESSSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA<br>AND  |         |
| BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA – LAID  | 307     |
| PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES—SUMMARY OF WORK ...  | 307     |
| COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS   |         |
| Nineteenth Report   | 308     |
| COMMITTEE ON ETHICS   |         |
| First Report  | 308     |
| BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE   |         |
| Twenty Seventh Report ...   | 308     |
| STANDING COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY  |         |
| Fifty-fourth to Fifty-seventh Action Taken Reports  | 308     |
| STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS   |         |
| (i) Re: Reported Deaths of Children in Assam after<br>Administration of Vitamin 'A'   |         |
| Dr. C.P. Thakur   | 309     |
| (ii) Re: Collision of 214 DN Mokama-Howrah Passenger<br>Train with Relief Light Engine on Mokama-Kiul section<br>of Eastern Railway |         |
| Shri Nitish Kumar   | 331     |
| (iii) Re: Deliberations and Developments in the fourth WTO<br>Ministerial Conference held in Doha, Qatar                            |         |
| Shri Murasoli Maran   | 380     |

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

| SUBJECT  | COLUMNS    |
|--|------------|
| <b>ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES</b>   |            |
| (i) Committee on Public Undertakings ... ..  | 310        |
| (ii) Committee on Public Accounts ... ..   | 310        |
| (iii) Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes<br>and Scheduled Tribes ... ..  | 313        |
| <b>COMPANIES (THIRD AMENDMENT) BILL</b>  | <b>314</b> |
| <b>MATTERS UNDER RULE 377</b>  |            |
| (i) Need to safeguard the interests of cotton growers<br>in the country particularly in Haryana<br><br>Shri Rattan Lal Kataria ...                                       | 316        |
| (ii) Need to check the terrorist and naxalite activities<br>in Jharkhand State<br><br>Prof. Dukha Bhagat   | 316        |
| (iii) Need to start gauge conversion work between Jabalpur<br>and Panna via Damoh in Madhya Pradesh<br><br>Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmaria ...                                   | 316        |
| (iv) Need to increase custom duty on Soyabean and Palm oil<br><br>Shri Haribhai Chaudhary... ..  | 317        |
| (v) Need to review the decision to ban use of Charitable funds<br>funds by Urban Cooperative Banks in the country<br><br>Shri Y.G. Mahajan ...                           | 317        |
| (vi) Need to safeguard the interests of cotton growers in<br>the country particularly in Punjab<br><br>Shri J.S. Brar ...  | 318        |
| (vii) Need to provide central assistance to the Government of<br>Karnataka to save coconut crops from Eriophyid mite<br><br>Shri G. Putta Swamy Gowda ... ..             | 318        |
| (viii) Need to tackle the problem of coastal erosion along<br>the Dakshin Kannada coast with the help of<br>Government of Netherlands<br><br>Shri Vinay Kumar Sorake ... | 319        |
| (ix) Need to provide adequate telecommunications staff<br>at Malappuram Secondary Switching Area, Kerala<br><br>Prof. A.K. Premajam ... ..                               | 319        |
| (x) Need to extend National Highway-214 from Pamarru<br>to Ongole in Andhra Pradesh<br><br>Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu ... ..  | 320        |

| SUBJECT  | COLUMNS |
|--|---------|
| (xi) Need to encourage small and cottage industries to solve the unemployment problem in the country<br>Shri Ramji Lal Suman   | 320     |
| (xii) Need to expedite setting up of a National Institute of Siddha at Chennai, Tamil Nadu<br>Shri K.K. Kaliappan...   | 321     |
| (xiii) Need to declare the road from Fulnakhara at National Highway No.5-Niali-Madhab-Charichhak-Gop-Konark and Puri at National Highway No. 203 as a National Highway<br>Shri Trilochan Kanungo ... | 322     |
| (xiv) Need to review the allotment of residential accommodation to Union Territory Cadre Officers posted outside Delhi<br>Dr. Nitish Sengupta  | 322     |
| (xv) Need to review the decision of the Government to notify 1200 metre area adjoining the existing Amunition Depot at Bhatinda<br>Shri Bhan Singh Bhaura  | 323     |
| RE: ISSUE RELATED TO IMPOSING OF PENALTY ON INDIAN CRICKET PLAYERS TOURING SOUTH AFRICA  | 323-330 |
| DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193  |         |
| Re: Problems being faced by farmers  |         |
| Shri Basu Deb Acharia  | 335     |
| Shri Sahib Singh   | 343     |
| Shri Lakshman Singh ...  | 350     |
| Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu ...  | 360     |
| Shri N.N. Krishnadas ...   | 366     |
| Kunwar Akhilesh Singh  | 370     |
| Dr. Jaswant Singh Yadav  | 376     |
| Shri V.M. Sudheeran ...  | 416     |
| Shri Raghunath Jha ...   | 421     |
| Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh  | 425     |
| Shri Prahlad Singh Patel ...   | 430     |
| STATEMENT RE: COMPANIES (AMENDMENT)<br>ORDINANCE-LAID  |         |
| Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar ...   | 435-436 |

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

Thursday, November 22, 2001/Agrahayana 1, 1923  
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please take up the matter of Uttar Pradesh first where the Constitution and laws are being thrown to the wind. In each assembly segment 1000 votes are being excluded, one community is being pitted against the other community (Interruptions) Lok Sabha and the Constitution do not mean anything to them...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take it up during the Zero Hour...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER : Now, introduction of Minister by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : We shall give you the opportunity during the Zero Hour.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I am appealing to you

\*Not recorded.

to take your seats. If it is a serious matter, you may raise it in the 'Zero Hour'. I will allow you and one or two other Members also. Please cooperate with the Chair now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER : I have already told you. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, you may also raise it in the 'Zero Hour'.

(Interruptions)

11.03 hrs.

### INTRODUCTION OF MINISTER

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Mr. Speaker Sir, with your permission, I wish to introduce to you and, through you, to the House my colleague :

Shri Annasaheb M.K. Patil—The Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development.

11.04 hrs.

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

#### Lifting of Ban on Agents

+

\*61. SHRI PRABODH PANDA :  
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have lifted the 14 years ban on agents in defence deals;

\*Not recorded.

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

(c) whether any guidelines and regulatory mechanism have been put in place for the registration of such agents;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether with the appointment of middlemen in arms dealings, the Government have taken all possible steps to keep defence matters secret or confidential; and

(f) if so, the steps likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

1. A comprehensive formulation of the role, if any, which Authorized Representatives/Agents/or Sales Consultants employed by Foreign suppliers for the promotion of their product, may legitimately be expected to play, has been receiving the attention of Government for some time. The entire policy has been extensively reviewed recently with objective of defining the scope, extent and the condition within which such Authorized Representatives/Agents may be allowed to represent a foreign supplier or suppliers.
2. Based on this review and in order to bring greater transparency to the whole procurement process and realizing that the presence of an Authorized Representatives / Agent would improve the delivery of services, & follow-up of post contractual obligations, the Minister of Defence have on 2nd November 2001 issued supplementary instructions on the appointment of Indian Authorised Representatives/Agents of foreign suppliers. The Authorised Representatives would make available information of latest technologies, assist during trials & help in post contractual servicing.
3. The salient features of these instructions are:-

- (a) All foreign suppliers who wish to appoint Indian Authorized Representatives/Agent would register them with the Ministry of Defence.
- (b) The Authorized Representative/Agent could be an individual, a partnership, a limited company Private or Public.
- (c) The agent must be an income tax payee.
- (d) The foreign supplier appointing an agent must furnish copies detailing Agreement/terms of appointment of Authorized Representative/ Agent.
- (e) The obligation of an agent will flow from the contract entered with the Ministry of Defence.
- (f) The foreign supplier will have to declare the payments made to the Authorized Representative/Agent.
- (g) Particulars relating to agency commission would be reported to the Enforcement Directorate, of Central Board of Direct Taxes by the MOD.
- (h) The agent will be appointed with the approval of the Secretary of the Department.
- (i) These instructions will be applicable for future contracts only.

4. Adequate safeguards have been provided in the guidelines. In case an Original Equipment Manufacturer or his Authorized Representative/Agent is guilty of infringement of the terms of his contract or accreditation suitable penalties have been provided for in the contract and in the guidelines.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Sir, all the answers are vague. Rather most of the points have not been answered. The ban has been lifted without the approval of the Parliament. The Defence sector has offered 100 per cent to the private sector with 26 per cent of the FDI. But Sir, I do not like to put any supplementary here\*...  
(Interruptions)

\*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except the Supplementary.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Panda, are you going to put your Supplementary or not?

SHRI PRABODH PANDA : No Sir...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except the supplementary. What you are saying is not proper.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Putta Swamy Gowda.

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : I also do not want to put any supplementary...\*

MR. SPEAKER : You are creating a new precedent in the House.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, for the first time in the history of Parliament, two hon. Members have refused to put their Supplementaries...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER : Is this the way to ask supplementary questions in the Question Hour?

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not proper. Please sit down.

*[English]*

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : I do not want to put any question....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, I am

\*Not recorded.

asking Shri Putta Swamy Gowda to put the supplementary question.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Putta Swamy Gowda, what is your supplementary?

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Even though it is my right to put the supplementary question, at this hour I do not want to put any question....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Putta Swamy Gowda, please ask your supplementary question.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Putta Swamy Gowda, are you not putting any supplementary question?

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Prahlad Singh Patel please.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to say that the hon'ble Minister has taken a very appropriate step. The Hon'ble Defence Minister has taken a very good step to scotch any questions of kick backs in defence deals...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go no record except Shri Prahlad Singh Patel's question.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER : This is unfair. What is this? What are you doing?

\*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I should be allowed to raise any question as you have already accorded permission for the same. The hon'ble Member of the Opposition is wasting the precious time of the House...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Sir, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon Members, I am on my legs.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Dasmunsi, I am on my legs.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members tell me, is this the way to discuss the matters in the House? Is this the procedure to discuss the matters in the House? What are you doing? You are creating a new precedent in the House.

This is not way to discuss matters.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are not interested and you are also not allowing the other hon. Members to put their supplementaries. You are not putting the supplementary. At the same time, you are not allowing the other hon. Members also to put supplementaries. What type of an attitude is this? I do not understand it.

[Translation]

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister

\*Not recorded.

as to how many charges have been levelled against political leaders for taking kickbacks in the defence deals and the action taken against them alongwith the measures taken to stop kickbacks in the defence deals in future...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There are other hon. Members also to put the supplementaries. Shri Dasmunsi, you are a senior Member. Please understand it. If you have any point, this is not the way of raising it. There is a procedure. As per the procedure, you can raise the matter. But this is not the proper way of raising it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ramdas Athawale, this is not the proper way of doing this.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except the Question of Shri Prahlad Singh Patel.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Minister to give the reply.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, I could not hear what the question of the hon. Member is. If I could hear his question, I would give the answer...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is your supplementary?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the hon'ble Minister for taking stern action against those receiving kickbacks in the defence deals. I would also like to know as to what steps have been taken to stop kickbacks in the defence deals in future and the action taken against those politicians whose names have been associated with kickbacks in defence deals. So that India's security is not jeopardized....(Interruptions)

\*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Stop the T.V. broadcast.

*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Adhir Chowdhary.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : What are you doing in the House? This is too much. Question Hour is an important business. You are not allowing the other hon. Members also to put supplementaries.

*(Interruptions)*

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

### Attack on Indian Positions by Pak Army

\*62. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE :  
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of times the Pakistani forces have attacked Indian positions across the border during the last three months, date-wise and place-wise;

(b) whether Indian Army has taken any retaliatory action;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith casualties and other losses suffered;

(d) whether the Government are aware that Pakistan is deploying their troops and heavy military equipment, arms and ammunitions on Indo-Pak border; and

(e) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (e) None of the Indian defensive

positions along the border, has been attacked by the Pakistan forces during the last three months. However, there have been regular incidents of unprovoked firing across the Line of Control/International Border by Pakistan forces, which have been adequately responded to by the Indian troops.

The Government is aware that Pakistan army has recently moved some component of its infantry divisions and armoured brigades along the International Border and Line of Control ostensibly for training/exercise in the Akhnoor sector of J&K and Ganganagar sector of Rajasthan since the second week of October 2001. According to the latest reports, some Pakistan infantry Divisions have moved back to their permanent location.

Pakistan army activities in close proximity of the border, are constantly being monitored and a high state of vigilance is being maintained. Adequate precautionary measures have been taken to ensure the security of the country.

### Opening of Outstation Booking Offices, Reservation Centres

\*63. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the norms fixed for opening of out-station booking office/reservation centres;

(b) whether opening of outstation reservation centres in the places far away from the railway stations like Mungeli, Pendra Gaurela (district Bilaspur) Jaspur, Ambikapur are under consideration;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR):  
(a) Out agencies for parcel as well as ticket booking are opened in remote areas to facilitate traffic booking there. Traffic justification, public demand, distance from railhead, existing transport facilities and presence of a suitable contractor constitute some of the considerations for opening such agencies. For providing PRS facilities it has since been decided to relax the norms from 200 transactions per day to 100 transactions per day and to

include important Tourist Centres and District Headquarters on a programmed basis.

(b) to (d) Of these four locations Ambikapur and Jaspur are district headquarters and would therefore be covered under the relaxed norms on a programmed basis.

[English]

#### Joint Naval Exercise with France

\*64. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :  
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of India and France had signed an agreement regarding holding of joint naval exercises;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of times the joint naval exercises were held during the last three years; and

(d) the other areas of defence, in which the Government is likely to expand cooperation with France?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) Naval exercises between the Indian Navy and the French Navy are carried out depending on the operational requirements of either Navy. It is an on-going exercise and no formal agreement regarding holding of joint exercises has been signed.

During the last three years, Indo-French joint naval exercises have been carried out six times.

Over the years India has procured defence equipment from France which includes armaments, Night Vision Devices and helicopters. India is keen for long term product support of the defence equipment procured from France. Likely areas for expanding the cooperation with France depends on the strategic requirement evaluated by our Armed Forces from time to time.

#### Dues of Oil Companies from Oil Pool Accounts

\*65. SHRI J.S. BRAR :  
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

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

(a) whether outstanding dues of the oil companies from the oil pool account have been soaring;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for not monitoring it timely to keep situation under control; and

(d) the steps taken to replenish the oil pool account?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) The cumulative outstanding dues payable from the oil pool account to the oil companies/Government of India were around Rs. 6,256 crore and Rs. 12,600 crore as on 31.3.2000 and 31.3.2001 respectively.

(c) and (d) The outstanding dues of the oil companies from the oil pool account are monitored by the Government and appropriate action is taken from time to time.

#### Setting up of Regional Cultural Centres

\*66. SHRIMATI KUMUDINI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up Regional Cultural Centres in each State to promote and encourage the development of its Culture;

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

(c) the financial assistance provided in this regard and the time by which these centres are likely to be set up, Centre-wise;

(d) whether proposal for construction of open sky theatres in different parts of Orissa for promotion of Odissi dance, Chhau dance and Goti Pua Nrutya (Sakhi Nacha) is under consideration of the Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) The Department of Culture implements a Scheme for setting up of Multi-purpose Cultural Complex in the States. Under the scheme financial assistance is provided on a matching basis in accordance with the terms and conditions of the scheme.

(b) and (c) Financial assistance has been provided to 15 states so far, the details of which are as below:-

| States         | Amount sanctioned<br>(Rs. in lakhs) | Remarks            |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Sikkim         | 65.00                               | Under Construction |
| Nagaland       | 100.00                              | Under Construction |
| Manipur        | 10.00                               | Under Construction |
| Mizoram        | 75.00                               | Under Construction |
| Tripura        | 25.00                               | Under Construction |
| West Bengal    | 35.00                               | Under Construction |
| Madhya Pradesh | 90.00                               | Under Construction |
| Orissa         | 25.00                               | Under Construction |
| J & K          | 100.00                              | Under Construction |
| Karnataka      | 140.00                              | Completed          |
| Bihar          | 15.00                               | Under Construction |
| Haryana        | 50.00                               | Under Construction |
| Kerala         | 100.00                              | Completed          |
| Pondicherry    | 25.00                               | Under Construction |
| Punjab         | 50.00                               | Under Construction |

(d) and (e) A sum of Rs. 25.00 lakh has already been released for setting up a Multi-purpose Cultural Complex in Bhubaneswar.

#### Passenger Amenities

\*67. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways have not been able to accord priority to areas concerning passenger amenities and have also allocated less sums for that;

(b) if so, the reason therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the passenger amenities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. High priority has been accorded to Passenger Amenities by the Railways. An all time high allotment of Rs. 200 crores was made in the Railways Budget, 2001-02 for the Passenger Amenities against expenditure of Rs. 91 crore, Rs. 115 crore and Rs. 144 crore in 1998-1999, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 respectively.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Upgradation of passenger amenities at railway stations is a continuous process and is undertaken on the basis of need and subject to availability of funds. Passenger Amenities at stations are provided as per norms based on the volume of passenger traffic. Every year a review is carried out to ascertain the deficiencies, if any, and proposals are mooted accordingly as per requirement at station. These are taken up on the basis of relative priorities. In addition, 286 stations have been selected as model stations for provision of upgraded passenger amenities at these stations.

#### Impact of War on Oil Supply

\*68. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :  
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

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

(a) whether the continuing war on terrorism will have any impact on oil supply and prices of petroleum products; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) The international campaign against terrorism following the events on 11th

September, 2001 in the U.S.A. has not, so far, adversely affected the oil supplies as also the prices of the petroleum products in India.

[Translation]

#### **Nuclear Capability of the Country**

\*69. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has augmented its deterrent capacity keeping in view the nuclear capability and military preparedness of Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Government closely monitors all developments related to research, development and acquisition of armaments by Pakistan. Government remains fully committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard the nation's security in accordance with its own assessment of security threats.

[English]

#### **Procurement of Advanced Jet Trainers**

\*70. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI :  
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is acute shortage of advanced jet trainers in the Indian Air Force/Army;

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

(c) whether the Government have decided to procure AJTs;

(d) if so, whether any deal has been finalised in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof along with the number and cost; and

(f) the time by which such AJTs are likely to be inducted in the Indian Air Force/Army?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) The Indian Air Force has identified the requirement of an Advanced Jet Trainer for safe and smooth transition of young trainee pilots to high performance/technology aircraft in front line Squadrons. The Government has, therefore, decided to go in for the procurement of an Advanced Jet Trainer.

(d) to (f) Various options for the acquisition of an Advanced Jet Trainer are under examination by the Government. No deal finalized as yet. It would not be possible to lay down a definite time limit for such a major project.

[Translation]

#### **Electrification of Villages**

\*71. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for complete electrification of the villages having power projects nearby;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a number of villages in Uttar Pradesh having power projects nearby are still deprived of electrification till date; and

(d) if so, the time by which the Government are likely to electrify these villages and supply electricity to the maximum hours?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) and (b) There are 587258 inhabited villages (1991 census), out of which 508162 villages have been electrified by September, 2001. Rural Electrification Schemes are formulated and executed by the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) according to the priorities fixed by the respective State governments. The funds for the Rural Electrification Programme undertaken by the States are provided in the respective State plans. Rural Electrification Corporation (REC), a financial institution at the Central level also provides funds by way of loans to SEBs/State Governments for rural electrification schemes, as are sponsored by them for financial assistance including those for augmentation and strengthening of

power distribution system for improving quality and reliability of power supply in the rural areas.

During the Chief Ministers' Conference held on 3rd March, 2001, it was resolved to complete village electrification by the end of 10th Plan and the coverage of all households by the end of 11th Plan and to include rural electrification in the Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojna (PMGY). Rural Electrification Programme has now been included under PMGY. The responsibility of extending electricity to the rural areas near generation projects lies with the State government and State Electricity Board/Utility.

(c) and (d) In Uttar Pradesh, out of 97122 inhabited villages (1991 census), 77071 villages have been reported to be electrified at the end of August, 2001. The government is committed to complete village electrification by the end of 10th Plan and the coverage of all households by the end of 11th Plan. Under PMGY, Government of Uttar Pradesh have proposed to electrify 1200 villages and 1200 Dalit/Tribal bastis and the allocation approved for rural electrification under PMGY is Rs. 9417.00 lakhs. Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation limited have also electrified the resettlement colonies and is responsible for their maintenance.

[English]

#### **Dissemination of Indian Art and Culture Abroad**

\*72. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to affect dissemination of Indian art and Culture in several countries;

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

(c) whether N.R.I.s are proposed to be involved in this venture;

(d) if so, the details thereof,;

(e) whether teams from India are sent abroad to spread Indian art and culture; and

(f) if so, the details of teams sent abroad during the last three years and the amount spent?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Culture has been pursuing an active policy of bilateral cultural cooperation with other countries with the objective of renewing and strengthening cultural links and with a view to project India's Cultural image abroad. However, one of the objectives of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) under Ministry of External Affairs is to promote greater awareness of India's cultural heritage abroad. Towards this end, the Council has set up and maintains 14 cultural centres which are functioning under the overall policy guidelines of the Indian Missions in the respective countries.

(c) and (d) The Government of India have set up a High Level Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. L.M. Singhvi, M.P. to look into the various issues concerning NRIs and PIOs. The term of the Committee has been extended upto first week of December, 2001. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations undertakes cultural activities round the world to fulfil its mandate of strengthening cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries. Non-Resident Indians also benefit from such cultural interactions. Many persons of Indian origin have been provided scholarships under the various scholarships schemes of the Council to study Indian arts and culture in Indian Universities/Institutions.

(e) and (f) 108, 72 and 62 performing arts troupes presenting music (vocal/Instrumental), dance (classical/folk) and other art forms (theatre/puppet) were sent abroad by the Council during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001. A sum of Rs. 199.89, 246.29 and 317.94 lakhs had been spent on this activity during these three years respectively.

#### **Provision of LPG Connections at Subsidised Rates**

\*73. SHRI SAHIB SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide gas connection at subsidised rates to the poor people, particularly in remote villages, where there is no source of fuel;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) The Government propose to appoint 1,247 LPG distributorships exclusively for rural areas under the various marketing Plans. At present, the subsidy of about Rs. 92/- per cylinder for domestic use is uniformly available to all the consumers in the country.

**Power Transmission Projects by  
Private Sector**

\*74. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY :  
SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to sell certain well-run power stations under his Ministry and also some of transmission lines to the private investor;

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

(c) whether some private power companies including multinationals have shown interest for setting up Power Transmission Network to Power Grid Corporation;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any attempt has been made to offer them to the State Governments where such plants are located;

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) the funds proposed to be generated by this proposition;

(h) the manner in which these funds are likely to be utilized; and

(i) the extent to which States are likely to be benefited as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) and (b) At present, there is no proposal to sell any power stations or transmission line to private investors.

(c) and (d) POWERGRID had invited bids for private investment for specific Transmission Projects associated with Tala Hydro-electric Project through Joint Venture Route and Request for Qualification (RfQ) for 400 KVD/ C Bina-Nagda-Dehgam Transmission Project through Independent Private Transmission Company (IPTC) route. Offers have been received by POWERGRID from Private Indian Companies as well as foreign companies in this regard. These offers are under process in POWERGRID.

POWERGRID had also invited Expression of Interest (Eoi) from interested parties for participation in eight future transmission projects for their implementation through IPTC route. Seventeen companies including eight multinational companies have shown their interest for the same. A list of these companies is enclosed as statement.

(e) to (i) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) and (b) above.

**Statement**

*The list of parties who have responded to Eoi and submitted their interest, to implement the projects on Build, Own, Operate & Transfer (BOOT) basis*

1. M/s The Tata Power Company Ltd., Mumbai.
2. M/s Kalpataru Power Transmission Ltd., Gandhinagar.
3. M/s Emirates Trading Agency, Dubai  
with  
M/s Korea Electric Power Corporation, Seoul, S. Korea
4. M/s KEC International Ltd., Mumbai.
5. M/s L&T Ltd., Chennai/New Delhi.
6. M/s BSES, Mumbai.
7. M/s Instalaciones Abengoa, S.A., Spain.
8. M/s Jyoti Structures, Mumbai.
9. M/s Seimens A G, Germany & Seimens Ltd., India.
10. M/s Alstom Systems Ltd., India.
11. M/s EDF, France.
12. M/s EMC Steelal Ltd., Kolkata.

13. M/s Cobra Instalaciones Y Servicios, S.A. Spain.  
 14. M/s ABB Equity Venture, New Delhi.  
 15. M/s ESKOM, South Africa.  
 16. M/s Gammon India Ltd., Mumbai.  
 17. M/s BHEL, New Delhi.

### Meeting of World Energy Congress

\*75. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the regional meeting of the World Energy Congress held in September, 2001 was attended inter-alia by countries exporting oil and also Japan, China and India, the largest oil consuming countries;

(b) if so, whether the oil producing countries were assured of the continuity in the supply of crude as well as stability in prices;

(c) if so, whether the OPEC agreed to India's request to stabilise the prices at \$ 25 a barrel; and

(d) the broad consensus arrived at the said meeting?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (d) The first Asia Regional Meeting of the World Petroleum Congress was held in Shanghai in China from 17th to 20th September, 2001. The said conference was attended amongst others, by China, India and Saudi Arabia. The theme of the meeting was "technology and cooperation – a fundamental strategy for Asia's petroleum industry". Issues of stabilizing the prices and continuity of the supply of crude were not discussed in the Regional Meeting. However, bilateral issues were discussed with the Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, Saudi Arabia.

### Studies for River Basins to Promote Hydro Electric Power

\*76. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH :  
 SHRI M.K. SUBBA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Electricity Authority has

carried out Basin-wise studies for all river basins to promote hydro electric power production;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any financial help is likely to be given to States to implement such hydro power projects; and

(d) if so, the details of assistance for such proposals?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India is accorded high priority to exploit the untapped hydro-electric potential in the country. In order to accelerate the process of survey and investigation of the new hydro-electric sites and to create a shelf of feasible projects which could be taken up for execution, the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) was asked to carry out a ranking study of the balance hydro sites for all the six river basins classified in the country. CEA has since brought out a Report on Preliminary Ranking Study of about 400 hydro schemes with an aggregate installed capacity of about 1,07,000 MW which were identified but are yet to be developed. The inter-se-prioritization of hydro sites within the basins has been carried out on consideration of various aspects involved in the development of hydro schemes. On the basis of this evaluation, the schemes have been graded in A, B and C categories in order of their priority for development for each basin. The basin-wise details of ranking are as under :

### No. of Schemes : Basin and Category-wise

| River Basin           | A        | B        | C        | Total      |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|----------|------------|
| Indus                 | 11       | 51       | 17       | 79         |
| Ganga                 | 20       | 54       | 1        | 75         |
| Central Indian Rivers | 3        | 9        | 1        | 13         |
| East Flowing Rivers   | 11       | 26       | 2        | 39         |
| West Flowing Rivers   | 1        | 10       | 14       | 25         |
| Brahmaputra           | 52       | 97       | 19       | 168        |
| GRAND TOTAL           | 98       | 247      | 54       | 399        |
| INSTALLED CAPACITY MW | 15650 MW | 69830 MW | 21420 MW | 106,900 MW |

This study would enable potential hydro developers to take up detailed survey and investigation, cost estimates and tentative tariff for the most attractive and viable schemes in each basin in a phased manner.

(c) and (d) The Government is exploring various possibilities of funding and executing hydro-electric projects and is holding a Round Table on Hydro Power Development and an International Conference on non-fossil fuel Generation in early 2002 to fine tune the strategies after extensive consultations with the States, financial institutions and entrepreneurs. Hydroelectric projects of 16,338 MW and 25,254 MW have already been identified tentatively for benefits in the Xth and XIth Plan respectively. Their execution would, however, depend on obtaining the statutory clearances and tying up of necessary funds. It has been estimated that about Rs. 25,000 crore of budgetary support would be required for implementing and initiating hydro projects in the Central Sector during the Xth Plan.

#### IOC Agreement in Asian Markets

\*77. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether I.O.C.L. have entered into agreements with South, West Asian Markets to start petrol pumps, lubricants retail outlets and LPG Marketing;

(b) if so, the details thereof and revenue likely to be earned;

(c) the names and places where they are being/likely to be started;

(d) whether any concrete proposals were chalked out by the Government in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) The Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) has not entered into any agreement for starting petrol pumps, lubricants retail outlets or for marketing LPG in any South Asian or West Asian market. However, the IOC has appointed lube distributors in Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka for marketing SERVO lubricants.

(b) and (c) The IOC has appointed M/s Jeetu Concerns, M/s Baraka Limited and M/s David Pieris Motor Company as lube distributors in Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka respectively for marketing SERVO lubricants.

The distributor in Nepal is selling an average of 400 Kilo litres (KL) / year of SERVO lubricants. The distributor in Bangladesh has uplifted 546 KL in 1999-2000 and 513 KL during April – October, 2001. The agreement with the distributor in Sri Lanka was signed in June, 2001. The IOC expects to sell about 1000 KL/year of SERVO lubricants in Sri Lanka.

In Malaysia, the IOC is blending and marketing SERVO lubricants through franchise arrangements. Current sales are approximately 250 KL/annum.

Since SERVO is not known in foreign markets, the IOC is currently trying to seed the market for creating visibility and not high profits.

The IOC has plans for appointing distributors for marketing SERVO lubricants in Dubai and LPG in Bangladesh.

(d) and (e) Within the overall policy of Government of India, Oil Companies have to take commercial decisions with regard to marketing of petroleum products abroad.

#### Progress of Projects in Core Sector

\*78. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:  
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the energy sector has prepared a power packed presentation to evaluate the progress of projects in the core sector and to identify problems that could be resolved to kick-start the economy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any concrete action plan has been worked out to overcome all the hurdles; and

(d) if so, the extent to which it is likely to boost the energy sector to grow during the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) to (d) All ongoing projects are regularly monitored every quarter by the Empowered Committee chaired by Secretary (Power). The Empowered Committee also has representatives from the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The monitoring mechanism has been further strengthened and a new mechanism has been put in place, over and above the Empowered Committee to monitor all ongoing projects envisaged for the 10th Plan and beyond.

Projects under execution could face various problems and some of the major reasons are as follows:

1. Delays in acquisition of land.
2. Rehabilitation and resettlement issues.
3. Geological surprises in case of hydro projects.
4. Delays in award of works and delays by contracting agencies.
5. Damage due to natural calamities.
6. Non-availability of adequate escrow cover.
7. Fuel linkage and other litigation problems etc.

The Working Group on Power for the 10th Five Year Plan has set a target of about 47000 MW to be set up during 10th Plan period. Individual projects which would be commissioned during the next Plan has also been identified. It is expected that with the close monitoring which is being made on all on-going projects, the actual realization would be much better than what has been achieved in the 8th Five Year Plans.

[Translation]

#### Effect on Growth of Indian Economy

\*79 SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:  
SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the shortage of power has been adversely affecting the growth of Indian economy;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to make up the shortage of power?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) to (c) Energy is an essential input for economic development and power shortages may have negative impact on the growth of Indian economy. However, there has been significant growth in the power sector in the past 50 years. The installed generating capacity has increased from about 1350 MW in 1947 to over 1 lakh MW as on 30th September, 2001. Similarly, energy generation in the country almost doubled within a span of last 11 years from 245.4 BU during 1989-90 to 499.45 BU during 2000-01. Though the growth in power sector has been quite impressive it has not kept pace with the growing demand. Energy shortages during the year 2000-01 was of the order of 7.8% and peak deficit 13%. Various State Governments impose restrictions and power cuts on industry and agriculture sector specially during peak hours. In spite of these constraints Indian Economy as whole has generally shown positive growth rate. The annual average rate of growth of GDP during the first four years of the Ninth Plan (1997-2001) was 5.7% as against the Plan target of 6.5%. During the same period the annualized average growth in electricity generation was 6.0%.

In order to make good the shortfall in power supply, Government has taken the following major initiatives :

- (i) Renovation and modernization (R&M) and life extension of existing, old and inefficient generating units. Special funds under the Accelerated Power Development Programme for undertaking R&M schemes are being provided to States.
- (ii) Speedy implementation of reform and restructuring in the power sector.
- (iii) Strengthening/augmentation of sub-transmission and distribution systems through funds from APDP to the States.
- (iv) Promoting energy efficiency and conservation measures.
- (v) Maximizing the inter-state and inter-regional power transfer by construction of missing transmission links and system improvement and finally development of the National Grid.

- (vi) Early stabilization of newly commissioned units and overall increase in plant load factor of thermal units.
- (vii) Expeditious implementation of capacity addition programme to enable doubling of the existing generation capacity by 2012.
- (viii) Formulation of a hydel policy for exploitation of hydro potential in the country at a faster pace.

[English]

#### Investments in Petroleum Companies

\*80. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to relax the existing norms for investment in petroleum companies; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) No Sir. Only in the case of disinvestment in IBP Co. Ltd., it has been decided that within the overall time frame of ten years for making investment of Rs. 2,000 crore in Hydrocarbon Sector other than in retail outlets, financial closure should be achieved within five years and the project/projects implemented in all respects within ten years.

[English]

#### Maritime Resources

691. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether our maritime resources and area of responsibility has increased manifold;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Indian Navy has a vital responsibility to patrolling our territories against poachers, intruders and illegal sellers so as to secure environment around Andaman group of Islands; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

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

(b) The Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) covers an area of 2.02 million Square Kilometres with sovereign right to explore, exploit, conserve and manage natural resources. With the de-liaison of the continental shelf as per United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the EEZ of India is expected to increase further by about another 1 million Square Kilometres.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Indian Navy and Coast Guard jointly carry out the patrolling of the area around Andaman & Nicobar (A&N) Islands for surveillance and apprehension of poachers and intruders. Recently, an A&N Command comprising Navy, Air Force, Army and Coast Guard has been created for effective coordination and combat action.

#### Fire Incidents at CNG Filling Stations

692. SHRI P. MOHAN :  
SHRI SUNIL KHAN :

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

- (a) whether there is a spur in the incidents of fire at CNG filling stations in the capital;
- (b) if so, the number of cases reported during the last six months;
- (c) whether the spare parts of the CNG compressor are imported with the result that compressor remains difunctional for at least 15 days and the supply of gas is also affected; and
- (d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to make the availability of spare parts in the country on demand?

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) Two cases have been reported during the past 6 months one on 21.08.2001 and the other on 14.10.2001.

(c) The spare parts of imported equipments are procured along with the package as well as imported for subsequent use in the equipment. The procurement is made in advance to attend to the schedule and break down maintenance of the machines so that the machine is put back to operation in the shortest possible time and the CNG supply is not affected for longer duration.

(d) Spare parts of CNG compressors need to be procured only from the country of origin for reliable operation.

#### Formation of Panel of Chiefs of Oil PSUs

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

(a) whether the Government has asked the top three state owned oil companies to explore the possibilities for the formation of a panel of their Chief on the lines of Joint Chief of Staff Committee for the Services to avoid turf war;

(b) if so, the details thereof and main idea behind formation of such a panel;

(c) whether any consultation has been held between chiefs of three oil companies;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) whether this step is likely to bring down the tussle between the oil companies in regard to import of petroleum products and laying of gas pipeline; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the time by which such panel is likely to be formed?

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

(f) Does not arise.

#### Doordarshan Channels in Regional Languages

694. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have yet to start Doordarshan Channels in some of the regional languages in the Country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which those channels are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) Regional channels are launched by Doordarshan in region specific languages with a view to meeting the aspirations and requirements of those regions subject to availability of resources. These mainly cater to the major language of the region. The details of the Channels of Doordarshan and their languages are as follows :

| Channel | Language   | Date of launch |
|---------|------------|----------------|
| 1       | 2          | 3              |
| DD-4    | Malyalam   | 15.8.94        |
| DD-5    | Tamil      | 18.10.93       |
| DD-6    | Oriya      | 15.8.94        |
| DD-7    | Bengali    | 15.8.94        |
| DD-8    | Telugu     | 15.8.94        |
| DD-9    | Kannada    | 15.8.94        |
| DD-10   | Marathi    | 15.8.94        |
| DD-11   | Gujarati   | 15.8.94        |
| DD-12   | Kashmiri   | 15.8.94        |
| DD-13   | North East | 15.8.94        |
| DD-18   | Punjabi    | 6.8.98         |

#### Proposal for Revival of Silent Valley Project of Kerala

695. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal has been received to revive the Silent Valley Hydro-electric project in Kerala;

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

(c) the time by which a decision is likely to be taken to revive the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) No fresh proposal for the Silent Valley Project has been submitted to the Government of India.

**Manufacture of LPG Cylinders  
by IOCL and BPCL**

696. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation Limited and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited had invited tenders for the manufacture of LPG cylinders from amongst its approved manufacturers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of manufacturers approved by the IOCL and BPCL for the manufacture of LPG cylinders and the number out of them were given the work to manufacture the cylinders awarded giving reasons for leaving the balanced manufacturers; and

(d) the action, the Government propose to take to eradicate corruption in the said companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) Indian Oil Corporation Limited and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited had floated tenders separately for procurement of cylinders on two-part bid system (Technical & Price Bid). The placement of orders on the tenderers depends upon their qualification as per terms & conditions of the tender. At present, the matter is sub-judice in view of the various Writ Petitions filed by the tenderers in the various High Courts. However, IOCL & BPCL have placed the cylinder orders on some eligible tenderers as per procedure approved by Hon'ble Delhi High Court vide its interim order of dated 24.8.2001.

**Failure of Two Units of NTPC  
at Ramagundam**

697. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether two units of NTPC at Ramagundam tripped off on October 17, 2001;

(b) if so, the reasons for the failure; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Government to avoid such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) Two units (No. 6 and 4) of 500 MW each at Ramagundam STPS to NTPC tripped on 16th October and 17th October, 2001, respectively due to Water Wall Tube leakages, which are normal happenings and such failures are attended to promptly. Unit No. 6, which tripped on 16th October, 2001, was synchronized after attending to the leakage on 17.10.2001 while Unit No. 4 was taken out for annual boiler overhaul by NTPC.

**Purchase of Helicopter Rings**

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

(a) whether the Government had procured 820 helicopter rings during 1992-96;

(b) if so, the total value thereof;

(c) whether these rings are still lying unused; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken against those responsible for such an avoidable procurement?

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

(b) Total value of the Rings procured was Rs. 1.70 crores.

(c) Presently, some of the Rings are held in stock, which will be consumed during the course of normal overhaul.

(d) These Rings are required for use on Mi-8 / Mi-17 helicopters and they will be consumed over the next few years.

**Installation of New Projects**

699. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of proposals reviewed by the Government from various States for the installation of new projects/expansion of capacity etc. during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;

(b) the steps taken to implement those projects; and

(c) the details of the estimated cost, capacity and expected time of the commercial production of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) The details of projects which have been accorded Techno-

economic Clearance (TEC) by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 (upto 31.10.2001) along with project cost, capacity and expected date of commissioning are given in the statement enclosed. The CEA and Ministry of Power are continuously monitoring the projects after the accord of TEC so as to achieve their timely completion.

#### Statement

| Sl. No.                                 | Name of Schemes/State                  | Installed Capacity (MW) | Estimated Cost (Rs. in crore)   | Date of CEA clearance | Actual/Expected date of commissioning |
|---|--|-------------------------|---|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1                                       | 2                                      | 3                       | 4   | 5                     | 6                                     |
| <i>Schemes Cleared during 1999-2000</i> |  |                         |   |                       |                                       |
| <b>Hydro</b>                            |  |                         |   |                       |                                       |
| 1.                                      | Myntdu (Leishke) St. I HEP (Meghalaya) | 2x42                    | Rs. 363.1 Cr.   | 20.9.99               | 10/2006                               |
| 2.                                      | Larji HEP (H.P.)                       | 3x42                    | Rs. 396.98 Cr.  | 14.1.2000             | 3/2004, 5/2004, 7/2004                |
| 3.                                      | Maneri Bhali HEP St. II (U.P.)         | 4x76                    | Rs. 1249.18 Cr.   | 21.2.2000             | 1/2004, 2/2004, 3/2004 and 4/2004     |
| <b>Thermal</b>                          |  |                         |   |                       |                                       |
| 1.                                      | Gouripore TPP (W.B.)                   | 1x50                    | US\$ 2807M +<br>Rs. 548.566 Cr.   | 19.4.99               | Schemes stands dropped                |
| 2.                                      | Ramagundam TPP (A.P.)                  | 1x500                   | US\$ 185.020 M +<br>Rs. 1284.265 Cr.  | 29.4.99               | 8/2005                                |
| 3.                                      | Daburi TPP (Orissa)                    | 2x250                   | US\$ 313.596 M +<br>Rs. 952.83 Cr.  | 29.4.99               | Financial closure is awaited          |
| 4.                                      | Nagarjuna TPP (Karnataka)              | 2x507.5                 | US\$ 273.795 M+GBP<br>277.400 M + F.fr. 907.190<br>M + Rs. 1792.685 Cr.     | 29.4.99               | Financial closure is awaited          |
| 5.                                      | Jamnagar Pet Coke-based TPP (Gujarat)  | 2cx250                  | US\$ 434.36 M =<br>Rs. 726.429 Cr.  | 24.5.99               | Financial closure is awaited          |
| 6.                                      | Parli TPS Extn. St.-I (Maharashtra)    | 1x250                   | Rs. 1053.90 Cr.   | 9.7.99                | 2/2005                                |
| 7.                                      | Karaikal CCGT (Pondicherry)            | 32.5                    | Rs. 131.29 Cr.  | 12.7.99               | GT-3/99 (A)<br>St-10/99 (A)           |
| 8.                                      | Suratgarh TPS St. II (Rajasthan)       | 2x250                   | Rs. 2057.62 Cr.   | 9.7.99                | 29/10/01 (A) 3/2002                   |
| 9.                                      | Cuddalore TOP (Tamil Nadu)             | 2x660                   | US\$ 488.193 M +<br>GBP 203.922 M + Fr.<br>1258.811 M +<br>Rs. 2036.501 Cr. | 13.8.99               | Financial closure is awaited          |

| 1                                       | 2  | 3      | 4  | 5         | 6                                      |
|---|--|--------|--|-----------|--|
| 10.                                     | Mathania Integrated Solar Combined Cycle Power Station (Rajasthan) | 140    | US\$ 50.6 M +<br>Rs. 659.34 Cr.                          | 27.8.99   | Financial closure is awaited           |
| 11.                                     | Akrimota TPP (Gujarat)   | 2x125  | US\$ 47.914 M +<br>Rs. DM 47.929 M +<br>Rs. 1022.158 Cr. | 6.9.99    | Financial closure is awaited           |
| 12.                                     | Kaniminke CCPP (Karnataka)   | 107.6  | US\$ 56.77 M +<br>Rs. 152.969 Cr.                        | 20.9.99   | Financial closure is awaited           |
| 13.                                     | Vember CCPP (Tamil Nadu)   | 1873   | US\$ 694.94 M +<br>Rs. 2106.67 Cr.                       | 24.9.99   | Financial closure is awaited           |
| 14.                                     | Rihand STPS St. II (U.P.)  | 2x500  | US\$ 433.91 M +<br>Rs. 4049.49 Cr.                       | 1.10.99   | 8/2005<br>5/2006                       |
| 15.                                     | Sipat STPP-I (M.P.)  | 3x660  | US\$ 991.921 M +<br>Rs. 4797.168 Cr.                     | 17.1.2000 | Investment approval by NTPC is awaited |
| 16.                                     | Pragati CCGT (Delhi)   | 330    | US\$ 59.888 M +<br>Rs. 819.30 Cr.                        | 10.2.2000 | 1/2002<br>3/2002<br>11/2002            |
| 17.                                     | Kannur CCGT (Kerala)   | 513    | US\$ 210.010 M +<br>Rs. 587.971 Cr.                      | 16.2.2000 | Financial closure is awaited           |
| <i>Schemes Cleared during 2000-2001</i> |  |        |  |           |  |
| <b>Hydro</b>                            |  |        |  |           |  |
| 1.                                      | Srinagar HEP (U.P.)  | 4x82.5 | US\$ 95.054 M +<br>Rs. 1299.89 Cr.                       | 14.6.2000 | 2005-2006                              |
| 2.                                      | Bairabi Dam HEP (Mizoram)  | 2x40   | Rs. 549.43 Cr.   | 9.11.2000 | 2007-2008                              |
| 3.                                      | Parbati HEP St.II (H.P.)   | 4x200  | US\$ 11.774 M+<br>Rs. 4424.671 Cr.                       | 3.1.2001  | 2008-2009                              |
| 4.                                      | Balimela HEP Extn. U-7&8   | 2x75   | US\$ 27.127 M+<br>Rs. 84.80 Cr.                          | 5.1.2001  | 1/2004<br>3/2004                       |
| <b>Thermal</b>                          |  |        |  |           |  |
| 1.                                      | Guru Hargobind TPP St. II (Punjab)                                 | 2x250  | Rs. 1789.666 Cr.   | 15.9.2000 | Financial closure is awaited           |
| 2.                                      | Hazira CCPP (Gujarat)  | 156    | US\$ 3.60 M+<br>CHF 73.480 M+<br>Rs. 310.051 Cr.         | 22.9.2000 | Status awaited.                        |
| 3.                                      | Raichur TPP – U-7 (Karnataka)                                      | 1x210  | Rs. 613 Cr.  | 31.1.2001 | 1/2003                                 |
| 4.                                      | Ramgarh CCGT St. II (Rajasthan)                                    | 75.325 | Rs. 300.10 Cr.   | 16.2.2001 | 11/2002<br>5/2003                      |
| 5.                                      | Kovilkallappal CCPP (T.N.)   | 107.88 | US\$ 20.860 M+<br>Rs. 199,290 Cr.                        | 28.2.2001 | GT-5/2/2001 (A)<br>ST-30/3/2001 (A)    |

| 1                                       | 2                                    | 3       | 4                                    | 5          | 6                               |
|---|--------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>Schemes Cleared during 2001-2002</i> |                                      |         |                                      |            |                                 |
| <b>Hydro</b>                            |                                      |         |                                      |            |                                 |
| 1.                                      | Dhamwari Sunda HEP (H.P.)            | 2x35    | US\$ 10.91 M+<br>Rs. 393.04 Cr.      | 6.7.2001   | 9/2006<br>10/2006               |
| <b>Thermal</b>                          |                                      |         |                                      |            |                                 |
| 1.                                      | Suratgarh TPS St. III<br>(Rajasthan) | 1x250   | Rs. 752.738 Cr.                      | 27.7.2001  | 11/2003                         |
| 2.                                      | Barh STPS (Bihar)                    | 3x660   | US\$ 1070.387 M+<br>Rs. 4115.632 Cr. | 28.9.2001  | Investment decision<br>awaited. |
| 3.                                      | Dhuvaran CCGT (Gujarat)              | 106.617 | US\$ 15.728 M+<br>Rs. 236.139 Cr.    | 30.10.2001 | Financial closure<br>is awaited |

### Linking of Jajpur by Rail

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

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to connect Jajpur town in Orissa by rail;

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

(c) the steps taken to expedite the construction work on the said proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

### Dabhol Power Project Transfer Notice to MSEB

701. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Dabhol Power Project (DPP) has served asset transfer notice to Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is going to be final termination of power purchase agreement as a result of the notice; and

(d) if so, the role, the Union Government is contemplating to play?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Dabhol Power Company (DPC) has served a Transfer Notice on 5th November, 2001 to the Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) in accordance with paragraph 2.2(a) of Schedule 11 of the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) in which they have stipulated that the Operating Assets to be transferred to MSEB in accordance with Schedule 11 of the PPA will include the LNG facility. It has also been mentioned in the Notice by DPC that they reserve their rights to serve on MSEB additional Transfer Notices in accordance with the relevant provisions of the PPA. Earlier, on 19th May, 2001, DPC had served Preliminary Termination Notice on the MSEB.

(c) The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has filed Notice of Motion in the Mumbai High Court against DPC on which the High Court has given the ruling that DPC is restrained from taking any action in furtherance of the Preliminary Termination Notice.

(d) The Government of India (GOI) is not a signatory to the PPA, which has been signed between DPC and MSEB. However, GOI have agreed to facilitate an amicable solution to the various issues presently surrounding the Dabhol Power Project.

### Conference Organised by FICCI and PGC

702. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Conference on Distribution Reforms held recently by FICCI and Power Grid Corporation;

- (b) if so, the points discussed therein; and  
 (c) the decision taken in the Conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) A two days conference on "Distribution Reforms" was organized by the Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd., (POWERGRID) an Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) under aegis of Ministry of Power on 12-13 October, 2001 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

(b) Conference discussed important issues pertaining to distribution such as Technical, regulatory, financial, legal, privatization and investment opportunities.

(c) In the Conference, inter-alia, following recommendations/suggestions were made :-

- (i) Each distribution feeder to be converted into profit centre.
- (ii) Each distribution circle to be targeted for development.
- (iii) Sub-transmission system to be upgraded and strengthened.
- (iv) Metering, billing and collection to be completed for every consumers.
- (v) Detailed energy accounting and audit to be carried out to segregate technical and commercial losses.
- (vi) Transition support to be provided to the reforming utilities.
- (vii) Regulators to be made part of the reform process through multi-year tariff framework; and
- (viii) Modern techniques like SCADA (Supervising, Control and Data Acquisition System) and GIS (Geographic Information System) be made use of for efficient management system.

#### Refinery Capacity

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

(a) whether there is excess refining capacity in the country;

- (b) if so, the reasons for this excess capacity;  
 (c) whether huge sums of capital are now locked in unproductive investments in the refinery sector;  
 (d) the manner in which the Government propose to reduce such liabilities;  
 (e) the reasons for having invested thousands of crores in new refineries by the public sector oil companies in the absence of market;  
 (f) whether any enquiry has been ordered into such investments; and  
 (g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Presently, the oil refining capacity in the country is marginally higher than the demand of petroleum products. Some quantities of products like petrol, diesel etc. are being exported, while liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) is being imported.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) At the time of preparation of Five Year Plans, future supply – demand position of petroleum products is assessed. Public sector companies plan their investments considering, inter-alia, the projected demand scenario prepared by the Planning Commission, projected GDP growth rate(s) and other relevant factors. Further, the investment decisions are reviewed from time to time considering the changed scenario.

(f) and (g) Does not arise in view of (e) above.

#### Charging of Cheque/DD Collection by PSU

704. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the reply give to Unstarred question No. 5838 on April 26, 2001 and state :

(a) whether all marketing margins and cost of RPO dealers and Oil Corporations are fixed and approved by the Government for marketing the product covered under Administered Pricing Mechanism;

(b) if so, whether the Oil Corporations can charge extra cheque/DD collection charges on such products without Government's permission;

(c) if so, whether the RPO dalers can also charge actual DD charges borne by them from the customers based on same principle;

(d) if so, whether the Oil Corporations specially IOCL is recovering extra cheque collection charges on the value of the out-stationed cheque against the approved charges of Rs. 37 PKL and Rs. 15 PKL on MS and HSD; and

(e) if so, the time by which this irregularity is likely to be stopped?

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) Marketing margins and dealers' commission in respect of controlled products are fixed by the Government.

(b) to (e) The dealers are reimbursed demand draft/ pay order/banker cheque charges on normative basis at the rates approved by the Government. The outstation cheque facility is an additional facility extended to the dealers by the oil companies. The IOC has informed that since they are required to pay bank charges to the bankers on outstation cheques so received from the dealers and deposited by them, such charges in turn are received by them from the dealers.

#### RPO Dealers Commission

706. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the delay in finalising the recommended RPO dealers commission is because of the intervention and initiative of the private refineries/ entrepreneur to get advantage of situation of RPO dealers resentment arising out of the present unprofitable dealer's commission;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to conduct enquiry to disclose the involvement of officers in this regard;

(c) if so, whether the delay is also to penalise the President, FAIPT for giving the call of No Purchase No Sale Campaign; 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) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of the reply to (a) above.

[Translation]

#### Laying of Railway Line Abroad

707. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Railways also undertake the work relating to laying of rail lines etc. abroad;

(b) if so, the details of the work done by railways abroad;

(c) the income earned by the Indian Railways therefrom during the last three years; and

(d) the works, the Indian Railways going to execute abroad during the ensuing years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

#### Surprise Check on the 'Palace on Wheels'

708. SHRI K. BALRAM KRISHNAMURTHY :  
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :  
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :  
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :  
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :  
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :  
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :  
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :  
SHRI C.N. SINGH :  
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBHA MANDLIK  
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :  
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :  
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :  
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI  
DR. ASHOK PATEL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether CBI conducted a surprise check on the prestigious luxury train 'Palace on Wheel' in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the number of passengers who were found to be without tickets and the number of those who had valid tickets;

(c) the number of passengers who were related to the employees of Railway and of those who were guests of Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation; and

(d) the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. A surprise check was conducted on Palace on Wheels on 08/09/2001 by a team of Central Bureau of Investigation officers of Jodhpur Branch.

(b) As reported by Central Bureau of Investigation, 79 passengers were found to be travelling without authority and 38 passengers had valid tickets.

(c) One Railway official with his wife travelled on Complimentary basis. As reported by Central Bureau of Investigation. 67 passengers were invited by Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation, whereas on board figure is more than 67. This is, however, under verification from Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation by Central Bureau of Investigation.

(d) A regular case has been registered by Central Bureau of Investigation on 14.9.2001 and the same is under active investigation by them.

#### Representation of SCs and STs in Class-I Services

709. SHRI RAMESH C. JIGAJINAGI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the representation of SCs and STs in Class I (Group A) Services stood only at 13.59% (SCs-10.38% and STs-3.21%) and in Class II (Group B) Services only at 14.41% (SCs-11.73% and STs-2.68%) as against 22.5% quota prescribed for them (15% for SCs and 7.5% in respect of STs) as on January 1, 1998 under Central Government;

(b) if so, the total number of 'posts' in Class I (Group A) Category and Class II (Group B) Category and equivalents thereof; and

(c) the persons belonging to General, SC, ST and OBC categories working against them including their respective percentage to such posts as ascertained in view of instructions as contained under para 5 of DOPT OM No. 36012/2/96-Estt(Res) dated July, 2, 1997?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) No, Sir. However, the representation of Scheduled Castes(SCs) and Scheduled Tribes(STs) in Group 'A' and Group 'B' services for the year 1997-1998 (ending 31st March 1998) is as under:-

| Group | SC     | ST    |
|-------|--------|-------|
| 'A'   | 14.61% | 5.76% |
| 'B'   | 15.44% | 5.19% |

(b) and (c) Total railway employees (including MTP Rlys.) in Group 'A' and Group 'B' services and SCs, STs and others (including OBCs) amongst them as on 31.3.1998 are as under:-

| Group | Total employees | SC       | ST      | Others (including OBCs) |
|-------|-----------------|----------|---------|-------------------------|
| 'A'   | 7835            | 1145     | 451     | 6239                    |
|       |                 | (14.61%) | (5.76%) | (79.63%)                |
| 'B'   | 6450            | 996      | 335     | 5119                    |
|       |                 | (15.44%) | (5.19%) | (79.36%)                |

The representation of SCs in Gr. 'A' is slightly less than the prescribed (15%) which is mainly due to candidates not responding to offer of appointment in Indian Railway Medical Services. The prescribed percentage of representation of STs both in Gr. 'A' and 'B' services could not be achieved due to non-availability of eligible candidates.

#### Backlog/Carried Forward Vacancies of SCs/STs/OBCs

710. SARDAR BUTA SINGH : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :-

(a) whether backlog/carried forward vacancies reserved for SCs, STs and OBCs are required to be treated

as a separate and distinct group as provided under Article 16(4)B of the Constitution to overcome 50% ceiling limit on vacancies to be reserved in an year.

(b) if so, the backlog/carried forward vacancies ascertained as per para 5 of the DOPT OM No. 36012/2/96-Estt.(Res) dated 2nd July, 1997 in respect of SCs, STs and OBCs in Group A, B, C and D categories of services as on 29th August, 1997 in the Ministry of Culture when Special Recruitment Drive etc. Meant for filling such vacancies were stopped;

(c) the details of carried forward vacancies filled during each of the last four years and those which remain unfilled; and

(d) the fresh vacancies/posts accrued to reserved classes in all categories of posts during the last four years as per post based rosters?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Petrol Pumps in Operation After Expiry of Lease Agreement**

711. SHRI RAMACHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of petrol pumps which are running after the expiry of land lease agreement by the IOCL, BPCL and HPCL in the country, State-wise;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to handover the property to the land owners after expiry of lease agreement;

(c) whether any land owner approached the Government to handover their properties after expiry of their lease; and

(d) if so, 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) There are about 645 retail outlets in operation after the expiry of lease agreements in the country.

(b) After the expiry of the land lease agreement, matter is taken up with the land owning agencies/owners for renewal of lease/outright purchase. In cases where the land owners want eviction, the oil company examine each case and take necessary action for exercising the legal right as tenants wherever necessary. In these cases, necessary legal recourse is sought.

(c) and (d) Whenever requests in this regard are received from land owners, they are forwarded to the concerned Oil Marketing Companies for taking appropriate action as per their policy.

#### **LPG Bottling Plants in Tamil Nadu**

712. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of LPG bottling plants set up in Tamil Nadu during the last three years;

(b) whether it is proposed to set up a LPG bottling plant at Namakkal in Tamil Nadu;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if so, 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) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have set up seven LPG Bottling Plants in Tamil Nadu during the last three years.

(b) to (d) At present there is no plan to set up LPG Bottling Plant at Namakkal in Tamil Nadu as the present demand of the area is being met in full through existing Bottling Plants at Salem and Erode.

[Translation]

#### **Hike in Price of Petroleum Products**

713. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN :  
SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL :  
YOGI ADITYA NATH :

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

(a) whether the Government have recently increased the prices of petroleum products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for hike in prices of petroleum products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) The Government have not increased the basic ex-storage point prices of petroleum products recently. However, the retail selling prices of petrol, diesel and domestic LPG have gone up with effect from the midnight of 9th/10th November, 2001 primarily due to the increase in dealers'/ distributors' commission. The dealers' commission on petrol and diesel was increased by Rs. 135/KL and Rs. 88/KL respectively. The distributors' commission on LPG (domestic) was increased by Rs. 1.02/cylinder.

[English]

#### **Extension of Trains beyond Haridwar upto Rishikesh**

714. SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to extend trains beyond Haridwar i.e. upto Rishikesh, keeping in view the importance of Rishikesh;

(b) if so, the number of trains to be extended; and

(c) the time by which this service is likely to become available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **Wind Power Projects in Orissa**

715. SHRI ANADI SAHU : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union-Government has cleared any wind power projects for Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any private wind power project in Orissa;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government has sanctioned funds to such projects; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) No wind power project has so far been installed by the private sector in Orissa.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Exchange Counter**

716. SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a foreign exchange counter at New Delhi Railways Station was opened;

(b) if so, whether it is found useful to the passenger; and

(c) if so, the names of other railway stations on which these counters are proposed to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) At present, there is no such proposal under consideration.

#### **Application of DOP and T Guidelines on Deputation**

717. SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the guidelines of Department of Personnel and Training for deputation of Government servant only on analogous post applies mutatis-mutandis to Railway employees also; and

(b) if so, the reasons for violating these mandatory guidelines while sending railway employees on deputation to PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### World Heritage Status to Monuments

718. SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 2843 dated August 09, 2001 regarding World Heritage Monuments and state :

(a) whether the Government have received revised guidelines issued by UNESCO regarding nominations for World Heritage sites;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the monuments proposed and submitted to the UNESCO for their inclusion as World Heritage sites, location-wise;

(d) the criteria adopted in this regard;

(e) the progress made by the Government for their inclusion in the World Heritage List so far;

(f) the names of the monuments likely to be deleted from the list of World Heritage as per new guidelines issued by UNESCO; and

(g) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The gist of UNESCO's revised guidelines are given in the statement.

(c) The following monuments/sites are being proposed for nomination to the World Heritage list :-

(i) Harappan site, Dholavira, Distt. Kutch, Gujarat.

(ii) Prehistoric painted rock shelters at Bhimbetka, Distt. Raisen, Madhya Pradesh.

(iii) Ranthambhore Fort, Distt. Sawai Madhopur (Rajasthan).

(d) The proposed sites fall in the hitherto un-represented category.

(e) As per the UNESCO's revised schedule in this regard, the nomination process will commence in Feb., 2002 and conclude in 2003.

(f) The new guidelines do not propose detention of any enlisted World Heritage site.

(g) Does not arise.

#### Statement

##### *Gist of UNESCO's Revised Guidelines*

According to the revised guidelines of UNESCO's World Heritage Committee, henceforth nominations of unrepresented or less represented categories of natural and cultural properties would be given priority. From now onwards, each member country will be permitted to submit only one nomination per year, except those countries who have no site enlisted so far. New categories such as sacred sites, industrial heritage, modern architecture, cluster nominations and maritime ports have been recognized for nominating to the World Heritage List. The nomination will be examined on regional, chronological, geographical and thematic basis.

[Translation]

#### Construction of Road Under Bridge at Satna

719. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress of the construction of Railway Under Bridge at Satna in Jabalpur Railway Zone;

(b) the time by which the works would be completed; and

(c) the total amount is likely to be spent on the construction of this under bridge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) Work in railway portion (under tracks) by Railways as well as in approaches by the State Government is in progress. The physical progress of works is 47%.

(b) The work is expected to be completed during current financial year subject to State Government fulfilling its financial commitments.

(c) Sanctioned cost of work is Rs. 434.41 lakhs with Railway's share Rs. 120.80 lakh.

#### **Pipeline Gas Through Chakan-Ranjangaon Industrial Area, Maharashtra**

720. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey especially to supply the gas through pipelines to the Chakan-Ranjangaon-Supa-Ahmednagar industrial area in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether the results of the survey are encouraging;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to allocate funds in the current year to start the work of supply of gas through pipelines at the said places; 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) No, Sir. However, Gas Authority of India Limited, under the aegis of the Gas Cooperation Agreement signed with the Government of Maharashtra, has carried out survey to assess the long/medium term gas demand in the Chakan-Ranjangaon-Supa-Ahmednagar industrial area.

(b) No, Sir.

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

#### **Merger of Oil Companies**

721. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI :  
SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA :  
SHRI RAMESHWAR DUDI :  
SHRI BHERULAL MEENA :  
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT :  
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

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

(a) whether the Government are actively contemplating for grand merger of IOCL, ONGC and GAIL;

(b) if so, the percentage of Government's stake after merger;

(c) whether these companies after merging would remain public sector companies; 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) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### **Introduction of Bullet Trains**

722. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY :  
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :  
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce Bullet trains very soon in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the maximum speed of Bullet trains;

(d) the names of stations between which these trains are proposed to be introduced;

(e) the expenditure likely to be incurred on this project; and

(f) the time by which the Bullet trains are proposed to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

[English]

#### 6th Unit of Farakka

723. SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction work of 6th Unit of 500 MW power NTPC Farakka has not been taken up so far;

(b) if so, whether any proposal in this regard is being contemplated by the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) Investment approval for 6th unit of 500 MW (i.e. 1x500 MW under stage-III of Farakka Super Thermal Power Project) was accorded by Government in Septemeber, 1989. The implementation of the project was, however, not taken up mainly as a result of lack of demand for power in Eastern Region due to inadequate load growth and weak sub-transmission and distribution system. The project was subsequently examined for implementation with provision for export of power to other regions. The implementation however, could not be taken up as availability of water became uncertain after the implementation of Indo-Bangladesh treaty of December, 1996 on sharing of Ganga water from Farakka barrage.

#### Running of Trains on Hospet-Kottur Track

724. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Hospet-Kottur track was converted into broad gauge in 1996;

(b) if so, the expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) the reasons for not running trains on this track; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to run trains on this track immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The work forms a part of Hospet-Hubli-Goa gauge conversion project. The expenditure for part of the project is not maintained separately.

(c) and (d) No trains (passenger and goods) are running on Kotturu-Gunda Road section due to lack of demand, while only goods trains are running on Hospet-Gunda Road section.

#### Rakesh Mohan Committee Report

725. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :

MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN :

SHRI RAJO SINGH :

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN :

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have received the Rakesh Mohan Committee Report on restructuring of Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the railways have constituted a committee to examine the said Committee Report;

- (d) if so, whether the said Committee has submitted its report to the railways;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the railways had organised any workshop to find out the best interest of Railways;
- (g) if so, the details thereof; and
- (h) the details of the recommendations accepted by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) to (h) The Railways Expert Group headed by Dr. Rakesh Mohan has submitted its report on 7.8.2001. The Report contained the following Major Recommendations:-

1. Institutional separation of roles into policy, regulatory and management functions. This will mean:
  - (i) Policy makers are limited for setting policy (and paying for what they ask for). The Government of India will be in charge of setting policy direction.
  - (ii) Provide operational autonomy and insulate Indian Railways by corporatising it into "India Railways Corporation" (IRC). It would be governed by a reconstituted Indian Railways Executive Board.
  - (iii) Set up an Indian Rail Regulatory Authority to regulate IRC's activities as a monopoly supplier of rail services particularly related to tariff setting.
2. Ex ante acceptance and commitment by the Government and Indian Railways that Indian Railways will operate on commercial lines are the necessary conditions for the reorganisation to be successful exercise. Non-commercial activities mandated by the government will be clearly demonstrated and Indian Railways appropriately compensated for such activities.

3. In view of financial crisis Indian Railways to pursue the strategic High Growth pattern for financial recovery.
4. Exemption from taxation - excise, sales tax etc. for the period of transition, say 5-7 years.
5. Set up a Social Safety net to take care of surplus labour.
6. Restructuring of financial accounts of Indian Railways in accordance with the Company's Act, 1956.
7. Spinning off non-core activities.
8. Rebalancing of tariff to eliminate cross subsidisation.

A Committee of senior officers of Railways Board has been constituted to study various recommendations made in the Report. The Committee is expected to submit its Report soon. Further action will be initiated on receipt of the report of this Committee.

A Seminar was organised at Railway Staff College, Vadodara, on 15th and 16th September, 2001 to initiate debate and discussion on the recommendations of the Report. Participants in the Seminar included Minister for Railways, Shri Nitish Kumar, Minister of State for Railways, Shri. O. Rajagopal, Chairman and Members of the Railway Board, senior and middle managers of Railways, members of the Railway Expert Group, representatives of the Officers' and Staff's Associations and Federations and some retired Members of the Railway Board. Presentations were made by the Members of the Expert Group on each chapter of the Report. Free and frank discussions were held on the Report by providing an opportunity to all the participants to air their views. Members of the Press and Media were also present.

#### Sponsorship for Metro Channel Programme

726. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

- (a) whether response to the recent proposal of Doordarshan to seek sponsorship for its Metro Channel programme has been very lukewarm;

(b) if so, the reason therefor;

(c) the sponsorship fee earned for the prime time slots during each of the last three years; and

(d) the steps proposed to overcome the situation including generation of in-house programmes?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Prasar Bharati has intimated that for slots on prime time, on Metro Channel, Doordarshan has received 34 proposals.

(b) As per information furnished by Prasar Bharati, the sponsorship fee earned from prime time slots on Metro Channel, during the last three years is as under :

| Year      | Amount<br>(Rs. in Crore) |
|-----------|--------------------------|
| 1998-1999 | 68.51                    |
| 1999-2000 | 23.69                    |
| 2000-2001 | 72.67                    |

(d) The programmes on prime time have good viewership response in terms of ratings. The channel is being repositioned as a pure entertainment channel.

#### Oil Refinery at Bina, Madhya Pradesh

727. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have accorded approval for the establishment of an Oil Refinery at Bina in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the project;

(c) whether the project has been included as a Fast Track Project;

(d) if so, whether the said Refinery is proposed to be commissioned during 2001-02; and

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

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

STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Updated cost of Central India Refinery Project at Bina (Madhya Pradesh) is estimated to be Rs. 7374 crore, at July, 1998 process.

(c) The progress of the project is being reviewed by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on monthly basis, along with the projects costing Rs. 100 crore and above.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The project is expected to be completed within 48 months from the date of commencement of the project execution.

#### Import of Gas from Bangladesh

728. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is going to import Natural Gas from Bangladesh; 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) Any import of Natural Gas from Bangladesh would be dependent upon the decision to that effect by the Bangladesh Government which is not there at present.

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

#### Wind Power Potential

729. SHRI Y.V. RAO : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the wind power potential in the country, State-wise;

(b) the installed capacity thereof;

(c) the capacity of power generated from wind turbines; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to step up the use of wind power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) The gross wind power potential in the country has been estimated at about 45,000 MW. The technical potential which can be tapped is, however, about 13,000 MW. A Statement on the gross/technical potential, State-wise, is attached.

(b) and (c) A total wind power capacity of 1426 MW has so far been installed in the country. The wind turbines have generated over 8 billion units of electricity.

(d) Under the Wind Resource Assessment Programme, 208 potential sites have been identified in 13 States and UTs. A Centre for Wind Energy Technology (C-WET) has been established in Chennai to provide technical support for wind power development. Fiscal and promotional incentives are also being provided, and soft loans are available for commercial projects from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA). In order to promote commercial development, the State Governments have been requested to announce conducive policies for grid connection and sale of electricity generated from wind power projects.

#### Statement

##### Gross and Technical Wind Power Potential

| Sl. No. | State          | Gross Potential (MW) | Technical Potential (MW) |
|---------|----------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1       | 2              | 3                    | 4                        |
| 1.      | Andhra Pradesh | 8275                 | 1550                     |
| 2.      | Gujarat        | 9675                 | 1750                     |
| 3.      | Karnataka      | 6620                 | 1025                     |
| 4.      | Kerala         | 875                  | 605                      |
| 5.      | Madhya Pradesh | 5500                 | 1200                     |
| 6.      | Maharashtra    | 3650                 | 2990                     |
| 7.      | Orissa         | 1700                 | 680                      |

| 1     | 2           | 3     | 4     |
|-------|-------------|-------|-------|
| 8.    | Rajasthan   | 5400  | 885   |
| 9.    | Tamil Nadu  | 3050  | 1700  |
| 10.   | West Bengal | 450   | 450   |
| Total |             | 45195 | 12835 |

#### Distribution of Natural Gas

730. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a dispute among Union Government and State Governments regarding Act for supply and distribution of natural gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to resolve the dispute with State Governments?

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 expressed its concern on the Gujarat Gas (Regulation of Transmission, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2001 enacted by the Government of Gujarat in the matter of supply and distribution of natural gas, which is a Union subject and the Central Government is of the view that the State Government do not have jurisdictional competence.

(c) With regard to the legislative competence of the Union Government and State Government on the subject "Natural Gas/liquefied natural gas (LNG)", a Presidential reference has been made to the Supreme Court under Article 143 of the Constitution for its opinion.

[Translation]

#### Generation of Electricity during Ninth Five Year Plan

731. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :  
SHRI A. NARENDRA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have assessed the annual rate of increase of Power Production Capacity during the Tenth Five Year Plan as compared to Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, whether the rate of annual Power Production during the 9th and 8th Five Year Plans is in commensurate with the increase in population;

(c) whether annual rate of production has declined during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 as compared to preceding years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the target set for increase in the rate of annual production during 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The likely capacity addition during the 9th Plan would be approximately 19,000 MW which amounts to an addition of approximately 3800 MW per year. The feasible capacity addition which has been estimated by the Working Group for the 10th Plan is 46939 MW which would imply an additional of approximately 9388 MW per year.

(b) The capacity addition achieved during the 8th Plan was 16,423 MW which gives an average annual capacity addition of about 3300 MW. As regards units generated during the 8th and 9th Five Year Plan, the relevant figures along with yearly rates of growth are given below:-

#### Details of generation during Eighth Plan

| Year                 | Generation (MU) | % growth over preceding year |
|----------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 1992-1993            | 301066          | -                            |
| 1993-1994            | 323531          | 7.5                          |
| 1994-1995            | 351025          | 8.5                          |
| 1995-1996            | 380084          | 8.3                          |
| 1996-1997            | 394800          | 3.9                          |
| Average for 8th Plan |                 | 6.2                          |

#### Details of generation during Ninth Plan

| Year                                    | Generation (MU) | % growth over preceding year |
|---|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 1997-1998                               | 420622          | -                            |
| 1998-1999                               | 448367          | 6.6                          |
| 1999-2000                               | 480682          | 7.9                          |
| 2000-2001                               | 499548          | 3.9                          |
| 2001-2002                               | 253408          | 3.2*                         |
| Average for initial 4 years of 9th Plan |                 | 4.7                          |

\* Excluded from calculation

There has been an increasing trend in the per capita consumption of electricity in the country. The per capita consumption for the year 1996-97 was 334.26 units whereas the same for the year 1997-98 and 1998-99 was 348.5 units and 360 units, respectively.

(c) to (e) The annual growth rate of generation had declined to 3.9% in 2000-01 from 7.2% during 1999-2000 due to insufficient rainfall.

The target for capacity addition during 2000-01 was 4000 MW. In terms of generation, 500 billion units was the target for the year 2000-01 as against a generation of 480 billion units during 1999-2000.

[English]

#### Discovery of Gas under NELP

732. DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether work has been started for discovery of gas in the 24 blocks awarded under National Exploration Licensing Policy;

(b) if so, whether gas has been discovered in any of the blocks;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to expedite the operation and utilization of gas discovery?

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) Exploration work has started in all the 24 exploration blocks for which the Production Sharing Contracts were signed under First round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Oil Natural Gas has been discovered in three prospects in one exploration block, i.e. KG-DWN-98/2 (Offshore KG basin) offered under first round of NELP. Two of these are oil and gas discoveries while one is a gas discovery. These discoveries will be appraised further for their commerciality. If discoveries are found commercial, development plans will be prepared by the contractor.

#### Shortage of Staff

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

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from Railway Mazdoor Union, Jodhpur Division regarding acute shortage of staff and RPF personnel;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether the security and protection of Railway property is endangered due to shortage of staff and RPF personnel;

(d) whether Railway drivers are forced to work for longer hours without giving rest endangering their life and property;

(e) if so, whether the Government have drawn up any comprehensive plan to fill up vacant posts in Jodhpur Division, especially in RPF and Driver's categories; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

#### Downsizing of I & B Ministry

734. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI :  
SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :

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

(a) whether the Expenditure Reforms Commission has recommended for downsizing of I & B Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have finalized the recommendation of the said Commission for implementation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) The Expenditure Reforms Commission in Part III of its Second Report has recommended rationalising of the functions, activities and structure of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Import of Diesel Locos

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

(a) whether 20 high horse power diesel locomotives were imported at the cost of Rs. 390.01 cr. and the same lacked justification in view of Indian Railways' future transportation strategy and upgradation of WDM2 locomotives;

(b) whether the CAG in their report No. 9 of 1999 (Railways) on pages 137-143 have been dwelt on the matter at great length;

(c) if so, whether the matter has been enquired by the committee of the advisers constituted to analyze its cost; and

(d) if so, the steps, the Government propose to take to ensure that the officials are made answerable

and questionable of all acts of omissions and commissions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) The Free-on-Board (FOB) cost of these locomotives was Rs. 183 crore (approx.) and landed cost was Rs. 309 crore and not Rs. 390.01 crore. Induction of state-of-the-art high horse power diesel locomotives was in keeping with the traffic requirement of the Railways and as envisaged in the Indian Railways Corporate Plan, 1985-2000. The import of high horse power diesel locomotives was justified as total financial, operational and safety benefits arising out of operation of these locomotives cannot be derived by upgrading WDM2 locomotives having the technology of 50s.

(b) CAG in their report mentioned inter-alia that import of locomotives lacked justification. The Action Taken Note on CAG's report has already been submitted indicating that induction of state-of-the-art diesel locomotives was considered keeping in view substantial improvement in availability, reliability, lesser maintenance, increased haulage capability and lower fuel consumption etc. The induction of such locomotives was envisaged in Indian Railways Corporate Plan 1985-2000 and was recommended by many committees such as Special Committee of Planning Commission, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways (1995) etc. Thus import was fully justified.

(c) and (d) There was no Committee of Advisers constituted as it was not required.

#### **Gauge Conversion of Mudkhed – Adilabad Rail Line**

736. SHRI ANANT GUDHE :  
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have received any memorandum from members of Parliament for the completion of Mudkhed - Adilabad new line on priority basis;

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

(c) whether the Government are aware of the fact that Mudkhed - Adilabad gauge conversion project is held up due to HUDCO;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether HUDCO is demanding unnecessary comfort from Indian Railways; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) to (f) Yes Sir. The Work of gauge conversion of Mudkhed-Adilabad section on South Central Railway had been awarded to M/s Shakthi Concrete Industries Ltd. (SCIL), Hyderabad under the Build-Own-Lease Transfer (BOLT) scheme. The work was originally targeted for completion by 30.9.97. As the Agency was experiencing problems in getting its finances tied up, the date was extended to 31.3.99. However, the progress of the work still remained very slow and the Agency could not tie up its finances. M/s SCIL then floated a sister concern viz. M/s Shakthi Infrastructure Investment and Leasing Ltd. (SIILL), as a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) and have assigned them all the contractual rights. The new Agency, M/s SIILL tried to obtain the financing from Housing & Urban Development Corporation Ltd. (HUDCO). However, the same does not seem to be materialising. Further M/s HUDCO have demanded a letter of comfort from the Railways indemnifying HUDCO of any risk which, as per terms of contract cannot be given by Railways.

Further action is being taken in terms of provisions of contract.

#### **Construction of Second Rail Bridge across river Ganga**

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

(a) whether the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs have cleared the constructions of second rail bridge across the river Ganga near Patna;

(b) if so, the amount likely to be incurred thereon; and

(c) the time by which the construction of said bridge is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) About Rs. 650 cr.

(c) Preliminary arrangements like detailed planning, preparation of tender documents, processing of land acquisition has been taken up. The work would be taken up once the land is handed over by the State Government. The completion of the bridge will depend upon availability of resources in the coming year.

#### Natural Gas in Cauvery Basin

738. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated quantity of Natural Gas in the Cauvery Basin and other places in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether there is any proposal to tap the gas for commercial use in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) (a) As on 1.4.2001, the estimated inplace volume of natural gas in the Cauvery onland basin falling in the Tamil Nadu State is 53.12 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM). In the offshore Cauvery basin, the inplace volume of gas as on 1.4.2001 in PY-1 field and CY-OS-90/1 (PY-3 field) which are under Private/Joint Venture operators, is estimated to be 5.91 BCM and 3.09 BCM respectively.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Most of the contribution of gas from the major fields viz. Kovikalappal, Thiruvarur, Narimanam and Pallivaramangalam is already being marketed primarily to a number of industries through Gas Authority of India Ltd.

(GAIL) and also directly by ONGC. Dovetailing with the infrastructure development by GAIL, action has been initiated by ONGC to exploit gas from Ramnad and Kuthalam sectors.

While gas from the PY-1 field is planned to be supplied to prospective consumers, utilization of gas from PY-3 field is not found to be commercially viable due to its availability in small quantity.

#### Defence Production Projects

739. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of defence production projects which have suffered inordinate delay due to imposition of sanctions by the USA following the N-tests of May, 1998;

(b) the steps being taken to complete the same and the revised target dates fixed for their completion; and

(c) the sanctions still remain in force which affect the projects?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Following projects suffered inordinate delays:

(i) **ALH Project** : The engine selected for ALH was from M/s LHTECH, USA but it was not supplied. Subsequent developments necessitated a change in the specifications for which an alternate vendor from another country was selected. The development of this engine is likely to be completed by mid 2005. The same vendor is supplying engines with lesser specifications for alternate use for immediate requirements.

(ii) **Refit work on SSK Submarines** : The refitment work taken by Mazagon Dock Ltd was affected for want of spares/equipment from various suppliers of US origin. Few items are expected to be received in coming months and the target set for completion of the project is August 2002.

(c) Notifications lifting the sanctions have not been issued.

**Expenditure Incurred on  
Officers and Staff**

740. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :  
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the annual expenditure incurred by the Government on the officers and staff of the Zonal Railways during each of the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the Government have examined the question of the utility of the Zonal Railways which are having no work;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps contemplated by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL):

(a) The annual expenditure incurred on the officers and staff of the Railways for the last three years are as under:

| Year    | Expenditure<br>(Rs. in crores) |
|---------|--------------------------------|
| 1997-98 | 14,140.91                      |
| 1998-99 | 15,610.58                      |
| 1999-00 | 16,288.68                      |

(b) to (d) There is no Zonal Railway having no work. Therefore, the question does not arise.

**Conversion of Vehicles into CNG**

741. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN :  
SHRI SAIDUZZAMA :  
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :

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

(a) the number of extension given by the Supreme Court on conversion of vehicles in Delhi into CNG.

(b) the efforts made by the Union Government for meeting the deadline pronounced by the Supreme Court on this issue;

(c) whether the Union Government have failed to fulfil the commitment in this regard;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to mitigate the harassed vehicles owners 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) In all three extensions were granted by the Supreme Court.

(b) Most of the directions of the Supreme Court have been to the Government of NCT of Delhi. The Union Government has constituted Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) to set up CNG stations in Delhi of which 87 have been established so far. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways have notified emission norms for use of CNG vehicles in February 2000.

(c) Yes, Sir. IGL set up 87 CNG outlets only by 30th September 2001 instead of 80 outlets by 31 March 2000 as stipulated by the Court.

(d) the reasons for the delay have been the complex procedural formalities required and the need to import CNG equipment.

(e) To enhance the supply of CNG further, steps taken are as follows :-

- 29 High capacity compressors have been ordered;
- 50 retails outlets have been identified for co-location of CNG facility;
- 23 km long pipeline is being laid to connect Dhaula Kuan to G.T. Karnal Raod to facilitate opening of more CNG stations; and

- All CNG Daughter stations are being progressively upgraded to Daughter Booster and Online stations.

[Translation]

#### Industry Status to Cable TV Network

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

- (a) whether a demand to give industry status to the cable T.V. network has been made to the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) The Ministry of Industry has informed that installations and operation of cable T.V. network has already been recognised as an activity eligible for registration as 'Small Scale Service and Business (Industry Related) Enterprises (SSSBes.)' with investment limit upto Rs. 10 lakh in fixed assets (excluding land and building). This units will be eligible for all the benefits available to Small Scale Industries.

#### Watching of News Channel in Dholpur (Rajasthan)

743. SHRI BAHADUR SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government are aware that people living in Dholpur in Rajasthan, located on the borders of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have to watch news bulletins of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh even though it falls in Rajasthan;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the remedial measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and

(b) Dholpur falls within the coverage zone of High Power TV transmitter (HPT) Agra and HPT Gwalior and, therefore, news bulletins broadcast from HPT Agra and HPT Gwalior are received in Dholpur.

(c) Rajasthan regional service programmes are available in satellite mode throughout the country, including Dholpur.

[English]

#### Posts of SCs/STs

744. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the representation of SCs and STs in Class I (Group A) Services stood only at 13.59% (SCs - 10.38% & STs - 3.21%) and in Class II (Group B) Services only at 14.41% (SCs-11.73% & STs-2.68%) as against 22.5% quota prescribed for them (15% for SCs 7.5% in respect of STs) as on January 1, 1998 under the Union Government:

(b) if so, the total number of 'posts' in Class I (Group A) category and Class II (Group B) category and equivalents thereof under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting; and

(c) the persons belonging to (i) General, (ii) SC, (iii) ST and (iv) OBC categories working against them including their respective percentage to such posts as ascertained in view of instructions as contained under para 5 of DOPT OM No.36012/2/96-Estt.(Res.) dated July 2, 1997?

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

#### Import of Diesel Locomotives

745. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether twenty one 4000 H.P. Diesel Locomotives have been imported by spending Rs. 173.37 crores;

(b) if so, whether there is any decline in the utilization of diesel locos; and

(c) if so, the justification for such import?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. 21 Nos. 4000 H.P. Diesel Electric Freight Locomotives have been imported from M/s General Motors Corporation, USA. 20 Nos. of these locomotives have been received during April 1999 and one loco was received in August 1999. The Free-on-Board (FOB) cost of these locomotives was Rs. 183 crore (approx.).

(b) There has been no decline in the utilisation of Diesel Locomotives. On the other hand, there has been steady increase in utilisation of diesel locomotives, in terms of the traffic carried by diesel locomotives for both freight and passenger.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Closing of Sections/Offices

746. SHRI C.N. SINGH :  
SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any firm steps to close down the Sections/Offices of Railway Board not having any utility and the surplus posts thereon surrendered realizing net direct saving of economy;

(b) if so, the details of such Sections/Offices;

(c) the net realization of saving in this regard; and

(d) if not, the action the Government has initiated to downsize the Sections/Offices and its surplus posts which does not yield any benefit to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### Impact of Economic Slow Down

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

(a) whether the Railways was no exception to the impact of the economic slow down which had been reflected in the loading figures of some zones;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor, and

(d) the steps taken for reducing expenditure in the unproductive areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Economic slow down in the country has affected the originating loading on the Indian Railways also. Zone-wise proportionate target and provisional loading achieved up to Oct., 2001 is given below:

(In Million Tonnes)

| Railway  | Target | Loading (Provisional) |
|----------|--------|-----------------------|
| Central  | 30.20  | 30.70                 |
| Eastern  | 47.10  | 43.72                 |
| Northern | 19.80  | 19.20                 |
| N.E.     | 1.60   | 1.38                  |
| N.F.     | 3.65   | 3.86                  |
| Southern | 16.10  | 14.69                 |
| S.C.     | 33.65  | 33.55                 |
| S.E.     | 109.50 | 104.95                |
| Western  | 21.20  | 21.05                 |
| Total    | 281.35 | 273.10                |

Railways's originating loading, being a derived demand, was below the proportionate target up to October, 2001 due to less demand from Core and Non Core sectors.

(d) It is the continuous endeavour of the Railways to ensure that expenditure is incurred judiciously and is kept strictly need based. Railways, inter-alia, have been taking the following steps to ensure control of expenditure:-

- (i) Austerity and economy measures in areas such as hospitality, publicity, advertisements, inaugural ceremonies, seminar & workshops, contingent office expenses etc.
- (ii) Better manpower management for improving per capita productivity.
- (iii) Energy conservation.
- (iv) Efficient utilization of assets.
- (v) Reduction in equipment failure and accidents.
- (vi) Stringent financial and budgetary control through the mechanism of fixation of Spending Limits and monthly budget proportions.
- (vii) Cost Control, cost reduction and cost effectiveness in all on-line and off-line activities.
- (viii) Improvement in inventory management.

#### Restoration of Vellore Fort

748. SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM :  
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to restore the chunks and stucco which has fallen from the side walls of age old Vellore Fort;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A portion of the damaged chunk of the upper brick wall of the ancient moat and fort wall has already been restored by the Archaeological Survey of India. The completion of the balance work will be taken up for conservation subject to the overall availability of funds.

#### Post Reserved under DoPT

749. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Class I (Group A) services stood only at 13.59% (SCs-10.38% and STs-3.21%) and in Class II (Group B) services only at 14.41% (SCs-11.73% and Scheduled Tribes-2.68%) as against 22.5% quota prescribed for them (15% for SCs and 7.5% in respect of STs) as on January 1, 1998 under the Union Government;

(b) if so, indicate total number of 'posts' in Class I (Group A) category and Class II (Group B) category and equivalents thereof under the Ministry of Power; and

(c) the persons belonging to General, SC, ST and OBC categories working against them including their respective percentage to such posts as ascertained in view of instructions as contained under para 5 of DoPT OM No.36012/2/96-Estt. (Res.) dated July 22, 1997?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Representation of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) as on 1.1.1998 under Central Government in Group A Services was 14.24% (SCs-10.8% and STs-3.44%) and in Group B Services it was 15.37% (SCs-12.35% and Sts-3.02%)

(b) and (c) The requisite information is given in the attached statement.

#### Statement

| Group | Total number of posts | No. of persons in positions | General (%)    | SC (%)        | ST (%)       | OBC (%)      |
|-------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1     | 2                     | 3                           | 4              | 5             | 6            | 7            |
| A(*)  | 427                   | 372                         | 274<br>(64.16) | 70<br>(16.39) | 14<br>(3.27) | 14<br>(3.27) |

| 1 | 2   | 3   | 4              | 5             | 6            | 7          |
|---|-----|-----|----------------|---------------|--------------|------------|
| B | 433 | 425 | 351<br>(81.06) | 66<br>(15.24) | 05<br>(1.15) | 03<br>(06) |

(\*) Position in respect of the posts in Central Electricity Authority only as the Cadres/posts belonging to Group A Services are centrally controlled by the Department of Personnel & Training.

#### Installation of Rail Line

[Translation]

750. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of new line which has been installed from January, 2000 to March, 2001; and

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) and (b) The details of New Lines completed from January 2000 to March, 2001 are as under:-

| Sl. No. | Name of lines               | Length (km) | Expenditure Upto March, 2001 on the project (Rs. in crore) |
|---------|-----------------------------|-------------|--|
| 1.      | Goalpara-Kamakhya           | 124         | 523.19   |
| 2.      | Peddapally-Karimnagar       | 35          | 58.25  |
| 3.      | Kashinagar-Kakdweep         | 4           | 65.63  |
| 4.      | Eklakhi-Gazol               | 14          | 89.1   |
| 5.      | Puttaparthi-Penukonda       | 32          | 61.01  |
| 6.      | Bargachia-Mahendralal Nagar | 8           | 44.22  |
| 7.      | Tamluk-Deshpran             | 24          | 166.92   |
| 8.      | Banspani-Joruli             | 11          | 251.27   |
| 9.      | Kapadvanj-Modasa            | 59          | 51.74  |

#### Supply of Loose Seal LPG Cylinders

751. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that LPG cylinders with less quantity of gas and loose seal are being supplied to the consumers;

(b) whether such cylinders are being supplied by Indian Oil Corporation Limited as has been told by distributors to the enquiring consumers; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies carry out 100% re-checking of weight on a check scale after the cylinders are filled on carousel in the Bottling Plant. Before delivery and loading in truck, filled cylinders are again subjected to statistical quality control to ensure that only cylinders of correct quality and quantity reach the distributors. LPG distributors are also under instructions to check every cylinder for soundness/correct weight before delivering to consumers. In spite of above measures, in case of any established complaints of supply underweight/water filled cylinders from consumers, action is taken against erring distributors as per the prevailing Marketing Discipline Guidelines/Distributorship Agreement.

[English]

#### Procurement of MIG-21 Fighter Trainers

752. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the batch of MIG-21 aircraft currently having used for training rookie pilots are due to be retired after completing their working life next year;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to acquire MIG-21 fighter trainer at the earliest; and

(c) the sources from which such fighter trainers are proposed to be acquired alongwith the number and cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) MIG-21 Trainer aircraft will start retiring from service in a phased manner from next year, Various options for the acquisition of Advanced Jet Trainers are under examination by the Government.

#### Completion of Daitari-Banspani Rail Line

753. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether steps are being taken to complete Daitari-Banspani rail line in Orissa within the target dated;

(b) if so, the progress of the project made as on date; and

(c) the allocation of funds made for the said project so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The first block section from Banspani to Jaroli has been completed. Earthwork and bridge work on the remaining length is in progress. Formation is ready in stretches for a length of 110 km out of 145 km. 239 minor bridges out of 335 have been completed and work is in progress on 25 out of 26 major bridges.

(c) The total outlay expected for the project to end of 2001-2002 is Rs. 301.27 cr.

[Translation]

#### Railway Ticket Agents

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

(a) whether the Union Government have invited applications for appointing railway ticket agents in Rajasthan and other States in the recent past; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) and (b) Union Government do not invite applications for appointment of Rail Travellers' Service Agents (RTSAs). However, Zonal Railways have invited applications for appointment of Rail Travellers' Service Agents (RTSAs) at various cities in the States of Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, West Bengal & Union Territory of Chandigarh.

[English]

#### Oil Exploration by PSUs

755. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), ONGC and other organizations engaged in oil exploration have sought collaboration with Chinese and other oil firms;

(b) if so, the details of new exploration firms with whom collaboration has been sought this year indicating the areas to be subjected to exploration and whether any of them relate to areas in the north east; and

(c) if so, the details of the collaboration, if any, finalized?

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 in view of (a) above.

#### Effect on Growth of Indian Economy

756. SHRI E.M. SUDARSAÑA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Industry pays three times more for power than the Chinese industry;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps to reduce the cost of power to Indian industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Average tariff paid by industry in China indicates that the tariff for industrial consumers in India is about two time higher.

(b) In India Industrial consumers pay a tariff higher than the cost of supply to cross subsidies domestic and agricultural consumers who pay a tariff below the cost of supply.

(c) Government of India enacted the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act 1998. According to the provisions of this Act, one of the guiding principles for the State Commissions while determining tariff is that the tariff progressively reflects the cost of supply of electricity at an adequate and improving level of efficiency. It also provides that if a state government requires the grant of any subsidy to any consumer or class of consumers, the State Government shall pay the amount to compensate the person affected by the grant of subsidy in the manner the regulatory commission may direct.

#### **Proposal to Set up Thermal Power Project**

757. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received a proposal to set up Thermal Power Project at Kelve in Thane district by BSES Company Limited for clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) M/s. Bombay Suburban Electric Supply Limited (BSES) had submitted a Detailed Project Report (DPR) directly to Central Electricity Authority (CEA), without the recommendations of Maharashtra State Electricity Board

(MSEB) for setting up a 495 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant at Saphale in Thane District of Maharashtra on 29.1.2001 for 'in-principle' techno-economic clearance. MSEB, vide their letter dated 21.7.2001 addressed to the Government of Maharashtra, under intimation to CEA, has opined that the proposal of M/s. BSES for setting up a 495 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant at Saphale is not needed presently. In view of this, the proposal was returned to BSES by CEA on 4.9.2001 under intimation to MSEB. BSES have informed that this project was earlier proposed to be set up by them at Kelve in Thane District.

#### **Backlog Reserved for SCs/STs/OBCs**

758. SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether 'backlog vacancies' reserved for SCs, STs and OBCs are required to be treated as a separate and distinct group as provided under Article 16(4)B of the Constitution to overcome 50% ceiling limit on vacancies to be reserved in an year;

(b) if so, the details of backlog vacancies ascertained as per para 5 of the DoPT O.M.No. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res.) dated 2nd July, 1997 in respect of SCs, STs and OBCs in Group A, B, C, and D categories of services as on 29th August, 1997 in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas when Special Recruitment Drives etc. meant for filling such vacancies were stopped;

(c) the year-wise such carried forward vacancies filled during the last three years and those which remain unfilled; and

(d) the details of fresh vacancies/posts accrued to reserved classes in all categories of posts during the last three years as post based rosters?

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) No direct recruitment in Class I (Group A) posts is made by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas. The position of the remaining categories of services, i.e. Class II (Group B), Class III (Group C) and Class IV (Group D), on the Post Based Roster, is indicated below:-

|                     |     |                |   |     |                |
|---------------------|-----|----------------|---|-----|----------------|
| Class II (Group B)  | OBC | Shortfall of 7 |   | ST  | Shortfall of 1 |
|                     | SC  | Excess of 8    | Class IV (Group D)  | OBC | Shortfall of 9 |
|                     | ST  | Shortfall of 1 |   | SC  | Excess of 16   |
| Class III (Group C) | OBC | Shortfall of 5 |   | ST  | Shortfall of 1 |
|                     | SC  | Excess of 5    | (c) The year-wise vacancies filled up by SC/ST/OBCs during the last three years is as under:- |     |                |

| Year | Number of vacancies filled up by SC |   |   |   | Number of vacancies filled up by ST |   |   |   | Number of vacancies filled up by OBC |   |   |   |
|------|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|
|      | A                                   | B | C | D | A                                   | B | C | D | A                                    | B | C | D |
| 1998 | -                                   | 1 | 2 | 7 | -                                   | - | - | 1 | -                                    | - | 3 | - |
| 1999 | -                                   | - | - | - | -                                   | - | 1 | - | -                                    | - | - | - |
| 2000 | -                                   | 2 | 1 | 2 | -                                   | - | - | - | -                                    | - | - | - |

(d) The information regarding fresh vacancies for reserved categories accrued during the last three years is as under:-

| Year | Number of vacancies accrued for SC |   |   |   | Number of vacancies accrued for ST |   |   |   | Number of vacancies accrued for OBC |   |   |   |
|------|------------------------------------|---|---|---|------------------------------------|---|---|---|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|
|      | A                                  | B | C | D | A                                  | B | C | D | A                                   | B | C | D |
| 1998 | -                                  | 1 | 2 | - | -                                  | - | - | - | -                                   | 1 | - | - |
| 1999 | -                                  | - | - | - | -                                  | - | 1 | - | -                                   | - | 1 | - |
| 2000 | -                                  | - | - | - | -                                  | - | - | - | -                                   | - | - | - |

#### Lacking of Infrastructures at Railway Siding

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

(a) whether cement worth crores of rupees get destroyed every year due to rains at Shakur Basti Railway Station in Delhi and at other stations in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to lack of infrastructure at railway siding stations, hefty rate of cartage etc., cement traders prefer to get their supplies through trucks than rail;

(c) if so, the loss suffered by the railways thereby; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to provide better services in transportation of goods by railways to these customers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) No, Sir. An amount of Rs. 82 lacs has been paid as compensation on account of damage by wet to cement consignment by Indian Railways during the year 2000-2001.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. Traders prefer to transport cement in trucks due to overall logistics cost considerations, movement of smaller quantities, smaller distance of

movement to consumption centres near cement plants, avoidance of extra handling of consignment etc. and not due to lack of infrastructural facilities provided by the Railways. However, augmentation/improvement of facilities is a continuing activity to provide better services.

[Translation]

#### Pending Proposal of UP

760. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI  
YOGI ADITYA NATH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some proposals received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh are pending with his Ministry;

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

(c) the reasons for delay;

(d) whether the survey work in respect of some projects has been completed;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) to (f) Planning of Railways services or projects is made keeping the national perspective in view and taking an integrated view of traffic demands as well as of System requirements. Geographical boundaries of a state do not form a criterion for taking investment decisions. However, details of the proposals received from Government of U.P. in the last three years including action taken on each of these project, funds allotted and the target date of completion in case of the sanctioned project, and the reason for not taking up the other project are given below:-

#### (i) Introduction of Suburban Services in Lucknow:

Electrification of Circular Railway around Lucknow for running suburban services has been sanctioned in 2000-01. The allocation for

2000-01 and 2001-02 are Rs. 1 Crore and Rs. 8.3897 Crores respectively. The target date of completion of this work is March 2002. Final decision of the proposal has been taken and there has been no delay in taking the decision.

#### (ii) Rishikesh-Dehradun : New Line

The survey for a new broad gauge rail line connecting Rishikesh with Doiwala (near Dehradun) has been conducted recently. There has been no delay in conducting the survey. As per survey report, the cost of construction of 19.26 km. rail line has been assessed as Rs. 81.78 crores with a negative rate of return. Due to constraint of resources and unremunerative nature of proposal, it has not been considered feasible to take up the project. Final decision on the proposal has been taken and there has been no delay in taking the decision.

#### (iii) Dadri-Greater Noida-NOIDA-Tughlakabad Rail Link

The survey for a new BG Rail Link connecting Dadri with Tughlakabad has been conducted recently by the Northern Railway. As per the Survey Report, the cost of construction of 35.8 Kms. rail link is approximately Rs. 280 Crores with negative Rate-of-Return. However, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has shown its willingness for financial participation in the project and, therefore, the feasibility is being reexamined.

#### (iv) Dedicated Commuter Corridor from Tilak Bridge-Sahibabad-Ghaziabad

The National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) has been requesting the Railways to develop commuter corridors to facilitate commuter travel within Delhi and NCR. Accordingly, a preliminary survey was done by the RITES and few corridors have been identified. Out of these identified corridors Tilak Bridge-Sahibabad-Ghaziabad and Shahdara-Sahibabad links have been selected for

implementation in the first phase, through a joint venture, to be created by equity participation of Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Urban Development and the respective State Governments in equal proportion. This scheme is being coordinated by NCRPB.

### Inspection Notices by the Department of Company Affairs

761. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether several companies have been issued Inspection Notices by the Department of Company Affairs under Section 209A of the Companies Act on the basis of preliminary enquiry made by SEBI, the market regulatory body;

(b) if so, the details of the aforesaid companies; and

(c) the details of enquiry proceedings made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Yes Sir, Department of Company Affairs has ordered inspection of 98 companies under Section 209A of the Companies Act, 1956.

(b) A list of 98 companies is enclosed as statement.

(c) While the enquiry reports are yet to be finalized, appropriate action has been ordered wherever prima facie violations of the provisions of the Companies Act have been detected.

### Statement

#### *Inspections Ordered based on Preliminary Investigation Report of SEBI in Connection with Recent Market Scam*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. M/s NH Securities Ltd.                          | 4. M/s KNP Securities Pvt. Ltd.                |
| 2. M/s Triumph International Finance Ltd.          | 5. M/s VN Parekh Securities Pvt. Ltd.          |
| 3. M/s Classic Share & Stock Broking Services Ltd. | 6. M/s Panther Fincap Management Services Ltd. |
|  | 7. M/s Panther Investrade Ltd.                 |
|  | 8. M/s Classic Credit Ltd.                     |
|  | 9. M/s Saimangal Investrade Ltd.               |
|  | 10. M/s Classic Infin Ltd.                     |
|  | 11. M/s Panther Industrial Products Ltd.       |
|  | 12. M/s Goldfish Computer Pvt. Ltd.            |
|  | 13. M/s Nakshatra Software Pvt. Ltd.           |
|  | 14. M/s Chitrakoot Computers Pvt. Ltd.         |
|  | 15. M/s Luminant Investment Pvt. Ltd.          |
|  | 16. M/s Triumph Securities Pvt. Ltd.           |
|  | 17. M/s Bama Securities Ltd.                   |
|  | 18. M/s Nirmal Bang Securities Ltd.            |
|  | 19. M/s Bang Equity Broking Pvt. Ltd.          |
|  | 20. M/s Bang Securities Pvt. Ltd.              |
|  | 21. M/s Suresh Rathi Securities Pvt. Ltd.      |
|  | 22. M/s Nadi Finance & Investment Pvt. Ltd.    |
|  | 23. M/s First Global Finance Pvt. Ltd.         |
|  | 24. M/s First Global Stock Broking Pvt. Ltd.   |
|  | 25. M/s Vruddhi Coninvest India Pvt. Ltd.      |
|  | 26. M/s Dolat Capital Market Ltd.              |
|  | 27. M/s Nirpan Securities Ltd.                 |
|  | 28. M/s Shaillesh Shah Securities Ltd.         |
|  | 29. M/s Damani Share & Stock Brokers Pvt. Ltd. |
|  | 30. M/s Maheshwari Equity Brokers Pvt. Ltd.    |

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 31. M/s Jhunjhunwala Stock Broker Pvt. Ltd.       | 58. M/s Suresh Rathi Securities Pvt. Ltd.                   |
| 32. M/s Pratik Stock Vision Pvt. Ltd.             | 59. M/s Zee Telefilms Ltd.                                  |
| 33. M/s Pruthi Share and touch Broking Pvt. Ltd.  | 60. M/s Siticable Network Pvt. Ltd.                         |
| 34. M/s Damani Estates & Finance Pvt. Ltd.        | 61. M/s Zee Gold Refinery Ltd.                              |
| 35. M/s Bright Star Investments Ltd.              | 62. M/s Palombe Securities & Finance Ltd.                   |
| 36. M/s Krishna Securities Ltd.                   | 63. M/s Global Telesystems Ltd.                             |
| 37. M/s Avenue Stock Brokers India Pvt. Ltd.      | 64. M/s Himachal Futuristic Communication Ltd.              |
| 38. M/s C. Mackertich Ltd.                        | 65. M/s Digital Superhighway                                |
| 39. M/s SMIFS Securities Ltd.                     | 66. M/s Burlington Finance Ltd.                             |
| 40. M/s Stewart Securities Ltd.                   | 67. M/s Briggs Trading Co. Pvt. Ltd.                        |
| 41. M/s Maya Trade Link Ltd.                      | 68. M/s Prajatma Trading Co. Pvt. Ltd.                      |
| 42. M/s Powerflow Holdings Pvt. Ltd.              | 69. M/s Ganjam Trading Co. Pvt. Ltd.                        |
| 43. M/s Mackertich Consultancy Services Pvt. Ltd. | 70. M/s Churu Trading Co. Pvt. Ltd.                         |
| 44. M/s PNR Securities Ltd.                       | 71. M/s Nirma Ltd.  |
| 45. M/s Consortium Securities Ltd.                | 72. M/s Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd.                           |
| 46. M/s CSL Securities Pvt. Ltd.                  | 73. M/s Kopran Ltd.   |
| 47. M/s CSL Stock Broking Pvt. Ltd.               | 74. M/s Adani Export Ltd.                                   |
| 48. M/s BLB Ltd.                                  | 75. M/s Lupin Laboratories Ltd.                             |
| 49. M/s Rathi Global Finance Ltd.                 | 76. M/s Padmini Polymers Ltd.                               |
| 50. M/s Anand Rathi Securities Pvt. Ltd.          | 77. M/s Shonkh Technologies Ltd.                            |
| 51. M/s Navratan Capital & Securities Pvt. Ltd.   | 78. M/s Amar Raja Batteries Ltd.                            |
| 52. M/s Rathi Capital & Services Pvt. Ltd.        | 79. M/s Global Trust Bank Ltd.                              |
| 53. M/s Amit Capital & Securities Pvt. Ltd.       | 80. M/s Monesh Consultancy Pvt. Ltd.                        |
| 54. M/s Pushp Capital & Securities Pvt. Ltd.      | 81. M/s Moncon Investment Ltd.                              |
| 55. M/s Gerard Viegs Finvest Pvt. Ltd.            | 82. M/s Profile Investment Pvt. Ltd.                        |
| 56. M/s Hitkari Finvest Pvt. Ltd.                 | 83. M/s Manmandir Estate Developers (P) Ltd.                |
| 57. M/s Preeraj Finvest Pvt. Ltd.                 | 84. M/s Credit Suisse First Boston (I) Securities Pvt. Ltd. |

85. M/s JM Morgan Stanley Securities Pvt. Ltd.
86. M/s JM Morgan Retail Services Pvt. Ltd.
87. M/s Aftak Infosys Ltd.
88. M/s Silverline Industries Ltd.
89. M/s Doe Jones Investments & Consultants Pvt. Ltd.
90. M/s Airihani Exim Scrip Pvt. Ltd.
91. M/s Tripoli Consultancy Services Pvt. Ltd.
92. M/s Khenami Securities Pvt. Ltd.
93. M/s SSL Ltd.
94. M/s Cyberspace Ltd.
95. M/s Pruthvi Brokers & Shareholding Pvt. Ltd.
96. M/s Biyani Securities Pvt. Ltd.
97. M/s Pentamedia Graphics Ltd.
98. M/s Satyam Computers Services Ltd.

#### Refund to Consumers

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

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of cases in which consumer courts have directed the railways to refund money to customers;
- (b) the compensation given by the railways during the last one year and current year, so far;
- (c) the extent of revenue loss to the railways on this account;
- (d) whether the railways has analysed the reasons for such losses;
- (e) if so, the results thereof; and
- (f) the steps being taken by the Railways to reduce such losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) 828 Cases.

- (b) Rs. 8,28,305/-
- (c) Rs. 13,42,219/-
- (d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) After analysing the reasons, the concerned departments have been asked to monitor these cases and take up the staff found responsible and also improve the working. Suitable action is also being taken to rectify the defects. As a result, there has been a reduction in filing of Cases on some of the Railways.

#### Gauge Conversion of Pachora-Jamner Rail Line

763. SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the total length of Pachora-Jamner rail line under Bhusawal Division in Central Railway;
- (b) whether some representations seeking gauge conversion of this line have been received by the Government;
- (c) if so, the time by which this proposal is likely to be approved; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) 55 km.

- (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) A survey for gauge conversion of Pachora-Jamner NG line into BG with extension upto Ajanta Caves from Pahur (18.8 km) and Jamner to Bodwad (30.25 km) has been conducted. As per the survey report, the cost of the project has been assessed as Rs. 116.44 cr. with a negative Rate of Return. In view of unremunerative nature and constraint of resources, the proposal could not be considered.

[English]

### Procurement of Cheap Energy Sources

764. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have been making any efforts to procure cheap energy sources of crude and petroleum products from the Middle-East to meet our demand; 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) Requirement of crude oil for public sector oil refineries are met through annual term contracts with the national oil companies of, interalia, the Middle-East countries at their official selling prices.

(b) Details of the term contracts for crude oil and petroleum products entered into with the national oil companies of the Middle-East for the year 2001-02 are as follows:-

| Country      | Crude Oil<br>(Million MT) | LPG<br>(Thousand MT) |
|--------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Saudi Arabia | 7.5                       | 156                  |
| Kuwait       | 7.3                       | 156                  |
| UAE          | 4.0                       | -                    |
| Iran         | 2.5*                      | -                    |

\*Excluding 2.5 Million MT contracted on account of MRPL (JV Refinery).

MT : metric tonnes.

### Misappropriation of Money by Companies

765. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether various registered companies have

changed their declared addresses after selling out their shares or after depositing the capital for earning interest thereby endangering the investors of their money;

(b) if so, the total number of such companies committing this type of irregularities; and

(c) the details of the amount alleged to have been misappropriated by these companies?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. An amount of Rs. 958.90 crores is alleged to have been collected through public issue by 176 companies.

### Mega Power Projects

766. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the Mega Power Projects being set up on imported coal;

(b) the details of the projects;

(c) the estimated cost of each project;

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

(e) the agencies through which this work is being done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Of the 19 projects identified as mega power projects under the revised mega power policy of the Government of India, the Pipavav Mega Power Project (2000 MW) in Gujarat is proposed to be based on either imported coal or Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG). The Krishnapatnam Thermal Power Project (1500 MW) in Andhra Pradesh and the Cuddalore Thermal Power Project (1000 MW) in Tamil Nadu are proposed to be based on a blend of domestic and imported coal.

(c) to (e) The estimated cost and the commissioning schedule of the Pipavav Mega Power Project and the Krishnapatnam Thermal Power Project will be known only

after the developers of these projects are selected on the basis of tariff based bids through international competitive bidding (ICB) process. The proposal to implement the Cuddalore Thermal Power Project has been subsequently dropped in view of the difficulties encountered in availability of land and readiness of the Cuddalore port.

[Translation]

**Construction of Dam by Narmada  
Hydel Power Corporation**

767. SHRI NANDKUMAR SINGH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages and towns coming under inundation area in phase I, II and III due to the dam being constructed by the Narmada Hydel Power Development Corporation in M.P.;

(b) the rehabilitation sites developed with full facilities according to the norms laid down in the rehabilitation policy and the number of families proposed to be accommodated in those rehabilitation sites; and

(c) the number of families coming under the inundation area are rehabilitated in the first phase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) A total of two hundred and forty eight (248) villages would come under submergence due to the execution of the Indira Sagar Project by the Narmada Hydro-electric Development Corporation Ltd. These villages would be submerged in four phases as given below:-

|           |     |
|-----------|-----|
| Phase I   | 27  |
| Phase II  | 59  |
| Phase III | 124 |
| Phase IV  | 38  |
| Total     | 348 |

In addition to the above villages getting submerged, Harsud township will also be affected in Phase-II.

(b) Six (6) rehabilitation sites have been developed so far, of which three (3) are fully developed and the other three (3) are partially developed.

A total of six hundred and twenty six (626) families are to be accommodated at the above sites. The facilities developed at the rehabilitation sites are in accordance with the norms laid down in the Rehabilitation Policy.

(c) In the first phase of submergence, the number of families coming under submergence are estimated to be four thousand nine hundred and eighty eight (4988).

[English]

**Maintenance of Cultural Identities  
of States**

768. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain cultural identities of the States in major cities;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to encourage various social and cultural organizations engaged in cultural activities in major cities of the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, state-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) to (c) The Government is aware of the challenges in the promotion, preservation and conservation of the art and culture of India. The Department of Culture encourages social and cultural organizations both in urban and rural areas through various schemes under which financial assistance is given to voluntary organizations engaged in promoting art and culture. The important schemes include (i) Financial Assistance to Professional Groups and Individuals for Specified Performing Art Projects. (ii) Financial Assistance to Voluntary Organizations for Celebration of Centenaries/Anniversaries. (iii) Scheme for Building Grants to Cultural Organizations. (iv) Promotion and Dissemination of Tribal Folk Art and Culture. (v) Research Support to Voluntary Organizations engaged in Cultural Activities. In addition, cultural organizations are also encouraged by the

autonomous bodies funded by the Department of Culture such as the Zonal Cultural Centres and National Akademies in organizing folk, classical dance and music programmes, seminars, workshops, exhibitions and literary activities both in rural and urban areas.

#### Maintaining of Gap between Rails

769. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the small gap between the rails for expansion and contraction in normal has not been maintained nowadays in Indian Railways; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to advancement in Rail technology, the individual rails are now welded into long rails, which eliminate the gap between rails at rail ends. The welding of rail results into savings in maintenance effort, longer life of rails and better riding comforts.

#### Refinery by ONGC in A.P.

770. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation propose to commission its first well-head refinery in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the location of the refinery;

(c) the expected annual production of the refinery;

(d) the annual transportation expenditure is expected to be saved; and

(e) whether the price of oil is to be reduced and 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) A skid-mounted mini-refinery was commissioned on 3.9.2001 by the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited at Tatipaka in East Godawari District of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) The refinery is designed to produce approximately 97 tonnes per day (TPD) of naphtha, 46 TPD of high speed diesel, 75 TPD of superior kerosene oil and 32 TPD of reduce crude oil.

(d) About Rs. 3 crore per annum.

(e) No, Sir.

#### Surprise checks in Railway Kitchen

771. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during surprise checks in Railway Kitchen it was found that none of them were following the standards set up by Railway Catering Policy on personal hygiene and food safety;

(b) whether food poisoning are in the Calcutta Delhi Rajdhani Express was reported in July this year; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Railways to improve the working of Railway Kitchen and catering services in trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) Base kitchens are following the prescribed norms.

(b) and (c) It was brought to the notice of railway administration that on 04.07.2001, five passenger of 2305 Howrah - New Delhi Rajdhani Express boarded at Patna reportedly experienced discomfort after taking meals. But no conclusive proof of food poisoning was established. To reduce lead time between preparation and service of meals, it has been decided to pick up food from Patna Base Kitchen for the passenger boarding from Patna station on 2305 Rajdhani Express train. In addition to regular upgrading of the working of base kitchens and on

board catering services through inspections, counseling and training, intensive drives were also held from time to time to improve quality of catering services.

#### Fuel Testing Laboratories

772. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether adulteration in petrol and diesel largely goes undetected;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the norms prescribed by the Bureau of Indian Standards for fuel testing;
- (d) whether sufficient number of fuel testing laboratories are available in the country;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the measures proposed by the Government to set up more fuel testing laboratories and provide unadulterated fuel to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Oil Marketing Companies have evolved a system of periodic/surprise checks of retail outlets for detecting adulteration. Apart from this, the Anti Adulteration Cell set up in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas also carries out inspection of retail outlets for checking adulteration.

(c) The Bureau of Indian Standards have pre-scribed the following specifications for petrol and diesel:

| Fuel   | BIS Specification |
|--------|-------------------|
| Petrol | IS 2796 : 2000    |
| Diesel | IS 1460 : 2000    |

(d) to (f) Oil Companies have a number of laboratories at their refineries/installations apart from having Mobile

laboratories in the country for testing of fuels. Oil Companies augment the number of laboratories from time to time, if required. In addition, various other agencies like Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institute of Petroleum, Forensic Laboratories, Defence Laboratories, Society for Petroleum Laboratory, etc., have also got facilities for testing of fuels.

In order to curb adulteration of Petrol/Diesel at the retail outlets, Public Sector Oil Companies take the following measures:-

- (i) Furfural Doping of Kerosene
- (ii) Blue Dying of Kerosene
- (iii) Mobile Laboratories & Octane Testing facilities
- (iv) Density Check
- (v) Stock Variation
- (vi) Regular/Surprise Inspections
- (vii) Filter Paper Test
- (viii) Accuracy of Dispensing Pumps

#### Traction Tariffs

773. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some State Electricity Boards have refused to reduce traction tariffs;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Railways explored the other possibilities to obtain power; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) and (b) Presently, Railway is purchasing traction power from 17 States Electricity Boards (SEBs) and two other power companies situated in 17 states. Out of these 17 states, State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERCs)

are functioning in 11 states. SERCs decide the revision of tariff periodically as and when the proposals are submitted by the State Electricity Boards/Distribution licensees after examining presentations from different consumers including Railways. During the current financial year, Railways have been able to get reduction in tariff in 3 states, avoided increase in 2 states and limited the increase in 2 states by appropriate presentation. However, so far Railways have not fully succeeded in securing reasonable tariff as ordained under Section 29 of the ERC Act, 1998, in terms of which the tariff should progressively reflect the cost of supply of electricity. Out of remaining 6 states, there has been no positive response in regard to reduction in traction tariff.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Railways have explored the following possibilities.

- (i) Availing direct power supply Central Generating Agencies like NTPC;
- (ii) Purchasing power from Independent Power Producers; and
- (iii) Captive power generation in joint venture.

Success has been achieved by availing direct power from NTPC for Ghaziabad-Kanpur section of Northern Railway since November, 2000. Proposals for availing power from NTPC at other places are under active consideration in consultation with Ministry of Power.

#### **Subsidy on Kerosene and LPG**

774. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether subsidy on Kerosene and LPG is proposed to be withdrawn by the end of the current year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the impact on the general consumers particularly on people below middle class?

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 subsidy on Kerosene for public distribution and domestic LPG is not proposed to be withdrawn by the end of the current year. However, the Government decisions of November 1997 on the phased dismantling of the administered pricing mechanism (APM) envisage the subsidy on kerosene for public distribution and domestic LPG to reach at level of 33.33% of the import parity respectively effective 1.4.2002 to be met from the fiscal budget of the Government.

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

[Translation]

#### **Seeking Clearance of Hydel Power Project by NHPC**

775. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Hydro Power Corporation has sought clearance of hydel projects to meet the power requirement in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of power generation through these hydro-power projects in the country, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government propose to accord priority and set up these projects in the country, particularly in those areas of Bihar which are water flooded and faced with the problem of soil erosion;

(e) if so, the complete details of the identified areas for the said purpose; and

(f) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (f) The Government of India is according high priority for development of hydro-electric projects in the country. Government of India has so far tentatively identified hydel projects of 16,338 MW for benefits in the X Plan and 25,254 MW for benefits in the XI Plan. The capacity

addition identified for benefits in these Plans would, however, depend on statutory clearances being obtained and the requisite funds being tied up.

In accordance with the three-stage clearance for Central sector hydro-electric projects approved by the Government, National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) has sought clearance for taking up activities under Stage-I and Stage-II for various projects in the country. The details of new and ongoing hydro power projects of NHPC indicating the location, installed capacity and estimated annual energy generation, are given in the attached statement.

### Statement

#### On-going Projects

| Sl. No.                    | Name of the Project | Capacity (Mega Watt)                            | Estimated annual generation (Million Units) |
|----------------------------|---------------------|---|---|
| <b>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</b> |                     |   |   |
| 1.                         | Dulhasti            | 390   | 1928  |
| <b>Himachal Pradesh</b>    |                     |   |   |
| 1.                         | Chamera-II          | 300   | 1500  |
| <b>Uttaranchal</b>         |                     |   |   |
| 1.                         | Dhauliganga-I       | 280   | 1134  |
| <b>Sikkim</b>              |                     |   |   |
| 1.                         | Teesta-V            | 510   | 2573  |
| <b>Manipur</b>             |                     |   |   |
| 1.                         | Loktak D/S          | 90  | 420.25                                      |
| <b>Madhya Pradesh</b>      |                     |   |   |
|                            |                     | (In joint Venture Between NHPC and Govt. of MP) |   |
| 1.                         | Indira Sagar (NHDC) | 1000  | 1980  |
| 2.                         | Omkareshwar (NHDC)  | 520   | 1166  |

#### Future Projects

| Sl. No.                    | Name of the Project  | Capacity (MW) | Estimated annual generation (MU) |
|----------------------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| 1                          | 2                    | 3             | 4                                |
| <b>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</b> |                      |               |                                  |
| 1.                         | Pakal Dul            | 1000          | 3590                             |
| 2.                         | Bursar               | 1020          | 2018.04                          |
| 3.                         | Sewa-II              | 120           | 553.63                           |
| 4.                         | Uri-II               | 280           | 1370                             |
| 5.                         | Chutak               | 18            | to be<br>firmed up.              |
| <b>Himachal Pradesh</b>    |                      |               |                                  |
| 1.                         | Parbati II           | 800           | 3108.66                          |
| 2.                         | Parbati Stage-I      | 750           | 2800                             |
| <b>Arunachal Pradesh</b>   |                      |               |                                  |
| 1.                         | Subansiri (Lower)    | 2000          | 7551.16                          |
| 2.                         | Subansiri (Middle)   | 2000          | 6000                             |
| 3.                         | Subansiri (Upper)    | 2500          | 7750                             |
| 4.                         | Siang (Middle)       | 700           | 1900                             |
| 5.                         | Siang (Upper)        | 11000         | 29000                            |
| <b>West Bengal</b>         |                      |               |                                  |
| 1.                         | Teesta Low Dam St.IV | 168           | 766.59                           |
| <b>Maharashtra</b>         |                      |               |                                  |
| 1.                         | Bav Stage - I        | 18            | 37.005                           |
| 2.                         | Bav Stage - II       | 37            | 81.08                            |
| <b>Jharkhand</b>           |                      |               |                                  |
| 1.                         | Koel Karo*           | 710           | 1000                             |

| 1                         | 2   | 3 | 4                   |
|---------------------------|-----|---|---------------------|
| Karnataka                 |     |   |                     |
| 1. Upper Krishna Projects | 810 |   | to be<br>firmed up. |

- \* The project could not take off due to lack of firm commitment for purchase of power from the project in view of its tariff amounting to Rs. 7.13 per unit. The State of Jharkhand is reviewing the Rehabilitation & Resettlement (R&R) for the project.

#### Gauge Conversion of Billara-Pipar Rail Line

776. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the date on which the foundation stone for the gauge conversion of Billara-Pipar railway line in Jodhpur district of Rajasthan was laid;

(b) whether the work on the said line has since been started;

(c) if so, the present status thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the conversion work of the line is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) :

(a) The foundation stone for this gauge conversion work was laid on 22.9.1997.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Low operational priority, poor traffic prospects and constraint of resources.

(e) The work would be taken up once the resource position improves and some of the ongoing projects get completed.

[English]

#### Broad-gauge link between Guwahati and Tinsukia

777. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to introduce the second new broad-gauge rail link from Guwahati to Tinsukia via Dimapur;

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Do not arise.

(c) Doubling of single line sections/providing multiple lines on double line sections is taken up when their carrying capacity is saturated. The traffic on the suggested section has not yet reached the level to justify its doubling. Doubling will be considered once the traffic warrants the same, subject to availability of resources.

#### Projects Financed by IREDA in Karnataka

778. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects financed by the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) in Karnataka during 2001-02; and

(b) the details of places where these projects have been taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) Indian Renewable Energy Agency (IREDA) has so far sanctioned a total of 10 projects in Karnataka during the year 2001-02. The details of the projects sanctioned including their location is given in the attached statement.

## Statement

| Sl. No. | Borrowers' Name                          | Projects  | Project Location  | Capacity   |
|---------|--|---|---|------------|
| 1.      | Malavalli Power Plant Pvt. Ltd.          | Biomass Fuel Processing Machine for Biomass Power Plant | Village C M Koppal, Kirugaval Hobli, Malavalli Mandya District, Karnataka   | —          |
| 2.      | Cepco Industries Pvt. Ltd.               | Wind Farm   | Village Kurumaradigere & Kennedlu, District Chitradurga, Karnataka  | 1.2 MW     |
| 3.      | Neutech Systems                          | Solar Water Heating systems                             | P O No. 9167, B M Shankarappa Indl. Estate, Sunkadkatte, Magadi Main Road, Vishwaneedam Post Bangalore - 560 091, Karnataka | 47.04 MTCR |
| 4.      | Sri Chammundeswari Sugar Ltd.            | Baggasse based Co-generation                            | Village Bharatinagara, Mnaddur Taluka, Mandya District, Karnataka   | 22 MW      |
| 5.      | Bhagyanagar Solvent Extractions (P) Ltd. | Biomass Power   | Village Hegasomahalli, Raichur Dist. Karnataka  | 6 MW       |
| 6.      | Koppal Green Power Ltd.                  | Biomass Power   | Village Karatagi, Koppal District, Karnataka.   | 6 MW       |
| 7.      | Poweronics Ltd.                          | Biomass Power   | Village Sriguppa, Bellari District, Karnataka   | 6 MW       |
| 8.      | Koganti Power Ltd.                       | Biomass Power   | Village Valkoundini, Raichur District, Karnataka  | 6 MW       |
| 9.      | Nuziveedu Seeds Ltd.                     | Wind Farm   | Village Bidrakere, District Chitradurga, Karnataka  | 4.5 MW     |
| 10.     | Enercon Service Ltd.                     | Wind Farm   | Village Madanayakanahalli, Chitradurga District, Karnataka.   | 3 MW       |

MW – Mega Watt, MTCR – Metric Tonnes Coal Replacement.

*translation]*

### Valuation of Property of IBP

779. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have got the valuation of the property of I.B.P. independently;
- (b) if so, the factual method adopted for valuation of property;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the details regarding total assessed transfer value of property of I.B.P. as on today?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) As a part of the process of disinvestment Government registered valuers have been appointed for valuation of assets of IBP Co. Limited including the land and buildings of all IBP owned retail outlets. The reports of the valuers would be one of the inputs for determination of the enterprise value and for benchmarking price for shares proposed to be disinvested and the reports of the valuers would be opened when financial bids are called, as per approved procedure. Hence, it is not possible to indicate the details regarding total assessed transfer value of property of I.B.P.

*[English]*

### Discontinuation of DD News Channel

780. SHRIMATI MARGARET ALWA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Prasar Bharati is planning to discontinue DD News Channel;
- (b) if so, the reasons for its failure and discontinuation;
- (c) whether the Government have identified any

Officers who are responsible for the huge losses and defaming Doordarshan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) As a part of Doordarshan restructuring, Prasar Bharati has, in principle, taken a decision to close down DD News and Current Affairs Channel due to its high cost and low visibility. The Board also decided that DD National Channel, which has the highest reach, will carry more programmes on news and current affairs to fulfil the mandate of public service broadcasting more effectively.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

### Record of State Monuments

781. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have a complete record of the Monuments/Temples/sites protected by the State Governments;
- (b) if so, whether the State Government have got proper permission from ASI to protect such monuments/sites/temples/forts of historical importance;
- (c) whether there is any system or any committee to look, check and inspect the monuments protected by both ASI and State Government Departments; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) State Government do not require any permission from the Archaeological Survey of India in respect of State protected monuments.

(c) and (d) There is no provision for such a mechanism under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites & Remains Act, 1958 and Rules, 1959. The ASI's protected monuments are, however, looked after by the ASI in the normal course of their work.

### Regiment System in Indian Army

782. DR. NITESH SENGUPTA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that unlike the Indian Navy and Indian Air Force, the Indian Army is divided on the lines of regional identities like Jat, Sikh, Maratha and Rajput and other regiments;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to do away with the British colonial system of division of Indian Army into regional regiments to inculcate the Indian feeling in the Indian Army and eliminate polarization theory of marshal race and non-marshal race when the Bengalees were excluded by Britishers as they were votaries of armed revolution against British rule; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) The Indian Army is not divided on the lines of Regional identity. However, prior to Independence there was emphasis on recruitment to the Army from certain classes which were commonly referred to as 'Martial' class, as the class composition was considered to be a powerful factor in fostering cohesiveness in battle amongst troops. After independence, the concept of class composition was discarded for Arms and Services, except to a limited extent for the Armoured Corps, the Artillery and Infantry. Recruitment to all Arms and Services except these three arms was thrown open to all Indian nationals irrespective of any consideration of caste, creed, class, region and religion. A conscious decision has been taken to retain some units as Single/Fixed/Mixed classes based on historical and traditional considerations, combat effectiveness, operational performance and experience. This has been done to establish the concept of "All India All class" units.

2. It is pertinent to mention that no new regiment has been raised on 'one class/mixed class' basis.

[Translation]

### Power Project of NTPC, Sipat

783. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NTPC project of Sipat, district Bilaspur, Chattisgarh is according to the prescribed terms regarding environmental effects on Bilaspur, presentation of comprehensive rehabilitation scheme and the required no objection of respective pollution control board for changes in 660 megawatt units;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether final environmental clearance has been granted in respect of these presentations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) applied for obtaining environmental clearance in respect of Sipat Super Thermal Power Project Stage-I (4x500 MW) to Ministry of Environment and forests (MOE&F) as per the existing rules and regulations after submitting Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Report and obtaining 'No Objection' certificate from Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board. It was indicated in the application by NTPC that the comprehensive rehabilitation plan would be finalized in consultation with the State Government after completion of the detailed socio-economic study to assess the affected population due to land acquisition. NTPC also made a presentation bringing out all the details of the EIA to the Expert Committee of MOE&F.

MOE&F accorded site clearance to the project in January, 1998 based on site visit, the documents submitted along with the application and presentation by NTPC.

MOE&F accorded environmental clearance to the project in February, 1999. The clearance was, however, stayed due to non-compliance of clearance conditions regarding rehabilitation plan and green belt development. The required details were furnished to MOE&F by NTPC and the stay on clearance was later vacated in January, 2000.

The modification pertaining to change in configuration from 500 MW to 660 MW has been submitted to MOE&F by NTPC for clearance.

NTPC prepared a comprehensive Rehabilitation Action Plan (RAP) and this was reviewed by Rehabilitation

Committee constituted by the Collector, Bilaspur. This RAP is recommended for approval by the Rehabilitation Committee after detailed discussions with Village Development Advisory Committee, District Administration and representatives of Project Affected Persons. The RAP is, approved by the Collector, Bilaspur in August, 2000 and by MOE&F in December, 2000.

[English]

#### **Export of Petroleum Products**

784. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of petroleum products has increased ten times during 2000-2001 in comparison to the last fiscal years;

(b) if so, the comparative-figures thereof; and

(c) the target of export of petroleum products fixed during the current fiscal year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The export of petroleum products during the year 2000-01 has increased more than 11 times as compared to the year 1999-2000 as given below:-

| Year      | (Qty. in thousand metric tonnes) |
|-----------|----------------------------------|
| 2000-2001 | 8,365                            |
| 1999-2000 | 746                              |

(c) The export of petroleum products during the current year i.e., 2001-02 is estimated at 8,719 thousand metric tonnes. However, no target is set in this regard.

#### **Doubling of Guntakal-Renigunta Rail Line**

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

(a) whether the doubling of Guntakal-Renigunta railway line has been identified during the discussions with

General Manager, South Central Railway for inclusion in the Railway Budget 2001-2002;

(b) if so, the present status of the project;

(c) whether any additional allocation of funds for the project is being considered by the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The proposal for doubling of remaining single line patches has been included in the Railway Budget 2001-02.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. An additional allocation of Rs. 23 crs. is being considered by the Government.

(e) Work has already been taken up. Date of completion will depend upon the availability of resources in the coming years.

#### **Permanent Housing of Nizam's Jewels**

786. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the famous Nizam's Jewels presently drawing huge crowds at the National Museum is likely to be permanently housed at Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has found suitable place to keep these jewels;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any consultation between the State Government and Union Government has been held in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken or being taken by both Union and State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) This issue is still under consideration.

(b) to (g) The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has suggested for permanent display of Nizam Jewellery at Hyderabad. He has informed that for this purpose Prince Mukarram Jah Bahadur has agreed to make available the Khilawat Mahal at Chow Mohalla Palace, Hyderabad. There was a meeting between the Chief Minister and Prime Minister to discuss this issue. A final decision regarding the permanent display can only be taken after safety and security aspects of the jewels are thoroughly examined in consultation with the security-authorities concerned.

#### Trans Asian Railway Project

787. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed Trans Asian Rail link project providing a seamless journey across Asia suffered a set back due to recent developments in Asia and America;

(b) the names of the countries proposed to be covered by the proposed project;

(c) whether all these countries are also fully involved in the implementation of the project; and

(d) the estimated cost of the project and the amount to be shared by each country and the time scheduled fixed for its completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) to (d) The Trans Asian Railway Project which envisages three rail-land bridges connecting Europe to China/South East Asia is still at a conceptual stage. The southern corridor of the proposed Trans Asian Railway passes through Bulgaria, Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, and China/Thailand - Cambodia/Malaysia and Singapore.

The efforts of establishing this Railway link Corridor are being coordinated under the aegis of both (International Union of Railways) and UN-ESCAP (United Nations-

Economic and social Commission for the Asia and the Pacific). The deliberations on all issues including cost and time schedule, among the member countries are at a very nascent stage. Ministry of Commerce is the nodal agency for coordinating the various efforts on behalf of Government of India.

#### Waterlogging Around Track

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

(a) the details of sections of railway lines which caused delay in running of trains in August, 2001 due to waterlogging resulting in by heavy downpour, zone-wise;

(b) the reasons for waterlogging around tracks; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to avoid waterlogging around railway tracks in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) The zone-wise details of sections of Railway lines, which caused delay in running of trains in August, 2001 due to waterlogging are as under:

| S.No. | Railway       | Section/Location       |
|-------|---------------|------------------------|
| 1.    | Northern      | Ludhiana Yard          |
| 2.    | Northern      | Delhi Area             |
| 3.    | Southern      | Pollachi-Podanur       |
| 4.    | South Central | Khandwa-Purna          |
| 5.    | South Eastern | Jharsuguda - Sambalpur |
| 6.    | North Eastern | Chhapra - Thawe        |

(b) Waterlogging around the track occurs due to the following main reasons:

(1) Inadequate town drainage system around the major city stations resulting in inadequate outlet for the yard water to escape during heavy downpour.

- (2) Inadequate maintenance of small irrigation tanks/marginal bunds (called Railway Affecting Tanks/Works) by the State Government resulting in flash floods/breaches during heavy down-pour.
- (c) In order to avoid waterlogging around the railway tracks or breaches thereof, the following steps are taken:
- (1) Regular liaison with the State Government/local bodies for proper maintenance of irrigation tanks/marginal bunds affecting railway lines.
  - (2) Pre-monsoon cleaning and deepening of existing drains in Railway yards and providing additional drains wherever considered necessary.
  - (3) Construction of new bridge/additional spans for increasing the waterway as a planned work.

#### Postponement of IFFI

789. SHRI G.S BASAVARAJ :  
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :  
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

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

- (a) whether the Government of Karnataka had asked the Union Government to postpone the 10-day International Film Festival of India 2001 scheduled to be held in October, 2001;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Government of Karnataka had regretted its inability to co-host the International Film Festival of India, 2001 on account of the severe drought conditions in the State and suggested that the festival be cancelled. In view of this the Government decided to cancel the International Film Festival of India, 2001 which was scheduled to be held in Bangalore from 10th to 20th October 2001.

#### Project Undertaken by GAIL

790. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of projects undertaken by the Gas Authority of India Limited in the country;
- (b) whether GAIL have decided to invest Rs. 700 crores in Andhra Pradesh; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) The details of the major projects currently under implementation by Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) in the country are given in the attached statement-I.

(b) and (c) Apart from the Vizag-Secunderabad LPG pipeline project, GAIL has either implemented, or is in the process of implementation, 6 projects in the Krishna-Godavari Basin of Andhra Pradesh at estimated cost of Rs. 688.47 crores, as per details given in the statement-II enclosed.

#### Statement-I

##### The Major Project of GAIL under Implementation

| Item             | Vizag-Secunderabad<br>LPG Pipeline Project | Jamnagar-Loni LPG<br>Pipeline-Phase-II | Telecom Business Project<br>Phase-II |
|------------------|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1                | 2  | 3                                      | 4                                    |
| Location         | Vizag-Secunderabad                         | Kandla-Samakhiyali                     | Delhi-Mumbai                         |
| Date of approval | 27.02.2001                                 | 01.02.2001                             | 04.06.2000                           |

| 1                      | 2                        | 3                        | 4                     |
|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Mechanical Completion  | 27.06.2003               | 30.09.2002               | 15.09.2001            |
| Commissioning          | 27.08.2003               | 10.04.2002               | 30.09.2001            |
| Capital cost (Rs./Cr.) | 490.65                   | 70.00                    | 96.50                 |
| Throughput capacity    | 1.64 MTPA                | 0.5 MTPA                 | -                     |
| Products               | Transportation<br>of LPG | Transportation<br>of LPG | Bandwidth<br>capacity |

**Statement-II***Details of Project undertaken by GAIL in Andhra Pradesh*

| Sl.No. | Description   | Detail  | Project Cost<br>(Rs. in crores) | Time<br>Schedule                                      |
|--------|---|---|---------------------------------|---|
| 1      | K.G. Basin Phase-I                                    | 135 K.M. pipeline of 4"-18"   | 110                             | Completed   |
| 2      | K.G. Basin<br>Phase-II                                | (i) Tatipaka-KCJP 18"X45<br>K.M. natural gas pipeline<br>(ii) Ponnamanda-Kadali 14"X4<br>K.M. natural gas pipeline<br>(iii) South Yanam 16"X10<br>K.M. natural gas pipeline | 109                             | 31.07.2002  |
| 3      | Pipeline to BSES<br>Andhra Power                      | Kakinada-BSES 18"X8 K.M<br>natural gas pipeline   | 21.5                            | 30.10.2001  |
| 4      | K.G. Basin<br>Phase-III                               | Different natural gas pipeline<br>of 8" to 20" dia. for a total of<br>130 KMS   | 145                             | 26.12.2002  |
| 5      | Lanco Kondapalli<br>Power Project                     | 18"X204 K.M. natural gas pipeline   | 300                             | Completed   |
| 6      | Gas supply to small<br>consumers in<br>the K.G. basin | (i) Regent Agro - 1 K.M. pipeline<br>(ii) Regency Ceramics - 4"X5<br>K.M. pipeline<br>(iii) Godavari Fertilizers -<br>4"X25 K.M. pipeline                                   | 2.97                            | (i) 01.07.2001<br>(ii) 01.01.2002<br>(iii) 01.07.2002 |

**Completion of Haridaspur-  
Paradeep Rail Line**

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

(a) the target date set for the completion of Haridaspur-Paradeep rail line in Orisa;

(b) the estimated cost of the project and the funds allocated for that project so far;

(c) the progress of the project made as on date; and

(d) the steps taken on expedite the construction of that project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) No target date of completion of the project has yet been fixed.

(b) The latest anticipated cost of the project is Rs. 301.64 crore. The expenditure incurred upto 31.03.2001 is Rs. 14.53 crore. The outlay provided during 2001-02 is Rs. 20 crore.

(c) and (d) The final location survey has been completed. Preliminary works like soil investigation, construction of offices etc is in progress. Land acquisition proceedings have been taken up and 52 acres of land have so far been handed over by the State Government. The work is being regulated as per the availability of resources.

**Financial Grant to Amateur  
Group Theatres**

792. SHRI RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of amateur group theatres in the country receiving financial grants during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government are considering to revise the amount of grants in view of the high cost of production and other supporting infrastructure of the group theatres, specially in Kolkata, Mumbai, Delhi and Ahmedabad; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) A Statement is enclosed.

(b) No, Sir. A revision of the amount of grant under the scheme of Financial Assistance to Professional Groups and Individuals for specified Performing Art Projects has already been effected in the year 1998-99.

(c) Does not arise.

**Statement**

**1998-99**

**Andhra Pradesh**

1. Rasa Ranjani
2. Sri Venkateswara Natya Mandali
3. Sree Sarada Vijaya Natya Mandali
4. Sri Vinayaka Natya Mandali
5. Sri Vijaya Bharathi Natya Mandali
6. Janapadam

**Chandigarh**

7. Swami Ram Tirth Memorial Society
8. Theatre Devotees

**Delhi**

9. Kshitij
10. Bhoomika
11. Stage Door
12. Natrang Pratishthan
13. Delhi Children's Academy
14. Delhi Art Theatre
15. Yatrik Theatre

**Himachal Pradesh**

16. Himachal Culture Research Forum & Theatre Laboratory

- Jammu & Kashmir**
17. Natrang
18. National Bhand Theatre
19. Rangyug
20. Amateur Theatre Group
21. Kashmir Bhagat Theatre
22. Yoos Marg Folk Theatre
23. Wullar Theatre
24. Dilash Folk Theatre
25. Samooh Theatre
- Karnataka**
26. Yakshadegula
27. Yakshagana Kendra
28. Neenasam
29. Idagunji Mahaganapathi Yakshagana Mandali
- Kerala**
30. Folk Land
31. Sopanam
- Manipur**
32. Manipuri Jagoi Marup
33. Chorus Repertory Theatre
34. Public Theatre Artistes Association
35. Ogree Theatre Repertory
- Madhya Pradesh**
36. Naya Theatre
37. Nata Bundele
38. Kala Samooh
39. Abhinav
40. Lok Manjari
41. Children's Theatre Academy
42. Ranga Sri Little Ballet Troupe
- Maharashtra**
43. Awishkar
44. Yatri Theatre Association
45. Ank
46. Indian National Theatre
- Punjab**
47. National Theatre Arts Society
- Rajasthan**
48. Aaj
49. Jaipur Natya Sanstha
- Tamil Nadu**
50. Koothu-P-Pattarai Trust
- Uttar Pradesh**
51. Brechtian Mirror
52. Yayavur Rangmandal
53. Rang Yatra
54. Uttarakhand Lok Kala Evam Sahitya Samarak
55. Manch Kriti
56. Darpan
57. Ekta
- West Bengal**
58. Padatik
59. Calcutta Puppet Theatre
60. Anya Theatre
61. Nandikar

62. Rangakarmee
63. Bahurupee
64. Theatre Centre
65. Indian Mime Theatre
66. Rabindra Natya Gosthi
67. Calcutta Banari
68. Rang Roop
69. Salt Lake Association for Creative Theatre

**1999-2000**

**Andhra Pradesh**

1. Rasa Ranjani
2. Sri Venkateswara Natya Mandali
3. Sree Sarada Vijaya Natya Mandali
4. Sri Vinaka Natya Mandali
5. Sri Vijaya Bharathi Natya Mandali
6. Janapadam
7. Sri Bhanodaya Natya Mandali
8. Gangotri

**Bihar**

9. Darpan Samaj
10. Ghar Aangan
11. Sur Gagon
12. Lok Rang
13. Sootradhar
14. Shourya

**Chandigarh**

15. Swami Ram Tirth Memorial Society

**Delhi**

16. Stage Door

17. Kshitij
18. Bhoomika
19. Pandit Chaturlal Memorial Society
20. Deaf Cultural Society
21. Umang
22. Drashta India

**Gujarat**

23. Rang Bahar

**Himachal Pradesh**

24. Himachal Cultural Research Forum & Theatre Repertory

**Jammu & Kashmir**

25. Natrang
26. National Bhang Theatre
27. Malik Badshah Luka Pather Centre
28. Kashmir Bhand Theatre
29. Kashmir Kala Manch
30. Kashmir Bhagat Theatre
31. Aziz Folk Bhagat Theatre
32. Katreshi Bhand Theatre
33. Bommai Luka Theatre
34. Yoosmarg Folk Theatre
35. Karam Buland Folk Theatre

**Karnataka**

36. Yakshadegula
37. Yakshagana Kendra
38. Neenasam
39. Aishwarya Kalaniketana
40. Gajje Hejje Ranga Tanda

41. Ranga Shikshana Kendra

**Maharashtra**

42. Kusuma Kala Sangha

66. Avishkar

43. Samastharu

67. Ank

44. Yaksha Sampada

68. Yatri Theatre Association

45. Ranga Prayoga

69. Indian National Theatre

**Kerala**

70. Centre for Cultral Relations

46. Sopanam

**Orissa**

47. Ankanam Theatre Group

71. Sanchar

48. Folk Land

**Punjab****Manipur**

72. National Theatre Art Society

49. Manipuri Jagoi Marup

**Rajasthan**

50. Chorus Repertory Theatre

73. Aaj

51. Public Theatre Artistes Association

**Tamil Nadu**

52. The Panthoibi Natya Mandir

74. Koothu-P-Pattarai Trust

53. The Deal Repertory Theatre

75. Purusai Duraisami Kannappa Thambiran  
Parambarai Trust

54. Banian Repertory Theatre

76. Abhinaya Natyalaya

55. Art &amp; Culture Dramatic Association

**Uttar Pradesh**

56. Manipur Dramatic Union

77. Uttranchal Lok Kala Awam Sahitya Sanrakshan

57. Roopalaya Theatre

78. Yayaver Rang Mandal

**Madhya Pradesh**

79. Rang Yatra

58. Naya Theatre

80. Swar Sangan

59. Nata Bundele

81. Campus Theatre

60. Abhinav

82. Sakshatkar

61. Lok Manjari

83. Nautanki Kala Kendra

62. Children's Theatre Academy

84. Varnasi Natya Parishad

63. Toli

85. Sanskar Bharathi

64. Rangashirsh Sansthan

**West Bengal -**

65. Ranga Sri Little Ballet Troupe

86. Nandipat

- |      |                                  |     |   |
|------|----------------------------------|-----|---|
| 87.  | Choop Katha                      |     | <b>Assam</b>  |
| 88.  | Sarabhuj                         | 8.  | Seagull   |
| 89.  | Rang Roop                        |     | <b>Bihaar</b>                                       |
| 90.  | Padatik                          | 9.  | Shourya   |
| 91.  | Sayak Bijon Theatre              | 10. | Sootradhar  |
| 92.  | Indian Puppet Theatre            | 11. | Abhnaya Prasikhan Sansthan                          |
| 93.  | Padatik                          | 12. | Nidan   |
| 94.  | Indian Mime Theatre              | 13. | Rabindra Bharti Gramin Theatre Prashiksan           |
| 95.  | Nandikar                         | 14. | Arch Educational & Development Society              |
| 96.  | Theatre Workshop                 | 15. | Prakash Foundation                                  |
| 97.  | Bohurupee                        | 16. | Sankalp Sevalaya                                    |
| 98.  | Sudrak                           | 17. | Nirman Kala Manch                                   |
| 99.  | Calcutta Puppet Theatre          |     | <b>Chandigarh</b>                                   |
| 100. | Anya Theatre                     | 18. | Swami Ram Tirth Memorial Society                    |
| 101. | Rangakarmee                      |     | <b>Delhi</b>  |
| 102. | Chetana                          | 19. | Bhoomika  |
| 103. | Kalapi                           | 20. | Kshitij   |
| 104. | Pancham Vaidic                   | 21. | Stage Door  |
|      |                                  | 22. | The Little Theatre Group                            |
|      |                                  | 23. | Babangadh Lok Kalyan Vikas Parishad                 |
|      |                                  | 24. | Umang   |
|      |                                  |     | <b>Gujarat</b>                                      |
| 1.   | Rasa Ranjani                     | 25. | Rang Bahar  |
| 2.   | Sri Venkateswara Natya Mandali   |     | <b>Himachal Pradesh</b>                             |
| 3.   | Sri Bhanodaya Natya Mandali      | 26. | Himachal Culture Research Forum & Theatre Repertory |
| 4.   | Janapadam                        | 27. | Natyakar  |
| 5.   | Sri Vijaya Bharati Natya Mandali |     | <b>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</b>                          |
| 6.   | Sree Sarada Vijaya Natya Mandali | 28. | Natrang   |
| 7.   | Sri Vinayaka Natya Mandali       |     |   |

**2000-2001**

**Andhra Pradesh**

29. National Bhand Theatre **Kerala**
30. New Kashmir Construction Youth Club 53. Soorya
31. Qazi Kashmir Theatre 54. Folk Land
32. Alamdar Looka Pather 55. Sopanam
33. Samooh Theatre 56. Ankanam Theatre Group
34. Baba Rashi Folk Theatre 57. Lokadharmi
- Karnataka** 58. Sadguru Chembai Vaidyanatha Bhagavathar Vidyalyaya
35. Yaksha Sampada 59. Rangaprabath
36. Samastharu **Madhya Pradesh**
37. Amareswara Vijay Nataka Mandali 60. Ranga Sri Little Ballet Troupe
38. Sri Lakshmi Janardhana Yakshagana Kala Mandali 61. Naya Theatre
39. Gajje Hejje Ranga Tanda 62. Nata Bundele
40. Idagunji Mahaganapathi Yakshagana Mandali 63. Rangashirsh Sansthan
41. Yakshadgula 64. Kala Samooh
42. Yakshagana Kendra 65. Abhinav
43. Kusuma Kala Kendra 66. Children Theatre Academy
44. Aishwarya Kalaniketana 67. Lok Manjari
45. Udaya Kala Niketana 68. Anwestan Theatre Group
46. Netaji Institute 69. Kala Mandir
47. Koshis Handicapped and Disabled Welfare Association 70. Mahila Utkarsh Sansthan
48. Chinthalu Education & Rural Development Society **Maharashtra**
49. Jayanthi Gram Women & Children Welfare Association 72. Awishkar
50. Sri Rajarajeswari Yuvathi Mandali 73. Yatri Theatre Association
51. Peoples Organisation Working for Ecology Society 74. Ank
52. Integrated Nationals Development in Asia 75. Indian National Theatre
76. Centre for Cultural Relations
77. The Mysore Association

|     |  |      |  |
|-----|--|------|--|
|     | <b>Manipur</b>   |      | <b>Tripura</b>                               |
| 78. | Sri Gavindaju Bhakti Grantha Kendra Vidyalaya          | 100. | Society for Social Service India             |
| 79. | Panthoibi Batya Mandir                                 |      | <b>Uttar Pradesh</b>                         |
| 80. | Theatre Mirror   | 101. | Brechtian Mirror                             |
| 81. | Banian Repertory Theatre                               | 102. | Campus Theatre                               |
| 82. | Manipuri Jagoi Marup                                   | 103. | Rang Yatra                                   |
| 83. | Progressive Artists laboratory                         | 104. | Yayaver Rang Mandal                          |
| 84. | The Deal Repertory Theatre                             | 105. | Uttaranchal Lok Kala Awan Sahitya Sanrakshan |
| 85. | Chorus Repertory Theatre                               | 106. | Akansa Theatre Arts                          |
| 86. | Public Theatre Artistes Association                    | 107. | Anukriti                                     |
| 87. | Manipuri Artists Touring Drama Party                   | 108. | Rupaniar Natya Manch                         |
| 88. | Manipuri Dramatic Union                                |      | <b>West Bengal</b>                           |
| 89. | The Kangjabi Meitei Chanu Artist cum Drama Association | 109. | Nandipat                                     |
| 90. | langmeigong Dramatic Union                             | 110. | Choop Katha                                  |
| 91. | Manipuri Artists Association                           | 111. | Sarabhuj                                     |
| 92. | All Manipour Gouranggalial Sansenba Artist Association | 112. | Rang Roop                                    |
| 93. | Thangta Artist Association                             | 113. | Padaboli                                     |
|     | <b>Punjab</b>  | 114. | Sayak Bijon Theatre                          |
| 94. | National Theatre Arts Society                          | 115. | Pancham Vaidic                               |
|     | <b>Rajasthan</b>                                       | 116. | People's Little Theatre                      |
| 95. | Jaipur Natya Sanstha                                   | 117. | Indian Puppet Theatre                        |
| 96. | Rang Mandap Lok Natya Sanskritik Sansthan              | 118. | Padatik                                      |
| 97. | Aaj  | 119. | Indian Mime Theatre                          |
|     | <b>Tamil Nadu</b>                                      | 120. | Sudrak                                       |
| 98. | Koothu-P.Pattarai Trust                                | 121. | Theatre Workshop                             |
| 99. | Purisai Duraisami Kannappa Thambiran Parambarai Trust  | 122. | Bohurupee                                    |
|     |  | 123. | Nandikar                                     |
|     |  | 124. | Sundaram                                     |

125. Calcutta Puppet Theatre
126. Nandikar
127. Anya Theatre
128. Chetana
129. Monirath Salt Lake Group Theatre
130. Kasba Arghya
131. Rabindrik Natya Sanstha
132. Puratan Natya Sanstha
133. Midnapore Udayan Barmanikpore
134. Praktikiri
135. Jana Sanskriti Centre for Theatre of the Oppressed
136. Ballygunge Anubhav Natya Gosthi
137. The Lovers
138. Natyayan
139. Nandiranga

#### 2001-2002

The grants for the current year shall be released only after the approval of the Expert Committee.

#### Registration of Wagons at Fazilka

793. SHRI J.S. BRAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of wagons registered with Northern Railway at Fazilka in June, July and August, 1996;
- (b) the details of parties registering the wagon and the amount deposited by each;
- (c) the dates of cancellation of registered wagons by each and the amount refunded to them;
- (d) whether the said amount has not been refunded to some parties;
- (e) if so, the reasons for such discriminations; and

(f) the steps proposed to refund amount to the remaining parties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) The number of wagons registered at Fazilka station on Northern Railway in June, July and August, 1996 were 240, 80 and 160 respectively.

(b) Six parties namely (i) M/s Govind Ram & Co., (ii) M/s Bharat Rice Mills, (iii) M/s Rama Enterprises, (iv) M/s K.K. Enterprises, (v) M/s Rattna Rice & General Mills, and (vi) Dewan Chand & Sanjeev had registered indents for wagons. M/s Rattna Rice & General Mills had indented on two occasions. Registration amount in each case was Rs. 16,000/-

(c) All the parties has cancelled the Wagon indents on 4.9.1996. Amount of Rs. 16,000/- has been refunded to one party viz. M/s Rattna Rice & General Mills.

(d) to (f) Request of the remaining parties for refund of Wagons Registration Fee is under process and the same will be decided as per extant rules.

#### Flouting of Norms by DD

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

(a) whether officials of Doordarshan Kendra, Calcutta and Doordarshan Directorate flouted the laid down norms in order to favour a private producer (Rainbow Production) at the cost of other competitors and the Doordarshan own interest;

(b) if so, the action taken against the officials found involved in such lapses; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) The alleged irregularities committed by some officials of DDK, Kolkata and DG:DD in sanctioning of programmes for DDK, Kolkata favouring a private producer (M/s Rainbow Productions) have been investigated. The Preliminary Enquiry Report has been examined. Based on the merits

of the cases, some of the cases have been referred to the CVC for their first stage advice and in other cases, further information is being collected.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Travel Agents at Vijaywada Division**

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to allow travel agents to sell railway tickets in Vijaywada division of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether such travel agents have been empanelled in Vijaywads Division;

(c) if so, the criteria for selection of such travel agents; and

(d) the time by which this new scheme is likely to come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) and (b) As on date 9 Rail Travellers' Service Agents (RTSAs) are functioning at Vijaywada Division of Andhra Pradesh. They have been duly selected.

(c) The criteria for selection of RTSAs is given in "Authorization of Rail Travellers" Service Agents Rules, 1985".

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Indo-US Defence Ties**

796. SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a boost to Indo-US defence ties following the decision of the US to lift sanctions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) India and the US had an ongoing bilateral Defence Cooperation relationship before

the US imposed sanction in the wake of the Pokharan tests in 1998. The relationship resumed partially in 1999 with exchanges in training courses and a few other military exchanges. The recent high level exchange of visits has added impetus to the bilateral defence cooperation relationship between the two countries.

#### **Setting up of LPG/Petroleum Outlets in Rural Areas**

797. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of rural distributorship of petroleum/LPG outlets set up in the country during the last two years, State-wise;

(b) whether any new retail outlets/distributorship has been provided in rural parts of Tamil Nadu during the current year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected.

#### **Freight Surcharge on Petrol and Diesel**

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

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

(a) whether the Government propose to impose freight surcharge on petrol and diesel to maintain uniformity in their price;

(b) if so, the details thereof; 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) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

**Telecast of Junior World Hockey Championship**

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

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased state:

(a) whether Delhi Doordarshan did not telecast live, at least the finals of the Junior World Hockey Championship held on October 21, 2001 at Hobart, Australia, even though Indian team had entered the final;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the corrective measures proposed to be taken in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has intimated that they had entered into an agreement with the Indian Hockey Federation (IHF) under which IHF is required, inter-alia, to assist Doordarshan in acquiring satellite and terrestrial telecast rights for the territory of India, whenever the Indian hockey team is participating in any International Hockey event, be it within or outside India. No offer was received from the IHF for the Junior World Hockey Championship.

(c) Prasar Bharati has intimated that action has been taken to acquire the highlights of the event for telecast on DD-Sports Channel.

**Exploration Activities in Orissa**

800. SHRIMATI KUMUDINI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government did not take up the excavation of exploratory wells for petroleum and natural gas as per the programme in Orissa and discontinued the activities after 1 or 2 failure point while in other places of

the country it was continued after series of failures and led to success even exploring the 5th and 6th wells after the failure of the 4th ones;

(b) whether there is any proposal of the Government to explore further points in Orissa coast of Bay of Bengal and Mahanadi river basin;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether the Central Government will take up further exploration in Orissa?

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) Exploratory drilling in Mahanadi Basin both onshore and offshore has been carried out by Oil India Ltd. since late 1970s. Despite drilling 15 exploratory wells, 4 onshore and 11 offshore, no commercial hydrocarbon discovery was made. The company has since surrendered the Petroleum Exploration Licence (PEL).

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Contracts have been signed with national as well as private oil companies for eight exploration blocks in Mahanadi Basin, both offshore and onland, as also in its vicinity offshore under first and second round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). Out of these, seven blocks are in offshore and one in onland, the details of which are as under:-

| Block         | Consortium        | Date of signing of Contract |
|---------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| MN-DWN-98/2   | RIL-Niko          | 12-04-2000                  |
| MN-DWN-98/3   | ONGC              | 12-04-2000                  |
| MN-OSN-97/3   | ONGC-GAIL         | 12-04-2000                  |
| NEC-OSN-97/1  | GAIL-OAO Gazprom  | 03-10-2000                  |
| NEC-OSN-97/2  | RIL-Niko          | 12-04-2000                  |
| MN-OSN-2000/1 | ONGC              | 17-07-2001                  |
| MN-OSN-2000/2 | ONGC-GAIL-IOC-OIL | 17-07-2001                  |
| MN-ONN-2000/1 | ONGC-GAIL-IOC-OIL | 17-07-2001                  |

In addition, 2D seismic survey work in deep water area of this region has been completed for offering new blocks in the future rounds under NELP.

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

#### Amendments in Media Policy

801. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:  
SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY:  
SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE:  
SHRI BAHADUR SINGH:  
SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:  
SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI:  
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:  
SHRI BHIM DAHAL:  
SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL:

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

(a) the details of the media policy of the Government at present;

(b) whether the Government are considering limited amendments in the media policy by allowing Foreign Direct Investment in Print Media;

(c) if so, the details of the amendments proposed in new media policy;

(d) the reasons and circumstances which call for such amendments;

(e) whether any objections have been raised against this move;

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(g) the time by which the said amendments are likely to be made in the new policy?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) The Government has formulated guidelines to regulate electronic and film media. The Code for Commercial Broadcasting is applicable to AIR and Doordarshan. The uplinking policy of the Ministry permits all TV channels irrespective of their ownership to uplink from India provided

they undertake to comply with the Code for Commercial Broadcasting. The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act and Rules made thereunder regulate the content of television telecast through cable. All films, including advertisement films, intended for public exhibition in India are required to be certified by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) in accordance with the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and the guidelines thereunder. In so far as the Print Media is concerned, the Government does not interfere in matters relating to the Press. The Press Council of India is a statutory authority established for preserving the freedom of the Press and inculcate principles of self-regulation among the Press.

(b) to (g) An exercise for introducing limited changes in the media policy by allowing Foreign Direct Investment in Print Media in so far as it relates to non-news and non-current affairs newspapers and periodicals is under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

#### Train Dacoities in Bihar

\*802. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL:  
SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU:  
SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:  
SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of train dacoities that had occurred in Bihar and other States during the last three months;

(b) whether the Government propose to issue Railway posters to curb train robberies and to prevent such incidents for the security of passengers;

(c) the total amount looted in those dacoities during the last three months;

(d) whether his Ministry gives compensation to the victims of train dacoities; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN

THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) :  
 (a) Maintenance of law and order on the Railways including running trains is the constitutional responsibility of the State Government and, therefore, the information regarding dacoity etc. are available with the State Government. However, based on the information available with this Ministry it is informed that 10 cases of dacoity were reported in Bihar and 21 in other states during the last 3 months.

(b) The Government have already issued tips to the passengers through Posters and other Visual Media advising them to be cautious and careful while dealing with strangers during the course of their journey.

(c) The total amount looted during last three months i.e. Rupees 9,12,861/- over Indian Railways.

(d) and (e) Train dacoity is treated as "Untoward Incident" for compensation under section 124-A of the Railways Act, 1989. While compensation is paid for death/injury, on compensation is admissible for loss of property.

#### Development of Villages in U.P. by NTPC

\*803. SHRI RAMSHAKAL Will the Minister of POWER be pleased state:

(a) whether the NTPC plant Sonbhadra in Uttar Pradesh spends one percent of its profits for the development of the surrounding villages; and

(b) if so, the number of villages benefited during the last three years, till date, along with the details of the schemes implemented in these villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) NTPC has two power plants viz. Singrauli Super Thermal Power Project (STPP) and Rihand STPP in Sonbhadra District of Uttar Pradesh. In order to address the issues of land oustees, NTPC has its Comprehensive Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) policy. In accordance with this R&R Policy, Remedial Action Plan (ReAP) for Singrauli and Rehabilitation Action Plan (RAP) for Rihand projects were prepared through an extensive consultative process

involving the affected people, Government of India and the World Bank which included community Development activities also for the Project Affected Persons (PAPs). Accordingly, the details of expenditure on Community Development Activities during the last 3 (three) years in Singrauli and Rihand projects are as follows:

(Figures in Rs. Lakhs)

| Sl. No. | Description | 1998-99 | 1999-2000 | 2000-01 |
|---------|-------------|---------|-----------|---------|
| 1.      | Singrauli   | 70.33   | 38.84     | 35.99   |
| 2.      | Rihand      | 33.12   | 75.12     | 45.28   |

(b) The Villages benefited are Chilkatand, Paraswar Raja and Jawahar Nagar in Singrauli project and Btjpur, Sirsoti, Dodahar in Rihand project.

The details of schemes implemented in the villages of Singrauli and Rihand projects are as under:

#### SINGRAULI

1. Construction of School building, Sulabh Complex and Community Centre.
2. Construction of bus stand development of nearby areas.
3. Drinking water facilities in Resettlement Colonies.
4. Maintenance/construction of roads, drains and hand pumps.
5. House keeping of Public Information Building.
6. Subsidy to school.
7. Medical facilities.
8. Self employment/training.
9. Rural sports, entertainment etc.
10. Income generating schemes such as award of contracts to PAPs, deployment of Jeeps belonging to PAPs for project work, allotment of shops to PAPs.

RIHAND :

1. Construction of Roads and drains.
2. Construction of Schools, Health Centre, Community Buildings, Training Centre, Poultry farm and Sulabh Shauchalai etc.
3. Installation of Bore well, Hand pump and construction of tanks and water supply system.
4. Construction of Electricity network for domestic connection.
5. Grant for up keeping of Sulabh Shauchalai.
6. Grant for running water supply system.
7. Grant for running schools and Health centre.

[English]

#### Investment for New Power Projects

804. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) investments made in the new power projects in the country during the last three years;
- (b) the details thereof indicating details of project, cost, present stage and other relevant details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether such projects are in private or in joint sector;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the stage of the proposed power projects in Kerala Podyamkutty, Kochi refinery – 500 Megawatt at Ambala Mugal and Super Thermal Unit, Kayamkulam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) The details of the Public Sector power projects where Investment Decision has been taken during the last three years and the Private Sector power projects where Financial Closure was achieved during the last three years is enclosed in the statement.

(e) Status of the proposed power projects in Kerala is given below :-

#### Puyankutty Stage-I H.E. Project (2x120 MW)

- There is no hydro project by the name Podyamkutty in Kerala. However, there is one project known as Puyankutty Stage-I H.E. Project in Kerala. This project was cleared by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in January, 1984 and was also sanctioned by the Planning Commission in August, 1986 subject to clearance from forest angle. Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF), in July, 2001 has indicated that since the project work has not commenced yet, the environment clearance issued in 1985 has lapsed and that a fresh clearance has to be taken. According to information available in CEA, the project still awaits the clearance from forest angle by MOEF.

#### Cochin Refinery Project at Ambala Mugal

- In March 1998, a Detailed Feasibility Report (DFR) on the proposal was received in CEA. The DFR envisaged installation of Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC) Power Plant – 522 MW using vacuum residue/asphaltenes as fuel at an estimated cost of Rs. 2994 crores at an exchange rate of Rs. 35.8 US\$. Comments of CEA were sent to M/s Cochin Refineries Limited with request to submit the detailed project report after tie-up of all necessary clearance/inputs for techno-economic clearance. The detailed project report has not been received in CEA so far.

#### Kayamkulam Power Project

- The Ministry of Power vide its letter of 20.10.1998 had, under Section 18-A of the Electricity (Supply) Act 1948, directed NTPC to establish, operate and maintain Kayamkulam CCPP St-II-4950 MW in Kerala. The project report from NTPC for the Kayamkulam Expansion project has not yet been received in CEA for Techno-economic clearance.

**Statement**

| Sl No.                  | Name of Project        | State/<br>Implementing<br>Agency | Capacity<br>(MW) | Original/<br>Latest Cost                | Date of<br>Sanction/<br>Financial<br>Closure | Commissioning<br>Schedule                     |
|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|---|--|---|
| 1                       | 2                      | 3                                | 4                | 5                                       | 6  | 7   |
| <b>THERMAL PROJECTS</b> |                        |                                  |                  |   |  |   |
| <b>CENTRAL SECTOR</b>   |                        |                                  |                  |   |  |   |
| 1.                      | Rihand St. II          | U.P./NTPC                        | 1000             | US\$<br>433.191M+<br>Rs. 2208.43<br>Cr. | 5/2001                                       | 8/2005<br>5/2006                              |
| 2.                      | Ramagundam TPS-<br>III | A.P./NTPC                        | 500              | Rs. 1780.99<br>Cr. + US\$<br>164.93 M   | 8/2001                                       | 8/2005  |
| <b>STATE SECTOR</b>     |                        |                                  |                  |   |  |   |
| 1.                      | Pragati CCGT           | Delhi/DVB                        | 330.38           | US\$ 59.888<br>M+Rs. 8.193<br>Cr.       | 4/2000                                       | 1/2002<br>3/2002<br>11/2002                   |
| 2.                      | Suratgarh TPP St. II   | Rajasthan/<br>RRVUNL             | 500              | Rs. 2057.62<br>Cr.                      | 9/1999                                       | 10/2001 (A)<br>4/2002                         |
| 3.                      | Raichur TPS            | Karnataka/<br>KPCL               | 210              | Rs. 613.00 Cr.                          | 10/2000                                      | 30 months<br>from Financial<br>Closure (FC)   |
| 4.                      | Baramura GT            | Tripura/Tripura<br>State Govt.   | 21               | Rs. 95.36 Cr.                           | —  | 9/2002  |
| 5.                      | Pari TPS Extn.         | Mah./ MSEB                       | 250              | Rs. 1053.90 Cr.                         | 2/2001                                       | 2/2005  |
| 6.                      | Rangat Bay DG          | A&N Islands/<br>Govt. of A&N     | 5                | Rs. 26.39 Cr.                           | 9/1998                                       | 2002-03                                       |
| 7.                      | Lakwa WH               | Assam/Govt.<br>of Assam          | 38               | Rs. 1611.00 Cr.                         | 12/2000                                      | 30 Months<br>form financial<br>tie up         |
| <b>PRIVATE SECTOR</b>   |                        |                                  |                  |   |  |   |
| 1.                      | Ratlam DG              | MP/GVK<br>Power Ltd.             | 118.632          | US\$ 73.88 M<br>+ Rs. 163.162 Cr.       | —  | 14-17 months<br>from effective<br>date of FC. |

| 1  | 2                               | 3                             | 4      | 5  | 6          | 7                      |
|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------|--|------------|------------------------|
| 2.                                       | Neyveli Zero TPS                | T.N./ ST-CMS Electric Co.     | 250    | Rs. 1325.11 Cr.  | 11/1999    | 8/2002                 |
| 3.                                       | Bambooflat DG                   | A&N Islands/Suryachakra Power | 20     | Rs. 63.14 Cr.  | 9/2000     | 3/2002                 |
| 4.                                       | Eloor CCGT                      | Kerala/BSES                   | 174    | Rs. 455.67 Cr.   | 3/2000     | 11/2000 (A)            |
| 5.                                       | LVS DGPP                        | AP/LVS Power                  | 36.8   | Rs. 133.00 Cr.   | 2/2000     | 10/2001 (A)            |
| 6.                                       | Samalpatti DGPP                 | TN/Samalpatti PCL             | 105.66 | US\$ 55.978 M + Rs. 172.508 Cr.                          | 12/1999    | 3/2001 (A)             |
| 7.                                       | Samayanallur DGPP               | TN/Balaji Power Corpn.        | 106    | Rs. 150.845 Cr. + US\$ 59.840 M                          | 4/2000     | 9/2001 (A)             |
| 8.                                       | Tanir Bavi CCGT                 | Kar./Tanir Bavi Power Co.     | 220    | N.A.<br>Project awarded on tariff bidding basis to IPPs. | 9/2000     | 5/2001 (A) and 11/2001 |
| 9.                                       | Torangallu TPS                  | Kar./ST-CMS Elec. Co.         | 260    | US\$ 106.87 M + Rs. 725.16 Cr.                           | 3/2000     | 1/1999(A) & 5/1999(A)  |
| <b>HYDRO PROJECTS<br/>CENTRAL SECTOR</b> |                                 |                               |        |  |            |                        |
| 1.                                       | Chamera St. II                  | H.P./NHPC                     | 300    | Rs. 1684.02 Cr.  | 18.05.99   | 10th Plan 2004-05      |
| 2.                                       | Teesta St. V                    | Sikkim/NHPC                   | 510    | Rs. 2198.04 Cr.  | 11.2.2000  | 2006-07                |
| 3.                                       | Koteshwar Dam and Power Project | U.P./THDC                     | 400    | Rs. 1301.56 Cr.  | 10.4.2000  | 2005-06                |
| 4.                                       | Loktak D/S                      | Manipur/NHPC                  | 90     | Rs. 578.62 Cr.   | 30.12.99   | 2006-07                |
| 5.                                       | Kopili St. II                   | Assam/NEEPCO                  | 25     | Rs. 76.09 Cr.  | 6.7.99     | 2001-02<br>2003-04     |
| <b>STATE SECTOR</b>                      |                                 |                               |        |  |            |                        |
| 1.                                       | WYC-II                          | Haryana/ State Govt.          | 14.4   | Rs. 70.0 Cr./<br>Rs. 94.0 Cr.                            | 04.02.2000 | 10th Plan              |

| 1  | 2                  | 3                           | 4   | 5                  | 6         | 7                    |
|----|--------------------|-----------------------------|-----|--------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| 2. | Larji              | H.P./ State<br>Govt.        | 126 | Rs. 796.98 Cr.     | 14.1.2000 | 2002-03<br>2003-05   |
| 3. | Maneri Bhali-II \$ | Uttaranchal/<br>State Govt. | 304 | Rs. 1249.18<br>Cr. | 21.2.2000 | 2003-05              |
| 4. | Marhikheda         | M.P./ State<br>Govt.        | 60  | Rs. 177.38 Cr.     | 11.5.2001 | 10th Plan<br>2004-05 |

\$ works of project held up.

### Shortage of Electricity in Bihar and U.P.

805. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sum of Rs. 1500 crore has been allocated during 2001-02 for bringing about improvement in electricity distribution and modernization thereof;

(b) if so, the details of amount given to Bihar and Uttar Pradesh and other States, State-wise;

(c) the manner in which and under which head the amount was sanctioned earlier spent and the achievements made therefrom;

(d) whether there is acute shortage of electricity in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh;

(e) if so, whether any measures have been taken to overcome the causes and whether there is any proposal to set up thermal and hydro electric plants in the States;

(f) whether it has been promised to give a package to Bihar and Uttar Pradesh to improve the electricity supply condition; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A sum of Rs. 1500 crores has been allocated during 2001-02 to upgrade distribution network to bring about improvement in electricity distribution and also for R&M and life extension / uprating of old generating stations

under Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP). State-wise project reports are being appraised.

(c) The allocation of funds during 2000-01 under APDP is given in the statement.

(d) and (e) The Government proposes to ensure availability of power by undertaking the following measures:

(i) Accelerated Capacity addition programme by Central Public Sector Utilities and State Utilities.

(ii) Improving all the operational efficiency and availability from existing power plants through Renovation & Modernization and life extension programmes.

(iii) Reduction of T&D losses by implementing the projects to strengthen the sub-transmission and distribution network.

(iv) Promoting energy efficiency and conservation.

(v) Providing a Legal framework for mandating corporatization and commercial functioning of the State Electricity Boards and Utilities with the object of improving their financial health.

(vi) Facilitating inter-regional transfer of power by establishing the necessary transmission network; and

(vii) Establishing an administrative, financial and regulatory framework to encourage investment by private sector in the areas of generation, transmission and distribution.

(a) The details of the projects being undertaken by NTPC in UP and Bihar are as under:-

(b) NTPC is implementing Rihand STPP Stage-II with a capacity of 1000 MW (2x500 MW) in Sonbhadra district of UP and the project is scheduled to yield benefits during 10th Plan period.

(c) Following NTPC projects in Bihar are identified for benefits in the 10th Plan period.

(i) Barh STPP with a capacity of 1980 MW (3x660 MW) in Patna District of Bihar.

(ii) Kahalgaon STPP Stage-II with a capacity of 1320 MW (2x660 MW) in Bhagalpur district of Bihar.

(f) and (g) Ministry of Power, has executed MOU separately with Government of Bihar and UP to affirm commitments to undertake reforms in the power sector.

**(I) Support to Government of Bihar**

(a) Govt. of India will provides funds for APDP for Renovation & Modernisation and upgrading of

thermal and hydro electric units and for improvement of sub-transmission & distribution with a view to bring down the T&D loss.

(b) Assistance for Rural Electrification.

(c) Additional allocation from Central Generating Station to meet the gap in demand.

(d) Financial assistance for metering.

(e) Assistance in executing transmission lines.

**(II) Support to Government of UP**

(a) For the Renovation & Modernisation of thermal power stations of Obra, Panki, Harduaganj, Pichha and Anpara-A, PFC would provide finance to UPRVUNL.

(b) Transmission: For undertaking critical transmission & sub-transmission lines. Specific projects would be funded by PFC.

(c) Assistance for Rural Electrification.

(d) Additional allocation of power from central generating stations.

**Statement**

*List of Projects approved under APDP during 2000-2001*

| Sl. No.               | State Utility | Name of Scheme  | Name of the Project | Cost of Project | Proposed APDP Sanction |       | Total Amount under APDP |
|-----------------------|---------------|---|---------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-------|-------------------------|
|                       |               |   |                     |                 | Grant                  | Loan  |                         |
| 1                     | 2             | 3   | 4                   | 5               | 6                      | 7     | 8                       |
| <b>ANDHRA PRADESH</b> |               |   |                     |                 |                        |       |                         |
| 1.                    | APGENCO       | R&M OF VIJAYWADA TPS U-1&2(2X210MW)                           | R&M                 | 22.30           | 5.58                   | 5.58  | 11.15                   |
| 2.                    | APGENCO       | R&M OF KTPS B & C (2X105+2X110)                               | R&M                 | 67.76           | 16.94                  | 16.94 | 33.88                   |
| 3.                    | APGENCO       | VARIOUS ACTIVITES FOR HYDEL POWER STATION UNDER THE PROGRAMME | R&U                 | 2.06            | 0.52                   | 0.52  | 1.03                    |

| 1   | 2              | 3   | 4               | 5      | 6     | 7     | 8      |
|-----|----------------|---|-----------------|--------|-------|-------|--------|
|     |                | OF ACCELERATED<br>GENERATION, EVACUATION &<br>REFURBISHMENT (PAGER)   |                 |        |       |       |        |
| 4.  | APGENCO        | FLOOD PROTECTION WALL<br>FOR NAGARJUNA SAGAR<br>HEP(1X110MW+7X100MW)  | R&U             | 3.00   | 0.75  | 0.75  | 1.50   |
| 5.  | APTRASNCO      | ELURU CIRCLE  | DISTR<br>TRANF  | 7.38   | 1.85  | 1.85  | 3.69   |
| 6.  | APTRASNCO      | ELURU CIRCLE  | METER           | 29.26  | 7.32  | 7.32  | 14.63  |
| 7.  | APTRASNCO      | TIRUPATI CIRCLE   | DISTR.TRA<br>NF | 13.53  | 3.38  | 3.38  | 6.77   |
| 8.  | APTRASNCO      | TIRUPATI CIRCLE   | METER           | 19.72  | 4.93  | 4.93  | 9.86   |
| 9.  | APTRASNCO      | WARANGAL CIRCLE   | DISTR<br>TRANSF | 9.97   | 2.49  | 2.49  | 4.99   |
| 10. | APTRASNCO      | WARANGAL CIRCLE   | METER           | 19.72  | 4.93  | 4.93  | 9.86   |
|     |                |   |                 | 194.70 | 48.68 | 48.68 | 97.35  |
|     | <b>BIHAR</b>   |   |                 |        |       |       |        |
| 11. | BSEB           | PESU(EAST)  | TRANS           | 8.93   | 2.23  | 2.23  | 4.47   |
| 12. | BSEB           | R&M PF IZZAFARIR  | R&M             | 20.55  | 5.14  | 5.14  | 10.28  |
| 13. | BSEB           | PESU(EAST)  | METER           | 5.58   | 1.40  | 1.40  | 2.79   |
| 14. | BSEB           | MUZZAFARPUR   | METER           | 7.82   | 1.96  | 1.96  | 3.91   |
|     |                |   |                 | 42.88  | 10.72 | 10.72 | 21.45  |
|     | <b>GUJARAT</b> |   |                 |        |       |       |        |
| 15. | GEB            | R&M OF WANAKBORI TPS  | R&M             | 4.45   | 1.11  | 1.11  | 2.23   |
| 16. | GEB            | SABARMATI CIRCLE  | METER           | 12.98  | 3.25  | 3.25  | 6.49   |
| 17. | GEB            | PALANPUR &<br>HIMMATNAGAR ZONE  | METER           | 9.80   | 2.45  | 2.45  | 4.90   |
| 18. | GEB            | RESTORATION OF POWER<br>SYS.OF KUTCH DIST.<br>(TOTAL COST IS RS.470 CRS,<br>EXPENDITURE FOR IST SIX<br>MONTHS ONLY) | TRANS           | 192.00 | 48.00 | 48.00 | 96.00  |
|     |                |   |                 | 219.23 | 54.81 | 54.81 | 109.62 |

| 1                | 2         | 3   | 4         | 5     | 6     | 7     | 8     |
|------------------|-----------|---|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| <b>HARYANA</b>   |           |   |           |       |       |       |       |
| 19.              | DHBVNL    | HISSAR TOWN   | TRANS     | 7.71  | 1.93  | 1.93  | 3.86  |
| 20.              | DHBVNL    | HISSAR CIRCLE   | TRANS     | 4.50  | 1.13  | 1.13  | 2.25  |
| 21.              | DHBVNL    | FARIDABAD TOWN  | TRANS     | 8.84  | 2.21  | 2.21  | 4.42  |
| 22.              | DHBVNL    | FARIDABAD CIRCLE  | TRANS     | 8.50  | 2.13  | 2.13  | 4.25  |
| 23.              | UHBVNL    | SONEPAT CIRCLE  | METER     | 8.77  | .19   | 2.19  | 4.39  |
| 24.              | UHBVNL    | SONEPAT CIRCLE  | TRANS     | 1.98  | 0.50  | 0.50  | 0.99  |
| 25.              | UHBVNL    | KARNAL CIRCLE   | METER     | 10.00 | 2.50  | 2.50  | 5.00  |
| 26.              | UHBVNL    | KARNAL CIRCLE   | TRANS     | 6.56  | 1.64  | 1.64  | 3.28  |
| 27.              | HPGCL     | R&M OF FARIDABAD TPS                                      | R&M       | 23.70 | 5.93  | 5.93  | 11.85 |
| 28.              |           | HISAR   | CAP       | 0.34  | 0.09  | 0.09  | 0.17  |
| 29.              |           | FARIDABAD   | CAP       | 1.93  | 0.48  | 0.48  | 0.97  |
| 30.              |           | HISSAR  | DIST.TRAN | 2.40  | 0.60  | 0.60  | 1.20  |
| 31.              |           | FARIDABAD   | DIST.TRAN | 14.00 | 3.50  | 3.50  | 7.00  |
|                  |           |   |           | 99.23 | 24.83 | 24.83 | 49.66 |
| <b>JHARKHAND</b> |           |   |           |       |       |       |       |
| 32.              | JHARKHAND | RANCHI CIRCLE   | TRANS     | 29.89 | 7.47  | 7.47  | 14.95 |
| 33.              | JHARKHAND | LOYABAD CIRCLE  | TRANS     | 14.05 | 3.51  | 3.51  | 7.03  |
|                  |           |   |           | 43.94 | 10.99 | 10.99 | 21.97 |
| <b>KARNATKA</b>  |           |   |           |       |       |       |       |
| 34.              | KPCL      | R&M OF RAICHUR TPS U-1,2&3(3X210MW)                       | R&M       | 28.84 | 7.21  | 7.21  | 14.42 |
| 35.              | KPCL      | R&U OF SHARAVATI, SUPA, LINGNA MAKI, BHADRA & VARAHI HEPS | R&U       | 16.00 | 4.00  | 4.00  | 8.00  |
| 36.              | VVNL      | R&M OF 28MW MUNIRABAD HYDRO POWER STATION(2X9+1X10MW)     | R&U       | 3.64  | 0.91  | 0.91  | 1.82  |

| 1                     | 2     | 3   | 4               | 5      | 6     | 7     | 8     |
|-----------------------|-------|---|-----------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| 37.                   | KPTCL | MYSORE CIRCLE   | DISTR<br>TRANSF | 9.98   | 2.50  | 2.50  | 4.99  |
| 38.                   | KPTCL | MYSORE CIRCLE   | METER           | 10.00  | 2.50  | 2.50  | 5.00  |
| 39.                   | KPTCL | MYSORE CIRCLE   | TRANS           | 27.48  | 6.87  | 6.87  | 13.74 |
| 40.                   | KPTCL | BIJAPUR CIRCLE  | METER           | 5.84   | 1.46  | 1.46  | 2.92  |
| 41.                   | KPTCL | BIJAPUR CIRCLE  | TRANS           | 39.90  | 9.98  | 9.98  | 19.95 |
| 42.                   | KPTCL | BELGAUM CIRCLE  | DISTR<br>TRANSF | 9.99   | 2.50  | 2.50  | 5.00  |
| 43.                   | KPTCL | BELGAUM CIRCLE  | METER           | 6.59   | 1.65  | 1.65  | 3.30  |
| 44.                   | KPTCL | BELGAUM CIRCLE  | TRANS           | 4.72   | 1.18  | 1.18  | 2.36  |
|                       |       |   |                 | 162.98 | 40.74 | 40.74 | 81.49 |
| <b>MADHYA PRADESH</b> |       |   |                 |        |       |       |       |
| 45.                   | MPEB  | R&M OF 1142.5 MW<br>SATPURA<br>TPS(5X625+1X200+3X210MW)                                     | R&M             | 22.34  | 5.59  | 5.59  | 11.17 |
| 46.                   | MPEB  | GWALIOR   | METER           | 12.41  | 3.10  | 3.10  | 6.21  |
| 47.                   | MPEB  | INDORE  | METER           | 19.35  | 4.84  | 4.84  | 9.68  |
| 48.                   | MPEB  | UJJAIN  | METER           | 21.36  | 5.34  | 5.34  | 10.68 |
| 49.                   | MPEB  | GWALIOR   | CAP             | 0.42   | 0.11  | 0.11  | 0.21  |
| 50.                   | MPEB  | INDORE  | CAP             | 2.99   | 0.75  | 0.75  | 1.50  |
| 51.                   | MPEB  | UJJAIN  | CAP             | 1.70   | 0.43  | 0.43  | 0.85  |
| 52.                   | MPEB  | INDORE  | DIST<br>TRANS   | 18.49  | 4.62  | 4.62  | 9.25  |
|                       |       |   |                 | 99.06  | 24.78 | 24.78 | 49.55 |
| <b>MAHARASHTRA</b>    |       |   |                 |        |       |       |       |
| 53.                   | MSEB  | ADDL. FINANCIAL<br>ASSITANCE FOR<br>EFFLUENT TREATMENT<br>PLANT(ETP) SCHEME OF<br>PARLI TPS | R&M             | 4.41   | 1.10  | 1.10  | 2.21  |

| 1             | 2    | 3  | 4              | 5      | 6     | 7     | 8      |
|---------------|------|--|----------------|--------|-------|-------|--------|
| 54.           | MSEB | ASH WATER RECOVERY<br>SCHEME OF PARLI TPS  | R&M            | 8.05   | 2.01  | 2.01  | 4.03   |
| 55.           | MSEB | ESP AUGMENTATION<br>RETROFIT FOR NASIK TPS   | R&M            | 22.00  | 5.50  | 5.50  | 11.00  |
| 56.           | MSEB | REPAIR & MODIFICATION<br>OF COAL MILLS BY MPSP<br>SYSTEM AT KORADI,<br>NASIK AND PARLI TPS | R&M            | 6.00   | 1.50  | 1.50  | 3.00   |
| 57.           | MSEB | R&M OF KORADI TPS(U-<br>5) (AUG.OF ESP)  | R&M            | 48.00  | 12.00 | 12.00 | 24.0   |
| 58.           | MSEB | SOLAPUR CIRCLE   | METER          | 40.00  | 10.00 | 10.00 | 20.00  |
| 59.           | MSEB | RATNAGIRI CIRCLE   | DISTR<br>TRANS | 10.00  | 2.50  | 2.50  | 5.00   |
| 60.           | MSEB | RATNAGIRI CIRCLE   | METER          | 14.15  | 3.54  | 3.54  | 7.08   |
| 61.           | MSEB | OSMMANABAD CIRCLE  | METER          | 40.00  | 10.00 | 10.00 | 20.00  |
| 62.           | MSEB | JALGAON CIRCLE   | DIST<br>TRANS  | 26.27  | 6.57  | 6.57  | 13.14  |
| 63.           | MSEB | JALGAON CIRCLE   | METER          | 50.00  | 12.50 | 12.50 | 25.00  |
|               |      |  |                | 268.88 | 67.22 | 67.22 | 134.44 |
| <b>ORRISA</b> |      |  |                |        |       |       |        |
| 64.           | OHPC | RM&U OF HIRAKUD-<br>1(BURLA)U-3&4  | R&U            | 126.13 | 19.00 | 19.00 | 38.00  |
|               |      |  |                | 126.13 | 19.00 | 19.00 | 38.00  |
| <b>PUNJAB</b> |      |  |                |        |       |       |        |
| 65.           | PSEB | R&U OF SHANAN HEP  | R&U            | 11.98  | 3.00  | 3.00  | 5.99   |
| 66.           | PSEB | PATIALA CIRCLE   | DISTR<br>TRANF | 8.51   | 2.13  | 2.13  | 4.26   |
| 67.           | PSEB | PATIALA CIRCLE   | METER          | 9.68   | 2.42  | 2.42  | 4.84   |
| 68.           | PSEB | PATIALA CIRCLE   | TRANS          | 25.00  | 6.25  | 6.25  | 12.50  |
| 69.           | PSEB | KHANNA CIRCLE  | DISTR<br>TRANF | 7.44   | 1.86  | 1.86  | 3.72   |

| 1                    | 2               | 3   | 4              | 5      | 6     | 7     | 8     |
|----------------------|-----------------|---|----------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| 70.                  | PSEB            | KHANNA CIRCLE   | METER          | 12.79  | 3.20  | 3.20  | 6.40  |
|                      |                 |   |                | 75.40  | 18.85 | 18.85 | 37.70 |
| <b>RAJASTHAN</b>     |                 |   |                |        |       |       |       |
| 71.                  | JODHPUR<br>VVNL | JODHPUR CIRCLE  | DISTR<br>TRANF | 27.89  | 6.97  | 6.97  | 13.95 |
| 72.                  | JODHPUR<br>VVNL | JODHPUR CIRCLE  | METER          | 15.62  | 3.91  | 3.91  | 7.81  |
| 73.                  | RRVNL           | ALWAR CIRCLE  | TRANS          | 7.12   | 1.78  | 1.78  | 3.56  |
| 74.                  |                 | ALWAR   | METER          | 9.00   | 2.25  | 2.25  | 4.50  |
| 75.                  |                 | JHUNJHUNU   | METER          | 8.15   | 2.04  | 2.04  | 4.08  |
| 75.                  |                 | JODHPUR   | METER          | 10.85  | 2.71  | 2.71  | 5.43  |
| 76.                  |                 | ALWAR   | CAP            | 3.20   | 0.80  | 0.80  | 1.60  |
| 77.                  |                 | JHUNJHUNU   | CAP            | 3.70   | 0.93  | 0.93  | 1.85  |
| 78.                  |                 | JODHPUR   | CAP            | 4.45   | 1.11  | 1.11  | 2.23  |
|                      |                 |   |                | 89.98  | 22.50 | 22.50 | 45.00 |
| <b>TAMIL NADU</b>    |                 |   |                |        |       |       |       |
| 79.                  | TNEB            | ROUTINE R&M<br>ACTIVITIES(ADDL) UNDER<br>R&M PHASE II OF<br>TUTICORIN TPS | R&M            | 33.84  | 8.46  | 8.46  | 16.92 |
| 80.                  | TNEB            | R&M OF ENNORE<br>TPS (CONSTRUCTION<br>OF ASH DYKE)                        | R&M            | 73.04  | 18.26 | 18.26 | 36.52 |
| 81.                  | TNEB            | CAPACITORS  | CAP            | 24.03  | 6.05  | 6.05  | 12.10 |
|                      |                 |   |                | 130.91 | 32.77 | 32.77 | 65.54 |
| <b>UTTAR PRADESH</b> |                 |   |                |        |       |       |       |
| 82.                  | UPRVUNL         | R&M OF PARICHA<br>TPS(2X210MW)  | R&M            | 32.80  | 8.20  | 8.20  | 16.40 |
| 83.                  | UPRVUNL         | R&M OF PANKI TPS UNIT<br>3&4(2X210MW)                                     | R&M            | 31.43  | 7.86  | 7.86  | 15.72 |

| 1                  | 2       | 3  | 4     | 5      | 6     | 7     | 8      |
|--------------------|---------|--|-------|--------|-------|-------|--------|
| 84.                | UPRVUNL | R&M OF ANPARA A<br>TPS(3X210MW)  | R&M   | 26.10  | 6.53  | 6.53  | 13.05  |
| 85.                | UPRVUNL | R&M OF PARICHA<br>TPS(2X210MW)(PAGER)  | R&M   | 8.02   | 2.01  | 2.01  | 4.01   |
| 86.                | UPJVNL  | R&U OF KHODRI HEP  | R&U   | 10.50  | 2.63  | 2.63  | 5.25   |
| 87.                | UPJVNL  | R&U OF CHILLA HEP  | R&U   | 47.10  | 11.78 | 11.78 | 23.55  |
| 88.                | UPJVNL  | R&U OF CHIBRO HEP  | R&U   | 20.90  | 5.23  | 5.23  | 10.45  |
| 89.                |         | MORADABAD  | METER | 14.41  | 3.60  | 3.60  | 7.21   |
|                    |         | GORAKHPUR  | METER | 11.64  | 2.91  | 2.91  | 5.82   |
|                    |         |  |       | 202.90 | 50.72 | 50.72 | 101.46 |
| <b>WEST BENGAL</b> |         |  |       |        |       |       |        |
| 90.                | WBSEB   | R&U OF JALDHAKA HEP<br>STG-1(3X9MW)& STG-<br>II(2X4MW)   | R&U   | 49.79  | 12.45 | 12.45 | 24.90  |
| 91.                | WBSEB   | METERS FOR DOMESTIC<br>CONSUMER IN IDENTIFIED<br>3<br>CIRCLES(HOWRAH,BIDHA<br>NNAGAR & 24 PARGANA) | METER | 7.20   | 1.80  | 1.80  | 3.60   |
| 92.                | WBSEB   | METERS, CAP &<br>DIST.TRANS.IN 3 CIRCLES   | METER | 30.00  | 7.50  | 7.50  | 15.00  |
|                    |         |  |       | 86.99  | 21.75 | 21.75 | 43.50  |
| <b>CHATTISGARH</b> |         |  |       |        |       |       |        |
| 93.                |         | RAIPUR   | METER | 6.40   | 1.60  | 1.60  | 3.20   |
| 94.                |         | BILASPUR   | METER | 5.00   | 1.25  | 1.25  | 2.50   |
| 95.                |         | RAJNANDGAO   | METER | 6.10   | 1.53  | 1.53  | 3.05   |
| 95.                |         | RAIPUR   | CAP   | 1.00   | 0.25  | 0.25  | 0.50   |
| 96.                |         | BILASPUR   | CAP   | 1.40   | 0.35  | 0.35  | 0.70   |
| 97.                |         | RAJNANDGAO   | CAP   | 0.61   | 0.15  | 0.15  | 0.31   |
|                    |         |  |       | 20.51  | 5.13  | 5.13  | 10.26  |

| 1                  | 2 | 3                 | 4     | 5       | 6      | 7      | 8      |
|--------------------|---|-------------------|-------|---------|--------|--------|--------|
| <b>UTTARANCHAL</b> |   |                   |       |         |        |        |        |
| 98.                |   | DEHRADUN          | METER | 3.60    | 0.90   | 0.90   | 1.80   |
|                    |   | RUDRAPUR          | METER | 3.00    | 0.75   | 0.75   | 1.50   |
| 99.                |   | ROORKEE           | METER | 3.00    | 0.75   | 0.75   | 1.50   |
|                    |   | R&U OF KHODRI HEP | R&U   | 10.50   | 2.63   | 2.63   | 5.25   |
| 100.               |   | R&U OF CHILLA HEP | R&U   | 47.10   | 11.78  | 11.78  | 23.55  |
|                    |   | R&U OF CHIBRO HEP | R&U   | 20.90   | 5.23   | 5.23   | 10.45  |
| GRAND TOTAL        |   |                   |       | 1873.32 | 455.66 | 455.66 | 911.33 |

**A) SPECIAL CATEGORY STATES**

| Sl. No.                  | State Utility | Name of Scheme                 | Disciplin | Cost of Scheme | Proposed APDP Sanction |      | Total Amount under APDP |
|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|-----------|----------------|------------------------|------|-------------------------|
|                          |               |                                |           |                | Grant                  | Loan |                         |
| 1                        | 2             | 3                              | 4         | 5              | 6                      | 7    | 8                       |
| <b>ARUNACHAL PRADESH</b> |               |                                |           |                |                        |      |                         |
| 1.                       | ARUN PD       | METERS DOWN UPTO 11 KV/HT      | METER     | 2.82           | 2.54                   | 0.28 | 2.82                    |
| 2.                       | ARUND PD      | METERING IN APEC III CIRCLE    | METER     | 3.50           | 3.15                   | 0.35 | 3.50                    |
|                          |               |                                |           | 6.32           | 5.59                   | 0.63 | 6.32                    |
| <b>ASSAM</b>             |               |                                |           |                |                        |      |                         |
| 3.                       | ASEB          | STRENGTHING OF SILCHAR NETWORK | TRANS     | 15.60          | 14.04                  | 1.56 | 15.60                   |
| 4.                       | ASEB          | METERS DOWN UPTO 11KV/HT       | METER     | 4.42           | 3.98                   | 0.44 | 4.42                    |
|                          |               |                                |           | 20.02          | 18.02                  | 2.00 | 20.02                   |
| <b>HIMACHAL PRADESH</b>  |               |                                |           |                |                        |      |                         |
| 5.                       | HPSEB         | METERS DOWN UPTO 11KV/HT       | METER     | 25.32          | 22.79                  | 2.53 | 25.32                   |
|                          |               |                                |           | 25.32          | 22.79                  | 2.53 | 25.32                   |

| 1                | 2          | 3                           | 4     | 5            | 6            | 7           | 8            |
|------------------|------------|-----------------------------|-------|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| <b>J &amp; K</b> |            |                             |       |              |              |             |              |
| 6.               | J&KPDD     | METERS DOWN UPTO<br>11KV/HT | METER | 6.99         | 6.29         | 0.70        | 6.99         |
|                  |            |                             |       | 6.99         | 6.29         | 0.70        | 6.99         |
| <b>MANIPUR</b>   |            |                             |       |              |              |             |              |
| 7.               | MANIPUR PD | METERS DOWN UPTO<br>11KV/HT | METER | 0.72         | 0.65         | 0.07        | 0.77         |
|                  |            |                             |       | 0.72         | 0.65         | 0.07        | 0.77         |
| <b>MEGHALAYA</b> |            |                             |       |              |              |             |              |
| 8.               | MEGHA. PD  | METERS DOWN UPTO<br>11KV/HT | METER | 1.81         | 1.63         | 0.18        | 1.81         |
|                  |            |                             |       | 1.81         | 1.63         | 0.18        | 1.81         |
| <b>MIZORAM</b>   |            |                             |       |              |              |             |              |
| 9.               | MIZORAM PD | METERS DOWN UPTO<br>11KV/HT | METER | 1.06         | 0.95         | 0.11        | 1.06         |
|                  |            |                             |       | 1.06         | 0.95         | 0.11        | 1.06         |
| <b>NAGALAND</b>  |            |                             |       |              |              |             |              |
| 10.              | NAGALAND P | METERS DOWN UPTO<br>11KV/HT | METER | 1.89         | 1.70         | 0.19        | 1.89         |
|                  |            |                             |       | 1.89         | 1.70         | 0.19        | 1.89         |
| <b>SIKKIM</b>    |            |                             |       |              |              |             |              |
| 11.              | SIKKIM PD  | METERS DOWN UPTO<br>11KV/HT | METER | 1.88         | 1.69         | 0.19        | 1.88         |
| 12.              | SIKKIM PD  | METERS PH-II                | METER | 4.50         | 4.05         | 0.45        | 4.50         |
|                  |            |                             |       | 6.38         | 5.74         | 0.64        | 6.38         |
| <b>TRIPURA</b>   |            |                             |       |              |              |             |              |
| 13.              | TRIPURA    | METERS DOWN UPTO<br>11KV/HT | METER | 5.00         | 4.50         | 0.50        | 5.00         |
|                  |            |                             |       | 5.00         | 4.50         | 0.50        | 5.00         |
| <b>TOTAL (A)</b> |            |                             |       | <b>75.51</b> | <b>67.96</b> | <b>7.55</b> | <b>75.51</b> |

### Tunnel Ventilation Work

806. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total amount sanctioned and spent on the tunnel ventilation work of the two long tunnels of Koraput-Rayagada Project;
- (b) the progress of those two long tunnels; and
- (c) the time by which the work is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) :

(a) The total amount sanctioned for the work of tunnel ventilation for two long tunnels of Koraput-Rayagada Project is Rs. 419.63 lakhs. Total amount spent on this work of tunnel ventilation upto March 2001 is Rs. 365.87 lakhs.

(b) All major works have been completed. Some deficiencies and defects noticed during commissioning are being attended.

(c) Work is expected to be completed and commissioned in next 1-2 month's period.

### Exploration of Coal Bed Methane

807. SHRI ANADI SAHU :  
DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN :

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

- (a) whether the Government has approved the policy of exploration and exploitation of Coal Bed Methane;
- (b) if so, the States in which exploration of CBM is extended; and
- (c) the funds allocated, if any, for such exploration in different parts of 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the first offer of blocks under the Coal Methane (CBM) policy approved by the Government, 7 blocks falling in the states of West Bengal, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan were offered for bidding by private and public sector companies. In response to this, bids for 6 blocks situated in West Bengal, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have been received.

(c) As per CBM policy, no investment from Government is required.

[Translation]

### Aeroplanes Crash

808. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:  
SHRI Y.V. RAD:  
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:  
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:  
SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL:  
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:  
SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL:  
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:  
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:  
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:  
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:  
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:  
SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:  
SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of fighter planes, helicopters and transport aircraft crashed during 2001 till date, category-wise, incident-wise;
- (b) the details of the origin of these aircraft and helicopters;
- (c) the value of public/private property lost and the number of pilots killed in these accidents and compensation paid in each case;
- (d) the outcome of each of the inquiry conducted and action taken thereon during the said period;
- (e) whether attention of the Government has also been drawn to the news-item captioned "MIGs have design flaws say former Air Force Chiefs" appearing in the "Hindustan Times" dated August 22, 2001;

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon alongwith likely impact on further purchase; and

(g) the steps taken to check abnormal rise in accidents particularly involving MIG fighters and to upgrade and manufacture these planes indigenously?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) The details of the number of fighter planes, helicopters and transport aircraft crashed during 2001 till 18 November, 2001, category-wise, incident-wise, origin-wise is enclosed in the statement.

(c) An amount of Rs. 117.44 crores has been lost as service property and Rs. 1.36 crores have been paid to civilians as compensation in 18 out of 20 cases, finalised till date. Nine pilots have been killed in 20 cases of accidents occurred till date this year. Compensation for the pilots killed has been paid according to the rules.

(d) The Courts of Inquiry have identified human error (aircrew), bird hit and technical defects as the main causes of these accidents. Remedial measures are instituted after each Court of Inquiry, based on the recommendations of the Court of Inquiry.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) In the life cycle of any fighter aircraft, modifications/up-gradations are ongoing processes to keep the weapon platform technologically relevant. The air-worthiness of MiG-21, has been ensured through periodic overhaul. There has never been any doubt on the air-worthiness of MiG-21 fleet.

(g) The main causes of accidents in the Indian Air Force involving the MiG-21 aircraft have been identified as Human Error (Aircrew) [HE(A)], Technical Defect (TD) and Bird Hit (BH). Measures are being taken to reduce accidents on a continuous basis in order to bring down the accident rates under all categories by formulation of Accident Prevention Programme, Environmental Cleanliness, Bird Hazard control, conduct of studies on HE and TDs and interaction with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited / Original Equipment Manufacturers. A total of 125 MiG-21 BIS variant aircraft have been planned for up-gradation. Out of these, two have already been upgraded in Russia during the design and development phase, which has been completed recently. It has been planned that the remaining aircraft will be upgraded at HAL, Nasik.

#### Statement

| Type of aircraft | Origin  | HE(A) | TD | BH | Total |
|------------------|---------|-------|----|----|-------|
| MiG-21           | Russian | 04    | 04 | 01 | 09    |
| MiG-23           | Russian | 02    | 01 | -  | 03    |
| MiG-27           | Russian | -     | 01 | -  | 01    |
| MiG-29           | Russian | 01    | -  | -  | 01    |
| Jaguar           | British | 01    | -  | -  | 01    |
| Mi-8             | Russian | 02    | 01 | -  | 03    |
| Mi-17            | Russian | 02    | -  | -  | 02    |
| Total            | -       | 12    | 07 | 01 | 20    |

HE(A) - Human Error (Aircrew)

TD - Technical Defect

BH - Bird Hit

[English]

#### Tender System

809. SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry invite tenders in respect of many items and in many a case lowest offer is not accepted;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the cases in which counter offer was given;

(c) whether C&AG in their report 9 of 1999—pages 178 to 192 had brought to the notice of such a case;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to streamline the tender system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) :

(a) and (b) It is true that many tenders are invited in respect

of many items by zonal railways and production units under this ministry and lowest offer is generally accepted subject to meeting the tender requirement as per terms and conditions, specifications, and reasonability of the rates. In case lowest offer is not accepted, the reason thereof are to be recorded as per rules. Lowest offer may not be acceptable in certain tender cases when the same is not either as per specifications, terms and conditions, past available credential of tenderer or unreasonable rate etc.

(c) to (e) Report 9 of 1999—pages 178 to 192 refers to various subjects as given below:

(a) Para 4.3.5 – Railway Board—

Sub : Loss on procurement of High Tensile Steel Wire.

(b) Para 4.3.6 – South Central, Northeast Frontier, Southern and Western Railways –

Sub : Loss due to detention to locomotives.

(c) Para 4.3.7 – Southern Railway –

Sub : Non-recovery of reclamation charges of wheel-sets from wagon builders.

(d) Para 4.3.8 – South Eastern Railway –

Sub : Avoidable loss on procurement of pre-stressed concrete sleepers.

(e) Para 4.3.9 – Diesel Component Works, Patiala

Sub : Injudicious rejection of lowest tenders.

(f) Para 4.3.10 – Northern Railway –

Sub : Avoidable expenditure on bulk production of twin block Reinforced Concrete (RCC) sleepers.

Para 4.3.9 above refers to injudicious rejection of lowest tenderer.

The case pertains to procurement of various sizes of Kapton Insulated electrolytic copper Conductors procured by Diesel Component Works, Patiala. This Audit Para refers to ignoring the lowest offer which was in Foreign Exchange on import basis made from Dutch firm. The offer was ignored by DCW for the reason of no

adequate experience of quality supply by this Dutch firm. The orders were placed on the lowest indigenous tenderers. In fact all four tenders referred in Audit Para were advertised tenders for procurement in India on Rupee Payment Terms through indigenous sources. Audit Para has already been replied through Action Taken Note as per procedure.

**Acquisition of Land for Ginigera-Mehaboobnagar Railway Project**

810. SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the land acquisition for Ginigera-Mehaboobnagar railway project has been started;

(b) if so, the extent of land acquired so far and the amount paid towards its compensation;

(c) the extent of land to be acquired;

(d) the time by which the entire land acquisition would be completed; and

(e) the time by which the construction work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No land has been acquired for the new line portion so far.

(c) 1060 Hectares of land is proposed to be acquired for the project.

(d) and (e) Would depend upon the land being made available by the State Govt. and availability of resources.

[Translation]

**Closure of Petrol Pumps  
in Maharashtra**

811. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of diesel/petrol pumps closed down in each district of Maharashtra during the last three years alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(b) the number of diesel/petrol pumps that have been reopened or are likely to be reopened in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) During the period 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, 10 retail outlets were closed down in various districts of the State of Maharashtra for various reasons like eviction suits won by the landlords, poor management, non-performance, adulteration and malpractices, benami operation, violation of the dealership agreement, etc.

Out of the above, one retail outlet has been reopened. At present, there is no proposal to reopen the remaining retail outlets.

[English]

#### Train from Nalanda to Sealdah

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the difficulties faced by the people of Nalanda and Murshidabad to travel to State Capital Calcutta in the morning;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to introduce a morning train from Nalanda to Sealdah/Howrah via Azimganj/Katwa section of Eastern Railway; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) to (c) The reference is perhaps to Malda and not Nalanda. At present, there is no proposal to introduce morning train from Malda Town to Sealdah/Howrah via Azimganj/Katwa due to operational and resource constraints. However, it is proposed to introduce a pair of day

time bi-weekly Express viz. 2509/2510 Express between New Jalpaiguri-Sealdah via Malda Town-Bolpur-Bardhaman during 2001-02.

#### LPG Connections in Madhya Pradesh

813. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG connections given by various oil companies in Madhya Pradesh during each of the last three years;

(b) the target set for 2001-2002; and

(c) the steps taken to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) The details of LPG (domestic) connections released by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies during the last three years in the State of Madhya Pradesh are as under:-

| Year      | No. of LPG Connections (Lakhs) |
|-----------|--------------------------------|
| 1998-1999 | 1.80                           |
| 1999-2000 | 4.00                           |
| 2000-2001 | 5.23                           |

(b) and (c) Presently LPG connections are released on demand throughout the country in existing markets and a target of release of 1.3 crore new LPG (domestic) connection throughout the country during the current calendar year has been fixed up by the Government. Against this target, about 48 Lakh connections have been released during the period Jan.-Sep. 2001.

#### Anti Collision Device

814. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:  
SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:  
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:  
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:  
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Konkan Railway has developed a device which prevents collision between trains;

(b) if so, the main features of the device;

(c) whether the Government propose to introduce such a device on both goods and passengers trains to augment safety measures;

(d) whether this new device has been tested, verified and examined by the Railways Technical know-hows; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Anti-collision Devices (ACDs) are microprocessor based communication devices, fitted on locomotives & brake vans or located in stations & level crossings. These give distinct identification to the locomotives & brake vans and using the global positioning system and angular deviation count principle, detect "collision like" situation and initiate application of brakes in the locomotives in a range of 3 kms. The ACD also help in detecting train partings and initiate warning signals at level crossings.

(c) to (e) The device is under extended field trials on the railways to establish suitability, reliability, maintainability and integrity of working. After assessment of the results of field trials and necessary modifications, the device would be considered for installation on trains, taking into account cost implications and subject to availability of funds.

#### Recycling of Rails

815. SHRI Y.V. RAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways recycle the rails by using them in lesser traffic areas after being removed from busy lines;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that this would be risking the lives of the people;

(c) if so, the reasons for taking such unsafe action;

(d) whether this practice would be stopped; and

(e) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) :

(a) to (e) The released rails from busy lines are segregated into second hand serviceable rails i.e. rails still having balance life and scrap rails. The released serviceable rails are scanned ultrasonically before using them for renewal on lighter traffic routes.

#### Capital Sharing of Tehri Dam

816. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether capital sharing of Tehri Dam between U.P. and Uttaranchal has been settled;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of principles adopted by the Government for the settlement of capital sharing among the two States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### Upgradation of Safety Standard

817. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:  
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:  
SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA:  
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision for modernization of signal system and upgradation of safety standard through Special Safety Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds allocated separately for these purposes zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) :

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) Following major modernisation works have been planned and are being progressively implemented:

- Colour light signalling in lieu of semaphore signals.
- Panel/route relay/electronic interlocking in replacement of mechanical interlocking.
- Track circuiting at stations.
- Automatic Signalling.
- Block proving by axle counters.
- Radio based mobile train radio communication system.
- Train management system.
- Protective devices at level crossings.
- Data Logger.
- Integrated Power Supply.
- Auxiliary warning system.

(c) During the current year, an outlay of Rs. 269 cr. has been allocated for the replacement/modernisation of the signalling system. Zone-wise allocation is:

|                            |                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Central Railway            | : Rs. 43.71 Cr. |
| Eastern Railway            | : Rs. 31.62 Cr. |
| Northern Railway           | : Rs. 40.36 Cr. |
| North Eastern Railway      | : Rs. 7.21 Cr.  |
| Northeast Frontier Railway | : Rs. 14.95 Cr. |
| Southern Railway           | : Rs. 28.91 Cr. |
| South Central Railway      | : Rs. 20.77 Cr. |
| South Eastern Railway      | : Rs. 47.50 Cr. |
| Western Railway            | : Rs. 33.97 Cr. |

Under a Special Railway Safety Fund, a non-lapsable amount of about Rs. 3600 Cr. is being earmarked for the replacement/modernisation of signalling and safety enhancement works on Indian Railways in the next 5-7 years.

#### Agreement Signed by ONGC

818. DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has signed agreements for offshore projects abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated amount likely to be earned from foreign projects?

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) On 19.5.1988 ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL) a wholly owned subsidiary of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) had signed a Petroleum Production Sharing Contract (PSC) with Petrovietnam, the national oil company of Vietnam. The exploration efforts undertaken under the PSC have resulted in discovery of gas reserves in the offshore Block 06.1, which is being developed by OVL in partnership with British Petroleum, Statoil and Petrovietnam. In this project OVL has a stake of 45% and its share in development cost thereof is about US \$ 228 million (Rs.1,075 crore)

On 10.2.2001 OVL had signed an agreement with the Rosneft, the national oil company of Russia to acquire 20% participating interest from it in the Sakhalin-I offshore project. The total investment of OVL in the project is estimated to be around US \$ 1.7 billion (Rs. 8,000 crore).

OVL has also signed an Exploration and Development contract for Exploration Block 8 in Iraq with Oil Exploration Company of Ministry of Oil, Iraq on 28.11.2001. This project is in the exploration stage.

The Vietnam Gas Project and the Sakhalin-I Project are expected to give a return of over 20% and 15% respectively on OVL's investments.

**Extension of Rajdhani Service from  
Tinsukhia to Guwahati**

819. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assured the MPs from North-East recently to increase the Rajdhani service from Tinsukhia to Guwahati from twice a week to five times a week;

(b) if so, the time by which the assurance is likely to be fulfilled; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Do not arise.

(c) Due to operational and resource constraints.

**Testing of Nag Missile**

820. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:  
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the "Nag" anti-tank missile was test-fired on September 1-2, 2001, from Balasore test range;

(b) if so, the success achieved therein;

(c) the salient features of the missile; and

(d) the goal set under the missile defence programme and the extent to which the goal has been achieved?

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

(b) This Missile was launched from a tube in programmed control mode. It achieved all the mission objectives of qualifying the control sensor package, electromechanical actuator and smokeless extruded double band (EDB) sustainer propellant.

(c) and (d) "Nag" is designed to be a third generation, anti-tank missile having 'top attack' and 'fire & forget' capability for Army on two platforms i.e. Nag Missile Carrier (NAMICA) & Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH). NAG with above capabilities has a range of 4 km. Missile has entered the guided flight phase which will be followed by user's trials/production phase.

**Faulty Guns Supplied by Medak  
Ordnance Factory**

821. SHRI A. NARENDRA:  
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:  
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ordnance factory in Medak district, Andhra Pradesh has fitted some of the Army's mechanised infantry armoured vehicles with dysfunctional guns;

(b) whether the air pressure was not up to scratch in some of the vehicles and in two different cases, the missile circuits electronic component was dysfunctional;

(c) whether the Government have made any enquiry about these incidents; and

(d) if so, the findings of these enquiries and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) The Gun (Article 2A42) is manufactured at Ordnance Factory, Trichy, and assembled with BMP-II vehicles which are manufactured at Ordnance Factory Project, Medak. These guns are tested by Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA) organisation as per the collaborators specified quality plans before the same are issued to the Army. The user (Mechanised Infantry) have recently conducted trials on the vehicles in April, 2001 and it has been reported that the overall performance of these guns has been satisfactory. Therefore, Ordnance Factory Project, Medak has not supplied BMP-II vehicles to the Army with dysfunctional guns.

2. The problem of leakage of air pressure in compressed air system from joints was reported in three vehicles out of 90 BMP vehicles issued to the Army. These

are routine rectifiable defects and the same were rectified by Ordnance Factory Project, Medak technical team on 20th May, 2000.

3. Certain defects / mal-function with electronic components / circuits of missiles and launchers fitted on BMP-2 vehicles were reported by the users. The same were rectified by the technical team of Ordnance Factory Project, Medak, on 22nd November, 2000 and handed over to the users in acceptable condition.

4. BMP vehicles manufactured at Ordnance Factory Project, Medak, are issued to the Army after stringent inspection schedule comprising of the following:-

- (a) Inspection by factory Quality Assurance
- (b) Inspection by DGQA
- (c) Inspection by Army's Depot Collection Team
- (d) Inspection by Resident Inspector Technical Group, Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Headquartered at the Depots [Joint Receipt Inspection (JRI)]
- (e) Inspection by Collection Team of User unit.

Certain deficiencies of routine nature observed during the various stages of inspection are attended to/rectified by the technical team of Ordnance Factory Project, Medak, before finally handing over to the users. These are attended to as a routine and as per accepted and mutually agreed practice. Therefore, enquiry was neither considered necessary nor was the same instituted.

[Translation]

#### Damage to Taj Mahal

822. SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN:  
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:  
SHRI. NAWAL KISHORE RAI:  
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAI SI:  
SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA:  
SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI:  
SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Taj Vandalism-Officials begin passing the buck" appearing in the 'Times of India' dated October 19, 2001;

(b) if so, the facts of the case;

(c) the damage caused as a result thereof;

(d) whether Supreme Court has directed the UP Government and ASI to take stern action against the culprit and probe into the vandalism by some political activists; and

(e) if so, the action taken in this regard by ASI and by UP Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. A large number of people who has gathered at Agra in connection with a political rally, entered the Taj Mahal on 13th and 14th October, 2001 without entry tickets.

(b) to (e) Some graffiti was scribbled on the walls of the monument which has been erased completely.

In a suo-motu proceedings in this matter, the Hon'ble Supreme Court, have directed the Archaeological Survey of India and the Government of Uttar Pradesh to file a report in the matter. Further action will be taken in the light of the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

[English]

#### Extension of Railway Line from Tarakeshwar to Bishnupur

823. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sanctioned the extension of railway line from Tarakeshwar to Bishnupur;

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

(c) whether the construction work of the line has been started; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The work of new line from Tarakeshwar to Bishnupur (84.70 km) have been included in the Budget 2000-01 at an anticipated cost of Rs. 260 cr. An amount of Rs. 25 cr. has been provided for this work during 2001-02.

(c) and (d) Final Location Survey for Phase I from Tarakeshwar to Arambagh has been completed and is in progress on rest of the section. Land acquisition proceedings have been taken up. Construction work would be taken up once the land is made available by the State Govt.

#### Challenge For Broadcasting Sector

824. SHRI C.N. SINGH:

SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM:

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

(a) whether the Government have drawn up any perspective plan for the broadcasting sector to face competition from new and converging technologies in the field of broadcasting communication and information technologies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

#### Power Purchase Agreements

825. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are adopting variation in the agreement between private power projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal has been received by the Government in this regard particularly from Andhra Pradesh;

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

(e) the details of the confrontations faced by the Government with the private projects;

(f) the number of such differences of the private parties, State-wise; and

(g) the corrective measures being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The Central Government has not signed any Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with any Independent Power Producer (IPP). The PPA is a contract between the State Electricity Board and the IPP in which modalities for purchase / sale of power and allocation of various risks are negotiated between the two parties for power projects. The tariff for sale of power under the PPA is to be governed by the tariff notification issued by the Government of India on 30.3.1992 under the provisions of Section 43(A)(2) of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948. The tariff notification allows deviation from the norms specified in the notification subject to certain conditions. Consequent upon enactment of the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998, the provisions of Section 43(A)(2) have been omitted in respect of such States who have set up Electricity Regulatory Commissions, thereby, transferring the tariff fixation powers to the Electricity Regulatory Commissions.

(b) The tariff notification dated 30.3.1992 provides that the tariff for sale of electricity by a generating company to a State Electricity Board may also be determined in deviation of the norms, other than the norms regarding operation and Plan Load Factor (PLF), specified in the notification subject to the conditions that:-

(i) The overall per unit tariff of electricity calculated on the basis of the norms in deviation does not exceed the per unit tariff calculated on the basis of the norms specified in the notification;

(ii) The concerned State Government has, after satisfying itself, recommended that the deviations are justified; and

(iii) The Central Government, after satisfying itself that the overall per unit tariff is in accordance with condition (i) -above, approves the deviations.

The norms are not relevant in regard to private power projects awarded on the basis of tariff based competitive bidding as per guidelines issued by the Central Government.

(c) to (e) At present, no proposal from any State Government for approval of deviation is pending with the Central Government. However, in the past, the Government has approved deviations in regard to the Dabhol power project in Maharashtra, the Barsingsar lignite based power project in Rajasthan and the Malana hydro-electric project in Himachal Pradesh. The Government of Andhra Pradesh had, in August, 1998, proposed certain deviations in regard to the Lanco Kondapalli power project, which could not be approved for want of certain clarifications from the State Government. Meanwhile, the State Electricity Regulatory Commission has become operational in the state of Andhra Pradesh and, therefore, the tariff issues for new projects will be within the ambit of the Commission.

(f) and (g) The Government of India has not faced any confrontation with private power projects in regards to any proposal for approval of deviations. The award of private power projects through competitive bidding has been made mandatory after 18.2.1995 and with the setting up of the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions, all issues relating to tariff including PPA will have to be approved by the Commissions.

[Translation]

**Direct Rail Service to Divisional Headquarters, Rewa**

826. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any memorandum has been received by the Government for providing direct rail service from Shahdol to Divisional Headquarters, Rewa;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have received any request to extend Kapil Dhara Express, presently running upto Shahdol, a distance of 200 kms from Bilaspur upto Rewa via Katni; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Examined, but not found feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

(c) and (d) The reference is perhaps to 409/410 Bilaspur-Shahdol Passenger. Its extension upto Rewa is not feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

[English]

**New Fuel Policy**

827. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to draw up a new fuel policy for public transport vehicles in Delhi and other major cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the new fuel policy 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) to (c) An Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, Director General, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), has been constituted on 13.9.2001 to recommend an Auto Fuel Policy for the country. This Committee has been given six months time to submit its final report.

**Marketing Strategy of Oil PSUs**

828. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:  
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

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

(a) whether Oil PSUs have made marketing strategy for sale of their products at their outlets;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the extent to which it is beneficial to boost the sale of their products and to meet the competition in the market?

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. Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have introduced various new concepts as part of their marketing strategy for sale at their retail outlets like:-

- (i) Up-gradation/modernisation of their retail outlets.
- (ii) Setting up of value added facilities like convenience stores, ATM, auto car-wash, cyber cafe, pizza outlet, pharmacy, provision of digital air gauge etc.
- (iii) Increasing productivity of the retail outlet network through revamping of the retail outlet portfolio and expansion of the network to high potential markets.
- (iv) Ensuring retail customer loyalty through incentive programmes so as to retain and improve upon market share.

#### **Supply of Defective Steel**

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

- (a) whether the quality of rails supplied by Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP) has not been found upto the required standard;
- (b) if so, the way out found to ensure good quality of rails from BSP;
- (c) whether the rails have been found defective despite the Director General, Supplies and Disposal inspected the rails supplied to Railways before their despatch;
- (d) if so, the action taken against the officials found dereliction of their duties; and

- (e) the steps taken by the Railways to ensure the purchase of quality goods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) to (e) Some rails supplied by Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP) were found not conforming to specifications. Railway has been regularly interacting with BSP for improvement of quality of rails. Latest improvements brought out are: on line ultrasonic testing, eddy current testing, vacuum degassing and setting up a revised Quality Assurance Programme.

The cases of despatch of rails not conforming to specifications were reported to Director General Supplies & Disposal for necessary action.

The inspection of rails has been transferred under M/s Rail India Technical & Economic Services w.e.f. 1.4.01.

*[Translation]*

#### **Proposal to Allocate Funds for Development of NPGC**

830. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are proposing for allocating funds development of National Power Grid Corporation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the amount to be provided for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. was established in 1989 with the mission to establish and operate Regional and National Power Grids to facilitate transfer of power within and across the regions with reliability, security and economy on sound commercial principles. POWERGRID, as Central Transmission Utility is responsible for undertaking transmission of energy through inter-state transmission system, evacuation of power from all Central Power Stations and delivery of allocated power to constituent states.

Development of transmission system to form National Power Grid is a continuous process. At present, the Indian Power system is divided into five Regional grids and within each region, strong inter-connection and well developed Regional grids are in position. In order to extend the benefit of generation resources all over the country and to transfer surplus power in one region to a power deficit region, interconnections of regions have been planned.

POWERGRID has already chalked out its plan to integrate all the regions through HVDC stations/bi-pole and 765 KV AC rings to facilitate the transfer of power between the regions without any constraint. The HVDC inter regional links between western and northern, western and southern and eastern and southern regions are already existing and HVDC link between eastern and northern region is under construction.

For further strengthening of the National Grid, high capacity HVDC links as well as AC links have been planned to be commissioned along with Mega Projects. With these interconnections, the total inter-regional power exchange capability would be increased to about 23,400 MW by 2006-07. In the ultimate phase, a strong synchronous National Grid has been envisaged to evacuate the power from major generating resources. This would involve development of a high capacity transmission corridor in chicken-neck area and establishment of a ring of 765 KV lines interconnecting Eastern, Western and Northern regions. Inter-regional transmission capacity of the proposed ultimate National Grid would increase to about 30,000 MW by 2012.

POWERGRID has planned to invest about Rs. 74,000 crores during Xth and XIth Plans for implementation of projects including those required for development of a strong and vibrant National Grid capable of transferring 30,000 MW power by the year 2012. Out of this amount, POWERGRID proposes to invest around Rs. 53,000 crore on its own and the balance amount is envisaged to be mobilised through private investment. In order to meet the massive investment plan, POWERGRID has been raising loans from the market and international financial institutions like Asian Development Bank (ADB) and World Bank from time to time. ADB has recently approved a direct loan

of US \$ 250 million to POWERGRID for its grid strengthening, inter-regional and generation linked transmission projects. The loan has become effective from 10th January, 2001. POWERGRID has also signed an agreement with World Bank on 13th June, 2001 for a loan of US \$ 450 million for implementation of its various transmission schemes.

#### Production of Computerised Blue Films

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

(a) whether some companies are involved in the production of computerized blue films in the country;

(b) whether these films are being sent to other countries especially to the gulf countries;

(c) if so, the number of such cases came to the notice of the Government during the last three years, till date along with the names of the companies involved therein; and

(d) the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (d) The film industry in India is in the private sector. As such, Government do not have any information in this regard. However in terms of the provisions contained in the Cinematograph Act, 1952, no film can be released for public exhibition unless the same has been certified by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). The CBFC do not have any information either about the production of computerized blue films in the country or about distribution/export thereof. The enforcement of the Cinematograph Act, 1952, rests with the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations and it is for the concerned district/police authorities to take necessary action under the relevant provisions of law relating to such offence.

[English]

#### Phasing out Cross Subsidisation

832. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of RAILWAY be pleased to state:

(a) whether railways have approved a proposal to phase out cross-subsidisation of tariff rates over the next few years;

(b) whether any specific time limit or schedule has been set up for phasing out the same;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether a tariff regulator is being appointed; and

(e) if so, the functions of the regulator?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Regulation of Daily Wages Workers**

833. SHRI PRAKASH PATIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of daily wage workers in the Railways have not been regularised;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of daily wage workers on roll as on date, zone-wise;

(d) whether the Government have drawn up any action plan for gradual regularisation of these daily wage workers in Western and Central Railways; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which all these workers are likely to be regularised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

*[Translation]*

#### **Sanitation Position at Passenger Trains and Railway Stations**

834. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the complaints about the poor and unsatisfactory conditions of sanitation and cleanliness in the passenger trains and at the railway stations have recently increased;

(b) if so, the number of such complaints received during the last six months; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken for providing good conditions of sanitation and cleanliness in the trains and at the railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND-MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. Complaints received by Railways on account of poor and unsatisfactory condition of sanitation and cleanliness in the passenger trains and at Railway stations have increased marginally during the recent months.

(b) Total 355 complaints were received by Railways on these accounts during April, 2001 to September, 2001 as compared to 334 complaints during April, 2000 to September, 2000.

(c) The following actions are being taken / proposed to be taken to improve sanitation and cleanliness in trains and Railways Stations:-

(i) Provision of adequate time for upkeep.

(ii) Monthly intensive cleaning of coaches.

(iii) Use of high-pressure jet cleaning plants at coaching depots and mobile jet cleaning machines at enroute stations.

(iv) Use of improved and eco-friendly cleaning agents.

- (v) Pest control on coaches through specialized agencies.
- (vi) Deployment of travelling safaiwalas on selected trains.
- (vii) Introduction of pay and use scheme of toilets at stations.
- (viii) Provision of washable aprons, additional dustbins, repairs to drains, removal of garbage etc. at stations.
- (ix) Frequent announcement to seek cooperation of passengers to keep railway areas and trains clean.
- (x) Regular inspections and surprise checks to monitor the condition.
- (xi) Developing identified stations as "clean train Stations" to provide effective Enroute cleaning of long distance trains.

[English]

**Using of Metre Gauge Rail on  
Broad Gauge**

835. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the rails manufactured in 1947 and meant for metre gauge were used in 1987 on broad gauge in Jodhpur division which caused frequent derailment;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) to (c) The metre gauge sections of Phulera-Degana was renewed in 1987 with second hand 90R rails manufactured in 1947 and released from Broad Gauge sections. At the time of gauge conversion the same rails were used. 90R rails were in use on Broad Gauge and can be used both on Broad Gauge and Metre Gauge.

**RBI Guidelines for Film Financing**

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

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards unrealistic guidelines of RBI for film financing;
- (b) if so, the details therefor and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Film Federation of India has suggested any amendments to guidelines;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the measures to be proposed for providing more finance to film industry?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) No, Sir. This Ministry has not received any complaints about RBI's guidelines dated 14.05.01 being unrealistic.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) and (e) Do not arise.

**Backlog of Vacancies of SC/ST**

837. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the backlog/carried forward vacancies reserved for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes are required to be treated as a 'separate and distinct group' as provided under Article 16(4)B of the Constitution to overcome 50% ceiling limit on vacancies to be reserved in a year;
- (b) if so, indicate backlog/carried forward vacancies ascertained as per para 5 of the DOPT OM No. 36012/2/96-Estt.(Res.) dated July 2, 1997 in respect of (1) SCs, (2) STs and OBCs in Group A, B, C and D categories of services as on August 29, 1997 in this Ministry when Special Recruitment Drives etc. meant for filling such vacancies were stopped;

(c) the details of the vacancies filled during the last four years and those which remain unfilled; and

(d) the fresh vacancies/posts accrued to reserved classes in all categories of posts during the last four years as per 'post based rosters'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has a sanctioned staff strength of 397, which includes Group A, B, C & D. Out of this, cadre of 127 staff belonging to the Central Secretariat are being controlled by the Ministry of Power and they are maintaining the reservation rosters etc. 13 Posts of Group "A" are being controlled by the DOP&T. The Deptt. of Official Language is controlling 5 posts of official language in the Group 'A', 'B' & 'C'. This Ministry is a scientific Ministry and having 81 scientific posts of Group "A". Reservation is applicable only on the entry grade in scientific posts. This Ministry is having administrative control over scientific and group 'D' posts only. Some isolated (ex-cadre) posts are filled in this Ministry on deputation basis, but no reservation is applicable to such posts. No recruitment for scientific posts has taken place for the last 6-7 years in this Ministry. In view of the position, no backlog of reserved vacancies is available.

(c) No backlog of vacancies exist for the last four years. One vacancy in the grade of Sr. Scientific Officer (Grade-II) (Group "A") and one vacancy in the grade of Peon (Group "D") remain unfilled.

(d) No fresh vacancies/post accrued to reserved categories in all groups of posts during the last four years.

#### **Computerised Reservation Centres at Tamil Nadu**

838. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to relax norms for setting up computerised passenger reservation centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the towns which are likely to be covered under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) to (c) It is a continuous process. The expansion of PRS facilities is determined as per the extant policy at the time of sanction.

[Translation]

#### **Bagasse Based Power Plants in Sugar Mills**

839. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sugar mills are to be encouraged to set up bagasse based power plants;

(b) whether as much as 5000 MW power are likely to be generated by using bagasse as fuel;

(c) if so, whether it is likely to be made obligatory for the sugar mills to manufacture Ethanol from molasses;

(d) whether a nation wide scheme is likely to be formulated for utilization of by-products of the sugar mills; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The total potential of surplus power generation through bagasse based co-generation in sugar mills in the country has been estimated at 3500 MW.

(c) to (e) A proposal has been made by Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution to amend the Sugar Development Fund Act to extend financial assistance from Sugar Development Fund (SDF) for facilitating bagasse based cogeneration as also manufacture of anhydrous alcohol from alcohol.

A National Programme on Biomass Power and Bagasse based Co-generation is being implemented by the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources. A

surplus power capacity of 226 MW has already been installed through bagasse based co-generation projects in sugar mills. A surplus capacity of 259 MW is under implementation.

A Policy Analytical Study on Utilisation of ethanol fuel blends and other bio-fuels is also being undertaken.

[English]

#### **Co-generation Plant**

840. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:  
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:  
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

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

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has submitted a proposal for concurrence of Central Electricity Authority for co-generation plant by M/s. Mysore Sugar Co., Mandya (Installed capacity : 30 MW);

(b) if so, whether the salient data in the format of CEA for Captive/Co-generation power plant has also been furnished to CEA;

(c) if so, whether the proposal is still pending with the Ministry ; and

(d) if so, the time by which the final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) The Detailed Project Report for 30 MW capacity co-generation power plant at Mandya by M/s. Mysore Sugar Co. was received from Government of Karnataka in Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in January, 2001. The salient data in the format of CEA was received from Government of Karnataka in March, 2001. The consultation of CEA under Section 44(2A) of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 was conveyed to Government of Karnataka in June, 2001 for installation of 30 MW co-generation power plant at Mandya by M/s. Mysore Sugar Company Ltd.

(c) The proposal has not been received by the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Electricity Generated by NTPC**

841. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state the projection made for the generation of electricity by Talcher Stage-II and other plants of NTPC in Orissa during 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has two operating power stations located in Orissa namely, Talcher Super Thermal Power Station (STPS) Stage-I (2x500 MW) and Talcher Thermal Power Station (460 MW) taken over from the erstwhile Orissa State Electricity Board. The projections for generation of electricity from these stations during 2001-02 are 5475 Million Units and 2500 Million Units respectively.

NTPC is presently implementing Talcher STPS Stage-II (4x500 MW) in Orissa. The first unit of the project is scheduled to be commissioned in November, 2003.

#### **JRO's in Punjab**

842. SHRI J.S. BRAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of allottees of JROs by BPCL in Punjab;

(b) the dates of applying for receipt of NOC from district authorities and commissioning each of the outlet, separately;

(c) the details of representations received by the Government in this regard so far during the current calendar year; and

(d) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Jubilee Retail Outlets (JROs) are operated by the concerned Oil Companies themselves with the assistance of the manpower provided by labour contractors. The details of the JROs commissioned by the Bharat Petroleum

Corporation Limited (BPCL) in the State of Punjab along with the dates of application for the NOCs are given below:-

As on 1.10.2001

| Sl. No. | Location   | District   | Date of application | Date of commissioning |
|---------|------------|------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1.      | Sadiq      | Faridkot   | 9.11.99             | 24.2.00               |
| 2.      | Salbatpura | Bhatinda   | 9.11.99             | 28.3.00               |
| 3.      | Banwala    | Ferozepore | 22.11.99            | 24.3.00               |
| 4.      | Dirba      | Sangrur    | 27.12.99            | 12.4.00               |
| 5.      | Gurdaspur  | Gurdaspur  | 26.2.00             | 25.6.00               |

(c) and (d) A representation has been received from the attorney for the land owners of the land identified for a JRO which was proposed to be set up at Burj, Distt. Ferozepur for the allotment of the operatorship of the RO to him. As the scheme for development of further JROs was discontinued in November, 2000, the proposal for the JRO at Burj was dropped.

#### Ticketless Travel

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

(a) whether ticketless travel has increased in South Central Railway;

(b) if so, the reasons for lack of Vigilance on the part of Railways;

(c) whether a large number of persons enter into reserved compartments illegally in South Central Railway; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the S.C. Railway to stop such illegal entry into reserved compartments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) The exact quantification of ticketless travel is not possible.

There is no let up in the effort on the part of Railways to curb this menace. However, there are incidents when some persons forcibly enter the reserved compartments in trains. They are penalised/prosecuted as per rules. To curb this menace, regular checks on trains as well as surprise checks are conducted from time to time by the railway staff in association with the police and Railway Magistrates. Intelligence is also collected about the probable interference with the smooth running and all concerned authorities are intimated to tackle the problem in association with the police.

#### Misuse of Funds in Purchase of Computer

844. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Government funds were misused while the computers and other peripherals to the ASI were purchased few years back;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the guilty officials;

(c) the number of computers purchased and the Bill amounts for the same;

(d) the details of funds allocated therefor;

(e) whether the government have called for any sealed tenders from reputed dealers while purchasing the computers for the ASI; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) to (f) The Archaeological Survey of India started purchase of computers from 1997 for its use at headquarters. Till 31.12.2000, 25 computers were purchased at a cost of Rs. 26.33 lakhs approx. from reputed dealers and Government approved agencies. These purchase were made from allocations made under office expenses.

#### Introduction of Small Sized Cylinders

845. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Public Sector oil companies to introduce small size cylinders for domestic use;
- (b) if so, the progress in this aspect; and
- (c) the time by which small size cylinders are likely to be available to consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) The Government have given 'in-principle' approval to Public Sector Oil marketing Companies to market 5 kg. LPG cylinders for domestic purpose. The sale of small size cylinders for domestic purpose would be initiated after the development of necessary infrastructure of the purpose.

#### Special Parcel Trains

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

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways are considering to do away with the brake vans on passenger trains and replace them with special parcel trains on selected routes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the routes identifies therefor;
- (d) whether it is a fact that railways spend more on the parcel business but earn less from it;
- (e) if so, the facts thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Railways to make up the losses suffered as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) and (c) Do not arise.

- (d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Railway carry a number of essential commodities of mass consumption at special concessional rates like fruits, vegetables and Newspapers/Magazines so as to reduce the burden on the common man. The concessional rates are 50% to 77% lower than the General Parcel Scale (GPS) applicable for hard parcels. This service obligation is primarily responsible for losses sustained.

(f) Railways have taken a number of steps to enhance earning from parcel service. These include leasing-out of front SLRs (brake vans), leasing of round trip VP (Parcel Vans), running of commodity-specific specials to cater to peak seasonal demand including mango specials, banana specials, chikoo specials and point to point, nominated day, guaranteed-transit high-capacity VP (Parcel Vans) specials on inter-metro routes under the newly launched Millennium Parcel Service.

#### Asia Pacific Conference

847. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether he has attended the Asia Pacific Conference held in Singapore recently; and
- (b) if so, the details of subject discussed in the conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) A delegation led by Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas participated in the 17th Asia Pacific Petroleum Conference (APPEC 2001) at Singapore from September 10-12, 2001. The Keynote address was delivered by the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas focussing on international price trends and their effect on the economics of the developing countries, India's commitment to deregulation of Hydrocarbon Sector and investment opportunities in Hydrocarbon sector in India. Bilateral meetings on mutual interest were held with several multinational companies.

**Setting up of LPT Centres in Orissa**

848. SHRIMATI KUMUDINI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the demand for setting up of LPT Centres at Polasara, Kodala and Bhanja Nagar in the Ganjam District and other parts of Orissa; and

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

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

(b) At present, 93 transmitters including 5 transmitters in Ganjam District are functioning in Orissa for further expansion of coverage, 4 transmitter projects viz HPT, Berhampur and LPTs at Chikiti, Tushara and Bahalda are under implementation in Orissa. There is no scheme, at present, to set up any transmitter at Polasara and Kodala.

**Defective Supply by Ordnance  
Factory, Medak**

849. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quality of mortar ammunition, other ammunitions and barrels which are being supplied to the Army are not of good quality;

(b) whether IMA cadets and their instructor died at Asan firing range in Dehradun recently due to exploding of mortar ammunition as has been brought out in the Dainik Jagaran on November 2, 2001;

(c) whether Ordnance Factory, Medak has been supplying investment casting of Rifle Factory, Ishapur and that factory has been returning those investment castings 'rejecting' the same resulting a loss of Rs. 78.16 lakh but OFM is not accepting the loss on the plea that their quality assurance department had cleared them; and

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal to evaluate the quality of the investment castings being supplied by OFM to Ishapur Rifle Factory and take corrective steps?

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

(b) Two Gentlemen Cadets and one Havildar Weapon Training Instructor of IMA, Dehradun died on 1st November, 2001 during firing practice at the Asan Firing Ranges due to premature ignition of a bomb inside the barrel of a 51mm mortar.

(c) Rifle Factory, Ichapore (RFI) received nine types of Investment Casting during June, 1993 to July, 1997 from Ordnance Factory Project, Medak (OFPM). Due to deviations in some of the Investment Casting valued at Rs. 78.16 lakh, RFI returned them to OFPM. As per existing instructions, OFPM has requested RFI to regularize the rejection in Investment Castings.

(d) The quality of Investment Castings is evaluated. It is expected that with the rectification work done on the Casting at OFPM, the value of rejections will be reduced considerably.

[Translation]

**Electrification of Bhagalpu-Kiul  
Rail Section**

850. SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to electrify Bhagalpur-Kiul rail section;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Due to constraint of resources and relative priorities for electrification of other high density routes.

**Indian Soldiers on UN Peace  
Keeping Mission**

851. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian Defence Personnel deployed under the United Nation peace mission during the last three years and till date along with the reasons therefor; country-wise;

(b) the number of soldiers reported to have been killed during this period; and

(c) the assistance provided to the families of defence personnel who were killed in UN peace mission?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) As a founding member of the United Nations, India has remained deeply committed to the UN's endeavours in maintenance of international peace and security, and has been responding, wherever possible, to UN's request for troops for UN peace keeping missions. A Statement on country and mission-wise contribution of personnel by India for UN missions during the last three years, and the total number deployed till date is enclosed.

(b) Seven casualties occurred in the Indian armed forces personnel who have died while serving in U.N. peace keeping missions abroad, during the last three years, including two in Lebanon and five in Sierra Leone.

(c) The next of kin of Indian armed forces personnel who have died while serving in U.N. Peace Keeping Missions abroad are entitled to liberalised pensionary benefits at par with that admissible in respect of armed forces personnel killed in war or war-like operations in India. In addition, service related death/disability compensation in respect of personnel who die or are disabled while serving in U.N. Missions, is reimbursable by the United Nations.

#### Statement

*Country/UN Mission - wise deployment of defence personnel from India, during the last three years*

| Sl. No. | Country | Mission | No. of Personnel | Period                |
|---------|---------|---------|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1       | 2       | 3       | 4                | 5                     |
| 1.      | Lebanon | UNIFIL  | 3702 all ranks   | November 1998 onwards |

| 1  | 2                    | 3       | 4              | 5                             |
|----|----------------------|---------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| 2. | Sierra Leone         | UNAMSIL | 3443 all ranks | January 1999 to December 2000 |
| 3. | CONGO                | MONUC   | 41 Officers    | 1999 onwards                  |
| 4. | KUWAIT               | UNIKOM  | 19 Officers    | 1999 onwards                  |
| 5. | ETHIOPIA/<br>ERITREA | UNMEE   | 1555 all ranks | March 2001 onwards            |

Till date, a total of 59,082 armed forces personnel have been deployed by India for UN Peace Keeping operations.

[English]

#### Misuse of Funds

852. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CAG in their report No. 7 of 2000 have critically blamed the Ordnance Factory Board, Director General Ordnance Factories and DGQA establishment;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in respect of each of those matters; and

(c) the steps taken to bring the delinquent officials responsible for wasting public money to book and to provide safeguard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) C&AG reported twenty Audit Paras on the working of Ordnance Factory Board and one Audit Para on DGQA establishment in their report No. 7 of 2000 for the year ended March 1999. The Audit Paras cover performance of Ordnance Factory organization, production planning, manufacturing, provisioning, inspection and other miscellaneous areas.

(b) and (c) The remedial actions have been taken on the Audit Paras for improvement of the system, wherever

necessary, to avoid recurrence. Disciplinary proceedings have also been initiated against defaulting officials wherever the lapses of the individuals were noticed on inquiry. Action taken notes on the Audit Paras on Ordnance Factory organization have been furnished to Audit.

#### **Setting up of National Press Centre**

853. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY:  
DR. SANJAY PASWAN:  
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government have a proposal to set up a National Press Centre;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with its estimated cost; and
- (c) the steps taken to implement the said proposal?

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

(b) and (c) A National Press Centre, to facilitate bringing together of information dissemination agencies is to be set up by Press information Bureau. The proposed Press Centre will have state of the art facilities for media persons like Press Conference Hall, Committee Rooms, Library, etc. For setting up of the National Press Centre, a plot of land was allotted by Ministry of Urban Development in 1994. However, its possession could not be handed over to PIB as it was not encumbrance free. Recently, an alternative plot has been allotted at Raisina Road. In the absence of possession of land, no cost estimate could be prepared, though funds were projected for the Press Centre in the 9th Plan. It is proposed to make budgetary provision for setting up of National Press Centre in 10th Plan also for implementation of this project.

#### **Loan Taken by CONCOR**

854. SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Container Corporation of India (CONCOR) has taken loan for purchase of terminal

operating equipments from IFCI at an interest rate of 24% p.a. and on the other hand it is used to grant loan/advances to private as well as unauthorised contractor at the lower rate of interest;

(b) if so, whether any norms, terms and conditions have been fixed for utilising such loan;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reasons for misutilization of such loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. CONCOR had taken a foreign currency loan for import of handling equipment [Two Rubber Tyre Gantry Cranes (RTG) from Singapore] from the Industrial Finance Corporation of India Ltd. (IFCI) under the Exchange Risk Administration Scheme (ERAS). CONCOR paid interest at the rate of 23% p.a. as per the terms of the Loan Agreement.

Some loans have been advanced by CONCOR to parties associated with their business activities from the company's surplus funds. The IFCI loan was not utilised for this purpose.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **UNESCO Fund for World Heritage Sites**

855. SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the financial assistance received from UNESCO for the conservation of World Heritage sites in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, monument-wise; and

(b) the details of amount spent and works taken up during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) During the last three years, UNESCO has released funds for the following World Heritage Sites.

- (i) Buddhist monuments at Sanchi.

(ii) Setting up a laboratory at Agra Fort for the conservation of stone.

(b) The details of financial assistance received and works taken up are as per the enclosed statement.

**Statement**

| Monument   | Year      | Funds received<br>(Rs. In lakhs) | Expenditure                                    | Works taken up   |
|--|-----------|----------------------------------|--|--|
| 1) Buddhist monuments, Sanchi                                      | 1998-99   | Nil                              | Rs. 10.54 lakhs against funds received earlier | Conservation of structure and Votive stupas<br>(ii) Stone pitching near tank No.1<br>(iii) Fencing around Sanchi Hill. |
| 2) Setting up of laboratory at Agra Fort for conservation of stone | 1998-99   | Nil                              | Nil  | Reconditioning of the existing building by changing roof, floor, plaster, providing water supply and air-conditioners. |
|  | 1999-2000 | 2.53                             | 2.44   |  |
|  | 2000-2001 | -                                | -  |  |
|  | 2001-2002 | 4.14                             | 0.09<br>(as on date)                           |  |

[Translation]

**Guidelines for Nomination of ZRUCC**

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

(a) the guidelines issued by the Government for nomination in Zonal Railway User Consultative Committee/ Station Advisory Committee;

(b) whether these Committees have been selected in Mumbai zone and Ahmednagar station as per said guidelines;

(c) if so, details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to appoint other members in addition to nominated members in Zonal Railway User Consultative Committee; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) The guidelines for nomination on Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee/Station Consultative Committee are contained in Chapter V of Indian Railway Code for Traffic (Commercial Department) (1993 edition). As per these guidelines, on Zonal Railway Users Consultative Committee, representation is given to Members of Parliament, representatives of Union Ministers, State Government, State Legislatures, Principal Chambers of Commerce & Trade Associations, Agricultural Associations, Public Sector Undertakings including Ports, registered Passenger Organisations, Consumer Protection Organisation and elected members of Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committees. In addition, some members are also nominated by the Minister of Railways under the category of 'Special Interest' to represent the interest of those users who have not been otherwise given representation.

Station Consultative Committees are set up at every zonal and divisional headquarters and also at selected stations serving important industrial and commercial centers. The Committee consists of representatives of Chambers of Commerce, local Trade and Industry, registered Passengers' Associations, local educational institutions, local self Government bodies and general public. The membership of Station Consultative Committees does not ordinarily exceed 10.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committees in Mumbai Zone of Central and Western Railways and Station Consultative Committee at Ahmednagar have been constituted for a two year term from 1.1.2000 to 31.12.2001 and the nomination on these committees have been generally made as per the prescribed guidelines.

(d) and (e) The term of the existing Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee is only upto 31.12.2001 and hence there is no proposal to appoint additional members on the existing Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee.

[English]

#### Backlog of Reserved Vacancies

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

(a) whether 'backlog/carried forward vacancies' reserved for SCs, STs and OBCs' are required to be treated as a 'separate and distinct group' as provided under Article 16(4)B of the Constitution to overcome 50% ceiling limit on vacancies to be reserved in a year;

(b) if so, the backlog/carried forward vacancies' ascertained as per para 5 of the DOP&T O.M. No. 36012/2/96-Estt.(Res.) dated July 2, 1997 in respect of SCs, STs and OBCs in Group A, B, C, and D categories of services as on August 29, 1997 in the Ministry of Railways when Special Recruitment Drives etc. meant for filling such vacancies were stopped;

(c) the vacancies carried forward during the last three years and those which remain unfilled; and

(d) the fresh vacancies/posts accrued to reserved classes in all categories of posts during the last four years as per 'post based rosters'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) In pursuance of Constitution (Eighty First Amendment) Act, 2000, necessary instructions in respect of SCs/STs were received from the nodal Ministry i.e. Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (DOP&T) vide its O.M. No. 36012/5/97-Estt.(Res.) Vol.II dt. 20.7.2000. However, there are no policy instructions in this regard in respect of vacancies reserved for OBCs.

(b) and (c) On receipt of DOP&T's above mentioned instructions, necessary action has been taken to fill up the backlog/carried forward vacancies of SCs/STs assessed/ existing as on 30.6.2000 which includes the shortfalls/ carried forward vacancies of SCs/STs of the preceding three years also, through Special Recruitment Drive. As per the assessment, the following shortfalls have been identified in the said recruitment drive in Group 'C' & Gr. 'D':-

| Group 'C' |      | Group 'D' |      |
|-----------|------|-----------|------|
| SC        | ST   | SC        | ST   |
| 1340      | 1058 | 1707      | 2327 |

(d) The vacancies reserved for SCs/STs/OBCs (including fresh accrual) for the last four years i.e. ending 31st Dec. 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999 in recruitment categories is given below:-

| Years       | Vacancies of SCs/STs/OBCs reserved |       |       |       |
|-------------|------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
|             | Gr. A                              | Gr. B | Gr. C | Gr. D |
| 1           | 2                                  | 3     | 4     | 5     |
| <b>1996</b> |                                    |       |       |       |
| SC          | 37                                 | 1     | 1897  | 1899  |
| ST          | 18                                 | nil   | 1120  | 1452  |
| OBC         | 133                                | nil   | 4574  | 3364  |

| 1           | 2   | 3 | 4    | 5    |
|-------------|-----|---|------|------|
| <b>1997</b> |     |   |      |      |
| SC          | 47  | 1 | 1753 | 3122 |
| ST          | 23  | 1 | 1146 | 1712 |
| OBC         | 100 | 2 | 4445 | 5017 |
| <b>1998</b> |     |   |      |      |
| SC          | 91  | 1 | 1917 | 2131 |
| ST          | 47  | 1 | 1085 | 1480 |
| OBC         | 173 | 2 | 2587 | 2333 |
| <b>1999</b> |     |   |      |      |
| SC          | 59  | 4 | 2050 | 1336 |
| ST          | 26  | 1 | 966  | 420  |
| OBC         | 123 | 2 | 3702 | 3585 |

#### Training to Tackle Biological Warfare

858. SHRI Y.V. RAO:  
SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:  
SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI:  
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) propose to conduct training programme on all aspect of biological and chemical warfare to civilian authorities in States and Union Territories;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the training programme is likely to protect the civilians from biological and chemical war threat?

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

(b) Defence Research & Development Establishment (DRDE) Gwalior, a laboratory of DRDO has planned

courses of 4 days duration starting from last week of November, 2001. The course will have theoretical and practical sessions to cover all aspects of the problem.

(c) The training will provide awareness and impart skills to the participants to manage various aspects of the problem. Further dissemination of information will remove fears from the minds of authorities and the public.

#### Mumbai High Project

859. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently launched a new project in the Mumbai High;

(b) if so, the details of the Oil and Natural Gas likely to be increased by this project;

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred in the project;

(d) the time by which production from this project is likely to start; and

(e) the amount of foreign exchange likely to be saved by this project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. The implementation of the project for re-development of Mumbai High (North) field commenced in January, 2001 and that of Mumbai High South commenced in October, 2001.

(b) The expected incremental oil and gas production from these fields is as follows:-

|                     | Oil<br>(MMT)* | Gas<br>(BCM)** |
|---------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Mumbai High (North) | 24.80         | 5.85           |
| Mumbai High (South) | 35.95         | 9.63           |

\* MMT : Million Metric Tonne

\*\* BCM : Billion Cubic Metre

(c) The estimated expenditure to be incurred on Mumbai High North and Mumbai High South Redevelopment projects is Rs. 2929.40 Crs. and Rs. 5255.97 Crs. respectively.

(d) The incremental production from some of the wells of these fields will commence in 2001-02 reaching the plateau production from the year 2003-04.

(e) Considering the international crude oil price at US \$ 18 barrel, the amount of foreign exchange likely to be saved by the additional production resulting in lesser imports, is estimated to be about US \$ 9,072.58 million (Rs. 43,548.41 Crores). However, on account of capital expenditure to be incurred on implementation of the project, there would also be a foreign exchange outgo of about US \$ 1,427.28 million (Rs. 6,708.25 Cr.).

#### **Booking Through Internet by Oil Companies**

860. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector oil companies are booking orders of their customers through INTERNET;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether progressively automated and interactive systems for booking refills have started; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have started On-line customer service in a bid to enhance customers relationships on pilot basis in some cities. Similarly, some of the LPG distributors of these companies are also extending refill booking facility through Interactive Voice Recording System (IVRS) to their customers.

#### **Defence land for ROB in Mumbai**

861. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether construction of a Road Over Bridge

(ROB) at Gandhinagar Junction, Kanjur Marg, Mumbai is being held up due to the differences between Navy and Mumbai Municipal Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to resolve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) The Municipal Corporation Mumbai has sought transfer of 3518 square metres of land. In principal, the Navy is agreeable to this transfer subject to successful, mutually acceptable negotiations.

#### **Strengthening of T and D Network**

862. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an investment of Rs. 34000 crore has been envisaged to strengthen the transmission and distribution networks in 340 districts as also to improve revenue earnings capacity of State Electricity Boards; and

(b) if so, the ways in which the amount is proposed to be raised and the period over which the proposal is to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The Government of India has launched Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) with the objective of providing systematic financing for renovation and modernization and life extension of old generating stations and upgradation of Sub-transmission and Distribution network in the country for financial turn around in the performance of the State Electricity Board (SEBs). Under APDP a special category States get 100% for the project cost in the ratio of 90% grant and 10% central loan whereas 50% of the project cost for non-special States is met under APDP in the form of half grant and half loan and for the balance 50% of the project cost is obtained as loan from Financial Institutions. Under the APDP programme, the Upgradation of the Sub-transmission and Distribution system has been taken up in 63 distribution circles. The remaining distribution circles will be taken up during the 10th Plan period (2002-2007). Part of the funding will be provided

under the APDP scheme and the remaining loan amount will be provided for specific projects by Power Finance Corporation (PFC)/Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) and other financial institutions.

#### Settlement of Enron Issue

863. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:  
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had decided on September 4 this year for early settlement of the Enron issue;

(b) if so, the steps so far taken in that direction indicating issue-wise details;

(c) the reasons for delay despite further notices slapped by the ENRON;

(d) whether Enron is selling its D.P.C.;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether formalities of selling off DPC have been completed; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) in regard to the Dabhol power project was signed between the Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) and the Dabhol Power Company (DPC), promoted by Enron and others. Government of Maharashtra (GOM) has conveyed the inability of MSEB to purchase the high cost power from DPC on account of there being not sufficient demand in the State to absorb the entire power from both phases of the plant. The high tariff from the project is a result of more than two fold increase in the prices of naphtha, depreciation of the Indian Rupee against the US dollar and the merit despatch instructions of the Maharashtra State Electricity Regulatory Commission due to which MSEB have been unable to off-take the power at 90% Plant Load Factor as agreed to with DPC. The financial conditions of MSEB also does not allow it to pay for high cost power on a regular basis. The Government of India (GOI) has agreed to facilitate an

amicable solution and had appointed its nominee on the Negotiating Committee on Dabhol project set up by the Government of Maharashtra. The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has carried an exercise to identify the States facing deficit of power, who could purchase the surplus power supplied by DPC. Any such arrangement, however, will depend on the tariff being brought down to a level acceptable to the concerned States. The Financial Institutions, who have a major stake in the project, have also prepared a road map with a view to resolve the basic issues relating to the Dabhol project. Any long term settlement of the present issues involving the Dabhol project can only take place with the initiative and consent of the two parties under contract i.e. the DPC and MSEB besides the Government of Maharashtra.

(c) The primary responsibility for resolving the issues relating to the Dabhol project lie with the DPC, MSEB and also the Government of Maharashtra. MSEB has rescinded the PPA on 23.5.2001 and DPC has initiated several legal, arbitration and termination proceedings against MSEB, GOM and GOI. Any settlement of the issues involved will require willingness of the concerned parties to work towards an agreement.

(d) Enron have expressed their desire to sell their equity stake in the Dabhol Power Company.

(e) The details have to be worked out between Enron and their associates and the prospective sponsors of the project with the concurrence of the financial institutions.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

#### Investment Plan of GAIL

864. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:  
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:  
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:  
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

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

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Limited has drawn up investment plans of Rs. 10000 crore for the near

term which include projects for integrating the gas pipeline network in the country;

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

(c) the time by which this project is likely to be started and 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) to (c) During the Tenth Five Year Plan period, Gas Authority of India Limited has plans to invest Rs. 9428 crore (approximately) to undertake and implement various projects including projects for integrating the gas pipeline network in the country. The details of these projects are given in the statement.

**Statement**

| Name of the Project  | Estimated cost<br>(Rs/Crore) |
|--|------------------------------|
| LPG P/L (Mangalore-Madurai)                                    | 606.00                       |
| HBJ Upgradation  | 2606.90                      |
| CO2  | 800.00                       |
| UPPC Expansion   | 1500.00                      |
| Kochi LNG Pipeline Network                                     | 2045.00                      |
| North-South Gujarat Pipeline Network                           | 480.00                       |
| Upgradation of Telecom Project                                 | 262.12                       |
| Koyali Linkage to Jamnagar Loni<br>LGP Pipeline                | 200.00                       |
| Bahadurgarh & Tikrikalan-Jamanagar-<br>Loni LPG Pipeline       | 50.00                        |
| Loni-Lalru LPG Pipeline extension                              | 220.00                       |
| Bangalore-Chittor-Vijayawada-Tirupati-<br>Chennai LPG Pipeline | 600.00                       |
| Kalol-Ramol-Reliance-AEC Pipeline                              | 58.00                        |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>9428.02</b>               |

**Proposal to Constitute District Energy  
Committee for Power Distribution**

865. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to constitute District Energy Committees to monitor effective power distribution;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with expenditure involved on these committees; and

(c) the steps taken to improve poor financial health of the State Electricity Boards all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) The Government of India has launched Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) with the objective of providing systematic financing for renovation and modernization and life extension of old generating stations and upgradation of Sub-transmission and Distribution network in the country for financial turn around in the performance of the State Electricity Boards (SEBs). Under APDP special category States get 100% for the project cost in the ratio of 90% grant and 10% central loan, whereas, 50% of the project cost for non-special category States is met under APDP in the form of half grant and half loan. The balance 50% of the project cost is provided as loan by Financial Institutions. In the first phase, 63 distribution circles have been identified for implementing the programme of Upgradation of Sub-transmission and Distribution systems. It is proposed to take up all the circles in the country for Upgradation of Sub-transmission and Distribution network during the 10th Plan. APDP is expected to bring about reforms in the distribution sector and improve the commercial viability of the power sector. It is proposed to constitute District Level Committees to effectively monitor implementation of distribution network upgradation programme.

**Protection of Salar Jung Hall in Hyderabad**

866. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Salar Jung Hall in the Nizam college in Hyderabad is on the verge of collapse;

- (b) if so, the details along with its reasons;
- (c) the measures taken to protect such heritage monuments; and
- (d) the action taken against the authorities for the lapse?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) to (d) Salar Jung Hall is a part of the premises of Nizam College, Hyderabad. This college comes under Omsania Univesity. Department of Culture does not have any administrative control over this institution.

According to the information received from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, the Salar Jung Hall building is in a fairly good condition and is being used regularly for academic activities. Extensive repairs had already been done to the building earlier and periodical repairs are being carried out depending upon the necessity. Only replacement of a small portion of its Madras Terrace Roof is required to be taken up.

[Translation]

**Delay in Construction Work of Metro Rail Service from Shahdara**

867. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI:  
SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA:  
SHRI RAMESHWAR DUDI:  
SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA:  
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:  
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for delay in the construction work of metro rail from Shahdara to Tis Hazari;
- (b) whether the scheduled time limit has been extended from March 2002 to October 2002;
- (c) if so, whether the work would definitely be completed in the stipulated time limit; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN

THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) Civil works of Shahdara - Tis Hazari section are expected to be completed by March, 2002. However, the section can not be commissioned for passenger traffic by March, 2002 as rolling stock would not be available by this date.

(b) Commissioning schedule of Shahdara - Tis Hazari section has been extended from March, 2002 to December, 2002.

(c) and (d) The work is expected to be completed within the stipulated time limit.

**RailTel Corporation of India**

868. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:  
DR. N. VENKATSWAMY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether RailTel Corporation of India Limited had proposed to launch Indian Railway into e-age and brought in crores for the cash starved exchequer;
- (b) whether nothing has come out even after 18 months;
- (c) the funds allocated from the budget so far;
- (d) the total kms. transferred into optical fibre out of 62,000 KM track network in the Indian railways zone-wise and division-wise;
- (e) the total expenditure made on this process by Indian Railways;
- (f) whether this work is going on very slowly due to pressure by some private parties; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or being taken by the Government for speedy transfer of its network into optical fibre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) The RailTel Corporation of India Limited (RailTel) has been launched by Indian Railways to create a nationwide broadband telecom and multimedia network by laying optical fibre cable along the Railway track utilising

Railways' right of way and provide modern communication system to improve Railway's operation and safety and bring in additional revenue by marketing surplus telecom capacity.

(b) RailTel was formed in September 2000 and Railways' right of way (ROW) is in the process of being leased on a long-term annual lease basis. The optical fibre cable assets on about 7,000 Route kilometre are also in the process of getting transferred to the RailTel in lieu of RailTel's equity. As per the Cabinet decision, the induction of Joint Venture partner(s) in the RailTel is in progress. RailTel has initiated steps to roll out the network so as to connect major cities. The surplus telecom capacity, when installed, will bring revenue to the RailTel and also to the Railways as divided payment.

(c) Rs. 15 crore as seed Capital has been transferred to RailTel Corporation of India Limited (RailTel), so far.

(d) No Railways' optical fibre cable has been transferred to RailTel so far.

(e) Apart from the seed capital, mentioned in (c) above, no other major expenditure towards RailTel has been incurred by the Indian Railways.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Modernisation of Defence Production  
Factories Jabalpur**

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

(a) whether the Government propose to modernise the defence production factories at Jabalpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any plan is being formulated to provide work in view of less production orders;

(d) if so, whether the efforts being made to make production to complete with private factories; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) For modernisation the factory-wise details of proposed investment are as under (Rs. in Crores):-

| IXth Plan<br>Expected                    | Xth Plan<br>proposed | Areas of<br>modernisation         |
|--|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Gun Carriage Factory (GCF):</b>       |                      |                                   |
| 17.34                                    | 61.00                | Weapon systems                    |
| <b>Ordnance Factory, Khamaria (OFK):</b> |                      |                                   |
| 40.96                                    | 39.00                | Ammunition<br>Hardware<br>filling |
| <b>Vehicle Factory, Jabalpur (VFJ):</b>  |                      |                                   |
| 58.00                                    | 203.00               | Military Transport<br>Vehicles    |
| <b>Grey Iron Foundry (GIF):</b>          |                      |                                   |
| 4.31                                     | 13.00                | Casting for<br>Vehicles           |

(c) to (e) VFJ : With the present order book position, manpower resources of the factory can be fully deployed with in-house manufacture of components of a large proportion. VFJ produces Transport Vehicles that include certain special features to meet the Army's requirement and there are no comparable vehicles in the Civil sector.

GIF : Entire manpower is deployed for manufacturing components of 'B' Vehicle and for meeting orders of Civil trade. Casting products for automobile components are comparable with the collaborators (M/s Ashok Leyland & Telco). Civil trade orders are also secured through open competition.

GCF & OFK : Adequate work-load to deploy the entire manpower is available at present in both the factories. The products of the Factories are specific to the Armed Forces and are not available in the civil sector.

[English]

**Basic Amenities to Slum in Mumbai**

870. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there are 50 slum pockets located on railway land in Mumbai where basic amenities could not be provided in the absence of 'No Objection Certificate' from Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof together with reasons for not issuing NOC by Railways authorities;

(c) whether the Railways had imposed certain conditions to accord NOC for slums;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Railways have made any agreement with the Government of Maharashtra in regard to NOC; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the NOC would be issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) and (b) The Government is aware of encroachments on Railway land in Mumbai. As per normal policy of the Railways, unauthorised encroachments are to be removed to clear the railway land of the encroachers. However, in the case of encroachers in Mumbai a meeting was held in 1998 with officers of the State Govt. and it was indicated that Railways can examine the feasibility of granting NOC after receipt of request from the State Govt. No such request has been received.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Following conditions were to be fulfilled:

(i) A clear plan is to be submitted by the State Govt. for connecting the proposed toilets to Municipal underground sewers.

(ii) All encroachments in safety zone (10 meters from central line of last track on either side) be removed.

(iii) A wall be constructed by the State Govt. after removing slums as in (ii) above at 10 meters from central line of last track to prevent encroachments in the area cleared.

(iv) It should be linked to encroachments of prior to 1.1.1985.

(v) Applications should be made through the State Govt.

(vi) Commitment by the State Govt. that all such Railway lands where civic amenities are provided will be cleared by the State Govt. whenever a project is envisaged by the Railways for which the land may be required at a future date.

(vii) Provision of amenities such as street lighting, residential connection, water points, gutters shall be permitted to be provided on the existing standard arrangement of grant of way leave facilities for which arrangements have to be made by the State Govt. and way leave charges paid by them.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Decline In Consumption of Petroleum Products**

871. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:  
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:

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

(a) whether the consumption of petroleum products during the first half of 2001-02 in the country has decreased in comparison to that of 2000-01;

(b) if so, the quantity of different petroleum products consumed, separately in the country during the said period;

(c) the estimate of the Government in respect of the demand of petroleum products in the next months of the current year; and

(d) the reasons for decline in the demand of these products?

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

(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Sale/consumption of petroleum products including import/sale by private parties in the first six months i.e. April-September of the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 are given below:-

(Figures in TMT)

| PRODUCTS     | April - September |                                       |       |         |                                       |       | % Growth |
|--------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|-------|---------|---------------------------------------|-------|----------|
|              | 2000-01           |                                       |       | 2001-02 |                                       |       |          |
|              | PSUs              | Imports/<br>Sales by Pvt.<br>Parties* | Total | PSUs    | Imports/<br>Sales by Pvt.<br>Parties* | Total |          |
| LPG          | 3129              | 216                                   | 3345  | 3450    | 201                                   | 3651  | 9.1      |
| MS           | 3296              | 0                                     | 3296  | 3486    | 0                                     | 3486  | 5.8      |
| SKO          | 5365              | 387                                   | 5752  | 5063    | 99                                    | 5162  | -10.3    |
| HSD          | 19397             | 20                                    | 19417 | 18375   | 0                                     | 18375 | -5.4     |
| Naphtha/NGL  | 3949              | 1972                                  | 5921  | 4153    | 1880                                  | 6033  | 1.9      |
| ATF          | 1084              | 0                                     | 1084  | 1116    | 0                                     | 1116  | 3.0      |
| LDO          | 742               | 0                                     | 742   | 622     | 84                                    | 706   | -4.9     |
| FO/LSHS      | 5658              | 711                                   | 6369  | 5873    | 520                                   | 6393  | 0.4      |
| Bitumen      | 1205              | 5                                     | 1210  | 1066    | 61                                    | 1127  | -6.9     |
| Lubes        | 365               | 73                                    | 438   | 349     | 169                                   | 518   | 18.2     |
| All Products | 44983             | 5409                                  | 50392 | 44311   | 4462                                  | 48773 | -3.2     |

\*Including Own/Group Company Consumption.

PSU Sales include BRPL own consumption of Naphtha and FO/LSHS.

(c) Revised Demand Estimate\* for the period October 2001 – March 2002 is given below:-

(figures in TMT)

| PRCDUCTS | OCTOBER, 2001-MARCH, 2002 |      |
|----------|---------------------------|------|
|          | 1                         | 2    |
| LPG      |                           | 4213 |
| MS       |                           | 3563 |

|         | 1 | 2     |
|---------|---|-------|
| HSD     |   | 18725 |
| LDO     |   | 675   |
| FO/LSHS |   | 6475  |
| BITUMEN |   | 1530  |
| SKO     |   | 5300  |
| ATF     |   | 1101  |

| 1            | 2            |
|--------------|--------------|
| NAPHTHA/NGL  | 6238         |
| LUBES        | 532          |
| OTHERS       | 2311         |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>50663</b> |

\*Including Sales/Imports by private parties and own/group company consumption.

(d) Some of the reasons for decline in the demand of petroleum products are given below:-

- (i) Slow down in economy.
- (ii) Industrial slow down leading to lower consumption of diesel by major consuming sectors of industry.
- (iii) Increased use of CNG.
- (iv) Gradual shift in mode of transportation of goods from road to rail.
- (v) Impact of drought conditions in some of the States.
- (vi) Change in crop pattern from paddy to cotton especially, in Northern Region requiring less use of diesel for pumping sets.
- (vii) Reduced consumption of diesel for captive power generation due to grid electricity becoming cheaper.
- (viii) Use of high capacity trucks (upto 50 tonnes), which has reduced per tonne/per k.m. consumption of diesel.
- (ix) Drop in production/sales of commercial vehicles.

[English]

#### Collection of Entry Fee from Monuments

872. SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM:  
SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:

SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount collected as entry fee from ASI monuments from both Indian and foreign tourists, separately during each of the last three years, till date, monument-wise;

(b) whether there is decline in revenue collection from entry fee since increase in entry fee for monuments;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there is any proposal to reduce or scrap entry fee hike;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the manner in which the Government monitor and check the process of entry fee collection and the number of domestic/foreign tourists visited the monuments; and

(g) the list of registered and empanelled tour operators in the country and their income/collection by bringing foreign tourists to ASI monuments during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) The details of revenue collected through entry fee during the last three years alongwith details of Indian and foreign tourists with effect from November, 2000 to June 2001 is in the enclosed statement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) and (e) From 1st October 2001, the entry fee in respect of foreign visitors has been reduced from US \$ 10/- to US \$ 5/- on the 14 World Heritage ticketed monuments, and from US \$ 5/- to US \$ 2/-, on the other 110 ticketed monuments.

(f) Adequate administrative and accounting measures are in place to monitor the collection of entry fee and inflow of tourists at all the ticketed monuments.

(g) Information on this subject relating to tour operators does not fall within the ambit of the Archaeological Survey of India.

**Statement**

| Sl. No.      | Name of the Circle | April 1998<br>March 1999 | April 1999<br>March 2000 | April 2000 to<br>Aug, 2001 | *Indian<br>Visitors | *Foreign<br>Visitors |
|--------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1            | 2                  | 3                        | 4                        | 5                          | 6                   | 7                    |
| 1.           | Agra               | 1,86,30,272              | 2,03,59,945              | 23,70,04,251               | 28,80,416           | 1,33,825             |
| 2.           | Aurangabad         | 85,24,582                | 84,01,223                | 4,60,82,927                | 25,51,346           | 64,777               |
| 3.           | Bangalore          | 20,77,155                | 16,54,138                | 72,96,338                  | 8,82,321            | 18,590               |
| 4.           | Bhopal             | 19,05,422                | 19,19,015                | 1,53,00,955                | 4,95,963            | 48,406               |
| 5.           | Bhubaneshwar       | 22,86,446                | 25,50,119                | 1,30,32,661                | 6,77,183            | 3,134                |
| 6.           | Calcutta           | 2,68,114                 | 6,18,244                 | 17,19,874                  | 3,81,236            | 102                  |
| #7.          | Chandigarh         | 0                        | 0                        | 5,11,907                   | 86,681              | 264                  |
| 8.           | Chennai            | 32,42,287                | 35,52,103                | 2,41,73,810                | 6,32,950            | 21,571               |
| 9.           | Delhi              | 1,49,27,356              | 1,58,69,764              | 11,08,27,723               | 37,88,675           | 2,37,347             |
| 10.          | Dharwad            | 1,85,327                 | 21,70,571                | 73,94,740                  | 8,58,003            | 11,129               |
| 11.          | Guwahati           | 36,000                   | 29,160                   | 1,40,085                   | 53,137              | -                    |
| 12.          | Hyderabad          | 10,59,307                | 10,15,684                | 53,64,694                  | 6,79,284            | 4,873                |
| 13.          | Jaipur             | 1,02,390                 | 1,22,786                 | 14,51,187                  | 1,25,833            | 5,326                |
| 14.          | Lucknow            | 3,39,885                 | 3,70,006                 | 9,57,625                   | 2,15,937            | 6,821                |
| 15.          | Patna              | 11,19,644                | 11,12,998                | 1,73,50,875                | 4,35,730            | 52,773               |
| 16.          | Srinagar           | 8,952                    | 12,944                   | 16,038                     | 13,689              | 701                  |
| 17.          | Thrissur           | 2,15,035                 | 3,10,128                 | 10,38,926                  | 2,28,558            | 3,289                |
| 18.          | Vadodara           | 4,25,732                 | 4,46,472                 | 22,90,866                  | 3,01,014            | 1,155                |
| <b>Total</b> |                    | <b>5,53,53,906</b>       | <b>6,05,15,300</b>       | <b>49,19,55,482</b>        | <b>1,52,09,956</b>  | <b>6,14,103</b>      |

\* The differential in tariff between Indian citizen and foreigner is effective from 28th Oct., 2000.

# Entry fee has been levied with effect from 28th Oct., 2000.

**Air Force Engineering College  
in Bangalore**

(a) whether the Indian Air Force has set up an Engineering College in Bangalore;

873. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(b) if so, the intake of the college;

(c) the selection procedure of students;

(d) whether the Air Force Engineering College bear the entire expenditure of the student including accommodation;

(e) if so, the estimated annual expenditure for running the said college;

(f) whether certain percentage of seat are filled through C.E.T. cell of Karnataka Government; and

(g) if so the details thereof?

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

(b) to (g) Does not arise.

#### Fighting Against Terrorists

874. SHRI J.S. BRAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents where defence forces had to engage themselves to fight against terrorists and militants in Jammu and Kashmir during the current year;

(b) the details of such incidents with number of terrorists, defence personnel and civilian killed in each encounter; and

(c) the amount of compensation paid to the innocent civilian killed in cross firing?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) There have been 1367 incidents of Army/RR patrols encountering terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir in the current year upto 15.11.2001, resulting in the killings of 1629 terrorists and 274 Indian Army Personnel. According to the report of the State Government of J&K, 793 civilians were killed upto the end of October 2001.

(c) A sum of Rs. 1 lakh is paid by the State Government of Jammu & Kashmir as ex-gratia relief to the Next of Kin of those killed in cross firing and Rs. 75,000/-, Rs. 5000/- and Rs. 1000/- is paid for permanent disability, grievous injury and minor injury respectively.

[Translation]

#### Allotment of Chambers to Advocates

875. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased

to the replies given to USQ 5824 dt. 26.4.2001 and USQ 3714 dt. 16.8.2001 and state:

(a) whether the desired information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay; in this regard; and

(d) the time by which the desired information would be collected and laid on the Table of the House?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. The desired information is still awaited from High Courts of Rajasthan and Madras.

(d) The desired information is likely to take some more time.

[English]

#### Status of Rashtriya Rifles

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

(a) whether the status of Rashtriya Rifles raised to fight insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir has not been clearly defined;

(b) if so, whether the RR batallions are presently clubbed with the Territorial Army (TA) and the National Cadet Corps (NCC) which are non-field forces;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to clearly define the role of RR so as to avoid any problem with regard to operational command in the counter insurgency grid; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The Rashtriya Rifles (RR) was raised in 1990 as a para - military force under the operational command of the army and the administrative control of the Ministry of Defence, with a clearly defined role for discharging the functions of rear area security, counter insurgency operations, maintenance of law and order and aid to civil authorities and augmentation of the field force during war-like situations.

(b) In view of specialised operational role of RR given above, they can not be clubbed with the Territorial Army (TA) and the National Cadet Corps (NCC). However, the strength of TA, NCC and RR are over and above the manpower authorisation of the regular army.

(c) The role of the RR is clearly defined there has been no problem as regards operational command or Rashtriya Rifles in the counter insurgency grid.

#### Infiltration from Pakistan

877. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether infiltration of terrorists from the Pakistan is a continuous process and the Government has not able to protect and guard the border; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to protect the borders effectively?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Despite the difficult terrain, prevailing climatic conditions and active abetment by Pakistan posts along the border, the Government has been able to substantially contain the infiltration of terrorists along the border. Moreover, the Government has taken adequate measures to protect and guard the border. During the current year upto 15.11.2001, about 1629 terrorists have been killed in encounters.

[Translation]

#### Projects of Power Finance Corporation

878. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total investment made by the Power Finance Corporation under various projects/programmes/schemes during the last three years in the country, State-wise and year-wise; and

(b) the details of funds allocated and released to the States particularly to Bihar during the last three years and the funds allocated for 2001-02?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) State-wise

details of disbursement made by Power Finance Corporation (PFC) during the last three financial years is enclosed at the statement.

(b) PFC is a development Financial Institution in the Power Sector, providing financial assistance to eligible Power Projects based on detailed appraisal of loan requests from concerned power utilities. Financial assistance are sanctioned/disbursed based on PFC's Operational Policy Statement (OPS). As per policy, no fund is pre-allocated to any power utility/projects, but financial assistance is made on the merits of each scheme/project. To be eligible for PFC funding, the borrower should have an acceptable Operational and Financial Action Plan (OFAP) in place agreeing to implement action points aimed at improving the Operational and Financial position of the utility.

PFC sanctioned a loan of Rs. 76 crores to Bihar State Electricity Board for Renovation and Modernisation of Patratu Thermal Power Station Units 6 and 10 in December, 1999. The loan is being transferred to Jharkhand State Electricity Board now. During financial year 2001-2002, no financial assistance has been extended for power projects in Bihar so far, nor any loan request is pending with PFC for financial assistance.

#### Statement

*Borrower-wise Disbursement for  
1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-2001*

(Rs. in lakhs)

| Borrower         | During<br>1998-<br>99 | During<br>1999-<br>2000 | During<br>2000-<br>2001 |
|------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1                | 2                     | 3                       | 4                       |
| HARYANA          | 8730                  | 20249                   | 10194                   |
| HIMACHAL PRADESH | 2922                  | 9686                    | 5860                    |
| J & K            | 0                     | 0                       | 2089                    |
| PUNJAB           | 22060                 | 28378                   | 15873                   |
| RAJASTHAN        | 35583                 | 29560                   | 72393                   |
| UTTAR PRADESH    | 5155                  | 4660                    | 155                     |

| 1                 | 2     | 3     | 4     |
|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| GOA               | 372   | 984   | 849   |
| GUJARAT           | 21542 | 11820 | 14011 |
| MADHYA PRADESH    | 21270 | 18003 | 9492  |
| MAHARASHTRA       | 42916 | 37390 | 14093 |
| CSEB              | 1121  | 7813  | 974   |
| ANDHRA PRADESH    | 15017 | 41035 | 34927 |
| KARNATAKA         | 31063 | 25439 | 27287 |
| KERALA            | 2482  | 613   | 817   |
| TAMIL NADU        | 14496 | 17277 | 26609 |
| BIHAR             | 0     | 0     | 0     |
| ORISSA            | 16970 | 11247 | 3190  |
| SIKKIM            | 0     | 0     | 0     |
| WEST BENGAL       | 5232  | 6071  | 13666 |
| ARUNACHAL PRADESH | 0     | 0     | 0     |
| ASSAM             | 0     | 4474  | 1152  |
| MANIPUR           | 0     | 0     | 0     |
| MeSEB             | 0     | 0     | 0     |
| MIZORAM           | 1171  | 32    | 0     |
| NAGALAND          | 1266  | 1402  | 2495  |
| BSES              | 4750  | 9994  | 0     |
| SMHPP-MAHE        | 2000  | 2463  | 5470  |
| KONDAPALLI        | 2500  | 14149 | 5565  |
| NJPC              | 0     | 13800 | 12500 |
| NHPC              | 0     | 0     | 0     |
| NEEPCO            | 0     | 13558 | 8527  |
| NTPC              | 0     | 0     | 10500 |

| 1                  | 2             | 3             | 4             |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| PGCIL              | 0             | 0             | 10000         |
| GIPCL              | 0             | 1800          | 0             |
| JAIPHPCL           | 6000          | 3000          | 4000          |
| MALANA P.C.        | 0             | 0             | 2500          |
| BALAJI             | 0             | 0             | 7808          |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b> | <b>264617</b> | <b>334895</b> | <b>322995</b> |

Working capital included

FCL INCLUDED

**Production in the Suratgarh  
Thermal Power Station**

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

(a) whether the production has been started in the third unit of Suratgarh Thermal Power Station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of additional power is likely to get after commissioning of the said unit in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) Unit No. 3 of 250 MW capacity at Suratgarh Thermal Power Station was synchronized on 29.10.2001. A coal based unit normally takes three to four months time in stabilisation from the date of synchronization.

**Non-operation of TV Towers**

880. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether 57 T.V. towers in different parts of the country have not become operational/commissioned even after their completion;

(b) if so, the details thereof location-wise alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make them operational?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) Installation of 48 transmitter projects in different parts of the country has been completed and these are technically ready for commissioning Location-wise details are given in the statement.

Action has been initiated for commissioning HPT. Churachandpur. LPTs at Udhampur & Amarpur and VLPTs at Kanigiri & Duttalur projects. Staff for the remaining project is to be sanctioned. It is Doordarshan's endeavour to commission these projects at the earliest.

**Statement**

*TV Transmitter Projects Technically Ready*

|               | Location of project | State           |
|---------------|---------------------|-----------------|
|               | 1                   | 2               |
| I. HPTS (7)   | Churachandpur       | Manipur         |
|               | Pondicherry (int.)  | Pondicherry     |
|               | Lakhimpur (int.)    | Uttar Pradesh   |
|               | Cannanore           | Kerala          |
|               | Warangal            | Andhra Pradesh  |
|               | Shahdol             | Madhya Pradesh  |
|               | Berhampur           | Orissa          |
| II. LPTs (39) | Udhampur            | Jammu & Kashmir |
|               | Bhunmal             | Rajasthan       |
|               | Vijaynagar          | Rajasthan       |
|               | Bidhuna             | Uttar Pradesh   |
|               | Narora              | Uttar Pradesh   |
|               | Aligarh (DD II)     | Uttar Pradesh   |
|               | Khetikhaan          | Uttaranchal     |
|               | Ramnagar            | Bihar           |

| 1             | 2              |
|---------------|----------------|
| Chattra       | Jharkhand      |
| Chikti        | Orissa         |
| Amarpur       | Tripura        |
| Jolaibari     | Tripura        |
| Jhalda        | West Bengal    |
| Sirpur        | Andhra Pradesh |
| Pulemaner     | Andhra Pradesh |
| Pedapalli     | Andhra Pradesh |
| Sirsilla      | Andhra Pradesh |
| Machlilpatnam | Andhra Pradesh |
| Zahirabad     | Andhra Pradesh |
| Kandukur      | Andhra Pradesh |
| Vemalrida     | Andhra Pradesh |
| Talikota      | Karnataka      |
| Indi          | Karnataka      |
| Koppa         | Karnataka      |
| Belthangadi   | Karnataka      |
| Mundargi      | Karnataka      |
| Koltarakkara  | Kerala         |
| Manjeri       | Kerala         |
| Pollachi      | Tamil Nadu     |
| Palani        | Tamil Nadu     |
| Ambur         | Tamil Nadu     |
| Kallakuruchi  | Tamil Nadu     |
| Ambasamdiram  | Tamil Nadu     |
| Konta         | Chhattisgarh   |
| Bareli        | Madhya Pradesh |

|            | 1         | 2              |
|------------|-----------|----------------|
|            | Lakhnadon | Madhya Pradesh |
|            | Dadhgaon  | Maharashtra    |
|            | Bhamragad | Maharashtra    |
|            | Raver     | Maharashtra    |
| III. VLPTs | Duttalur  | Andhra Pradesh |
|            | Kanigiri  | Andhra Pradesh |

Note:—Likely to be commissioned shortly.

[English]

**Purchase of MRPL Refinery  
by HPCL**

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

(a) whether Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has offered to buy the MRPL refinery;

(b) if so, the details of this offer;

(c) the likely advantage to Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited from this purchase; and

(d) the time by which this agreement come into force?

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) A.V. Birla Group (ABG) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) are co-promoters of Mangalore Refinery & Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL). ABG has expressed its intention to exit from MRPL. The Joint Valuers, appointed for carrying out the valuation of MRPL's shares, have submitted the Valuation Report. The offer of ABG to sell its shares in MRPL is under examination by HPCL.

[Translation]

**Production of Light Combat Aircrafts**

882. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have started production of Light Combat Aircraft (LCA);

(b) if so, the cost of each aircraft;

(c) the extent to which it is likely to meet the demand of fighter aircrafts of the Country; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir. LCA is still in the development and flight testing stage.

(b) As per the present estimates, the cost of each LCA is likely to be Rs. 72.54 crore.

(c) The LCA has been designed, based on Air Staff Requirement (ASR) issued by the Indian Air Force, to replace current fleet of fighter aircraft after full exploitation of the life potential.

(d) Not applicable.

[English]

**Doordarshan/Air Projects**

883. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY:  
SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL:  
SHRI H.G. RAMULU:  
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:  
SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO:  
SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI:  
SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:  
SHRI BAHADUR SINGH:  
SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:  
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:  
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:  
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:  
SHRI M.K. SUBBA:  
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:  
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:  
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

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

(a) the details of Doordarshan AIR projects running pending in the country, state-wise and location-wise;

- (b) the estimated cost of each project;
- (c) the details of places having no Doordarshan AIR Kendra broadcasting facilities till date;
- (d) the reasons therefor and the steps taken to open more Doordarshan/AIR kendras/broadcasting facilities in the country, including their estimated cost location-wise/state-wise;
- (e) the time by which the pending projects are likely to be completed and new kendras broadcasting facilities likely to be opened;
- (f) the steps taken to increase the coverage of AIR Doordarshan and modernise the existing kendras;
- (g) whether any special package for increasing the coverage of Doordarshan AIR in North-Eastern States has been given by the Government; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) The State-wise details of AIR projects presently under implementation alongwith their estimated cost is given in statement-I. The State-wise details of Doordarshan projects presently under implementation is given in statement-II.

(c) and (d) Location of Radio Stations / Doordarshan Kendras / Transmitters are not planned city-wise / town-wise, but are planned with a view to provide maximum coverage in hitherto uncovered areas. Plans for expansion

of AIR/DDn. network in the country are formulated after taking into account existing coverage and infrastructural facilities at a given place, extent of resultant coverage, inter-se priorities, availability of financial resources, etc. Though Doordarshan signals are available throughout the country in satellite mode, terrestrial coverage of Doordarshan is presently estimated to be available to 89.1% population and 76.6% area of the country. All India Radio programmes are presently estimated to be available to approximately 98.82% population and 89.51% area of the country. State-wise coverage figures for AIR/DDn. are given in statement-III.

(e) As the projects have been sanctioned at various time stages, the projects are at different stage of implementation and are expected to be completed, in phases, during the next two years.

(f) Expansion/Modernisation of existing AIR/Doordarshan Network is a continuous process and schemes in this regard are formulated and implemented from time to time depending on availability of resources. For expansion of AIR and DDn. coverage, 63 AIR projects and 227 TV Transmitter project are presently under implementation.

(g) and (h) The Government has approved, in principle, the implementation of a special package of schemes for improvement of Doordarshan and AIR services in the North-East Region (including Sikkim). The package will be implemented in the 10th Five Year Plan, and advance action will start during the current financial year.

#### Statement

##### *All India Radio*

##### *Project Under Implementation*

| Sl. No.                | Place     | Project                        | Capital Cost (Rs. in lakhs) | Target  |
|------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|
| 1                      | 2         | 3                              | 4                           | 5       |
| STATE : ANDHRA PRADESH |           |                                |                             |         |
| 1.                     | Macherla  | LRS-3 kW FM Tr. MP studio & SQ | 353.00                      | 2001-02 |
| 2.                     | Hyderabad | 20 kW Tr.                      | 202.00                      | 2001-02 |

| 1                         | 2               | 3                                  | 4       | 5   |
|---------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|---------|---|
| STATE : ARUNACHAL PRADESH |                 |                                    |         |   |
| 3.                        | Changlang       | CRS-1 kW FM Tr.                    | 65.00   | 2003-04   |
| 4.                        | Khonsa          | CRS-1 kW Tr.                       | 65.00   | 2003-04   |
| STATE : ASSAM             |                 |                                    |         |   |
| 5.                        | Silchar         | 20 kW MW Tr. (Repl. of 10 kW)      | 195.00  | 2001-02   |
| STATE : BIHAR             |                 |                                    |         |   |
| NIL                       |                 |                                    |         |   |
| STATE : CHHATTISGARH      |                 |                                    |         |   |
| 6.                        | Saraipalli      | LRS-1 kW FM Tr.                    | 265.65  | 2001-02   |
| STATE : GOA               |                 |                                    |         |   |
| NIL                       |                 |                                    |         |   |
| STATE : NCT OF DELHI      |                 |                                    |         |   |
| 7.                        | Delhi (Khampur) | 3x250 kW SW Trs. (Upgd. of 100 kW) | 5251.45 | 2002-03   |
| 8.                        | Delhi           | New Broadcasting House             | 5917.00 | 2002-03   |
| 9.                        | Delhi (Todapur) | Permanent Archives                 | 1537.00 | 2004-05   |
| STATE : GUJARAT           |                 |                                    |         |   |
| 10.                       | Himmatnagar     | LRS-1 kW MW Tr.                    | 284.15  | Installation Complete<br>Staff sanction awaited |
| 11.                       | Vadodara        | 10 kW FM Tr. (VB) (Repl. of 1 kW)  | 246.20  | 2001-02   |
| 12.                       | Bhuj            | 20 kW MW Tr. (Repl. of 10 kW)      | 231.00  | 2002-03   |
| STATE : HARYANA           |                 |                                    |         |   |
| NIL                       |                 |                                    |         |   |
| STATE : HIMACHAL PRADESH  |                 |                                    |         |   |
| NIL                       |                 |                                    |         |   |
| STATE : JAMMU & KASHMIR   |                 |                                    |         |   |
| 13.                       | Bhadarwah       | 6 kW FM Tr.                        | 321.05  | 2002-03   |
| 14.                       | Jammu           | 50 kW SW Tr.                       | 250.00  | 2001-02   |

| 1                            | 2          | 3                                    | 4       | 5       |
|------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| 15.                          | Leh        | 20 kW MW Tr. (Repl. of 10 kW)        | 188.00  |         |
| 16.                          | Jammu      | Uplinking Facilities                 | 176.00  | 2002-03 |
| JAMMU & KASHMIR SPECIAL PLAN |            |                                      |         |         |
| 17.                          | Naushera   | 20 kW MW Tr.                         | 427.00  | 2001-02 |
| 18.                          | Kupwara    | 20 kW MW Tr.                         | 427.00  | 2001-02 |
| 19.                          | Rajouri    | 10 kW FM Tr.                         | 439.00  | 2001-02 |
| 20.                          | Srinagar   | 300 kW MW Tr.                        | 1220.00 | 2001-02 |
| 21.                          | Khalsi     | 1 kW MW Tr.                          | 210.00  | 2001-02 |
| 22.                          | Diskit     | 1 kW MW Tr.                          | 210.00  | 2001-02 |
| 23.                          | Nyomarap   | 1 kW MW Tr.                          | 210.00  | 2001-02 |
| 24.                          | Drass      | 1 kW MW Tr.                          | 210.00  | 2001-02 |
| 25.                          | Tiesuru    | 1 kW MW Tr.                          | 210.00  | 2001-02 |
| 26.                          | Padum      | 1 kW MW Tr.                          | 210.00  | 2001-02 |
| 27.                          | Kargil     | 200 kW MW Tr.                        | 210.00  | 2001-02 |
| STATE : JHARKHAND            |            |                                      |         |         |
| NIL                          |            |                                      |         |         |
| STATE : KARNATAKA            |            |                                      |         |         |
| 28.                          | Mysore     | 10 kW FM Tr. (Repl. of 1 kW MW)      | 255.20  | 2001-02 |
| 29.                          | Mangalore  | 10 kW FM Tr. (Repl. of 1 kW MW)      | 256.00  | 2001-02 |
| 30.                          | Trivendrum | 10 kW FM Tr. (Repl. of 1 kW MW) (VB) | 252.00  | 2001-02 |
| STATE : KERALA               |            |                                      |         |         |
| 31.                          | Manjen     | LRS-3 kW FM Tr.                      | 358.60  | 2001-02 |
| 32.                          | Calicut    | 10 kW FM Tr. (Repl. of 1 kW MW VB)   | 249.70  | 2001-02 |
| 33.                          | Trivendrum | 20 kW FM Tr. (Repl. of 1 kW MW)      | 200.00  | 2001-02 |
| STATE : MADHYA PRADESH       |            |                                      |         |         |
| 34.                          | Mandla     | LRS-1 kW FM Tr.                      | 265.65  | 2001-02 |

| 1   | 2             | 3                                | 4       | 5   |
|-----|---------------|----------------------------------|---------|---|
| 35. | Rajgarh       | LRS-3 kW FM Tr.                  | 285.00  | Installation complete Staff sanction awaited            |
| 36. | Indore        | 200 kW MW Tr. (Repl. of 100 kW)  | 705.00  | 2001-02   |
|     |               | STATE : MAHARASHTRA              |         |   |
| 37. | Nagpur        | 300 kW MW Tr. (Repl. of 100 kW)  | 917.00  | 2001-02   |
|     |               | STATE : MANIPUR                  |         |   |
| 38. | Churachandpur | LRS-6 kW FM Tr.                  | 300.82  | Installation affected due to local law & order problem. |
| 39. | Imphal        | 10 kW FM Tr.                     | 331.90  | Installation complete Staff sanction awaited            |
| 40. | Imphal        | Uplinking facilities             | 141.00  | 2001-02   |
| 41. | Imphal        | 300 kW MW Tr. (Repl. of 50 kW)   | 919.00  | 2001-02   |
|     |               | STATE : MEGHALAYA                |         |   |
| 42. | Shilong       | 10 kW FM Tr.                     | 304.50  | 2001-02   |
| 43. | Shilong       | RTI(P)                           |         | 2001-02   |
|     |               | STATE : MIZORAM                  |         |   |
| 44. | Chemphai      | CRS-1 kW FM Tr.                  | 65.00   | 2003-04   |
| 45. | Aizawl        | 6 kW FM Tr.                      | 361.80  | 2001-02   |
| 46. | Aizawl        | 20 kW MW Tr. (Repl. of existing) | 182.00  | 2001-02   |
|     |               | STATE : NAGALAND                 |         |   |
| 47. | Phek          | CRS-1 kW FM Tr.                  | 65.00   | 2003-04   |
| 48. | Kohima        | 100 kW MW Tr.                    | 540.00  | 2001-02   |
|     |               | STATE : ORISSA                   |         |   |
| 49. | Sora          | LRS 1 kW MW Tr.                  | 284.15  | Installation completed Staff selection awaited          |
| 50. | Cuttack       | 300 kW MW Tr. (Repl. of 100 kW)  | 1377.00 | 2001-02   |

| 1  | 2             | 3                                   | 4       | 5   |
|--|---------------|-------------------------------------|---------|---|
| STATE : PUNJAB   |               |                                     |         |   |
| NIL  |               |                                     |         |   |
| STATE : RAJASTHAN  |               |                                     |         |   |
| 51.  | Jaipur        | 6 kW FM Tr.                         | 285.30  | Installation completed Staff sanction awaited |
| 52.  | Jodhpur       | 300 kW MW Tr. (Repl. of 100 kW)     | 917.00  | 2001-02                                       |
| STATE : SIKKIM   |               |                                     |         |   |
| NIL  |               |                                     |         |   |
| STATE : TAMIL NADU   |               |                                     |         |   |
| 53.  | Dharmapur     | LRS with 10 kW MW Tr.               | 469.65  | 2001-02                                       |
| STATE : TRIPURA  |               |                                     |         |   |
| 54.  | Dharmanagar   | LRS with 1 kW MW Tr.                | 327.00  | 2003-04                                       |
| 55.  | Nutan Bazar   | CRS-1 kW FM Tr.                     | 65.00   | 2003-04                                       |
| 56.  | Agartala      | Uplinking facilities                | 141.00  | 2001-02                                       |
| 57.  | Agartala      | 10 kW FM Tr.                        | 335.00  | 2001-02                                       |
| 58.  | Longtheral    | LRS with 6 kW MW Tr.                | 433.00  | 2003-04                                       |
| STATE : UTTAR PRADESH  |               |                                     |         |   |
| 59.  | Aligarh       | 2x250 kW SW Tr. (Repl. of existing) | 3220.00 | 2001-02                                       |
| 60.  | Nazibabad     | 200 kW MW Tr. (Repl. of 100 kW)     | 766.00  | 2002-03                                       |
| 61.  | Kanpur        | 10 kW FM Tr.                        | 360.00  | 2003-04                                       |
| STATE : UTTARANCHAL  |               |                                     |         |   |
| NIL  |               |                                     |         |   |
| STATE : WEST BENGAL  |               |                                     |         |   |
| 62.  | Shantiniketan | LRS 3 kW FM Tr.                     | 339.60  | Installation complete Staff sanction awaited  |
| UNION TERRITORY : A & N ISLANDS  |               |                                     |         |   |
| 63.  | Port Blair    | 100 kW MW Tr. (Repl. of 20 kW)      | 550.00  | 2001-02                                       |
| UNION TERRITORY : CHANDIGARH, DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI, DAMAN & DIU, LAKSHADEEP & MINICOY ISLANDS AND PONDICHERY |               |                                     |         |   |
| NIL  |               |                                     |         |   |

## Statement-II

## Doordarshan in Transmitters

(as on 19.11.2001)

| STATE               |      | UNDER IMPLEMENTATION    |
|---------------------|------|-------------------------|
| 1                   |      | 2                       |
| ANDHRA<br>PRADESH   | HPT  | WARANGAL                |
|                     |      | VISHAKHAPATANAM (DD II) |
|                     | LPT  | SIRPUR                  |
|                     |      | PEDAPALLI               |
|                     |      | KANDUKUR                |
|                     |      | MADUGULA                |
|                     |      | PULAMANER               |
|                     |      | PUNGANUR                |
|                     |      | VEMALYADA               |
|                     |      | SIRSILLA                |
|                     |      | MACHILIPATANAM          |
|                     |      | ZAHIRABAD               |
|                     |      | MIRYALAGUDA             |
|                     |      | KAKINADA (DD II)        |
|                     |      | NELLORE (DD II)         |
|                     |      | TALKONDAPALLY           |
|                     |      | KOLHAPUR                |
|                     | VLPT | KANIGIRI                |
|                     |      | CUTTALLUR               |
|                     |      | MADIPADU                |
| ARUNCHAL<br>PRADESH | HPT  | ITANAGAR (DD II)        |

| 1           |      | 2                 |
|-------------|------|-------------------|
|             | VLPT | DEOMALI           |
|             |      | ITALIN            |
| ASSAM       | LPT  | SATARSAL          |
|             | Xser | GUWAHATI          |
| BIHAR       | LPT  | RAMNAGAR          |
|             |      | KISHANGANJ        |
|             |      | GAYA (DD II)      |
|             |      | BHABHUA           |
| CHHATISGARH | HPT  | AMBIKAPUR         |
|             | LPT  |                   |
|             |      | KHARCD            |
|             |      | PANDARIA          |
|             |      | KONTA             |
| GUJARAT     | HPT  | VADODARA          |
|             |      | SURAT             |
|             |      | SURAT (DD II)     |
|             |      | VADODARA (DD II)  |
|             |      | RAJKOT (DD II)    |
|             | LPT  | SURAT (DD II)     |
|             |      | VADODARA (DD II)  |
|             |      | RAJKOT (DD II)    |
|             |      | BHAVNAGAR (DD II) |

| 1                   |      | 2                                 | 1 |      | 2                 |
|---------------------|------|-----------------------------------|---|------|-------------------|
|                     |      | JAMNAGAR (DD II)                  |   |      | BANIHAL (mobile)  |
| HARYANA             | LPT  | HISSAR (DD II)                    |   |      | DRASS (mobile)    |
|                     |      | MAHENDERGARH<br>(NARNAUL) (DD II) |   |      | GANDOH (mobile)   |
|                     |      | HODAL                             |   | VLPT | PATNITOP (mobile) |
| HIMACHAL<br>PRADESH | VLPT | BIJLI MAHADEV                     |   |      | BAFLIAZ           |
|                     |      | DALHAUSI                          |   |      | DARHAL            |
|                     |      | JHATINGRI                         |   |      | TRAL              |
|                     |      | KAJA                              |   |      | BASOLI            |
|                     |      | AWAH DEVI                         |   |      | BONIYAR           |
|                     |      | NEHRI                             |   |      | CHAR              |
|                     |      | CHIRGAON                          |   |      | GANDCH            |
| JAMMU &<br>KASHMIR  | HPT  | NAUSHERA                          |   |      | GOOL              |
|                     |      | KUPWARA                           |   |      | GULABGARH         |
|                     |      | GUREZ                             |   |      | GULMARG           |
|                     |      | TITHWAL                           |   |      | SAKTI             |
|                     |      | SAMBA                             |   |      | KERAN             |
|                     |      | POONCH (DD II) (pmt.)             |   |      | KHREW             |
|                     |      | NAUSHERA (DD II)                  |   |      | LATI              |
|                     |      | KUPWARA (DD II)                   |   |      | MIMU (BASGO)      |
|                     |      | GUREZ (DD II)                     |   |      | LORAN             |
|                     |      | TITHWAL (DD II)                   |   |      | MANDI             |
|                     |      | SAMBA (DD II)                     |   |      | MANSUR            |
|                     | LPT  | UDHAMPUR                          |   |      | PNICKER           |
|                     |      |                                   |   |      | PONI              |
|                     |      |                                   |   |      | PULWAMA           |
|                     |      |                                   |   |      | TANGMARG          |
|                     |      |                                   |   |      | TATAPANI          |

| 1         | 2                  | 1                 | 2                  |
|-----------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
|           | THATHRI            |                   | VLPT               |
|           | TILEL              |                   | HUVIN HIPPARGI     |
|           | YUSMARG            |                   | KUDLIGI            |
| JHARKHAND | HPT                | KERLA             | HPT                |
|           | JAMSHEDPUR (DD II) |                   | CANNANORE          |
|           | LPT                |                   | LPT                |
|           | CHATRA             |                   | MANJERI            |
|           | DHANBAD (DD II)    |                   | KOTTARAKKAPA       |
|           | JAMSHEDPUR (DD II) |                   | THRISSUR (DD II)   |
|           | BOKARO (DD II)     |                   | VLPT               |
|           | VLPT               |                   | ERATTUPETTA        |
|           | RAMGARH MILL       |                   | MUNDAKAYAM         |
| KARNATAKA | HPT                | MADHYA<br>PRADESH | HPT                |
|           | MYSORE             |                   | GUNA               |
|           | RAICHUR            |                   | SHAHDOL            |
|           | GULBARGA (DD II)   |                   | GWALIOR (DD II)    |
|           | DHARWAD (DD II)    |                   | LPT                |
|           | MYSORE (DD II)     |                   | BARELI             |
|           | LPT                |                   | LAKHNADON          |
|           | MUDHOL             |                   | SINCHWA            |
|           | TALIKOTA           | MAHARASHTRA       |                    |
|           | INDI               |                   | HPT                |
|           | KORPA              |                   | CHANDRAPUR         |
|           | BELTHANGADI        |                   | JALGAON            |
|           | MUNDARGI           |                   | RATNAGIRI          |
|           | SINDHNUR           |                   | PUNE DD II         |
|           | MYSORE (DD II)     |                   | AURANGABAD (DD II) |
|           | DAVANGERE (DD II)  |                   | LPT                |
|           | BELLARY (DD II)    |                   | BAVER              |

| 1         |      | 2                |  | 1         |      | 2                          |  |
|-----------|------|------------------|--|-----------|------|----------------------------|--|
|           |      | CHADGAON         |  | PUNJAB    | HPT  |                            |  |
|           |      | BHAMPAGAD        |  |           |      | FAZILKA (Pmt.)             |  |
|           |      | NASHIK (DD II)   |  |           |      | AMRITSAR (Aug.) (Pmt.)     |  |
|           |      | AMRAVATI (DD II) |  |           |      | AMRITSAR (DD II)           |  |
|           |      | KOLHAPUR (DD II) |  |           |      | JALANDHAR (DD II)          |  |
|           |      | SANGLI (DD II)   |  |           | LPT  | LUDHIANA (DD II)           |  |
|           |      | MALEGAON (DD II) |  | RAJASTHAN | HPT  | AJMER (Pmt.)               |  |
|           |      | AKOLA (DD II)    |  |           |      | BARMER (Pmt.)              |  |
|           |      | NANDED (DD II)   |  |           | LPT  | PIRAWA                     |  |
|           |      | DHULE (DD II)    |  |           |      | NASIRABAD (DD II)          |  |
|           |      | BADLAPUR         |  |           |      | BHINMAL                    |  |
|           | VLPT | AMBET            |  |           |      | SOJAT                      |  |
| MANIPUR   | HPT  | CHURACHANDPUR    |  |           |      | SANCHOR                    |  |
|           |      | IMPHAL (DD II)   |  |           |      | KISHANGARH (AJMER) (DD II) |  |
| MEGHALAYA | HPT  | SHILLONG (DD II) |  |           |      | VIJAYNAGAR                 |  |
|           | LPT  | CHERABUN         |  |           |      | BIKANER (DD II)            |  |
| MIZORAM   | HPT  | AIZAWL (DD II)   |  | SIKKIM    | HPT  | AJMER (DD II)              |  |
| NAGALAND  | HPT  | KOHIMA (DD II)   |  |           |      | UDAIPUR (DD II)            |  |
|           | Xser | BARA BAST        |  |           | VLPT | GANGTOK (DD II)            |  |
| ORISSA    | HPT  | BERHAMPUR        |  |           |      | ZORETHANG                  |  |
|           | LPT  | TUSHARA          |  | TAMILNADU | HPT  | KUMBAKONAM (Pmt.)          |  |
|           |      | CHIKITI          |  |           |      | KODAIKANAL (DD II)         |  |
|           |      | BAHALDA          |  |           | LPT  | ERODE                      |  |
|           |      |                  |  |           |      | PALANI                     |  |

| 1                |                        | 2           |                      |
|------------------|------------------------|-------------|----------------------|
|                  |                        |             | SHAHJAHANPUR (DD II) |
|                  | AMBASAMUDRAM           |             | SULTANPUR (DD II)    |
|                  | KALLAKURUCHI           | UTTRANCHAL  | LPT                  |
|                  | AMBUR                  |             | DHUNAGHAT            |
|                  | POLLACHI               |             | KHETIKHAN            |
|                  | TIRUCHIRAPALLI (DD II) |             | GOPESHWAR            |
|                  | COIMBATORE (DD II)     |             | VLPT                 |
|                  | MADURAI (DD II)        |             | CHAMOLI              |
|                  | VELLORE (DD II)        |             | MANILA               |
|                  | ERODE (DD II)          |             | KEDARNATH            |
|                  | TIRUNELVELI (DD II)    |             | DUGADDA              |
|                  | TUTICORIN (DD II)      |             | AROLI                |
|                  | TIRUPATTUR (DD II)     |             | Xser                 |
| TRIPURA          | LPT                    |             | MUSSORIE (DD II)     |
|                  | JOLAIBARI              | WEST BENGAL | HPT                  |
|                  | AMARUR                 |             | BALURGHAT            |
|                  | AMBASSA                |             | KRISHNANAGAR (Pmt.)  |
|                  |                        |             | KHARAGPUR            |
| UTTAR<br>PRADESH | HPT                    |             | LPT                  |
|                  | LAKHIMPUR              |             | JHALDA               |
|                  | AYODHYA/FAIZABAD       |             | BAGHMANDI            |
|                  | KANPUR (DD II)         | A&N ISLAND  | HPT                  |
|                  |                        |             | PORT BLAIR           |
|                  | LPT                    |             | PORT BLAIR (DD II)   |
|                  | NARORA                 |             |                      |
|                  | BIDHUNA                |             | VLPT                 |
|                  | BAREILLY (DD II)       |             | KALIGHAT             |
|                  | ALIGARH (DD II)        |             | SWARAJGRAM           |
|                  | JHANSI (DD II)         | PONDICHERRY | HPT                  |
|                  | MORADABAD (DD II)      |             | PONDICHERRY          |

**Statement-III***All India Radio**Statewise Coverage during day time*

| S.No.            | States/UTs        | Existing |            |
|------------------|-------------------|----------|------------|
|                  |                   | Area%    | Population |
| 1                | 2                 | 3        | 4          |
| <b>I. STATES</b> |                   |          |            |
| 1.               | Andhra Pradesh    | 99       | 99.5       |
| 2.               | Arunachal Pradesh | 57       | 72         |
| 3.               | Assam             | 94.22    | 97.5       |
| 4.               | Bihar             | 99*      | 99*        |
| 5.               | Chhatisgarh       | 90.9     | 95.17      |
| 6.               | Goa               | 99*      | 99*        |
| 7.               | Gujarat           | 99*      | 99*        |
| 8.               | Haryana           | 99*      | 99*        |
| 9.               | Himachal Pradesh  | 50       | 87.4       |
| 10.              | Jammu & Kashmir   | 31       | 98         |
| 11.              | Jharkhand         | 99*      | 99*        |
| 12.              | Karnataka         | 96.2     | 96.8       |
| 13.              | Kerala            | 99.6     | 99.6       |
| 14.              | Madhya Pradesh    | 98.33    | 98.76      |
| 15.              | Maharashtra       | 98       | 98.8       |
| 16.              | Manipur           | 48.3     | 80.4       |
| 17.              | Meghalaya         | 97.5     | 97.3       |
| 18.              | Mizoram           | 57.2     | 67.9       |
| 19.              | Nagaland          | 77       | 82.5       |
| 20.              | Orissa            | 98       | 98.8       |
| 21.              | Punjab            | 99*      | 99*        |

| 1                            | 2                    | 3            | 4            |
|------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| 22.                          | Rajasthan            | 91.5         | 98.8         |
| 23.                          | Sikkim               | 72           | 99           |
| 24.                          | Tamil Nadu           | 99*          | 99*          |
| 25.                          | Tripura              | 84.31        | 88           |
| 26.                          | Uttar Pradesh        | 99.3         | 99.75        |
| 27.                          | Uttarachal           | 52.8         | 75.5         |
| 28.                          | West Bengal          | 99*          | 99*          |
| <b>II. UNION TERRITORIES</b> |                      |              |              |
| 1.                           | A & N Islands        | 80           | 85           |
| 2.                           | Chandigarh           | 99*          | 99*          |
| 3.                           | Dadra & Nagar Haveli | 99*          | 99*          |
| 4.                           | Delhi                | 99*          | 99*          |
| 5.                           | Daman & Diu          | 99*          | 99*          |
| 6.                           | L & M Islands        | 99*          | 99*          |
| 7.                           | Pondicherry          | 99*          | 99*          |
| <b>NATIONAL COVERAGE</b>     |                      | <b>89.51</b> | <b>98.82</b> |

*TV Coverage in States/Union Territories*

| S. No. | States/UTs        | Present Coverage<br>(As on 1.11.2001) |      |
|--------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|------|
|        |                   | Area%                                 | Pop. |
| 1      | 2                 | 3                                     | 4    |
| 1.     | Andhra Pradesh    | 80.6                                  | 87.7 |
| 2.     | Arunachal Pradesh | 16.7                                  | 53.3 |
| 3.     | Assam             | 74.6                                  | 82.8 |
| 4.     | Bihar             | 93.4                                  | 93.4 |
| 5.     | Chhatisgarh       | 57.5                                  | 69.8 |
| 6.     | Goa               | 99.9                                  | 99.9 |

| 1   | 2                    | 3    | 4    |
|-----|----------------------|------|------|
| 7.  | Gujarat              | 84.3 | 86.0 |
| 8.  | Haryana              | 96.8 | 98.7 |
| 9.  | Himachal Pradesh     | 42.9 | 67.3 |
| 10. | Jammu & Kashmir      | 96.7 | 97.4 |
| 11. | Jharkhand            | 36.9 | 91.9 |
| 12. | Karnataka            | 70.1 | 76.2 |
| 13. | Kerala               | 99.1 | 92.5 |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh       | 73.6 | 75.3 |
| 15. | Maharashtra          | 79.6 | 88.6 |
| 16. | Manipur              | 32.1 | 67.0 |
| 17. | Meghalaya            | 94.6 | 97.2 |
| 18. | Mizoram              | 69.0 | 73.1 |
| 19. | Nagaland             | 68.5 | 69.6 |
| 20. | Orissa               | 87.4 | 92.0 |
| 21. | Punjab               | 99.9 | 99.9 |
| 22. | Rajasthan            | 71.3 | 78.1 |
| 23. | Sikkim               | 77.4 | 95.0 |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu           | 93.6 | 93.6 |
| 25. | Tripura              | 93.5 | 93.5 |
| 26. | Uttar Pradesh        | 90.0 | 96.2 |
| 27. | Uttaranchal          | 54.6 | 80.3 |
| 28. | West Bengal          | 95.9 | 96.2 |
| 29. | A & N Island         | 26.2 | 99.5 |
| 30. | Chandigarh           | 99.9 | 99.9 |
| 31. | Dadra & Nagar Haveli | 65.2 | 65.0 |
| 32. | Daman & Diu          | 99.9 | 99.9 |

| 1                | 2                   | 3    | 4    |
|------------------|---------------------|------|------|
| 33.              | Delhi               | 99.9 | 99.9 |
| 34.              | Lakshadweep Islands | 99.0 | 99.0 |
| 35.              | Pondicherry         | 99.9 | 99.9 |
| NATIONAL AVERAGE |                     | 76.5 | 89.1 |

## NOTE :

1. Coverage figures are inclusive of fringe areas (elevated antennae and Doosters are required for obtaining reception in fringe areas).
2. Terrain conditions not taken into consideration.
3. 99.9% coverage has been indicated in respect of those States/UTs entire area/population of which lies in-the coverage zone of existing/proposed transmitters. There is possibility of certain uncovered pockets in these States/UTs due to shadow areas.

**Incursion by Chinese Army into  
Indian Territory**

884. SHRI ANADI SAHU : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be please to state:

(a) whether there was incursions by the Chinese Army into Indian territory in Tawang, Subangiri and Lihit sectors of Arunachal Pradesh during the current year;

(b) if so, whether the Indian Army was able to drive away the intruders;

(c) if so, the casualty in such operations by the Indian Army; and

(d) the preventive measures taken by the Government to check such type of incident?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) The boundary question between India and China is un-resolved. The two sides have also differences in the perception of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the border areas, including Arunachal Pradesh. Both sides carry out patrolling activities as per their respective perception of the LAC. Violations of the LAC

are taken up by both sides through diplomatic channels and Border Personnel Meetings/Flag Meetings. The existing ground level mechanisms help the two sides to raise and resolve issues of local nature. Activities of the Chinese Army along the LAC in Arunachal Pradesh needs to be viewed in this context.

2. The Indian Army had no casualty during such activities in the current year.

3. The boundary question between India and China is discussed at various fora on a regular basis. Notwithstanding this, the Government keeps constant vigil and takes appropriate measures to ensure sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of.

[Translation]

**Establishment of High Court Bench  
in Western U.P**

885. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :  
SHRI BHAL CHANDRA YADAV :

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

(a) whether a request has been made in regard to establish a bench of Uttar Pradesh High Court in Western Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the names of organisation from which the Government have received such requests till date;

(c) whether the Government have not yet taken any decision to accept this demand; and

(d) if so, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (d) Recently, lawyers in Western Uttar Pradesh went on strike demanding establishment of a permanent Bench in their region. The Bar Association of Western U.P. have also pressed for an early establishment of a permanent Bench of Western U.P. Representations are also being received continuously from various organisations in this regard.

2. The Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court, who was requested to send the views/comments, has

informed the Government that he endorses the views of his predecessors which had been against the creation of any such Bench. He has stated that there is no justification for creation of any Bench of the Allahabad High Court in Western U.P.

3. The Government has referred the matter to the Attorney General for India for his advice in the matter of the legal position as to binding nature of the High Courts advice in view of the Judgment of the Supreme Court in the Karnataka Case and the inapplicability of the States Reorganization Act to U.P.

**Condition of Power Generating Projects**

886. DR. SHUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:  
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:  
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:  
SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to modernise the present power generating projects to improve their capacity;

(b) if so, whether such projects have been identified under this plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the funds allocated by the Government for the said scheme during the last year;

(e) the additional power is likely to be generated in the country after implementing this scheme;

(f) whether the existing on-going power projects are likely to be able to generate more and cheap power by doing some improvement in them in comparison to establish new Power Projects; and

(g) details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (g) Yes, Sir. The Government has launched a new scheme called Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP). Under APDP, projects relating to renovation and modernization/life extension/uprating of old power plants (thermal

and hydro), upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution network including metering are being financed. Renovation and Modernisation schemes are financed by the Power Finance Corporation through a combination of loan and grant. During the financial year 2000-01, a total provision of Rs. 1000 crores was kept under APDP for R&M of power plants and upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution system including metering. During 2000-2001, 29 schemes were approved involving an outlay of Rs. 704 crores under the APDP.

During the 10th Plan Rs. 2900 crores (Rs. Two thousand nine hundred crores) would be required for renovation and modernization, uprating and life extension works of 209 hydro generating units with an installed capacity of about 7500 MW. Rs. 9900 crores (Rs. Nine thousand and nine hundred crores) would be required for refurbishment and R&M works in respect of 141 thermal units (106 units of 11000 MW refurbishment works + 35 units of 6400 MW for R&M works) with an installed capacity of 17400 MW.

After implementation of life extension works on thermal units during the 10th Plan, there will be about 57% increase in thermal generation and the life of about 11000 MW capacity will get extended by another 15-20 years. In addition, by carrying out R&M of hydro generating units during the 10th Plan, additional generation of about 12000 MUs will be available as a result of up-rating and life extension of hydro units.

The existing power projects would be able to generate more and cheaper power by carrying out Renovation & Modernisation works. The maximization of the generation from the existing power plants by R&M works is considered to be a cheaper and cost effective option in comparison to establishing new power project. By carrying out R&M and life extension works, additional generating capacity can be achieved at about 20-30% of the cost of new power projects depending upon the present condition and the age of the plant.

#### **Irregularities in Allotment of LPG Agencies/Petrol Pumps**

887. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been irregularities in the allotment of LPG agencies and petrol pumps in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government to check such irregularities;

(c) whether the Government have identified officials/persons involved in the irregularities; 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) The complaints received against selection for dealerships/distributorships by Dealer Selection Boards (DSBs) in Jharkhand State have been referred to Oil Marketing Companies/Director General, Anti Adulteration Cell, for action as per the guidelines laid down by Ministry in the matter.

[English]

#### **Increase in Fee at Sainik School, Tilaiya**

888. SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is tremendous increase in fees charged from guardians in Sainik School, Tilaiya;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether SC/ST students were given free education till 1997 however they are being charged from 1998; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The fee for all the Sainik Schools including Sainik School, Tilaiya was revised on 18.6.1999 from Rs. 14,000/- to Rs. 20,000/- per annum with an increase of 10% each year.

(c) No, Sir.

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

**Amendment in Constitution  
Regarding Article 371**

889. SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal from Karnataka to amend Article 371 to include the backward districts of Northern Karnataka to expedite the development works in these districts; and

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

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

*[Translation]*

**Cantonment Boards in Maharashtra**

890. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Cantonment Boards functioning in Maharashtra;

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to solve the problems of basic amenities in these cantonment areas;

(c) the schemes of the Government to make the Cantonment Boards more effective; and

(d) the number of cases relating to Ahmednagar Cantonment Board pending with the Government and the latest position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) There are seven Cantonment Boards in the State of Maharashtra, viz., Ahmednagar, Aurangabad, Dehu Road, Deolali, Kamptee, Kirkee and Pune.

(b) and (c) The Cantonment Boards being statutory bodies governed under the provision of the Cantonments Act, 1924 undertake development works like road, drains, water supply, etc., from their own sources. The Central

Government provides only financial assistance to them by way of special grants wherever needed in the case of deficit boards. Service Charges are also paid to them in lieu of Property Tax in respect of defence properties.

The functioning of Boards is closely monitored by the Directorate of Defence Estates in the Command, Directorate General Defence Estates and also at Ministry level. Wherever necessary, directives are issued by the Government through the Director General Defence Estates for improving the functioning of the Boards.

(d) There is one case regarding dispute of water charges claimed by Military Engineer Service from the Cantonment Board, Ahmednagar, pending consideration of the Government.

**Corruption in Defence Deal**

891. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified 15 such defence deals which can be investigated for having doubt of corruption;

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

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Following the allegations made in the videotapes and transcripts released by Tehelka.com under the name of 'Operation West End', Government have appointed a Commission of Inquiry consisting of a single member, namely, Shri Justice K. Venkataswami, a retired Judge of the Supreme Court of India. As per its terms of reference, the Commission is investigating certain transactions relating to Ministry of Defence.

2. The Commission has not submitted its report as yet.

*[English]*

**Meeting with Representatives of Japan**

892. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:  
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting was held between his Ministry and representatives of Japan to fight against the state:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreement have been signed between the two countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the wake of the terrorist attack on the United States of America on the 11th September 2001, Shri Yoshiro Mori, former Prime Minister of Japan and Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of Japan, visited India on the 29th of October 2001. Shri Mori held discussions with Hon'ble Raksha Mantri on the current international security situation and the fight against terrorism launched by the global coalition, of which Japan is a member.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Ammunition Developed by Ordnance Factory Organisation

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

(a) whether seven types of ammunition was to be developed by Ordnance Factory Organization for 155mm Howitzers Gun supplied during 1991-93;

(b) if so, whether Ordnance Factory Organization have failed to develop three out of seven types of ammunition of 155mm Howitzers;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have taken note of defects in the four types of ammunition supplied by Ordnance Factories;

(e) if so, whether the Government have conducted any inquiry in this regard;

(f) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(g) the remedial measures taken by the Government to avoid such losses?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, indents for seven types of ammunition for 155mm Gun system were issued by Directorate General Ordnance Services (DGOS) in August 1990 for supply during 1991-93. These ammunitions were to be developed as per the technology from Bofors, Sweden.

(b) and (c) Technology documents for two types of ammunitions i.e. 155mm smoke Infra Red and 155mm Cargo were not received from Bofors due to imposition of ban and the Authority Holding Sealed Particulars (AHSP) i.e. Controller of Quality Assurance (Ammunition) (CQA) (Ammunition) could not vet the indents for these two ammunitions. As such development/production of these two ammunitions was not undertaken whereas Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) developed the remaining five types of ammunitions.

(d) The five types of ammunitions developed by OFB as per Bofors technology have passed relevant tests and acceptance criteria.

(e) No enquiry was conducted.

(f) and (g) Does not arise in view of (e) above.

#### Defence Procurements

894. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATAHI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the defence procurement had come to a standstill because of the Venkataswamy Commission probe into the Tehelka case; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to overcome this problem?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) During the current financial year (upto October 2001) the percentage expenditure of the Budgeted Estimates under the Capital Heads for the Army is 18 percent, for the Navy is 38 percent and for the Air Force is 32 percent and under the Revenue Heads for the Army is 37 percent, for the Navy 41 percent, and for the Air Force 36 percent.

Procurement is a continuous process. Several procurement proposals are in progress and are likely to materialise in due course.

[Translation]

#### Import of Crude Oil

895. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:  
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:  
SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI:

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

- (a) whether crude oil is imported for meeting the demand of petroleum in the country;
- (b) if so, whether there is 70% dependence on import to meet the demand;
- (c) if so, the fact in this regard; and
- (d) the quantity of crude oil imported in the country during the first six months of the current year in comparison to last year for the said period and the total estimated import for this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) The country's dependence on crude oil imports to meet the demand during the last two years and current year is as follows:

|           |   |                 |
|-----------|---|-----------------|
| 1999-2000 | — | 68%             |
| 2000-2001 | — | 69%             |
| 2001-02   | — | 68% (estimated) |

(d) The crude oil import during the first six months of the current year as comparison to last year for the said period and the total estimated import for this year are as under:

|                        |   |        |                        |
|------------------------|---|--------|------------------------|
| 2000-01(April-Sept.)   | — | 38.035 | million metric tonnes. |
| 2001-02 (April -Sept.) | — | 39.452 | -do-                   |
| 2001-02 (estimated)    | — | 80.397 | -do-                   |

[English]

#### C.A.S. for TV Viewers

896. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN:  
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:

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

- (a) whether the Government propose to make conditional access system (CAS) mandatory for the TV viewers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there has been a demand that television viewers should have the right to choose channels of his liking instead of accepting whatever the cable operators offer;
- (d) if so, whether the Government have formed a task force or propose to bring a legislation in this regard;
- (e) if so, the details and the time by which such steps are likely to be taken;
- (f) whether the Government have identified the technology available in the world for this purpose; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof and time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (g) In order to examine the various issues relating to the introduction of 'Conditional Access System' (CAS), a Task Force has been constituted, comprising representatives of the cable operators, multi-service operators, Broadcasters, Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Consumer etc.

The terms of reference of the Task Force, inter-alia, include the following:-

- (i) To make recommendation on the feasibility and desirability of introducing CAS for television viewing through the cable network;
- (ii) To make recommendation regarding the modalities of introducing C.A.S. (in case it is found feasible and desirable) including the aspects

like pricing, burden of cost and such other related issues; and

- (iii) To debate the issue of technology for the "Set Top Boxes" and whether the same could be standardized and if so, which technology would be most apt/suitable.

The Task Force will examine all the issues in its Report.

### Judicial Reforms

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

(a) whether there is an urgent need for judicial reforms in the country particularly because of huge pending cases, prolonged trials, frequent adjournments, absence of prosecution and defence counsels at hearings, defective recording of evidence, indifferent role of prosecution layers, low convictions, less working days in courts, delayed delivery of judgments, absence and non-implementation of code of conduct for lawyers vis-a-vis litigants and inaction of BCA etc.;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to amend the various sections of Code of Criminal Procedure; and

(c) if so, the details and by when thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Judicial reform is an ongoing and continuous process. Judicial Reforms include fixing of time limits, restriction on adjournments, prompt delivery of judgments and active role of lawyers in judicial process, etc.

The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Act, 1999 and the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2000 introduced in Parliament in December, 2000 inter-alia contain provisions regarding fixing of time limits at various stages of a suit, granting of not more than three adjournments to a party to a suit, recording of evidence by the Commissioner, delivery of judgment within 60 days after hearing of the case. As regards less working days in courts, the matter has been taken up with High Courts.

Various other measures have been taken by the Government for the speedy disposal of cases viz. filling up of vacancies of judges, increase in the number of posts of Judges/Judicial Officers, establishment of Special Courts/Tribunals, appointment of Special Judicial/Metropolitan Magistrates, etc.

(b) and (c) The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1994 containing 49 clauses proposing to amend various sections of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha in 1994. The Government has also set up a Committee on Criminal Justice Reforms to suggest measures to revamp the system. The Committee is yet to submit its report.

### Representation to Women in Infantry Battalions

898. DR. ASHOK PATEL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to give adequate representation to the women in the infantry battalions of the army;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to induct women in the Infantry Battalions of the Army.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

### Use of Identity Card for Voters

899. DR. ASHOK PATEL : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have now taken a decision to allow the use of Voter's Identity Card for all purpose;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government have issued any directions in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

[English]

#### Financial Condition of Sainik Schools

900. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the appalling financial condition of the Sainik Schools;

(b) if so, whether the Government are also aware that because of the substantial increase in the consolidated fees structure from Rs. 15,000/- to Rs. 40,000/- per annum w.e.f. 1999-2000 parents are being forced to withdraw their children from the schools;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to substantially increase the Centre's share of scholarship from the existing Rs. 2000/- to Rs. 12,000/-; and

(d) if so, the other steps taken by the Government to improve the financial condition of Sainik Schools?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) With increase in fees from Rs. 14,000/- to Rs. 20,000/- per annum in all Sainik Schools w.e.f. 1999-2000 and subsequent increase of 10% each year, Schools have become almost self-sustaining.

(b) Yes, Sir. There have been withdrawals from the Schools due to increase in fees.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal under consideration.

#### Passing on of Secret Defence Documents to ISI Agents

901. SHRI BAHADUR SINGH:  
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:  
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI:  
SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:  
SHRI P. MOHAN:  
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several officials of the Defence forces have been found passing on classified and secret documents to ISI agents in the country during 2000 and 2001;

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

(c) whether the Government have taken any action against the persons involved in such incidents;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to tone up its intelligence to check such activities of Defence officials?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (e) Some officials of the Defence forces (including the civilian employees) have been found passing on secret and classified documents to ISI agents of Pakistan during 2000 and 2001 and appropriate action was initiated against all such personnel under the Official Secrets Act/IPC. Government have taken several security measures and steps to tone up its intelligence network to check such nefarious activities and to ensure that such incidents do not occur in future. Some of the steps taken in this regard include: deployment of additional security Surveillance Teams in conjunction with IB to carry our checks; deployment of additional security troops for access control within the Defence Security Zone; deployment of electronic equipment to tone up security measures; security briefing to civilian Gazetted/non-Gazetted officers every month to apprise them of Departmental security instructions and to make them security conscious. Senior Officers of the Ministry/Service Headquarters/Inter Service Organisation have also been given briefing by IB officials on complete security scenario and preventive action to be taken. It is not in public interest to disclose further details.

#### Enactment of Broadcasting Law

902. SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM:  
SHRI SADASHIVARAO DADOBHA MANDLIK:

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

(a) whether the Government have proposed to enact a Broadcasting Law and amend the Cable Act of 1995;

(b) if so, the details and its salient features thereof;

(c) the time by which the same is likely to be introduced; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The Communication Convergence Bill, 2001 has already been introduced in Parliament on 31.8.2001 and there is no need for a separate Broadcasting Law, at this stage.

#### Differences between SEBI and DCA on Investor Protection Act

903. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are certain differences sprouted between SEBI and DCA with regard to Investor Protection Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the proposal made by SEBI to protect the investors;

(d) the response of the DCA to the proposal; and

(e) the measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (e) A Committee headed by Dr. N.L. Mitra, former Director, National Law School, Bangalore has recommended a new Investor Protection Act. The existing Companies Act, 1956 aims at regulating financial and management aspects of bodies corporate, adequately equally providing for both managerial autonomy and investor protection. In fact, protection

of share-holders, debenture-holders, depositors etc. is one of the major theme of the Companies Act, 1956. The Committee on Investor Education and Protection Fund, constituted under Section 205C(4) of the Companies Act, 1956, which has representatives of RBI and SEBI also, has too felt that the present laws are sufficient. Besides, under Section 205C of the Companies Act, an Investor Education and Protection Fund has been set up, and rules in this regard notified. As such, it is felt that the investors have adequate protection under the existing laws, and there may be no need for yet another Act.

#### Official War History

904. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:  
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:  
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:  
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted a committee to make official war histories public;

(b) if so, the terms and reference of the committee;

(c) whether this step is follow up of the recommendations of the Group of Ministers on national security;

(d) if so, the other recommendations given by the Group of Ministers in this regard;

(e) the number of recommendations out of them accepted and action taken thereon; and

(f) the details of recommendations still under examination?

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

(b) The terms of reference of the Committee are as follows:-

The Committee will review the histories of Indo-Pak War 1971, Indo-Pak War 1965, Conflict with China 1962 and History of Operation Pawan – IPKF in Sri Lanka, and related MOD/MEA files in the matter with a view to recommending or rejecting their publication for open sale. The

Committee will have access to all the relevant MEA documents and all relevant documents of the MOD.

The Committee will submit its recommendations by December 31, 2001.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Group of Ministers (GOM) has also recommended that an official history of Kargil be written.

(e) All but for a couple of recommendations of GOM, have been accepted. The implementation of the recommendations of the GOM has already commenced.

(f) A decision of the GOM's recommendation relating to the institution of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) would be taken after consultation with various political parties. A decision on the question of writing the official history of Kargil is in process.

#### **Deployment of Armed Forces for Civil Works**

905. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether armed forces are deployed for civil works;

(b) if so, the details of deployments during 2001 till date; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) The Military Engineering Service which includes civil and military personnel, is the designated specialised agency deployed for civil works in the Armed Forces. However, when occasion arises, in addition to their deployment for internal security duty and in the wake of natural calamities to render assistance to civil administration, the armed forces, particularly Army, often to undertakes civic action projects such as construction/renovation of the schools, playgrounds, community centres and other public utilities, provision of medical aid and drinking water facilities etc. in Jammu & Kashmir and insurgency affected states of the North East. These projects are small scale and are conceived on the

basis of the requirement of the local population and executed with their active involvement. There is no specific deployment for these projects which are undertaken by the concerned Army formations.

[Translation]

#### **Recruitment Office at Jhunjhunu**

906. SHRI SIS RAM OLA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recruitment is not being made at the recruitment centre of army at district headquarter of Jhunjhunu for the last two years;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that youths of Jhunjhunu district have been called for recruitment at least eight hundred kilometers away from the district headquarter;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps likely to be taken by the Government to make recruitment at Jhunjhunu district Headquarters?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Recruitment in the Army is carried out through open rally system. Rallies are conducted under aegis of Headquarter Recruiting Zones in which Jhunjhunu has been adequately covered. During the last two years recruitment Rallies have been conducted at Suratgarh in November 1999, Nasirabad in January 2000, Bikaner in April 2000 and Jasai in February 2001 to cover the district.

(d) Instructions have been issued to organise recruitment rallies in Jhunjhunu in December 2001.

#### **Eye Witness Attitude in the Court**

907. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that due to influence and money power eye witness turns hostile in the court;

(b) whether taking undue advantage of the Indian Penal Code's provisions. Lawyer instead of helping courts

in finding the truth apply all foul means to save the accused; and

(c) if so, the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government in order to provide fast, cost effective and fair justice to the countrymen?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) The Law Commission of India in their 154th Report on the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 has recommended, inter-alia insertion of a new sub-section, 1(A), in section 164 to read as follows.

"Every investigating Officer shall sent to the nearest Magistrate all material witnesses during the course of investigation and the magistrate on oath record their statements, if such Magistrate is empowered to take cognizance of the case on police report, he shall keep such statements alongwith the FIR received by him and await the further police report under section 173. If he is not empowered to take such cognizance, he shall send the statements thus recorded on oath to the Magistrate empowered to take cognizance of the case."

In regard to a specific time-frame for a decision on the above, the Government has to take a view of the recommendations of the Law Commission in the 154th Report in entirety.

(c) Government has proposed various remedial measures to provide fast, cost effective and fair justice to the countrymen. These include amendment of Civil Procedure Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure. The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill 2000 and the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1994 are pending consideration of Parliament. Further as regards Criminal Procedure Code and the Indian Penal Code, the Law Commission of India has comprehensively reviewed both the Acts.

Further measures taken for speedy and cost effective justice are to increase the number of posts of Judges/Judicial Officers, establishment of Special Courts/Tribunals and adoption of alternative modes of dispute resolution, such as arbitration and conciliation. Lok Adalats have been given a statutory base as supplementary forum for resolution of disputes. By March, 2001 the Lok

Adalats have disposed of 1.67 crore (approx.) cases in the country.

[English]

#### Expenditure on Procurement of Flux Cored Wires

908. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has not replied to the observations made by CAG on Technical Committee of Department of Defence Production and Supplies, Ordnance Factory, Medak and Heavy Vehicle Factory, Avadi suffered an extra expenditure of Rs. 4.96 cr. on procurement of flux cored wires and various welding wires electrodes in their report No. 7 of 2000;

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

(c) whether the provisions of Joint Services Guide are violated by registering suppliers/manufacturers for supply of welding wires/electrodes;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the details of officials held responsible therefor and the action taken against them; and

(f) the steps taken to ensure that procedures laid down for procurement of defence supplies are followed strictly?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir. Ordnance Factory Board had replied to the Principal Director of Audit (Ordnance Factories, Calcutta) who had vetted the Action Taken Note on the Subject Audit Para.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

#### CBI Inquiries Against Defence Officials

909. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Preliminary Enquiry (PE) registered by the CBI against Defence officials over graft charges as reported in the Indian Express dated October 26, 2001;

(b) the present status of these PEs and the findings of the CBI in each case;

(c) whether the Ministry is not cooperating with the CBI in getting documents stamped as classified/obtaining permission from the Ministry of Home;

(d) if so, the details of steps initiated by the Ministry to end corruption in defence deals/purchases; and

(e) the details of results achieved in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) The CBI have registered a Preliminary Enquiry on 13.9.2001 against a Controller of Defence Accounts for having accepted favour in the form of payment for Air tickets for travel of self and family members from Delhi to Patna and back from a supplier of spare parts to the Indian Air Force. The CBI are presently inquiring into the matter.

(c) The CBI is getting full cooperation from the Ministry of Defence.

(d) and (e) Besides others following important steps have been taken to bring transparency in Defence purchases:-

- (i) With a view to ensuring high levels of transparency in defence purchases, Government have issued orders, in consultation with the CVC/C&AG, for mandatory and time-bound scrutiny of all major procurements/purchase decisions, involving cost of above Rs. 75 crores, by the C&AG and where necessary, by the CVC.
- (ii) Defence Procurement Board consisting of senior officers of the Ministry, their services and the Defence Finance Wing has been set up to handle major Defence purchases in a professional, transparent and cost effective manner.
- (iii) In order to make the Defence procurement procedures fully transparent and to ensure probity of the highest order, the Government has

after careful consideration of the recommendation of the CVC has issued instructions for the involvement of authorized representatives/agents in Defence purchases. This would enhance transparency level and provide the Service HQrs., additional information about latest advances in sophisticated technology.

[Translation]

#### **Demand of Petroleum Products**

910. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of estimated demand of Petroleum Products especially LPG in tribal areas during the last three years alongwith the actual supply made to these areas in the country; state-wise;

(b) the details of estimated demand of Kerosene, LPG, Petrol and other Petroleum Products alongwith the details of marketing plans formulated by public undertakings and private companies for the fulfilment of the said demand;

(c) the marketing plans of public sector undertakings for LPG, Petrol, Kerosene and other Petroleum Products for the current year in the Country;

(d) the progress made with regard to the pre-constitution of Gujarat Oil Selection Board for finalising the selection of new dealership for the current year; and

(e) 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) At present, the demand of Petroleum Products including LPG is being met by large in full throughout the country including tribal areas.

To meet the demand of Petroleum Products (MS, HSD, LPG & SKO), Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies conduct feasibility surveys for potential locations regularly. Based on these surveys, locations are included in the Marketing Plans. The Marketing Plans of private companies

for SKO & LPG under Parallel Marketing outlet (RO) & SKO dealerships for current year have not been formulated so far, However, the selection of dealerships/distributorships are being made on the basis of previous Marketing Plans.

(d) and (e) At present, two Dealer Selection Boards (DSBs) are functioning in the State of Gujarat for selection of dealerships/distributorships.

[English]

#### China's Cooperation in T and D Network

911. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has sought China's cooperation in the power sector in clearer technologies, equipment, manufacturing and information on transmission and distribution network; and

(b) if so, the response given by the Chinese in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) A delegation led by the Hon'ble Minister of Power had visited China in September, 2001. The delegation had discussion on wide ranging issues which aimed at understanding how China arranged for finances for its power sector, the tariff structures prevailing in the country, the steps being taken to build its transmission network including the national power grid, the measures adopted for rural electrification and for lowering T&D losses.

#### Controversies like DPC and CESCO

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

(a) whether in a bid to restrict the controversies like Dabhol Power Corporation and CESCO, the Government has announced that it is likely to restructure all the 450 power circles and invest Rs. 4,500 crore for strengthening the power distribution system during this fiscal;

(b) if so, the main proposals that have been announced;

(c) to extent to which these projects are like to help in strengthening the power distribution system;

(d) whether the World Bank has urged the Union Government to play a pivotal role in creating a conducive environment for power sector reforms; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (e) The Government of India has launched Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) with the objective of providing systematic financing for renovation & modernization and life extension of old generating stations and upgradation of Sub-transmission & Distribution network in the country for financial turn around in the performance of the State Electricity Boards (SEBs). Under APDP special category States get 100% for the project cost in the ratio of 90% grant and 10% central loan; whereas, 50% of the project cost for non-special category States is met under APDP in the form of half grant and half loan. The balance 50% of the project cost is provided as loan by Financial Institutions. Under the APDP programme, the upgrading of Sub-transmission and Distribution system is being taken up in 63 distribution circles. The remaining distribution circles will be taken up during the 10th Plan (2000-2007). Part of the funding will be provided under APDP and the remaining loan amount will be provided for specific projects by financial institutions.

The implementation of APDP will improve the commercial viability of the power sector and help in attracting investment in generation, transmission and distribution.

#### Controversy over Television Rating Points

913. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sought a report from Prasar Bharati on the controversy over Television Rating Points of programmes aired by private channels;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government on the raging debate, ostensibly a product of the scramble for a bigger share from the Rs. 2,500 crore advertisement pie;

(c) whether the Government have intervened in this issue;

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

(e) whether the Government have found the blacksheep behind the leak by the anonymous people in Mumbai and Chennai; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (f) The Television Rating Point (TRP) controversy is an issue between the Market Research Companies and Advertisers in the Electronic Media. IAM Media Research and the ORG-MARG are the two agencies, which measure viewership through representative samples of television viewing public/homes. The measurement is done through an electronic device called People Meter. The reports were regarding leakage of information relating to viewership homes, leading to loss of credibility. The Government has no role to play in the matter.

[Translation]

#### Water in LPG Cylinders

914. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:  
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

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 'Panni milakar bechi ja rahi hai rasoi gas' appearing in 'Dainik Jagran' dated October 04, 2001;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government so far against the LPG dealers and the agency supplying water filled LPG cylinders; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide relief to such affected consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) LPG distributors of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies are under strict instructions to check every cylinder for soundness/correct weight before delivering to consumer. In case of any established complaints of supply of underweight/water-filled cylinders from consumers, action is taken against erring distributors as per the prevailing Marketing Discipline Guidelines/Distributorship Agreement.

[English]

#### Kargil Review Committee

915. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the various recommendations of the Group of Minister (GOM) taking stock of the national security in the light of the Kargil Review Committee Report; and

(b) the details of the recommendations accepted by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The Group of Ministers (GOM) constituted by the Government on 17th April, 2000 to thoroughly review the national security system in its entirety and, in particular to consider the recommendations of the Kargil Review Committee and formulate specific proposals for implementation presented their comprehensive Report titled 'Reforming the National Security System' to the Prime Minister on February 26, 2001. Amongst others these recommendations seek to improve the National Security structures in the field of Intelligence Apparatus, Internal Security, Border Management and Management of Defence. The major recommendations of the GoM are: (i) redesignation of Service Hqrs as "Integrated Headquarters", (ii) creation of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), (iii) creation of a Defence Procurement Board, (iv) creation of the Defence Intelligence Agency, (v) establishment of a National Defence University, (vi) preparation of a holistic integrated Defence Perspective Plans for 15 to 20 years, (vii) strengthening the mechanism for gathering and dissemination of intelligence, (viii) rejuvenation of State Police Forces/Central Para military

Forces, (ix) National Service for youth, (x) expanding NCC and service in the Territorial Army, (xi) upgradation of the efficacy of the civil defence organization, (xii) setting up of village defence committees in rural areas, (xiii) revamp of the criminal justice system and (xiv) strengthening, training and equipping of Border Guarding Forces etc.

(b) The recommendation made by the GoM were approved by the Government on 11th May, 2001 with the modification that a view on the recommendation relating to the institution of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) will be taken after consultation with various political parties.

#### Gap between Demand and Supply of Petroleum

916. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the gap between demand and supply of petrol and petroleum products during the last two years;

(b) the quantum of production, consumption and import of petrol and petroleum products and foreign exchange spent thereon during the corresponding period; and

(c) the steps being taken to bridge the gap between demand and supply?

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 Gap between Demand and Supply of petrol and petroleum products during the last two years is given below:-

|           | Petrol | Petroleum Products<br>(Figures in TMT) |
|-----------|--------|--|
| 1999-2000 | 322    | (-) 14,150                             |
| 2000-2001 | 1,455  | (-) 711                                |

The consumption and production of petrol and petroleum products during the last two years is given below:-

|                  | Petrol | Petroleum Products<br>(Figures in TMT) |
|------------------|--------|--|
| <b>1999-2000</b> |        |  |
| Consumption      | 5,909  | 97,086                                 |
| Production       | 6,231  | 82,936                                 |
| <b>2000-2001</b> |        |  |
| Consumption      | 6,613  | 100,075                                |
| Production       | 8,068  | 99,364                                 |

The import of petrol and petroleum products and foreign exchange spent thereon during last two years is given below:-

|                       | 1999-2000               |              |               | 2000-2001               |             |               |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------------|-------------|---------------|
|                       | Qty.<br>'000'<br>Tonnes | Rs.<br>Crore | \$<br>Million | Qty.<br>'000'<br>Tonnes | Rs.<br>Cror | \$<br>Million |
| Public Sector         | 12,313                  | 10,402       | 2,394         | 3,007                   | 3,793       | 829           |
| Private Sector        | 4,295                   | 3,783        | 870           | 6,260                   | 8,300       | 1,813         |
| Total Product Imports | 16,608                  | 14,185       | 3,264         | 9,267                   | 12,093      | 2,642         |

(c) The following steps are being taken to bridge the gap between Demand and Supply:-

(i) Refinery capacity in the country has been increased during the last two years by

commissioning of new grass-root refineries and expansion of existing refineries. With this, the refining capacity in the country presently is marginally higher than demand.

- (ii) With the present refining installed capacity of 114.7 MMTPA as on 01.10.2001, the domestic requirement of petroleum product is largely met from domestic production.
- (iii) Imports/exports of petroleum products are limited to imbalances in demand and production of specific products.

**Misuse of Funds in Purchase of Gypsy Vehicles**

917. SHRI P.D. ELAVGOVAN : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that the funds were misused while the Gypsy vehicles were purchased for the ASI few years back;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the guilty officials;
- (c) the number of vehicles purchased and the bill amounts for the same;
- (d) the details of funds allocated therefor;
- (e) whether the Government have called for any sealed tenders from reputed automobile dealers while purchasing the gypsy vehicles for the ASI; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) to (f) During the year 1999-2000, Archaeological Survey of India purchased 16 (sixteen) Maruti Gypsy vehicles at the cost of Rs. 68,24,384/- from Maruti Udyog Ltd. at DGS&D rate with the approval of the Ministry of Finance.

**Lease of AIR Towers**

918. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether All India Radio has been allowed to lease out its towers to the private FM operators;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith terms and condition laid down in this regard;

(c) whether the technical and financial feasibility of the scheme has been studied by the AIR.

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(f) the manner in which it will benefit the country?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (d) Prasar Bharati has decided to permit the private FM operators to share its common infrastructures facilities, including towers, subject to technical feasibility and on payment of licence fee. Each and every request is considered from the point of view of its technical feasibility after taking into account Prasar Bharati's own requirement and licence fee is fixed on the basis of the investments and operational cost of these facilities. Detailed terms and conditions vary from place to place depending upon the requirement of private operator, nature of infrastructural facilities and the number of operators.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Speedy operationalisation of private FM Stations will help provide high quality multi channel entertainment. Other benefits would include revenue from licence fee, increased employment and boost to related manufacturing industries due to increased demand for FM radio and related accessories. Sharing of Prasar Bharati's towers will ensure optimal utilisation of these assets.

[Translation]

**Manufacturing of Submarines**

919. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the projects regarding manufacturing of destroyer sub-marines named project 75 have already been started in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the present status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Government have approved a long-term perspective plan for construction of submarines and acquisition of national competence in submarine

building. Requisite technical assistance is being sought for the indigenous submarine building programme.

[English]

**Judicial Enquiry Report on  
Tehalka Episode**

920. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:  
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the judicial enquiry into the Tehalka video tape revelation has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the stage at which it stands at present;

(d) whether the commission has submitted any interim report;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the amount spent on enquiry commission till date;

(g) whether the Government are planning to wind up this commission; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Justice K. Venkataswami Commission on Inquiry has not completed inquiry into the Tehalka video tape revelation.

(c) The work of the Commission is under way and its hearings are in progress.

(d) and (e) The Commission has not submitted any interim report.

(f) Government have placed an amount of Rs. 2 crores at the disposal of the Commission to meet their requirements.

(g) and (h) Government is considering the request of the Commission for grant of further extension of time for a period of four months from 24.11.2001.

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at Fourteen of the Clock.

11.17 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for lunch  
till Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at  
Fourteen of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we will take up Papers to be laid on the Table. Pleased take your seat.

**PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Drugs and Cosmetics (Seventh Amendment) Rules, 2001 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 700(E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2001 under Section 38 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4199/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No. S.O. 870(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th September, 2001 notifying the levy of Toll collection on Reengus Bypass on National Highway No. 11 in Agra-Bikaner Section, under Section 10 of the National Highway Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 4200/2001]

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

(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : Sir, on behalf of Shrimati Vasundhara Raje, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Maharashtra Administrative Tribunal (Salaries and Allowances and Conditions of Service of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members) Amendment Rules, 2001 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 678(E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th September, 2001, under sub-section (1) of section 37 of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4201/2001]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Tool Room and Training Centre, Bhubaneswar, for the year, 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Tool Room and Training Centre, Bhubaneswar for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4202/2002]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): I beg to lay on the table:-

#### EIGHTH LOK SABHA

- (i) Statement No. XXIX Fourteenth Session, 1989.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 4203/2001]

#### TENTH LOK SABHA

- (ii) Statement No. XLVIII First Session, 1991.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 4204/2001]
- (iii) Statement No. XLII Third Session, 1992.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 4205/2001]

- (iv) Statement No. XLI Fourth Session, 1992.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 4206/2001]
- (v) Statement No. XXXIV Seventh Session, 1993.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 4207/2001]
- (vi) Statement No. XXVII Eighth Session, 1993.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 4208/2001]
- (vii) Statement No. XXXII Ninth Session, 1994.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 4209/2001]
- (viii) Statement No. XXXI Eleventh Session, 1994.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 4210/2001]
- (ix) Statement No. XXVIII Twelfth Session, 1994.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 42011/2001]
- (x) Statement No. XXIX Thirteenth Session, 1995.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 4212/2001]
- (xi) Statement No. XXX Fourteenth Session, 1995.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 4213/2001]
- (xii) Statement No. XXII Fifteenth Session, 1995.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 4214/2001]
- (xiii) Statement No. XIX Sixteenth Session, 1996.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 4215/2001]

#### ELEVENTH LOK SABHA

- (xiv) Statement No. XXIV Second Session, 1996.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 4216/2001]
- (xv) Statement No. XIII Fourth Session, 1997.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 4217/2001]
- (xvi) Statement No. XX Fifth Session, 1997.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 4218/2001]

(xvii) Statement No. XVI Sixth Session, 1997.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4219/2001]

### TWELFTH LOK SABHA

(xviii) Statement No. XIX Second Session, 1998.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4220/2001]

(xix) Statement No. XVI Third Session, 1998.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4221/2001]

(xx) Statement No. XIV Fourth Session, 1999.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4222/2001]

### THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA

(xxi) Statement No. XII Second Session, 1999.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4223/2001]

(xxii) Statement No. XI Third Session, 2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4224/2001]

(xxiii) Statement No. VII Fourth Session, 2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4225/2001]

(xxiv) Statement No. V Fifth Session, 2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4226/2001]

(xxv) Statement No. IV Sixth Session, 2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4227/2001]

(xxvi) Statement No. I Seventh Session, 2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4228/2001]

(2) A copy of the Motor Sprit and High Speed Diesel (Regulation of Supply and Distribution and Prevention of Malpractices) Amendment Order, 2001 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 814(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st November, 2001, under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4229/2001]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : Sir, on behalf of Shri A. Raja, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Prevention of Food Adulteration (Seventh Amendment) Rules, 2001 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 670(E) in Gazette of India dated the 17th September, 2001, under sub-section (2) of section 23 of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4230/2001]

(2) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 603(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th August, 2001 making certain amendments in the Notification No. G.S.R. 578(E) dated the 23rd July, 1983, issued under section 26A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4231/2001]

(3) A copy each of the following Notification (Hindi and English versions) under section 38 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940:-

(i) The Drugs and Cosmetics (Sixth Amendment) Rules, 2001, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 601(E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th August, 2001.

(ii) The Drugs and Cosmetics (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2001, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 604(E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th August, 2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4232/2001]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English version) of the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore, for year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working

of the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore, for the year 1999-2000.

- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4233/2001]

14.02 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA AND  
BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA—LAID

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Explosive Substances (Amendment) Bill, 2001 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 20th November, 2001."

2. Sir, I lay on the Table the Explosive Substances (Amendment) Bill, 2001, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 20th November, 2001.

14.02½ hrs.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES—  
SUMMARY OF WORK

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the 'Parliamentary Committees (other than Financial and Departmentally relating Standing Committees) – Summary of Work' (Hindi and English versions) pertaining to the period from 1 June, 2000 to 31 May, 2001.

14.02¼ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS'  
BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

**Nineteenth Report**

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of 19th Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private members' Bills and Resolutions.

14.03 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

**First Report**

[Translation]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the first Report (Hindi and English versions) of Committee on Ethics.

14.03¼ hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Twenty-seventh Report**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, I beg to present the Twenty-seventh Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

14.03½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY

**Fifty-fourth to Fifty-seventh  
Action Taken Reports**

[English]

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK (Keonjhar) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (Hindi and English versions)

of the following Reports of the Standing Committee on Industry:-

- (1) 54th Report on the Action Taken Note of the Ministry of Small Scale Industries on the 43rd Report on Credit Flow to SSIs.
- (2) 55th Report on the Action Taken by the Government on Recommendations contained in its 50th Report on Demands for Grants (2001-2002), Ministry of Mines.
- (3) 56th Report on the Action Taken by the Government on Recommendations contained in its 34th Report on problems being faced by Steel Industry (both in public and private sectors), Ministry of Steel.
- (4) 57th Report on the Action Taken by the Government on Recommendations contained in its 51st Report on Demands for Grants (2001-2002), Ministry of Steel.

shown adverse effects like vomiting after administration of Vitamin A.

We have been informed that 14 children had died after the incident. However, a preliminary assessment indicates that in most of these cases, the death was due to causes unrelated to Vitamin A. The deaths have taken place due to diseases like cardiac failure, foreign body aspiration, severe anaemia, fever of indeterminate cause, etc. In many of the cases, the parents have reported that the deceased child had not been given any dose of Vitamin A. It seems that the panic created due to the side effects, has resulted in all deaths being attributed to Vitamin A. Samples of the drug have been collected by Drug Controller General of India for analysis and the results are awaited.

Prima facie evidence suggests that UNICEF has replaced the 2 ml spoons usually supplied with the Vitamin A solution with 5 ml cups for this round of campaign in Assam. One possibility is that during the campaign some children might have received doses in excess of the recommended level of Vitamin A resulting in symptoms of toxicity. However, experts will have to go into this issue and give their opinion.

14.04 hrs.

#### STATEMENT BY MINISTER\*

**Re: Reported Deaths of Children In Assam  
After Administration of Vitamin 'A'**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is concerned about the reported deaths and illness among children in Assam after they were given doses of Vitamin A in a State-wide campaign sponsored by UNICEF and organised by the State Government of Assam held on 11th November, 2001. Information received from the State Government suggests that a large number of children had reported symptoms of side effects within a few hours after receiving the dose of Vitamin A solution. Unfortunately, a few children also died. Until now, as per the State Government report dated 19.11.2002, about 953 children had

I would like to reassure the Hon'ble Members that Vitamin A given in the right dose is absolutely safe. Vitamin A is an essential Vitamin, the deficiency of which can lead to blindness. In addition, children with deficiency of Vitamin A are more prone to sickness like diarrhoea and pneumonia and are at a higher risk of death. It is for this reason that the Government of India is implementing a programme for administration of prophylactic doses of Vitamin A to young children since the 1970s without any adverse outcome. I would like to assure that Vitamin A solution used under the National Programme is a safe drug. However, like any drug, over-dosage can lead to problems. Although, an inquiry has been instituted by the State Government and the exact cause of the mishap in Assam will be known to us within a few days, preliminary information at this stage, seems to indicate that some children in Assam have suffered side effects of the drug due to alleged over-dosage.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had organised a large National Consultation in September 2000 in which nutrition experts, paediatricians, public

\*Also placed in Library see No. LT. 4235/2001.

[Dr. C.P. Thakur]

health experts, researchers and representatives from international organisations were invited. This National Consultation, which examined several issues related to Vitamin A concluded that magnitude of clinical Vitamin A deficiency has declined significantly in the country, but it still exists as a public health problem in some pockets. The Consultation endorsed the National Policy of administration of Vitamin A and recommended that Vitamin A prophylaxis should be strengthened as a component of the primary health care services. Since at the time of the Consultation many States were linking Vitamin A campaigns with the Pulse Polio Immunisation (PPI) Programme, this issue was also discussed at great length. The National Experts had recommended that it was inadvisable to link Vitamin A supplementation with the PPI Programme. There are several reasons for this Vitamin A dosage is age-dependent and repeated dosages can lead to toxicity. In campaigns, a very high degree of training and field supervision are required. This may not be possible since public health systems in many parts of the country are not yet capable of managing these complexities. Instead, the experts had opined that the routine programme for Vitamin A prophylaxis should be re-energised. The proceedings of the Workshop were communicated to all State Governments.

We have since recommended to all States to refrain from launching campaigns not only for Vitamin A but also for other individual interventions since campaigns have a tendency to divert the attention of the entire system from routine essential activities.

The State Government has ordered an inquiry into the incident in Assam by a Committee headed by Shri M.S. Pangley, Additional Chief Secretary.

I have constituted a high level Committee of Experts under the Chairmanship of Dr. N.K. Ganguly, Director General, ICMR to go into the various aspects of Vitamin A administration. The Committee has been requested to study several aspects related to Vitamin A including the programme and technical aspects related to the drug. I have requested the Committee to give its report and recommendations soon. I shall keep the House informed about the findings of the Committee.

14.09 hrs.

## ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES

### (i) Committee on Public Undertakings

[English]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Sir, I beg to move:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect, under sub-rule (3) of Rule 254, in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 312B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, one member from among themselves to serve as a member of the Committee on Public Undertakings for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee vice Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy ceased to be a member of the Committee on his appointment as Minister."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the member of this House do proceed to elect, under sub-rule (3) of Rule 254, in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 312B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, one member from among themselves to serve as a member of the Committee on Public Undertakings for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee vice Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy ceased to be a member of the Committee on his appointment as Minister."

*The motion was adopted.*

### (ii) Committee on Public Accounts

[Translation]

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI (Nainital): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Members of this House do proceed to elect, under sub-rule (3) of Rule 254, in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 309 of the Rules of Procedure and conduct of Business

in Lok Sabha, two Members from among themselves to serve as Members of the Public Accounts Committee for the unexpired portion of the term of the committee vice Sarva Shri Vijay Goel and Anna Sahab M.K. Patil ceased to be members of the Committee on their appointment as Ministers."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Members of this House do proceed to elect, under sub-rule (3) of Rule 254, in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 309 of the Rule of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, two Members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Public Accounts for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee vice Sarva Shri Vijay goel and Annasaheb M.K. Patil ceased to be members of the Committee on their appointment as Ministers."

*The motion was adopted.*

**(iii) Committee on The Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes**

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Members of this House do proceed to elect, under sub-rule (3) of Rule 254, in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 331B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, two Members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee vice Sarva Shri Kariya Munda and Ashok Pradhan ceased to be members of the Committee on their appointment as Ministers."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Members of this House do proceed to elect, under sub-rule (3) of Rule 254, in the

manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 331B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, two Members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee vice Sarva Shri Kariya Munda and Ashok Pradhan ceased to be members of the Committee on their appointment as Ministers."

*The motion was adopted.*

14.13 hrs.

**COMPANIES (THIRD AMENDMENT) BILL\***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Companies Act, 1956.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Companies Act, 1956."

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I have given a notice for objection for introducing this Bill. Though it is entitled to replace an ordinance, the ordinance itself is *ultra vires* of the Constitution. That is my view because the Companies Act was passed as early as in 1956. The basic concept of the law was giving powers to the shareholders and they must have a voice in the policy decisions of the company. That power is being taken away all of a sudden and that too by an ordinance. The ten per cent buy-back power is vested with the Board of Directors. Now, the Board of Directors are given unbridled powers, thereby the shareholders are put at the mercy of Board of Directors. They are given the power to buy-back without a decision of the General Body of Shareholders meetings, without summoning a shareholders meeting. They have

\*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dt. 22.11.2001.

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

taken a decision now that such a power is not at all with the common shareholders. The Board of Directors, who are big businessmen, are given unbridled powers to take decision at the mercy and at the risk of the common shareholders.

This is a matter of privilege that they speak of democracy but they are killing democracy in the Company Law that after it has been decided in the House itself, as a policy matter, the Executive has no power to issue an ordinance at this juncture. So, I oppose because it is against the concept of fundamentals of the Company Law, concept of democracy inside the company. That is taken away in the name of urgency and that too by an ordinance. It is against the principles of natural justice and against the principles of our Constitution. That is my view. That too they are doing it in the name of liberalisation.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, the amendment proposed is really intended for the benefit of the investors and the shareholders of a company. Within the Companies Act itself there are provisions and there are some powers, which are exercised by the Board and some powers exercised by the shareholders through AGM. The mere fact that one of powers is to be exercised by the Board, in no way alters the scheme of the Companies Act and this itself cannot be an objection at the stage of the introduction of the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Companies Act, 1956."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

**(i) Need to safeguard the interests of  
cotton growers in the Country  
particularly in Haryana**

[Translation]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (Ambala) : Sir, the cotton crops of farmers in Hisar, Jind, Fatehabad, Rohtak, Bhiwani and Sirsa districts of Haryana have been destroyed due to soondee insect.

I would like to submit to the hon. Minister of Agriculture to take proper action in this regard so as to provide relief to the suffering farmers.

**(ii) Need to Check the terrorist and naxalite  
activities in Jharkhand state**

PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT (Lohardaga) : Sir, through this House I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the rising terrorist and naxalite activities in Jharkhand state which has subsequently left the people in a state of awe and terror and the normal life is disrupted. Jharkhand is already a backward state and the present spate of terrorism is adversely affecting developmental activities in the state. The world Bank is running several developmental schemes over there. But all the schemes are in abeyance due to terrorism and Naxalism. This is on the one hand not allowing the people to live peacefully while on the other hand the Government is not able to implement the schemes properly.

I would, therefore, like to request the Union Government to provide additional security forces to the Government of Jharkhand and also equip the Jharkhand police with sophisticated weapons. Moreover, there should be a move against terrorism and naxalism involving the coordinated efforts of the union Government as well as Jharkhand Government.

**(iii) Need to start gauge conversion work  
between Jabalpur and Panna via  
Damoh in Madhya Pradesh**

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Damoh) : Sir, in 1999 the then Minister of Railways had announced to undertake survey and construction work regarding gauge conversion between Jabalpur and Panna via Damoh Hatta and following that the survey work had been started. The work

14.15 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377\*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377 are to be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

\*Treated as Laid on the Table.

in this regard is still in progress but the position in regard to its present status is not clear. Therefore, I would like to request that the survey work should be completed and immediate action should be taken to complete the construction.

**(iv) Need to increase custom duty on Soyabean and Palm Oil**

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY (Banaskantha) : The Government of India have tried to save farmers by hiking import duty on several foodgrain products in this year's budget proposals but there has been no hike in the import duty on Soyabean, rapeseed oil and castoral as a result of which edible oils producing farmers are on the verge of ruin. Farmers produce mustard and other oilseeds in large quantity in my Parliamentary constituency of Banaskantha and the livelihood of their families depend on these edible oils. It has come to my notice that Soyabean and palm oil is produced on large scale biologically. People do not want to eat such things in Japan, America and in the European countries from health point of view. And therefore, they send such things to the developing countries.

Through you I would like to request the Union Government that the interests of Indian farmers should be safeguarded by enhancing custom duty on Soyabean and palm oil.

**(v) Need to review the decision to ban use of charitable funds by Urban cooperative Banks in the country**

PROF. Y.G. MAHAJAN (Jalgaon) : Sir, the Reserve Bank of India has restricted the right of Urban Cooperative banks of investment of charitable funds through the circulars issued on 3rd August, 1992 and 19th January, 1996. Various non-Governmental organisations engaged in making self-dependents sections of society which are socially and economically backward have been receiving full support of urban cooperative banks. The urban development banks use this amount for the upgradation of various social utility schemes as a result of which the non-Government organisations used to get much assistance in social works undertaken by them but this work has been hampered due to restriction put by the Reserve Bank of India on use of charitable funds by the cooperative.

Keeping all the above facts in view I want to request the hon. Finance Minister, through you, that the Reserve Bank of India should remove the above restriction forthwith and the right of urban cooperative banks to use charitable funds should be restored.

**(vi) Need to safeguard the interests of cotton growers in the country particularly in Punjab**

[English]

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot) : As the whole nation is aware that the cotton growers have had a very bad time this season especially in Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra. Their distress and miseries, coupled with heavy losses of production, are pushing them to starvation. American ball worm and other insects have totally damaged the crop for which farmers invested their entire money by taking loans from various banks and commission agents. I request that government that the losses suffered by the cotton growers be compensated by bringing it under the Natural Calamity Fund and at least Rs.10,000/- per acre be paid to cotton growing farmers for the loss accrued to them. The farmers have already protested and demonstrated in the respective States that authorities misguided them and did not supply good quality and variety of seeds. I request Minister of Agriculture to rescue the cotton growers from their distress and their miseries.

**(vii) Need to provide central assistance to the Government of Karnataka to save coconut crops from Eriophid mite**

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA (Hassan) : A vast number of coconut trees have been affected by eriophid mite and the future of the farmers in Karnataka is in doldrums. The gravity of the problem is very serious as 78.69 lakh palms are affected and immediate measures for eradication of coconut mite will have to be taken to save the farmers from distress situation.

Karnataka Government has submitted proposals to the Centre with a request to provide assistance of Rs. 336.47 crores over a period of 5 years and Rs. 37.47 crores for the current year 2000-2001.

I urge upon the Union Government to immediately provide Rs. 37.47 crore as Central assistance to Karnataka

[Shri G. Putta Swamy Gowda]

for the current year to control the eriophyid mites without any further delay.

**(viii) Need to tackle the problem of coastal erosion along the Dakshin Kannada coast with the help of Government of Netherlands**

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE (Udupi) : My constituency, Udupi, forms a part of Dakshin Kannada with a long coastline. Fishermen communities are settled along the coast whose livelihood depends on favourable sea-faring conditions throughout the year.

Consistent coastal erosion is posing a great danger and constant hazard to those living along the coast apart from causing ecological devastation. Settlements and landing points for fishing vessels disappear every now and then because of erosion caused by strong tides. Bangladesh had the same problem with such areas on coastal shores and estuaries but they were successful in harnessing the sea tides to reclaim the land vulnerable to erosion. The Government of Netherlands (Dutch Govt.) who have expertise in such projects generously provided assistance both financial and technical.

I would therefore urge the Central Government to seek the assistance of the Government of Netherlands to tackle the problem of coastal erosion along the Dakshin Kannada coast.

**(ix) Need to provide adequate telecommunications staff at Malappuram Secondary Switching Area, Kerala**

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara) : A new Telecom Secondary Switching Area (SSA) namely Malappuram Secondary Switching Area was formed on 18.3.2001 bifurcating the Calicut Secondary Switching Area. The intention behind this programme was to achieve speedy implementation of Plan targets and ensure efficient customer services in the three Revenue Districts of Kozhikode, Wynad and Malappuram which formed the Calicut Telecom District. But this goal could not be achieved as sufficient number of staff is not posted. What the Department is doing now is to share the existing staff members between Calicut/Secondary Switching Area and Malappuram SSA according to the ratio of telephone

connections. With the formation of the new Secondary Switching Area with Malappuram Revenue District under its jurisdiction, sufficient number of posts in the Officers Cadre have been sanctioned, but not a single post has been sanctioned in the Group C and D cadres. As the ban on recruitment continues special sanction will be required even if posts are created. Under these circumstances, I request the Government to examine the matter urgently and do the needful in this regard.

**(x) Need to extend National Highway-214 from Pamarru to Ongole in Andhra Pradesh**

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali) : It is a long felt desire of the coastal districts in Andhra Pradesh to have a Coastal National Highway from Tada to Ichapuram. As a part of it a new National Highway NH-214 taking diversion from National Highway NH-5 at Kathipudi and formed upto Pamarru and connected to NH-9. To have full utilization of NH-214 already formed from Kathipudi to Pamarru, there is an immediate need to extend further from Pamarru to Ongole via Challpalli, Puligadda in Krishna District and Penumudi, Repalle, Bapatla, Chirala and Ongole to join NH-5, Penumudi-Puligadda Bridge across Krishna River form part of extended NH-214 from Pamarru to Ongole.

This extension of NH-214 will shorten the distance of about 80 kilometers between Kolkata and Chennai resulting in huge savings in fuel consumption and also relieving the traffic pressure on NH-5. Further, it will also facilitate the improvement of coastal economy since shrimp cultivation is sizeable in the coastal districts and the transportation of shrimp and other products to both Chennai and Visakhapatnam Ports will be easy and thereby earn foreign exchange. I request that the extension of NH-214 from Pamarru to Ongole including the Penumudi-Puligadda Bridge across Krishna River may kindly be taken up early.

[Translation]

**(xi) Need to encourage small and cottage industries to solve the Unemployment problem in the country**

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Sir, today economic recession is a serious problem in the country. The storage of excessive foodgrains has become a

problem for producers, consumers and Government. The growth rate of industrial production has stopped at below two percent during the last few months. The country is facing the consequences of low purchasing power of people. The annual growth rate which has been 6.3 per cent during the last few years has declined to 3.5 per cent during the last year. Everybody feels that traditional small and cottage industries of the country have potential to provide employment to maximum number of people and our small industry is in such a state that 29 per cent of it has become sick. We have lifted all kind of restrictions from import under the WTO agreements. As a result of this cost effective import has started making industries of the country sick and unemployment in the country is increasing.

I urge upon the Union Government to take measures to increase per capita purchasing power, traditional small and cottage industries should be promoted in order to provide employment so that maximum number of persons could get employment.

[English]

**(xii) Need to expedite setting up of a National Institute of Siddha at Chennai, Tamil Nadu**

SHRI K.K. KALIAPPAN (Gobichetipalayam) : While there are National Institutes for many systems of Medicines such as Ayurveda, Unani, Homeopathy, Yoga and Naturopathy, there are no National Institute for one of the most ancient Indian system of medicine, namely Siddha.

Siddha has been practiced in Tamil Nadu since ancient times. The Rishis of ancient Tamil Nadu had experimented and perfected this marvelous system of medicine known as Siddha. Those Rishis were known as Siddhas. This system of medicine uses only herbs and natural extracts and provide remedy for ailments incurable by other systems including allopathy.

On the request of the Government of Tamil Nadu, the Central Government agreed to set up a National Institute of Siddha at Chennai. Though the foundation stone was laid and Rs. 22 lakhs was sanctioned by the Centre for constructing the compound wall, no further work was undertaken.

I request the Government to sanction the project and also release the amount immediately, so that the National Siddha Institute is set up a Chennai soon in the larger interest of the people.

**(xiii) Need to declare the road from Fulnakhara at National Highway No. 5 – Niali-Madhab-Charichhak-Gop-Konarka and Puri at National Highway No. 203 as a National Highway**

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur) Konark–The Sun Temple in Orissa is in the map of International Heritage attracting millions of foreign and inland tourists round the year. Ironically, though it has been recognised as one of the major tourist spots of India, it is yet to be connected by a good road. The length of the road is 100 km. The Government of Orissa has sent the proposal to declare the loop from Fulnakhara at N.H. 5–Niali-Madhab-Charichhak-Gop-Konark and Puri at N.H. No. 203 as a new National Highway. I request the Union Government to take up this road as National Highway during the Tenth Plan Period positively. It is in the national interest as well.

**(xiv) Need to review the allotment of residential accommodation to Union Territory Cadre Officers posted outside Delhi**

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai) : There is a peculiar system under which All India Service Officers serving in the North Eastern States in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Himachal Pradesh, Lakshadweep and some other areas are allowed to retain Government accommodation in Delhi. Presumably, the idea is to make it possible for them to go to these outlying areas but in actual practice this does not serve interest of the States. The common experience is that their families invariably stay in Delhi whereas they virtually lead a camp life in the States/UTs of their posting like Kohima or Guahati or Shillong or Agartala or Izwal or Shimla or Port Blair. Not only many of them invariably arrange to fix up meetings in Delhi on Mondays, or Tuesdays or Fridays but also create excuses for longer stay in Delhi. In other words, instead of going to Delhi for attending meetings etc. on the short tours they have, for all practical purposes, created a situation where go on tour to where they are posted and come back to Delhi as soon as possible. Time has come when this practice should be stopped. Once an officer is posted in any of the states/

[Dr. Nitish Sengupta]

UTs they should be allowed to stay there for a reasonable length of time say 3 to 5 years along with their families and concentrate on their work in the States/UTs. When they are posted back to Delhi, thereafter they can be given a preference in allotment of residential accommodation instead of following the present system whereby they keep residential accommodation in Delhi throughout their service career.

**(xv) Need to review the decision of the Government to notify 1200 metre area adjoining the existing Ammunition Depot at Bhatinda**

SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA (Bhatinda) : Due to improper assessment and planning by the local authorities of Ammunition Depot at Bhatinda a large number of resident population belonging to various colonies namely Bhai Mati Das Nagar, Nachhattar Nagar, Joga Nagar, Harbans Nagar and I.T.I. Industrial area situated on the Bhatinda-Mansa Road, Bathinda are facing the danger of uprootment from their houses.

The authorities decided for the extension of existing Depot and for this they have declared 1200 metres areas from adjoining existing boundary as notified which covers all the areas of above mentioned colonies. Prior to taking these decisions, they have not consulted the local residents or they have not assessed the reality there.

These colonies are situated towards the city side. Had the authorities decided to extend the Depot on the backside of the existing site then there would have been no problem at all.

Therefore, I request the Hon'ble Defence Minister to ponder over this situation immediately and take such measures so that these thousands of residents are not rendered homeless.

14.16 hrs.

**RE : ISSUE RELATED TO IMPOSING OF  
PENALTY ON INDIAN CRICKET PLAYERS  
TOURING SOUTH AFRICA**

[English]

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD (Darbhanga): Sir, I have given a notice to raise an important issue. . . .*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): Sir, it is an important issue. Parliament is in Session. Kindly allow. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER: Considering the importance of the subject, as an exceptional case I am calling Shri Kirti Jha Azad to raise the issue.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Please speak on behalf of everybody. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): Sir, kindly allow me to speak only two sentences. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are not a cricketer.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Sir, I also played cricket. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, at present the whole House and country alongwith all cricket lovers are aware of this fact that the prevailing situation is South Africa is very serious. Our cricketers particularly Sachin Tendulkar who has been given the Padma Vibhushan and Saurabh Ganguly, captain of the Indian team, who has been conferred the Arjuna Award have been given wrong, unjust and improper punishments. It has been totally biased. Everybody will agree with me if I say that it clearly smacks of racism.

If we take an example related to it, we would find that two of our players, be it Shri V.V.S. Laxman or Shri S.S. Das, were declared out L.B.W. after Shoun Pollock, the captain of South Africa made a long and forceful appeal. Shri V.V.S. Laxman was the first to go followed by Shri S.S. Das and they were given L.B.W. on the played balls. I am sorry to say that he has adopted a discriminatory policy here at this place and also if you look into the past, you would find how injustice has been done to our players.

\*Not recorded.

I cannot use those words which a South African fast bowler had used in the match against our captain which appeared on the front pages of a number of newspapers but no action was taken against him. We had seen several scenes on the Television where our players had gone to say sorry when the ball had hit some Australian Player on his head and God knows what words were uttered at that time but if we look at the previous matches, we would find that out of Eighteen players, punishments were erroneously awarded to 10 players and these players were either from India or Pakistan. The Board has taken this matter very seriously. Mamta Ji had raised this issue and on her request the meeting of the special committee of the board is being convened today. As far as I.C.C. is concerned. I would like to say that there is no bigger toothless tiger than I.C.C. Earlier they had spent one million dollars just to probe into the match fixing allegations but nothing came out of it. Nothing came out of the allegations that were leveled against the Indian Players. Today Steve Waugh is saying that whatever Sachin Tendulkar had done is wrong. He should peep into his own house. His own brother and Vice captain of the team took four thousand dollars each time and revealed the composition of the Team and also about the match as to what was going to happen. He also hinted about the pitch but no action has so far been taken against him by the I.C.C. I would like to submit to the Government that whatever money is received and spent by the I.C.C. is all in the white. I would like the Government to take end firm decision.

[English]

This is not an obligation of the Government that they should show any mercy apart from all Indian matches that are being held in India.

[Translation]

If you stop their money even for once, then you would come to know how much power I.C.C. wields? I would like to mention about the type of policy they have adopted and the Government should seriously ponder over it. The Government should take a decision thereon and the policy of apartheid should be stopped. The manner in which our players have been treated. . . .(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to lodge my protest against the treatment

that has been given to the Indian team in South Africa....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The entire House is also supporting you.

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD : It is a very important matter. Only 24 hours are left before the next Match starts.

[Translation]

Talks have been held yesterday at 2 o' clock and player like Sachin has been told through the letter. The policy of the board is the same as that of Lele.

[English]

"you show me the man, I will show you the rule."

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Kirti Azad, please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir no body has seen what the situation was. The rain had fallen there and as such the ball was soaked in mud and grass had been stuck to the ball. Wasim Akram and Yunus, the players of Pakistan have also supported our version and said that whatever had happened with Sachin, was wrong. Keeping these things in view I would like that first of all I.C.C. should be brought to book and these players should not play matches out of India and I&D Ministry of the Government of India should not issue orders to telecast the matches. If B.B.C.I. wants to call back its team, let it do so, I support that but simultaneously I would like to say that whatever decisions B.B.C.I. takes, that should not affect our players in any way. They should be given full protection, this is what I want to submit.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, whatever the former cricketer Shri Kirti Azad has said, that is very serious. I would like to congratulate the south African Board that whatever demand was made by B.B.C.I., they supported that. Our relations with south Africa are all right. We support them for keeping good relations with us. Whatever has been said, that is very serious. The pride of our country is associated with it. The whole world pay due regards to our players Sachin and Saurav.

[Kumari Mamata Banerjee]

[English]

The Indian cricket team is not only for India; it is for the whole world. All over the world, people love India's cricket team and we love world cricket. This is the relation between India and the world.

[Translation]

Under the situation, the way the match referee has misbehaved with our players that is a very serious matter. That is why I want to say that

[English]

The Board of Control for Cricket in India is an autonomous body. The Government cannot intervene in this body.

[Translation]

But the thing is that when there are talks about the prestige of the country, then the Government should call the B.C.C.I. members and talk to them. Now they have decided in advance that Mr. Denis should not be appointed as referee for the Third test. I urge the Government that since the prestige of the country is involved, the government must talk to the B.C.C.I. They are going to take a final decision in their meeting today and the Government should call the players back prior to the meeting. If proper respect is not being given to our team, they should come back. Our players will play tomorrow and all the achievements of Sachin will be stigmatized. It would emerge as a scandal. Throughout his life Sachin has played nicely but now his achievements would carry a blot in the form of punishment. It is because of this that I want that the government should talk to the B.C.C.I. before they meet so that prestige of our country is safeguarded.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am a very neat and clean player. Hence, I am saying that we all agree to what has been said by Shri Kirti Azad and Kumari Mamata Banerjee. For a change, the whole House is united on this issue. Let the message go to everybody and let a decision be taken by the BCCI and the Government of India. The prestige of our country and

our players must be maintained. This is my humble submission to you and to the Government. This is the appeal of the whole House.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, I believe that the feelings in the whole country are being expressed here.

As it was rightly suggested, we have the friendliest relations with South Africa. The South African Board is supporting us. We have no quarrel with South Africa. If we recall the team it will affect the South African players and South Africa's image. Therefore, I feel that we should strongly condemn the clearly discriminatory attitude taken by the match referee. Cricket is not just anybody's game; it has become a world sport. The interest that is shown is not only inside the House but outside also. The entire country is agitated.

Let us not add fuel to the fire. We strongly condemn this discriminatory attitude. We strongly condemn the way the fair name of the sports and fair name of the Indian players is sought to be affected. We hope that the good sense will prevail in ICC. They will pay heed to the demands of BCCI. ICC should know that the entire country in India stands by the side of BCCI in their reasonable demands as they have made with regard to the match referee and do condemn the very clearly discriminatory attitude. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Dasmunsi, you are not a cricket player. You are a football player.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, you perhaps do not know the first Parliamentary Cricket Club when it was founded, Shri Kirti Azad used to give us the bowling and his father, myself and Shri Fateh Singh Gaikwad used to play.

Sir, I just associate with Shri Kirti Azad and all the hon. Members. However, I will only make a caution. The country, as a whole, has been fighting racism throughout the world and India is second to none to condemn any kind of inflection and reflection of racism.

Sir, South Africa, as a nation, is not only our friend, we shall go together for many years to come. The South African Cricket Board has rightly reflected their viewpoints, which we thank them from this House.

Shri Sachin Tendulkar is not merely a cricketer. He is our Ambassador in the world for having the fair thinking of the young population of the country in the field of games.

Sir, I have gone through several critics' observations which have appeared in the newspapers. The way Shri Sachin Tendulkar was personally isolated to drag into controversy by Denness is not correct. I am not competent here to question the technicality.

Sir, I only appeal to the Government to immediately obtain the report from the Ambassador or High Commissioner, who is there on our behalf, and if possible, to convey our feelings in the strongest possible manner that such recurrence in future should not take place on the grounds of caste, religion or race because there are genuine apprehensions that since Delhi Police tape recorded the dialogue of Hansie Cronje on the match fixing, a kind of revengeful attitude has been taken in this case. The Government should find out and should say that in this matter, the country is one and unanimous.

Sir, we are not questioning the game, not the authority of the Board or umpire or cricket or the referee, but the manner in which it has been done, we totally, unequivocally and unanimously condemn it. But my appeal is same as of Shri Somnath Chatterjee's. Twice you think, if you recall the team back whether it will create problems for our relations with South Africa. All these things must be seriously thought of. But we stand by our team and the players, who are glorified, who are carrying our flags. I will stand by them. We are against the discriminations and we condemn the views expressed by Denness in his newspaper reports. The whole House condemn it.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Sir, they have tried to insult not only the cricketers of India but the people of India as well. They have tried to stigmatise the world records made by Sachin Tendulkar. This is racism. They have made racism a point. South African player, Donald abused David but no action was taken against him. Kallis has misbehaved but no action was taken. Thus, no action is being taken against the South African players. As Shri

Dasmunsi has said that we had taken action against Cronje, former Captain of the South African cricket team. South African media wants to defame us, that is why they have done all this. When their players were shouting to appeal, when their player Pollock was making noisy appeals, no action was taken against him. When these people had declared Murlidharan a throw baller then the whole team had stood unitedly behind him in his support. Therefore, it is not only a question of our relations with South Africa. Our fight is against the ICC. Today they are not ready to replace the referee, the BCCI has asked for replacement but they have not agreed.

Sir, Sachin Tendulkar has said that there was mud on the ball which he had tried to remove, he was not tampering with the ball. I do not say about Sachin Tendulkar that he is a player from Mumbai, Maharashtra, he is pride of India. The manner in which action is being taken against Indian players, we want withdrawal of the whole Indian cricket team. Shri Arun Jaitley is sitting here. I also appeal to him in this regard.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Why the Government is silent? The Government must give a reply immediately.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : Sir, we have noted the feelings which have been expressed unanimously by all sections of the House because it is the national prestige as also the image of the game which has suffered by certain events. Certain apprehensions and views have been expressed by the Members of the House. The BCCI has already taken a strong and clear position on this issue and while respecting the autonomy of the sports administration, certainly I will make an effort to convey to the BCCI and the Ministry of Sports, the feelings which have been expressed by the Members of the House so that they can be taken into consideration when they decide their stand.

MR. SPEAKER : Before we take up discussion under Rule 193, there is a small statement by the Railway Minister, Shri Nitish Kumar.

14.31 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER\*

**Re : Collision of 214 Dn Mokamah–Howrah Passenger Train with Relief Light Engine on Mokamah–Kiul section of Eastern Railway**

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is with deep anguish that I apprise the House of an unfortunate collision that occurred between 214 Dn Mokamah – Howrah Passenger and relief light engine that was sent to clear the passenger train which was disabled in the block section due to failure of its train engine. The accident occurred between Barhiya and Mankatha stations on Mokamah – Kiul section of Eastern Railway's Danapur Division at 17.40 hrs. on 20.11.2001.

214 Dn Mokamah – Howrah Passenger stopped near Dumri halt at about 16.20 hrs due to engine failure. Relief engine was sent from the station in rear at about 17.30 hrs. to clear the block section. Relief light engine while approaching the disabled train from the rear collided with the stationary 214 Dn Passenger Train resulting in derailment of two coaches. The two coaches that derailed were positioned 9th & 10th from train engine.

As a result of the above accident, 10 persons (including 7 Railway staff) have lost their lives, 3 suffered grievous injuries and 4 suffered simple injuries. The persons who lost their life and received injuries were travelling on the relief light engine. The injured have been admitted to Railway Hospital Danapur and utmost care is being taken to render the best possible medical treatment. Ex – gratia payments of Rs. 1,00,000 to the next of kin of the deceased persons, Rs. 15,000 to the grievously injured and Rs. 5,000 to those who sustained simple injuries is being made.

The compensation amount will be paid to them on adjudication by the Railways Claims Tribunal. The amount of compensation varies from Rs. 32,000 for injuries to Rs. 4 lakhs in case of death. Directions have been given to railway officials to help injured persons and next of kin of deceased in filing claims forms so that they could get the

\*Also placed in Library. See No. LT. 4236/2001.

compensation from Railway Claims Tribunal expeditiously. Stranded passengers were evacuated from the site of accident by clearing the front portion of the affected train. Train running on the section has since been restored.

On receipt of information Accident Relief Medical Vans from Jhajha and Danapur were rushed to the accident site for immediate medical relief to injured passengers. Divisional Railway Manager, Danapur accompanied by Branch Officers immediately proceeded to site to supervise relief operations. General Manager, Eastern Railway alongwith team of Officers from Headquarters had also reached the accident site. On learning of this accident, I myself, alongwith Member Engineering, Member Traffic and Member Mechanical from Railway Board had also gone to the accident site to make an on the spot assessment of the situation. Prima Facie, the cause of the accident appears to be bumping of the relief light engine with the rear portion of 214 Dn Passenger Train. Driver and assistant driver of relief light engine and Guard of 214 Dn Passenger Train have been placed under suspension. Commissioner of Railway Safety, Eastern Circle is inquiring into this accident.

On behalf of the railways and myself, I express our deep condolences to the bereaved families and also express sincere sympathies to the injured. I trust the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. I assure the house that strict action will be taken against those found guilty.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there should be a discussion on the statement by the hon. Minister on the train accident . . . (Interruptions)

14.35 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

**Re : Problems being faced by Farmers**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia to speak on the discussion under Rule 193.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Basu Deo Acharia has risen to speak on a very important issue and barring the Agriculture Minister, no one else is present here in the House. The farmer's problems are not related to the Agriculture Minister alone. There is problem of irrigation also. Therefore, the water Resource Minister has to be present. There are also some problems pertaining to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, therefore, the concerned Minister should also be present here, likewise, there are problems of power and floods but the concerned Ministers are not present here in the House.

Sir, through you I would like to urge the government that they should not arrange the discussion on the issue of farmers just as an eye wash. This is a very important discussion. Therefore, the concerned Ministers must be present here . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : They are in the House. Shri Basu Deb Acharia to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Ministers are already here.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Sir, the hon. Minister of Finance should have been present. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except the speech of Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER : He is the Minister of Agriculture also.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat) : Sir, some of the issues are very important and they relate to the Ministry of Finance . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Ferozabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Raghunath Jha ji is right. When issues pertaining to the farmers are being discussed then the concerned ministers must be present here in the House. .

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUNATH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today farmers are suffering. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Raghunath Prasad Singh ji, rising up again and again is not good.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to raise an important discussion concerning the millions and millions of farmers of the country. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Sir, many issues relate to the Ministry of Finance would come. . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, when you talk of parliamentary dignity and decorum, the government would lead by example. The important issue relating to agree culture is being discussed and the concerned Minister is not present here in the House. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Thomas, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : What is your point of order? You first quote the rule under which you are raising it.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, under rule 376 I am raising it. Like the producers of pepper and rubber, there are many of them who come under the Ministry of Commerce. The hon. Minister of Agriculture will not be able to reply on those point. The hon. Minister of Commerce should be here . . .(Interruptions) Sir, many of the issues are relating to WTO . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Thomas, you are forgetting that we discussing the farmers' issues.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, many of the farmers' issues relate to the Ministry of Commerce. WTO is the main issue when we speak about the farmers' issues.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no point of order.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this government is not at all serious towards solving the problems faced by the farmers.

MR. SPEAKER : This Ramji Lal Suman ji, this is not good. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is too much.

[Translation]

What are you doing ? Is it the way to raised an issue in the House.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, at the outset I thank you for allowing a discussion to share the problems being faced by the farmers of this country. .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You only are asking for a discussion on issues and then you are not allowing the Members to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the crises which the Indian farmers are facing today are the severest in nature.

MR. SPEAKER : Is it the way to raise matter in the House?

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, we have, during the last one year, have seen as to how the farmers in this country have been committing suicides. We are getting news about farmers committing suicide almost every day.

Sir, Palakkad, known as the 'Rice Bowl of Kerala', is now being termed as the 'Death Bowl of Kerala'! At least 30 farmers have committed suicides there. Farmers from the State of Karnataka also have committed suicides. These suicides by farmers is a grim reflection of the situation as it is prevailing in the various States of the country. Last year also we had a discussion in this House on the issue of suicides by farmers of Andhra Pradesh for their not getting remunerative prices for the production of cotton. We had a long discussion in this House and in spite of that the Government has not taken any action to save the farmers of our country. What is the reason for this? Why is there a fall in the prices of agricultural commodities?

Sir, you would be surprised to know that on the opening day of the Winter Session of Parliament, Members of Parliament, representing almost all the political parties, sat on a *dharna* in the main gate of the Parliament House with tender coconuts, betel nuts, pepper, arecanut, rubber and coffee. Why had all the political parties to join hands and sit on a *dharna* on the very first day of the Winter Session? It was because the farmers of Kerala, in particular, are facing the severest of crises on account of the fall in the prices of agricultural commodities.

Sir, you would be surprised to know that just within a span of one year, the price of rubber had fallen from Rs. 68 to Rs. 22; the price of copra had fallen from Rs. 45/- to Rs. 20/-; the price of arecanut had fallen from Rs. 3350 to Rs. 3150; and the price of coffee had fallen from Rs. 65 to Rs. 28. The prices of these commodities went down by 50 per cent just within a span of one year.

Sir, same is the case in Karnataka. The prices of tomato crashed from Rs. 375 to Rs. 110 in November - December last year and in January this year. The prices of potato had also fallen. Fifty kilograms of potato that were selling at Rs. 350 in September - October last year had fallen to Rs. 150 now.

In Andhra Pradesh, prices of rice, groundnut, tobacco, cotton and chillies have fallen as against the Minimum Support Price (MSP). Against an MSP of Rs. 540 which was fixed by the Government of India per quintal of 'A' Grade variety of paddy, farmers could secure only Rs. 510 per quintal. Groundnut prices have fallen from Rs. 1,220 per quintal of MSP to Rs. 1,100. The MSP for maize fell from Rs. 445 to Rs. 320.

In the State of Haryana also the same situation prevails. In Rajasthan, due to the fall in the price *bajra*, lakhs of farmers are in serious trouble. The Government has not started purchasing *bajra* yet and the farmers started selling their produce in distress.

Jute is one of the important agricultural produces of West Bengal. About forty lakh families are dependent on jute in West Bengal. The farmers of West Bengal and Bihar got a very less price from the Government of India. The JCA is there and the Cotton Corporation of India is there but these organisations did not come forward to save the farmers who are forced to make distress sale. In the State of Kerala, the loss incurred by farmers in one year is more than Rs. 10,000 crore. That is the reason why the Members of this House demanded the presence of the Commerce Minister during the discussion.

In Gujarat too the situation is very grim. Though I am mentioning only a few States, the situation is grim everywhere in the country. The reason for all this is the removal of quantitative restrictions (QR) by the Government of India. When these removed we were assured that indigenous agricultural production will not be hampered by it.

Sir, what is the position now? Take the case of palm oil. It is being imported. The duty on it has been reduced. So, it has negatively affected the groundnut farmers as well as the coconut farmers. The price of palm oil is now Rs. 24 per kilogram while that of the groundnut is Rs. 38 per kilogram.

Now, Malaysia has declared that they would supply palm oil of any quantity at the rate of just Rs. 18 per kilogram. The main use of coconut will be for the industries. So, the Government is allowing import of palm oil to help the industrialists at the cost of farmers. Twenty per cent of the coconut oil was being used adequately mainly in Kerala and in some parts of Southern India, viz., Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. But now, the people of these States have also started using palm oil as they are getting it at much cheaper rate. With all this, the coconut farmers are facing serious crises.

Sir, we were told that after the removing the Quantitative Restrictions, there will not be a substantial import of agricultural commodities. In spite of the assurance given, agricultural commodities are being imported in our country continuously. So, the situation here in our country is very alarming as far as coconut and groundnut farmers are concerned. It is because the United States of America and the European countries have not reduced their subsidies. They have also not reduced the tariff.

Sir, the Agriculture Minister very recently has admitted it. He was addressing a Seminar organised by FICCI in New Delhi. After five to six years of WTO's existence, it has been found that the developed countries have increased the subsidies on agricultural produce much to the detriment of the developing countries. He has contradicted that. Shri Murasoli Maran made a statement after attending the Doha Conference. He also emphasised on it. What did he say there?

He said :

"Progressive reform in agriculture now requires elimination of large scale domestic support and other trade related subsidies and removal of unfair barriers facing farm exports of developing countries. At the same time, considering the critical dependence on agriculture by a large rural population in developing countries, ...

What is the result? In the Declaration, it has been mentioned at Doha that there is a need to reduce subsidies. But no time limit was fixed. Some mention was made about the reduction in subsidy as well as in tariff. But nothing concrete has been decided at the Doha meeting.

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

Sir, you will be surprised to see how much subsidy is still being provided to the agriculture sector in the United States of America . . . (Interruptions) They knew this, but I have to reiterate. The international prices have been further reduced by subsidies. They are reducing the international prices. But our Prime Minister is asking our farmers to be competitive. How can our farmers be competitive, if the subsidy is reduced? You have reduced subsidies in respect of fertiliser and you have increased the price of fertiliser. Mr. Minister, why are you nodding your head now? You have withdrawn subsidies.

14.57 hrs.

[SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA *in the Chair*]

The State Electricity Boards are increasing electricity tariff in respect of agriculture. This is not a tariff concession. In agriculture sector, these things should be considered. Take the case of self-sufficiency in food production. We achieved self-sufficiency because of these concessions. But these are being withdrawn now. As a result of that – the Minister will admit – there is increase in cost of inputs. What is the percentage of increase in the cost of inputs? It is 229 per cent whereas increase in income is 199 per cent. So, there is a fall of 30 per cent in the income of farmers. When there is a fall in the income of farmers, there is reduction in production also.

The situation is alarming and for the first time, last year, there was a negative growth. Even during 80s and 90s, up to 1997-98, the growth was 1.7 per cent in agriculture sector. Last year and the year before last year, that is, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, the growth was 0.69 per cent. This has been further reduced and there is a negative growth, less than the growth in population. So, there will be food scarcity. The Prime Minister may say that our godowns are full and we have 65 million tonnes of foodgrains.

15.00 hrs.

About 65 million tonnes of foodgrains are lying in our godowns but the poor people of the districts of Koraput, Kalahandi and Bolangir are starving.

[Translation]

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV (Alwar) : Mr. Chairman,

Sir, how many minutes has been allotted to him. He has already spoken for 25 minutes.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is speaking on farmer's issue, so let him speak.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : What is the total amount of subsidy given to agriculture in America? It is about 343 billion dollars. These are the figures for the year 1996. I do not have the current figures but according to 1996 figures, every American farmer was getting subsidy to the tune of 28,000 US dollars. So, an American farmer gets nearly Rs. 14 lakh as subsidy. In terms of hectare-wise the subsidy comes to about 550 US dollars, that is, Rs. 24,000 per hectare approximately is the subsidy given in America. This figure is for the year 1998. Besides this, they get certain other inputs at very cheaper rates than the Indian farmers get.

If you compare it with other countries; Japan gets 72.5 per cent of the total percentage of subsidy, Columbia – 54 per cent, South Korea – 61 per cent, European Union countries – 37 per cent, China – 34 per cent, Pakistan – 26 per cent, USA – 28 per cent and India gets only three per cent.

The Minister has already admitted in statement that although ambitious targets have been fixed for the Tenth Five Year Plan, the allocation for agriculture will be much less than it was in the Ninth Five Year Plan. Import tariff is also very important because one of the conditionalities of WTO is that the developed countries should not only reduce their subsidy but also should reduce their import tariff. In America, the figure for sugar is 244.4 per cent, groundnut – 173.8 per cent and milk—82.6 per cent. In Europe, for meat it is 213 per cent, wheat—167.7 per cent and sheep mutton—144 per cent. In Japan for wheat the figure is 352 per cent and for Barley products it is 361 per cent. In Canada, the figure for butter is 360 per cent, cheese—289 per cent and egg—236 per cent.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Basu Dev Acharia, you have already spoken – for half an hour.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Madam, I am initiating the discussion Please give me some more time. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is talking about the whole country.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane) : We know the problems but what remedial measures the hon. Member has to recommend to the Government?

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Be patient.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : There has been increase in unemployment in the rural areas. . . .(Interruptions). Shri Paranjpe, I am talking about the entire country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can give the solution

Madam, unemployment has increased within one year to the extent of 29 per cent in rural areas. You could imagine how serious is the situation. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Madam, due to the crisis in the agricultural sector and because of the negative growth in agriculture, there has been impact on the employment also, particularly rural employment.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We are talking about the Indian farmers.

MR. CHAIRMAN : More you disturb him, the longer he will speak.

(Interruptions)

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : They have decided to stop procurement of foodgrains.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Acharia, leave a little for others also.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Madam, time lost due to interruptions should be deleted from his time. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Acharia, please wind up in five minutes.

[Translation]

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV (Alwar) : Madam, we are having a discussion on farmers' issue. Indian farmers do not speak English. Farmers of every state speak the language of their region. But the hon. Member is speaking in English.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : There has been impact on the employment. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

The crisis in agriculture sector due to unemployment has also got its impact on unemployed persons of the country.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Madam, I have so many important things. You would be interested to know them. The Government has decided to stop procurement of foodgrains by the Food Corporation of India. The Minister of Finance said in his Budget Speech that FCI will not procure foodgrains. Procurement of foodgrains will be handed over to the private traders and work regarding distribution of foodgrains to the people will be handed over to the State Government. This will be decentralised and ultimately the Public Distribution System will be dismantled. Already they have partially dismantled Public Distribution System. Now they have exported wheat. I know of Bangladesh. What is the economic cost per quintal for procurement, for storage, and for distribution? It is Rs. 8300 per tonne. What is the market price? Shri Yadav knows it because his Committee has dealt with this problem in detail. What is the market price? It is Rs. 7000. What price had Government of India offered in the month of May this year for export? It was Rs. 4300. So, Rs. 8300 is the economic cost and they are telling our people who are living above poverty line that the price of one kilogram of wheat would be at par with economic cost and for below poverty line, the price would be half the economic cost.

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

They are exporting wheat at the rate of Rs. 4,300 per tonne. That means subsidy is being extended to the foreign consumers and they are getting wheat at a much cheaper rate than our own countrymen. Our people have to purchase at a higher price. What have we gained by exporting wheat? I can give the figure for one year. We have exported wheat and then imported it. This issue was raised on the floor of this House. The Government of India lost Rs. 550 crore in a year by exporting wheat and then importing it at a higher price. Due to the crisis in the agriculture sector, not only farmers are affected adversely but also the agriculture-based industries, like jute in West Bengal and Bihar. . . .(Interruptions)

The sugar industry is being affected. Shri Ajit Singh knows that because of the falling price of sugarcane the industries are also affected. If the interests of the farmers are ignored and neglected, this Government has no right to stay in power. Farmers are being neglected. Farmers are committing suicides. This has never happened. After fifty-three years of Independence, the farmers who have made our country self-sufficient in foodgrains production are committing suicides. Due to the policies of the Government in regard to fertiliser and in regard to subsidy, the capital investment is reducing. The hon. Minister has himself admitted this in a statement. Public investment is reducing gradually. Within one year there is two per cent less growth in the irrigated area also within one year. In order to save this country and to save the farmers, this Government has to reverse the policies. Otherwise, they have to quit.

[Translation]

SHRI SAHIB SINGH (Outer Delhi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. My colleague was just now deliberating upon several subjects in course of his speech. There can be no doubt the fact that ours is a country of farmers. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now the hon. Member is speaking in Hindi and moreover he belongs to your party. Yet you are indulging in cross talk. Please listen to him. You were complaining against English being used by the Member of making his speech, now the Member is speaking in Hindi.

SHRI SAHIB SINGH : The interest of the farmer which should have been safe guarded during the last 54 years have unfortunately not been safeguarded. Our colleague was telling that farmers have committed suicide. Each suicide committed by farmers is a slur on the country. I would like to mention that about 358 farmers committed suicide between 1997 to 1999. Five farmers committed suicide during 1999 to 2000 whereas there are 22 cases of suicides committed by farmers during 2000-2001. This information is on the record but the actual number may be many times more. Madam Chairperson, this is certainly shameful for the country. There is no doubt that farmers of the country toil hard day and night in the fields to produce crops yet they do not get remunerative price for their produce. This is not only the present situation, rather farmers of the country have not been getting remunerative prices of their produce ever since the country got independence.

Madam, you are aware what the Government has done. Even after the recommendations made by the Committees the prices of the inputs used in farming have not been brought down. Of course, the support prices have been increased yet I would like to say that injustice has been done to farmers since they have not been given remunerative prices. I would like to make it clear that the prices of inputs i.e. the materials used for farming purposes are increasing constantly. Madam, I would like to explain as to why the farmers have to commit suicide. The Government has made provisions to provide loans to the farmers but they do not get loans in time. Enough provisions have been made to make loans available to them at the village level; there is a crop insurance scheme for protection of their crop, but such schemes have not been propagated to the required extent. Subsequently, the farmers are unable to avail the benefits of the schemes and they have to bear the higher cost of farming and more over they get lower prices for their produce. This compels them to commit suicide. Madam, through you I would like to convey to the Government that there are still many things to be done for the farmers. Unfortunately our those colleagues who get the support of farmers in getting elected to this House take little interest in formulating schemes to serve the interest of farmers and we all are well aware of it. The share of farming sector in the national product is decreasing constantly rather than increasing.

The size of the land holdings of the farmers has shrunk as a result of division and sub division in their families. At present their landholdings have little economic value. However, they have no other way but to carry on with farming activities even though they are not remunerative. Right from the little children to the old persons aged 80 years of farmers families are bound to work in the fields in order to support their lives. The plight of farmers today is too miserable to be described.

The present debate will be over in two to four hours. What I want is that the time limit for this debate should be extended from two to four hours to two-three days to arrive at some concrete decisions in favour of the farmers.

Land reform law is very old. In some states it is 30, 40 or even 50 years old and hence is irrelevant now. It is essential to amend the land reform laws. Want of amendments in old laws is also causing problems of the farmers. I agree that bringing amendments in the Land Reform Law falls under the jurisdiction of the State Government, but my request is that the Central Govt. should also formulate comprehensive policy in this regard. In 1954 Land Reform Act was enacted in Delhi which is now not at all relevant. The Land Aquisition Act which was enacted during the British period. Now what happens is that the farmers are first forced to surrender possession of their land and afterwards it is decided as to how much compensation is to be paid to them. They get alternative plots only after giving bribes at several places and virtually they do not get it since the property dealers buy their land-related documents.

When the farmers go to the mandies to sell their produce, they have to pay commission. We had made a law during our tenure that the buyers instead of farmers would require to pay the said commission, but even that law was not implemented. The middlemen take the lion's share vis a vis the income earned by farmers. The farmers put labour whereas the middlemen avail the benefits. This thing must be given attention to.

It is necessary to ensure all round development of the farmers living in villages. When all the Members of a farmers's family do not get employment in the field of farming, they should then be provided with other

[Translation]

works. If there are 10 people in a family of a farmer and they have small holding, then other people of the family should do some other jobs. The State Government should formulate schemes in this regard. Several schemes have been formulated by the Union Government but to what extent these are being implemented is known to all. I would like to say that as long as people of a farmer's family remain jobless, do not get any work to do, the tendency to commit suicide cannot be stopped. They will commit suicide and commit crimes as well.

[English]

When the hand does not get proper work, it can be made use of somewhere else also like committing crimes.

[Translation]

Therefore, they should get some work to do.

Madam, Chairperson, I would like to tell you that on one hand farmers produce foodgrains by working very hard in the fields and feed the nation while on the other hand they protect our frontiers from enemies as guards on borders. Fares are engaged in the service of the motherland in every aspect.

How far we are concerned about farmers is a thing to be seen. Even today, there are lakhs of such villages which do not have potable water leave alone water for irrigation. Ever since our country became independent, we have been discussing to inter link all the river. Some parts face frequent floods and some drought. We should manage to inter link them and utilise that water and formulate schemes for use of that water. We have not been able to make arrangements for water in the country even after 54 years of independence. The farmers who need electricity, they have to sit out whole night in the fields and keep waiting for it, sometime they get it only for two or three hours. Farmers do not get even electricity. Apart from that rates have been hiked. Farmers have to face all these problems.

I would like to say that if we want to protect the pride of farmers then we must take some actions. We talk about minimum support price and market price but from how

[Shri Sahib Singh]

many farmers, crops are procured at the minimum support price and the quantum thereof should also be assessed. If a state has a bold Chief Minister, he manages to get more funds by making hue and cry and thus benefits farmers of his state. There should be some policy for providing subsidies, procurement at minimum support price, location, quantum and items in this regard. Personally, I am in favour of providing the difference between the minimum support price and the market price to every farmer whether small or big.

[English]

We should have only static storage facilities. We should have storage facilities to take care of drought and other natural calamities. Why should we have storage facilities for nothing?

[Translation]

Why should we store foodgrains? If the minimum support price is Rs. 500 per quintal and the market price is Rs. 600 per quintal then we should pay the difference to the farmers. Farmers will get justice in this way and they will get remunerative price for their crops. If the farmers are not sure that what price their crops would yield how the farmers would grow their crops. They borrow money from somewhere and pay for fertilizers. We know very well about fertilizers and who started giving subsidy to big fertilizer mills. What was the justification behind giving subsidies direct to the mills? When no mill has got hundred percent production in the country then how a mill could have 200 percent production. It is quite obvious that corruption is there. Farmers should get subsidies directly as soon as possible and subsidies to the fertilizer mills should be banned immediately. Who has started corruptions in it, why this all has happened, crores of rupees have been wasted on it. I am of the view that production of all chemical fertilizer companies in the country would go up. We can adopt other methods, but the use of fertilizers should be reduced. Farmers should be encouraged to use bio fertilizers and other conventional fertilizers. As long as farmers are not sure what they are going to get, they can not have satisfaction.

Crop is one issue but apart from that there are many other things also. Why a farmer today migrates to a city? A farmer migrates because there is no health and education facilities in villages. Farmers have to live there. Those who qualify for the IAS and the IPS are not wards of farmers, they are other people, just because farmer lives in villages and he does not have any facilities. Rich farmers can come to cities and their wards can attain higher posts. You can occupy this chair, a farmer can be a Prime Minister or a Minister but as long as bureaucrats which are IAS do not understand the pain of farmers, as long as they are not from that background, a correct policy could not be formulated and the whole thing will remain the same. 'Only the wearer knows where the shoe pinches.' The person who knows the problems and pains of farmers can only do something for them. Therefore, good schools, health service and other facilities should be provided in villages for farmers and their wards. As long as these facilities are not given the farmers can not be prosperous and the country can not march ahead on the path of progress. The villages will not progress and thus this country will not be able to progress. Everyday you may construct roads, ply good number of buses and do anything of that sort in the cities, but cities cannot make the country march forward. We can say just to show others that we have progressed. There are lakhs of vehicles plying on the roads. The roads are choked. The country can progress and become prosperous only when the farmer becomes prosperous. Then he will not be forced to commit suicide and he will have smiles on his face. Only then the country can go forward and make progress. So, if we are not able to have the good wishes and blessings of the farmers, then certainly it is useless for us to sit here.

I would like to submit to the hon. Member of this House that our farmers have filled the granaries of this country. We have a foodgrains stock of 65 million tonnes and if despite that we are not able to give him honour which he deserves or give him justice, it will not be proper. When independence struggle was waged, lakhs of people laid down their lives. Now the farmers of this country will have to fight a war of liberation. In fact the farmers are yet to taste the fruits of freedom in real sense. The farmer of this country is still under subjugation even after 54 years of independence. He is forced to sell his produce at a lower

rate even when the prevailing market price is higher. Today there is a difference between the market rate and the minimum support price. There was a time when market price was far higher than the minimum support price. If any farmer dared to refuse to sell his produce at the minimum support price he was put behind the bars. Therefore, we shall have to give honour and justice to the farmers and for that we all have to work untidely.

Madam, there is no doubt that the country has made progress after independence. There are certain commodities which we produce in abundance and are in surplus. But at the same time, there are commodities like edible oils, the production of which is very low in the country and we have to depend on their imports. The Government should make an arrangement under which the farmers should be advised well in advance to sow specific crops the support price of which should be decided in advance. If we give incentive to the farmer, we shall not have to depend on imports. We can produce everything in the country as we have suitable climate and fertile land for that purpose. We should try to be self sufficient and reduce our import dependence. This is true that other countries give higher doses of subsidy on their products and sell the same in our country. We shall have to be cautious against such attempts. We should see that we provide matching subsidies to our farmers. If we can produce these things indigenously, we must ban their imports. In my view, it is essential, because the farmers have to take money on interest from the money lenders for this purpose.

N.D.A. Government have provided Kisan Credit Cards to one crore farmers. This, no doubt, is a big achievement. The NDA Government has formulated agricultural policy under which the farmers have been given a number of benefits. For cotton growers, a technology mission has been set up. 25 per cent subsidy has been given for setting up cold storage. The Government have done a lot for the farmers but a lot more still remains to be done. I know that NDA Government is considered the Government of farmers. Today a son of farmer is the Minister of Agriculture of this country . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Order, order. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record if you go on like this.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you please sit down?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SAHIB SINGH : Madam, last time when I called the leader of the opposition 'farmers leader', these people raised a hue and cry. Now when I am saying that NDA Government is considered to be Government of farmers even then they are interrupting me. What is their problem? They do not consider Sonia Gandhi to be the leader of farmers, they do not consider even Ajit Singh to be the leader of farmers. Then whom do they consider the leader of the farmers?

Another thing that I want to mention is that the farmers do not get proper information about agriculture and allied fields. Arrangement should be made to provide information to the farmers about crops. We have various channels. Strange type of programmes are telecast on these channels. Since these channels run round the clock, the people are prepared even to forgo their night sleep to view these programmes. It should be ensured that the farmers are given proper information. Such informative programmes should also include educative programmes about legislations relating to agriculture. A number of welfare schemes have been formulated by Government for the farmers, labourers and their children but due to lack of information about these schemes, they are not able to get the benefits. The farmers, the poor and the villagers are not getting benefits of such schemes. Therefore, there is a need to have a Krishi channel for the farmers. They can get all information on this channel in order to get maximum benefit of all schemes. With these words I conclude.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh) : Hon'ble Chairman Sir, I congratulate hon'ble Member Shri Basudevji and all other honourable Members who have initiated discussion on this important matter under rule 193. Sir, through you I would like to thank the hon'ble Speaker for allowing discussion on this matter. I hope that the hon'ble Minister

[Shri Lakshman Singh]

of agriculture and officers of his ministry would let the farmers of the country know about the discussion taking place and views being expressed by the hon'ble Members here in the House.

Hon'ble Chairman Sir, while having a debate on agriculture in the country we should also take into account this fact that lakhs of hectare of agricultural land in the country is affected by flood or drought every year. There will be no use of the agriculture policy if it is formulated without taking all these things into account. If the agriculture policy is framed under the duress of the officers or the world Bank or the dictates of the officers who have good access to the corridor of the World Bank then the agriculture of the country will be affected adversely. The agriculture policy should be formulated in the interest of the country and it should be beneficial for the farmers.

Hon'ble Chairman Sir, our agriculture scientist Dr. M.S. Swaminathan had a remarkable achievement to his credit in the field of agriculture. The country which was once on the verge of starvation has a buffer stock of wheat and rice to the tune of sixty million tonnes. He had set up a research foundation at Chennai and that foundation has furnished a report. I hope that you would have gone through the said report and given the same to your officers also. It has been mentioned in the report which they have prepared in consultation with F.A.O. that if we want to complete in the field of agriculture in the world under the World Trade organisation we will have to protect our environment. We will have to protect our depleting water sources besides creating an appropriate atmosphere in the country. Only then we can win this struggle.

India being the signatory to W.T.O. agreement is forced to compete with other countries of the World. Besides, the Indian farmers are also compelled to compete and today, we have the potentiality to win this competition.

In order to be successful in this competition we would have to concentrate on quality as well as quantity. We would have to concentrate on quality of the agricultural produces. But we should see as to what is happening in the country today? Today double standard is being adopted in the country. One for the agricultural produces

being imported and the other for the agricultural produces of our own farmers. If we adopt different yardsticks we will not be able to compete under the W.T.O. agreement. Most of our farmers are small, marginal and medium level farmers. The population of the country is increasing. The small and marginal farmers have to bear the burden of increasing population. Due to increasing population our water sources are drying up. I have apprehension that the Government is not favouring cooperative farming to save the small and marginal farmers. In order to finish them the government is talking about the contract and corporate farming. I am afraid that if contract and corporate farming is introduced, the persons who have acquired the status of land lords during the congress rule over the years will become landless. Today Cooperative is linked with agriculture. These two things cannot be separated. Cooperative has created history in the country during the last 40-50 years. Today there are institutions like Amul Dairy in our country on which forty lakh families depend for their livelihood. This is our achievement in the field of cooperative. But the pioneer of the cooperative sector Dr. Kurien is sad with the state of affairs. Due recognition is not being given to him. I do not know as to why he is being ignored. I would like to remind the hon'ble Minister of agriculture that he himself comes of a well reputed farmer's family.

Today what is the fate of cooperatives? Several financial disciplines are being imposed on them. No financial restrictions are being imposed on multinational companies and industrialists. The loans extended by the public sector banks to the farmers are being recovered forcibly by seeing off their belongings. On the other hand the N.P.A. has increased to Rs. 95 thousand crores from Rs. 60 crores within the last one or two years by virtue of the loan extended to the big industrialists of the country. Our finance Minister is always concerned about them. If he pays a little bit of attention towards the cooperative institutions, it can be helpful to the farmers to a great extent.

The Government of Madhya Pradesh have submitted a proposal to you regarding cooperative farming for the small and medium farmers. Perhaps the other State Governments may have sent such proposals. Such proposals should be taken up seriously and every possible assistance should be provided to the state Governments so that cooperative farming should be encouraged.

Unemployment has taken a serious proportion in the country. The son of the farmer is compelled to migrate from villages to cities and he has to compromise with his self respect in cities. The need of the hour is that employment should be provided to the son of the farmer in villages itself. Training should be imparted to the educated unemployed. For this purpose we should set up the agro clinics. We have achieved a feat in the field of communications. Kiosk should be opened at the Panchayat Level. Such kiosk should be opened at the places having population of 15 to 20 thousand so that they could guide our farmers. We could familiarise the farmers with the technical farming.

In this way we would be able to tell our farmers the method of said conservation, utilisation of water and could help the farmers in getting remunerative prices of their produces. The educated unemployed should be engaged at such kiosk so that the migration from villages to cities could be checked.

Mr. Chairman Sir, the condition of the agriculture mandies of the country is worse today. Agriculture mandies are depositing crores of rupees in the exchequer but certain State Governments are extending the amount deposited by the agriculture mandies to the financial corporations which they further pass on to big industrialists under nexus and that amount is not being recovered. Just now Shri Vermaji make some good points. He make some points in favour of the farmers of the country. I would like to request him that he should urge upon his Government to enact a law to check the misutilisation of the amount being deposited by the agriculture mandies and save the farmers from ruining and put the persons responsible for ruining the farmers behind the bars. A negligible percentage of the money is being spent on development of the agriculture mandies out of the amount deposited by them in the exchequer. Today there is a need to increase the variety of agricultural production. There is a need to increase the food basket. In the report of the World Food Organisation it has been published that today only five to six crops are being grown in the world which should be increased up to fifteen to sixteen crops. The income of the farmers and the country would increase by such diversification. The Government should pressure the F.A.O. to include our nutritious agricultural products in its list to boost up the exports. It will prove beneficial for our country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our country has a specific place in the field of production of pulses. The production of pulses in our country between 1951 to 1961 has been four million tonnes. An increase of five percent per year has been registered so far but during the last two decades this production has been 10.63 million tonnes only. During the period from 1981 to 1991 this production has been 14.26 million tonnes which come down to 11.7 million tonnes in the year 2000. There is a famous saying in our country which goes like this "Daal Roti" khao prabhu ke gaon gao" but on the other hand prices of pulses are very high. The prices of pulses have risen steeply and as such one finding it very difficult to sustain.

Mr. Chairman Sir, in 1951 the availability of pulses was 70.60 kilogram which has come down to 36 kilogram a year now and prices of pulses have reached more than Rs. 20/- per kg. It has become extremely difficult to a person living below the poverty line to buy pulses. Madhya Pradesh is the leading state in production of soyabean but what is the condition of industries in the state. I would like to apprise the House about the figures given by the concerned association.

*[English]*

Oilseed production came down from a high of 256 lakh tonnes to less than 188 lakh tonnes in the year 2000. Also, our imports of edible oils have skyrocketed from less than two tonnes in 1995 to almost 50 lakh tonnes in the current year.

So, we have a classic case of our godowns and granaries overflowing with foodgrains, which costs the nation Rs. 15,000 crores a year because of the faulty policy.

India has achieved a self-sufficiency of 97 per cent in the oilseeds production, which today is touching 50 per cent or less, thus forcing us to buy massive quantities of edible oils from abroad.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Khammam) : Shame.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : India's imports of edible oils have primarily shot up because of the great neglect of the Indian oilseeds sector by the Government of India

[Shri Lakshman Singh]

by allowing imports of edible oils at very low duties, much against the interest of the oil seeds farmer.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman Sir, this is the eleventh report of the standing Committee on Food Civil Supplies and Public Distribution. But the said report is gathering dust somewhere in the Ministry of Food and civil supplies. You should call for that report and stop import of oil and should heed towards the oil seed producing farmers.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No cross conversation please. Shri Lakshman Singhji, Please address the chair.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Madam, our country has made a remarkable progress in the field of fishery. We have exported fishes worth 1300 million US Dollar this year. It is imperative to link up the fisheries sector with the cooperative. Fishery – cum-rich farming is done in China. In our country similar type of farming is done in West Bengal and other States also and the same needs to be encouraged. Today corporate farming should be encouraged. The I.C.A.R. has made efforts in this regard which have shown good results. Today the corporate farmers can earn up to rupee one lakh every year by taking two crops in a year on an area of one hectare of land. A shrimp farmer can earn Rs. 3 lac's per hectare in a year. Today there is a need to strengthen the I.C.A.R. The budget provision made by the hon'ble Minister for I.C.A.R. is inadequate. You have given budgetary support of one percent in the agricultural gross domestic product rather you should make it two or three percent so that I.C.A.R. could carry out research work and the benefit of such research could reach to the farmers of the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now, I have to give an opportunity to speak to all the Members. There are Members to speak. If we do not adhere to the time limit, I will have to curtail the time allotted to other members.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Madam, I am second speaker from my party, please give me five minutes more. I would like to draw the attention of the House to the statement given by Shri Maran in the recently concluded

Doha summit of W.T.O. I was pained to know and perhaps it has been painful for every citizen of the country that Shri Maran had himself admitted that India has not been able to build the pressure it should have build in the Doha summit of W.T.O. on the matter of environment. It is shameful because the important matter like environment which is linked with agriculture has been set aside. Today 80 per cent developed countries of the world are spreading maximum pollution. Today green house gas emission is responsible for spreading of maximum pollution and 80 per cent of the same is emitted by the developed countries and not by the developing countries. Today Global warming is taking place. Today in the Northern part of India if temperature rises by one degree, our wheat crop duration reduces by one week and as a result of this production of wheat falls by five hundred to six hundred kilograms per hectare. Whether the agriculture is not liked with environment. But this has not been taken seriously.

The entry of multinational companies in the agriculture sector have not shown any encouraging results. In this regard I would like to quote from a book.

[English]

The author, Shri Devinder Sharma is recipient of World Food Day Award presented jointly by the FAO and the Indian Association for the Advancement of Science for excellence in agriculture reporting. He says :

"Five multi-nationals – Monsanto, Eli Lilly, American Cyanamid, Upjohn and Biotechnology General of Israel – are planning to dump a controversial hormone, Bovine Somatotropin (BST), in Third World Countries. The European Commission has banned its use in Europe following a public outcry against the hazards it poses to animals and human health. In the U.S., Wisconsin was the first State to impose a ban on BST-induced milk."

On the dangers of this drug he says :

"The drug might seem promising on the face of it, but subsequent studies have shown that it has harmful effects like abortion and stillborn calves."

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA SHARMA : Further elaborates :-

[English]

"Despite the public uproar, the multi-nationals have not given up their project. Seeing a potential \$ 1 billion market for BST, they are pressurising the developing countries to import the hormone."

[Translation]

We should concentrate on this in the W.T.O. submit. You are very well aware of the Pepsi.

[English]

"Pepsi's entry into India was primarily aimed at capturing the huge soft drinks market. Agricultural research and development were apparently used as a ploy to gain entry."

SHRI PRIYA DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : It is absolutely so.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Yes. What is the opinion of Chairman of Bhartiya Kissan Union and Chairman of Bhartiya Kisan Union, Punjab Shri Tikait and Shri Bhupendra Singh Mann.

"Where is the second green revolution that the company promised? Asks BKU President Shri Bhupinder Singh Mann. He says though the company gained entry into India by promising to revolutionise Punjab's agriculture, now every one, including the government, is concerned only about food processing, soft drinks and export commitments. So far, there is no sign of the research centre that was to be set up in collaboration with the Punjab Agricultural University, nor does the company appear to be keen on importing the hybrid varieties it had promised."

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : You tell the hon. Minister to call them and haul them up and ask for accountability. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Yes. I hope the hon. Minister will take note of it.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : You ask them to take serious action. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Nearly 60 billion ton of wheat and rice has been stored in the godowns of our country. Now need of the hour is to set up community grain banks in order to ensure proper distribution of food grains. The present F.C.I. Policy is not sufficient. The Sampurn Gramin Yojna launched by the Prime Minister has been widely propogated. This was also widely publicized through television. What is the achievement of the Government under this scheme? The F.C.I. was provided a sum of Rs. 5000/- crores to distribute free of cost foodgrains. I claim that if any of teh so many members sitting here says that even a single grain has been distributed free of cost in any state then I would stop my speech and sit down. Nobody knows as to where the sum of Rs. 5000 crore given to the F.C.I. for free distribution of foodgrains has gone? What are the purposes for which the Government has asked the F.C.I. to spend the said amount? It has been instructed to spend the amount on salary of the F.C.I. employees and on procurement of material goods. Does it mean protection of the farmers? Due to the wrong policies of the Government, the farmers in Orissa are dying after consuming mango-kernels. Besides, it was recently published in a newspaper that two children died in Delhi after consuming a dead pigeon. If the policy is not changed and foodgrains stored in godowns are not distributed properly the farmers will keep on committing suicide and dying after consuming the mango-kernels and dead pigeons . . .

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Lakshman Singh, you have to wind up now. You have taken so much time of your Party. You have already taken 20 minutes.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have already given him five more minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Madam Chairperson, agro-based industries are required to be set up. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. JASWANT SINGH (Alwar) : You are saying that people are dying in Delhi after consuming dead pigeon. In Delhi you have the Congress government and not the B.J.P. Government. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Jaswant Singh ji, I am talking of Alwar. Please listen. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOUDHARY : How do you refer to the affairs of Delhi and Madhya Pradesh? His issue is concerning the farmers of the entire country. .(Interruptions)

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we should encourage setting up agrobased industries. In our country there is a wide scope for sugarcane production. Now vehicles run on gassohole. The Government has also allowed that 80 percent or 1 and 20 percent gassohole can be mixed and used in vehicles to run them. In this way the gassohole made of sugercane or maize can prove to be of great use in the country. There is already ample scope of sugarcane production in the country.

[English]

The gassohole Act was passed in 1939. If this is allowed, then this would benefit the farmers.

[Translation]

30 Sugar mills can be set up in Tawa command Area of Madhya Pradesh. If the Government gives us licenses, we can get 30 sugar mills set up cooperative sector.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN Shri Laxman Singh you are consuming the time of your Party members. You have been going on for half an hour now.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : I would conclude my speech in four lines only by quoting a quadram of woodie Guthrie-a famous poet of United States.

[English]

I would like to quote what Woodie Guthrie of the United States had said. He said:

"Now as through this work I ramble  
I have seen lots of funny men,  
Some will rob you with a six-gun,  
And some with a fountain pen."

[Translation]

The hon'ble Minister, Sir, we apprehend that if you sign the W.T.O. agreement the farmers of the country would be doomed.

15.15 hrs.

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya in the Chair]

[English]

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali) : Sir, I am particularly thankful to Shri Basu Deb Acharia for having brought a Motion under Rule 193 for discussing this issue of the problems being faced by the farmers in the country. We have been discussing this issue of the problems being faced by the farmers in the country without any break in almost every Parliament Session. But the solutions that have been offered to the farming community are really very meagre. Let it be any Government, the story of the agriculturists in India has remained a tale of misery. Agriculture today is steadily losing its charm. It is steadily becoming not only uneconomical but also unviable for several reason.

Sir, it is a paradoxical situation. It is the farmer who toils for building up the foodgrains reserves of the country and it is the farmer who bails out this country by producing enough foodgrains whereby the country can have a surplus and build a buffer-stock and it is the same farmer who is suffering today. The farmers who have toiled so much to strengthen this country with foodgrains reserves, the successive Governments have only reciprocated by making the farmers impoverished. This is the situation today. Production of foodgrains has gone up but the misery of the farmers has not been addressed accordingly.

16.00 hrs.

The misery has grown along with the growth in foodgrains. The Problems have remained unsolved. The problems are mounting day by day. The problems are many.

Several negative factors have been disturbing the economies of the farmers right from the unpredictable monsoon trends, unviable holdings, unproductive soils, imbalanced nutrient application, substandard seeds, adulterated fertilisers, spurious pesticides, deteriorating public investment in agriculture, fury of the nature, un-reached technologies to the farming communities, inadequate institutional credit, usurious rates of interest, mounting indebtedness, bequeathed debt burden, unremunerative market mechanism, onslaught of intermediaries, ill-developed agro-processing units, inadequate Government policies, ineffective extension services, and above all the complicated WTO regulations which are not widely known to the farming community. I am certain that even today 99 per cent of the farmers of the country do not know what exactly WTO is and what are its implications. Governments have not made any attempt to educate the farmers, who is the primary target of the WTO, on the implications of WTO.

All these factors have collectively broken the backbone of the farmer while he is busy building the fortunes of the country with increased production of foodgrains. This is where certain amount of reciprocation is required. This is where we will have to search our hearts and see whether we are really doing justice to the farmer who is toiling in the fields for the sake of the country. Farmers took care of the country in regard to food security, but successive Governments did not take care of the security of the farmer.

Before going to other issues, I would like to draw your attention to some of the issues relating to my State. During the Winter Session last year, the TDP Members of Parliament were forced to stage a *dharna* before the statue of Mahatma Gandhi in the premises of Parliament House. Though we are supporting this Government, we were rather forced to do so since we could not compromise on the misery of the farmers. We do not want to sacrifice the interest of the farmers for the sake of political alliances. That is why we went on *dharna*. During the last year, consistently, several representations have been made by our State. Several teams of officials have come and met the Central Government. Our Chief Minister had written 12 letters and he paid three visits to the Capital. The Cabinet Subcommittee has come and met the Prime Minister and the concerned Ministers to solve some of the

problems. The Members of Parliament from Andhra Pradesh have raised the issue in the Parliament. . . .  
(Interruptions) We called on the Ministers and also the Prime Minister with no immediate solution.

Here, the reason of my pointing out this particular issue and reminding the Government as to what had happened is that our experiences should be the guiding factors, at least, for the future focuses.

Sir, this year, once again, the procurement season has come up. Last year, when the decisions were delayed for a month, it was not the farmer who got the benefit out of these decisions. It was the trader who got the benefit.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would only like to say the hon. Member that when their 12 letters did not draw any attention of the Government, the thirteenth one should be the final one and if nothing happens, they should withdraw support. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Sir, my humble request is that now when the members of treasury bench are criticising government's policies, the Prime Minister should be present in the House . . .(Interruptions). This Government is anti farmers. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramdas Athawale, please resume your seat.

(Interruptions)

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : We are supporting the farmers. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : We are not supporting your cause. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, please take your seat.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Farmers are committing suicide in Andhra Pradesh and you are supporting them !  
 . . . (Interruptions)

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU Mr. Chairman, Sir, any decision that is delayed is no decision at all, and it is almost a decision that is denied. The same has been done to the farmers. They have been, in a way, just denied the decisions.

That is why, I would like to emphasis on this particular aspect that the decisions should be timely, accurate and pro-farmers ones. They should not be pro-traders but should be pro-farmers.

This year again, the procurement season has come up. The Food Corporation of India this year has accepted to procure about 80 lakh tonnes of rice from Andhra Pradesh, which has contributed to the kitty of this nation over several decades, and about seven lakh tonnes of paddy this year during this particular season. Last year, though this Government had accepted to procure three lakh tonnes of paddy, it had hardly procured 55,000 tonnes of it. It had opened 180 purchasing centres last year but could procure only 55,000 tonnes of paddy. Now, for 80 lakh tonnes of rice and seven lakh tonnes of paddy they have opened only 810 purchasing centres. I do not know how far these 810 purchasing centres are going to meet the target to procure the entire quantity in time when they could not procure the whole quantity last year?

That is why, I would like to remind this Government that they will have to plan in a right way to meet the requirement of total procurement.

Andhra Pradesh is having godown space to the extent of 32 lakh tonnes. Seventeen lakh tonnes or rather more than 17 lakh tonnes of godown capacity is occupied by para-boiled rice which is not moving at all. Earlier our Kerala friends used to purchase this from Andhra Pradesh. Now, they are not purchasing because they have become self-sufficient. Our other neighbouring States like Karnataka and Tamil Nadu used to purchase this from us; but we are very glad that they have also become self-sufficient that they do not purchase it from us now.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : It is not because we have

become self-sufficient; but our purchasing power has been completely destroyed !

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : So, more than 17 lakh tonnes of para-boiled rice is lying in our godowns. We approached the Government so that this rice is lifted and sent to some other areas where there is a demand. But it is not being done so far. Recently, the decision has been communicated that about 7.5 lakh tonnes of this rice is going to be lifted. I only urge upon this Government to do this immediately and explore the possibilities of sending or exporting the remaining quantity of this rice outside India as early as possible so that godown space will fall vacant and fresh stocks can be stored.

Similarly, new godowns are under construction in Andhra Pradesh to hold 15 lakh tonnes of foodgrains. Even that capacity is not sufficient. We requested them to grant permits for construction of new godowns to hold another 15 lakh tonnes of foodgrains. Here, timely action to procure foodgrains, as I have mentioned, is very much necessary. It should be done as early as possible. This is the problem of the State of Andhra Pradesh with regard to paddy.

We have got other very important crops where the farmers have been suffering. Cotton is there, for example, as my friend has raised. Cotton is now being imported in plenty. It is unabated and unchecked. If you just look at the imports of cotton during the past five years, during 1995-96, it was four lakh tonnes. Now, during these five years, it has been increased six-folds. Now, around 25 lakh tonnes of cotton is being imported. What is the result of that? As a result of this indiscriminate imports, the domestic producer is suffering a lot. As against the MSP of Rs. 1350, cotton farmers in Andhra Pradesh are getting about Rs. 1100 only. The reason for this huge import is this. The import duty on some of these varieties of cotton is only five per cent. In our State, we produce Bunny and Brama varieties of cotton for which the import duty is only five per cent. Though we have got a leverage to go up to 100 per cent import duty, we are still at five per cent import duty. This is nothing but a deliberate favour being done to trading community in this country as far as textile industry is concerned. This is where I would like to emphasise that there is a need to have a practical

look so that the import duty is enhanced at least to a minimum of 25-30 per cent by which the market will stabilise and a level playing field can be created between imported cotton and the cotton produced domestically.

Groundnut has another miserable story. Groundnut is being produced in the areas next to Gujarat. Andhra Pradesh, particularly Rayalsema district, is one such State where groundnut production is sizeable. Its production is mostly spread in the districts of Anantpur, Cuddappah, Chittoor and Kurnool. Owing to the long spells of drought, per hectare yield has reduced to even fifty per cent of the normal production. Even the fifty per cent production is with the half-filled areas and thereby the shelling percentage is very much less. I would request the FCI to relax the norms for procurement of groundnut and NAFED may be commissioned to purchase the groundnut.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly conclude now.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU . Sir, issue regarding oil farms has been raised by a number of my friends. The oil growers, particularly in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and other coastal States, are even uprooting their oil farms. They are not in a position to compete with the imported oil from Malaysia and other countries. Earlier, with much hue and cry the import duty was enhanced to 85 per cent. Unfortunately, adding fuel to fire, this year the import duty has been reduced by 10 per cent. . . .(Interruptions) Surprisingly, this has been reduced. Other competing edible oils like saw flower, sunflower are there. On all these crude oils, it has been reduced from 75 per cent to 45 per cent. I do not know whether this decision of the Government is pro-farmer or pro-trader. Market-driven situation is being created and the farmer is thrown at the mercy of the traders. This particular situation needs a thorough analysis.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am now calling the next Member. Please conclude.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : I will conclude in just two minutes.

Similarly, the prices of chillies and turmeric have also gone down. Maize is another crop which is produced in large quantity in our country. When the poultry industry is

in doldrums, even the maize consumption has gone down. It is available at Rs. 300 or Rs. 320 as against Rs. 450 as its MSP. This has to be taken care of. Ethanol can be extracted from Maize. So, this should be taken care of.

Public investment in agriculture is going down Plan-after-Plan. Even in the latest Tenth Plan, allocation to agriculture has been reduced by 16 per cent. As such, public investment is coming down like anything.

Finally, I would speak about the credit facility. The flow of institutional credit to Indian agriculture is very meagre. As against 18 per cent stipulated by the RBI, it is around 13 per cent. It is in a miserable state. Even some type of concession has been given to the Regional Rural Banks which have been created. I think Shri Sivaraman's philosophy, who was the architect of these RRBs, was entirely different. I do not know why they have been treated at par with the other nationalised banks.

The situation has to be tackled in a very pragmatic and practical way. The Government has to make a concerted effort to alleviate the misfortunes of the farmers.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI (Kurukshetra) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, you should allot limited time to the Members because laser on each of us get only one minute.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I agree with you and that is why I am frequently requesting the members to be brief.

[English]

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat) : Sir, at the outset, I may point out a painful factor. I have seen within a short period of my being here that in every Session we are debating the burning issues concerning farmers of our country. But what is happening today? Even as we are debating this issue, the situation is worsening. What is the reason for this? The Government is not at all honest and sincere in solving the burning issues concerning the farming community of the country. That is why, even as we are discussing and debating this matter, the situation is worsening.

Sir, I come from Palghat which is in Kerala. Palghat is known as the rice bowl of the State. I myself coming

[Shri N.N. Krishnadas]

from a peasant family know it very well what kind of miseries and troubles the farming community is facing at present in our country. Now, first of all, let me compare today's prices of certain cash crops and other produces with earlier prices.

First of all, let me take rubber. Today, the price of natural rubber is Rs. 28 per kilogram but earlier it was Rs. 69 per kilogram. Today's price of copra is Rs. 18 per kilogram but earlier it was Rs. 45. The market price of black pepper is Rs. 67 but earlier it was Rs. 240. The market price of arecanut is Rs. 28 per kilogram but earlier it was Rs. 165. The market price of ginger is Rs. 3.50 but earlier it was Rs. 15 per kilogram. Today's price of coffee is Rs. 15 per kilogram but earlier it was Rs. 90 per kilogram. The market price of tea is Rs. 2 per kilogram but earlier it was Rs. 12 per kilogram. The price of cardamom is Rs. 400 but earlier it was Rs. 800. Today the price of paddy is Rs. 400 per quintal but earlier it was Rs. 735. The price of cocoa is Rs. 15 but earlier it was Rs. 35. The price of milk is Rs. 7 per litre but earlier it was Rs. 12 per litre in my State. Sir, how the farming community of our country would survive with these prices.

Then, more and more unnatural and unknown phenomena are occurring in our country. While the price of cash crops and other crops are coming down, the prices of agricultural products are going up.

Let me quote the example of rubber. As I said earlier, it has reduced up to Rs. 28. The price of rubber is coming down. But the price of rubber based industrial products are going up. What about tyres? The price of tyre is going up. It is going up. Just now an hon. Member mentioned about cotton. The price of cotton is coming down. But what about cotton clothes? It is going up. What does it mean? How has it happened? These kinds of unknown, unnatural and abnormal phenomena are taking place in our country. Somebody is benefited by this phenomenon in this country. And that somebody is getting protection from this Government. This is my accusation. This is the problem which we are facing in our country. We should find out how this has happened. This is the real problem.

What happened in Doha? I think on behalf of the Government, the hon. Minister of Commerce is going to make a statement in this august House maybe tomorrow.

The Government says that that they have done the maximum in Doha. But I accuse that this Government has totally failed to protect the interests of agriculturists of our country. We totally failed to mobilise the support of Third World countries to protect our national interests at WTO meeting in Doha. Within WTO agreement, there is a provision to increase the import duty on certain agricultural products up to 300 per cent. But what happened? Let me cite the example of palmolein oil. Just now a senior colleague mentioned about the import duty on palmolein oil. The import duty on palmolein oil has been reduced from 75 per cent to 65 per cent. It has been reduced by 10 per cent. What is the difficulty in increasing the import duty on palmolein oil to at least 200 per cent?

Almost a year back, our hon. Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, had a comfortable stay in our State at Kumarakom. At that time, he declared a special package for Kerala. But till date, not even a single step has been taken to implement even one of the proposals of the special package. Almost one year has lapsed. He had a comfortable stay in Kerala. We are very happy about it and we are very proud of it. Of all the places in the country, the hon. Prime Minister found a secure place only in Kerala to have a comfortable stay. We are proud of that and we are happy about that. At that time, he declared a special package for Kerala. But nothing had happened since then. Till date, not a single step has been taken to implement that. Very recently, last monsoon, a very serious natural calamity occurred in Kerala. More than 200 people were killed in that natural calamity. Ten days back there was a landslide near Trivandrum, the Capital of Kerala. Around fifty people have been killed in that landslide. Thousands of hectares of farm land have been spoiled, ruined and totally washed away. Thousands of cattle have been killed in that natural calamity. The Government of Kerala has estimated the loss as Rs. 500 crore approximately.

We have made a request to the Union Government. The Chief Minister, Shri A.K. Antony, the State Agriculture Minister and all the MPs from our State have all come and met the hon. Prime Minister, hon. Agriculture Minister, hon. Finance Minister and all the other Ministers concerned. Unfortunately, our Chief Minister Shri A.K. Antony expressed his view that he was satisfied with all these Meetings. But

till this date not even a single paise has been released to deal with this natural calamity. This is nothing but a total negligence against the State of Kerala.

First of all, before starting this debate today, we were supported by all our friends in mentioning that many of the issues are not coming under the Agriculture Ministry. Some issues are coming under the Commerce Ministry and some other issues are coming under the Finance Ministry and therefore a holistic approach should be taken to deal with the farmers' problems.

Let me point out that the Government has declared the minimum support price for copra this year late. The Union Government asked NAFED to procure six oil seeds, including copra. But the allocation made for this procurement was barely Rs. 161 crore. Still the outstanding dues against last year's procurement of copra and other oil seeds stand at Rs. 400 crore. I fail to understand as to why the Government declares procurement of copra and other oil seeds and does not release sufficient money for the same. What is the reason for this failure? It is not at all sincere and honest about its own statements and declarations regarding the burning problems of the farming community.

I demand from the Union Government, through you, to raise the import duty on palm oil at least up to 200 per cent, ask the STC to procure rubber and given access for its export, declare in proper time the minimum support price for copra and start procuring copra in time. I know that the hon. Agriculture Minister has asked NAFED to procure copra. But nothing has happened in this regard. Four years back the real price per one coconut was Rs. 6, but now it stands at Rs. 1.5. How do you expect the farming community to survive in this country? We are debating and discussing this issue in almost every session under Rule 193, Rule 184, as Special Mentions during 'Zero Hour', while participating in the General Discussions on the General Budget and on the Demands for Grants of the concerned Ministry etc. We have been expressing our concern for the farming community of our country relentlessly, but the situation is going from bad to worse. Therefore, I demand from the Union Government to implement the special package for Kerala declared at Kumarakom, increase the import duty on palm oil, procure copra in time and save the farming community of Kerala.

With these words I conclude as you seem to be reminding me of the time constraint.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very grateful to you that you have given me permission to participate in the discussion on the question of farmers. The biggest reward given to the farmers by the present system during the 54 years of independence of the country is that they still depend on nature for cultivation. From Kashmir to Kanyakumari and Dwarka to Assam, farmers all over the country are forced to depend on nature for cultivation. The farmers of this country have not only made the nation self reliant in regard to foodgrains but also exporter as well. When the former Prime Minister, Late Lal Bahadur Shastri gave the slogan of 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan' then the farmers of this country gave their sons as jawans for protection of borders of the country and the farmers produced foodgrains in such a quantity that our country is not only self reliant but is also capable of supplying foodgrains to many other countries today. But what is the condition of farmers nowadays we can take an example to Kerala where farmers are ready for committing suicide. Same is the situation in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and other states of the country where farmers are today forced to commit suicide. Sir, The question is, why the farmers are forced to a situation to commit suicide. Today, the seriousness of the House on the question of farmers can be gauged by the number of members present in the house and the seriousness of the government can be gauged by the number of ministers present in the house. When the Members of treasury benches sit on this side of the House then they have similar point of view and as soon as they sit on treasury benches their point of view gets changed, this change is the only point responsible for misery and pitiable condition of farmers.

Sir, on the eve of commencement of the 13th Lok Sabha, the present day government made steep hike in the prices of diesel, Petrol, Kerosene and fertilizers which resulted in unbridled hike in production costs and being borne by the farmers. What was the outcome thereof, the pace at which production cost went up it affected the production and when the farmer went to the market to sell his yield then he did not get right prices. We do not want

[Kunwar Akhilesh Singh]

to assess 'right price' from our point of view. The government have been a total failure in the scheme implemented for providing minimum support price, to protect agricultural produce. In this regard, I want to say categorically that there is a wide gap in the production cost and the market price of all the agricultural produce. Today the farmers are not getting back even their costs. The reason for that is how much procurement is being made by the Government at the minimum support price fixed by the government itself. You may have more accurate figures than us in this regard. I can say it with challenge that paddy and wheat, which are two staple produce in the field of agriculture, you have not procured even 15 percent of the total production in the country. You can check it with your figures.

Sir, the Government of India have fixed the support price of paddy at Rs. 530 per quintal. I want to say to the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture that even today Uttar Pradesh is the biggest state of the country area-wise and population-wise and followed by Bihar. I want to tell you that you can see the situation of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Today paddy is not being procured even at a single government procurement centre at support price in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. In our state middlemen and businessmen are purchasing paddy from the farmers at the rate of Rs. 350 to 375 per quintal and farmers are selling it in a state of helplessness just because their paddy is not being procured at support price by the Government procurement centres.

Sir, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh makes tall claims in his speeches that he has opened several paddy procurement centres. As per the latest reports, I inform you that in Nautanva Tehsil, where from I belong to, the sale-procurement center, which is a cooperative body has procured only 53 quintal of paddy till yesterday, and the average yield of paddy in Maharajanj district which is my constituency alongwith the areas of Padrauna, "Siddharth Nagar, Deoria is producing paddy equal to the average produced by Punjab and Haryana.

I wanted to say that this government have been a total failure on the issue of paddy. What policy they have evolved? They will procure 6 quintal of paddy against per acre of land. Their figures say it, you can ask for the figures

of the ICAR, when we undertake progressive farming then on an average per hectare 45 to 50 quintal of paddy will be cultivated. If we calculate it in terms of per hectare then they will procure 15 quintal of paddy per hectare. I wanted to know that to whom the remaining 35 quintal of paddy will be sold? Whether it will be sold to the same middlemen and businessmen? The question is, if we come to power in future, if it is the government of congress Party then whether we will be in a position to procure or store the whole yield? The simple answer to this question is that it is not possible, no government is capable to procure our entire agricultural yield. How can we save the farmers of this country from this problem? Only one option is here then and that is to bring down the production cost of agriculture and increase the production. By bringing down the production cost and increasing the yield the farmers should be empowered to go for competitive prices in the international market. How the farmers would be empowered?

The European countries are constantly increasing the subsidy on agriculture. The U.S. is providing a subsidy of 2000 dollars per hectare to its farmers. The European parliament is spending 40 percent of its budget on agriculture subsidy. Today Japan is given subsidy more than that. In such a scenario, when the grip of the WTO is tightening over India constantly, we do not want to indulge ourselves in a debate that who are responsible for implementation of the clauses of the WTO but in the wake of tightening grip of the WTO over our nation and other developing countries, we must have to make provisions for providing direct subsidies to the farmers in order to tide over the situation.

In recent past I read a statement of the Minister of Food that we will not procure paddy directly through agencies but we will pay the difference of the market price and support price to the farmers. I want to make a practical submission. Hon'ble Agriculture Minister, you hail from Uttar Pradesh and your father Late Chaudhari Charan Singhji is still worshipped as Messiah of farmers. You are his son. You should look at eastern and Central Uttar Pradesh. One and half months back our paddy crop came into the markets of Bihar, Eastern and Central Uttar Pradesh and the farmers sold their paddy to middlemen and businessmen at the rate of Rs. 3 to 305 per kg to meet their needs. The farmers of Uttar Pradesh have suffered

a loss of more than Rs. 15,000 crore as on date and the procurement you are going to make and the target you have fixed for procurement, I want to say it clearly that the same paddy will find its way to the godowns of the FCI and government procurement Centre from the houses of businessmen through those middlemen. Farmers are not going to be benefited by it. Those middlemen and businessmen are going to be benefited directly from it. The question is that how you will meet this loss of Rs. 15,000 crore.

Second thing I would like to mention is that the Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have been devastated by the flood. Your Government have not been able to compulsorily implement the Crop Insurance scheme till date and even after 54 years of Independence. The flood have caused huge losses to the tune of thousands crores of rupees in Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, however, the Government have not made a provision of even 1 rupee to pay the compensation for damage of crops in these areas.

The Union Commerce and Industry Minister, Shri Murasoli Maran is present here in the House. After returning from Doha conference he has stated that the Indian agriculture is under increasing pressure due to huge subsidies being given by the European Countries in agro sector. The Government itself is accepting it. Today, what is the condition of sugarcane. Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are the case in point. All the sugar mills are closed. The Government say that it does not have any funds to invest in the agriculture. Your Government have been investing in the unproductive items and you have funds for that purpose but strangely enough you do not have funds for investing in the agriculture sector.

I would like to state here on the basis of definite information available with me that your Government have sold out four sugar mills to a mafia minister in Uttar Pradesh Government and he has not been able to run even one out of them. When the farmers agitated in Padrona town to press for the payment of their outstanding dues then, the Uttar Pradesh Government ordered to fire bullets at them resulting in the killings of several farmers. The Ramnagina Mishra ji is present here in the House. He hails from Padrona. If I am not stating the truth, he

would discount it. The hike effected in the prices of sugarcane is just like a drop in the ocean. Owing to low price and inordinate delays in payment, the farmer are sowing less sugarcane crop.

Hon'ble Prime Minister had stated here in the House in the recent past that the farmers should concentrate more on growing fruits and vegetables than the traditional crops. I would like to say with all humility that I had high regards for the Prime Minister. When I was in the village, I always felt that he was the ablest leader but when he gave this statement, I felt very disappointed. Paddy and wheat are quite stable crops of farmers. The Government is not able to protect these crops and pay the minimum support price. In case, the farmer starts growing vegetables and the Government does not purchase it then the vegetables would not and perish within 24 hours. Likewise, fruits would also get putrid in 48 to 72 hours. Then the farmers would be pushed to begging. Therefore, if you give some alternative then it should be meaningful and such which could provide protection to the farmers.

When the flood had hit the eastern Uttar Pradesh then, the Prime Minister had visited Gorakhpur—the epicentre of the flood. There he had stated that the Government would formulate a concrete plan to save the people and the farmers from the devastating floods but since then three years elapsed and the Government has not been able to get rid of this problem. The floods always cause huge losses to life and property and crops are also damaged, Droughts also do the same but our Government has not been able to enact a law which could facilitate the payment of compensation to the farmers for the damage of their crops. If some loss to life and property is caused in some place then, compensation of one thousand or two thousand rupee is paid and the Government discharges its duty this way.

Today, farmers are committing suicides. If the farmers are not bailed out from this precarious condition then, the resentment and anger of the youths could take the country to other direction.

The Government must take the resentment of the farmers seriously. We must provide them more subsidy directly to cut on the production cost. However, the

[Kunwar Akhilesh Singh]

Government would usually say that it does not have funds. The Government have provided a subsidy of Rs. 12000 crore on the foodgrains under P.D.S. to those living below the poverty line. You can very well assess as to how much is being spent on the large establishment of the food corporation of India. Subsidy is also being given on the fertilizers and Mr. Minister, the scam occurred in providing subsidy on fertilizers must have been brought to your notice. In past, a case pertaining to Uttar Pradesh was raised wherein those plants which had not produced any fertilizers were also provided fertilizer subsidy. Had this money been given to the farmers directly, the farmers would have been more benefited. This would also help them to increase the production and strengthen their position in the international market and in the price competition.

If the House discusses the issues of farmers in a symbolic manner and like wise the minister discharges his duty by giving reply then, the problems faced by the farmers would never be solved. This is my third year in this Parliament. I feel that the issues pertaining to the farmers and flood are also discussed in the House but the result is always big zero. Therefore, I would like to request the Government and the entire House that discussion on the issues of the farmers should be result oriented. Otherwise, people would lose their faith in Parliament. And then we and you will have think before going in the public.

The farmers of Uttar Pradesh have suffered a loss of more than 15000 crores of rupee now the Union Government should pay this amount to Uttar Pradesh government to compensate that loss. Similarly, Bihar has suffered a loss of Rs. 7500 crore. The Union Government should take necessary steps in this direction. Similarly, the farmers of Karnataka, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh have suffered losses. Therefore, the Union Government should provide funds to these state governments to compensate the loss. Natural calamities have been occurring in various parts of country as a result of which the crops are being damaged. Therefore, the House should draw a clear cut priority for payment of compensation to the farmers for the damage of their crops.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV (Alwar) : Hon'ble Chairman Sir, I have been listening to the debate on the issues relating to farmers with rapt attention. The Congress Party as well as the Samajwadi Party cares for the farmers and in fact, they have raised this issue. I also come from a farmer's family. My slogan in the election was, "Farmer brothers, vote for me, I shall raise your issues in the Parliament." . . . (Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Please raise the genuine issue. . . . (Interruptions)

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : I am doing that only. Hon'ble Prime Minister has done several good things. His Government has provided credit cards to teh farmes. Which politied party or Prime Minister gave the credit cards or implemented the Crop Insurance Scheme first. . . . (Interruptions). All the hon'ble Members are we!! aware that our buffer stocks are overflowing as the Government had undertaken procurement on the minimum support price . . . (Interruptions). Hon'ble Chairman Sir, the most distressing fact is that when we deliver our speeches here in Parliament. I do not know whether speeches are delivered from heart on from mind. Colonel Sonaramji has also not mentioned this fact. I would liké to say that there are no buyers for millet in Rajasthan. The Government of India provided the funds but the Rajasthan Government has not procured the millet so far. Instead, the millet was returned to the farmers saying that the quality of the millet was not as per the required standard. However hon'ble member could not raise the issue that Rajasthan Government was doing injustice to the farmers. We want to protect the interests of the farmers but the farmers are in a pitiable condition in Rajasthan. Hon'ble Members may say anything but the farmers are first and political parties are afterwards and the same way the country is first and we afterwards. The farmers are not getting power supply even for two hours in Rajasthan.

The crops of cotton and onion have been destroyed but the hon'ble Members have not been able to speak a single word to invite the attention to the problem. The Rajasthan Government is not safeguarding the interests of the farming community. Shri Akhilesh Singh just made a good speech. He stated a very appropriate fact that after coming to power, the political leaders forget the farmers. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav who has been the Chief

Minister of Uttar Pradesh and also the Union Minister did not formulate even a single scheme or make any special contribution for the welfare of farmers in Uttar Pradesh . . . (Interruptions).

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Since you have raised a question so I am telling. We had raised the price of sugarcane from Rs. 33 to Rs. 41.50 Hon'ble Ram Nagina Mishraji is present here and he is aware that the price of sugarcane were raised in Uttar Pradesh during the Samajwadi Party rule in the state. . . . (Interruptions)

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Sir, everybody says that the cost price should be reduced. We all know that the central Government cannot reduce the cost price, however, it can be reduced by the state government. Power and diesel are the raw materials for agriculture. (Interruptions). Please first listen to what I say. Let me know the names of the state governments which have reduced the tax of farmers. The State governments impose their own taxes which they can reduce, but no state government has done so. Every state government has the right to reduce power tariff and it can provide free of cost power. But no government has done so.

Yesterday while watching the star news on television I saw the report that the government of Madhya Pradesh has stopped the procurement of cotton from farmers with the plea that the cotton is of very poor quality. This has been done by the officers of the state. Farmers of the state are tormented. The brother of the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh was just now making a speech and everybody was listening to his speech silently. You are also discussing about suicides being committed by farmers. Where such incidents are taking place? Which party is in power in Kerala and Maharashtra? . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : That is happening there due to your policies . . . (Interruptions)

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Farmers are dying. Let the Government protect them. Everybody has suggested that subsidy should be raised to solve the problems of the farmers. Our colleagues from the opposition stall the proceedings of the House for 10-12 days on absurd issues. I shall be really thankful to the Members if they stall the proceedings of the House for five-ten days on the issue of subsidy to the farmers. I would have supported this move,

but this is not done by you. Members never cause adjournment of the House for farmer's cause . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : You are not aware, the adjournment motion was moved in the House in the past for this reason. You may get yourself informed. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not disturb him.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : The adjournment motion was moved earlier for farmers cause and even now . . . . (Interruptions)

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : You move the motion and see whether we support you or not. Bombastic speeches that are being made now for farmer's cause is all because elections are won in the name of casteism. They think that the innocent farmers are befooled by their slogans. . . . (Interruptions)

16.59 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

If you set aside the slogan of casteism, then you cannot win elections. You win the elections only due to caste-factor. The problem of farmers can be solved only when the entire Members of the House express their concern about that and decide that subsidy should be increased rather than decreased in order to protect farmers' interests. New technology should be introduced in the agriculture sector and improved quality of seeds should be developed. Our colleague was talking of America. I have also had the opportunity of interacting with farmers of four-five countries. We cannot compare the farmers of other countries with the farmers of our country. A farmer in the US has one thousand acres of land whereas a farmer in our country generally has five bighas of land. The farmers in America have never to face the problem of power shortage whereas our farmers avail the electricity facility only for one or two hours in a day. We were all just discussing that there is no shortage of water there and that there is also no drought. The farmers have thousands of bighas of agricultural land over there. We

[Dr. Jaswant Singh Yadav]

should discuss all those things. This year there is huge production of maize. The hon. Minister may kindly make a visit of that country . . . (Interruptions) I have also seen in the foreign countries.

17.00 hrs.

In the current season there is a huge amount of buffer stock of maize in America following huge production of maize. There the Government paid the farmers the price of maize produced by them after confirming about the quantity of maize produced by them. Our farmers are reaping the consequences of the errors committed by the congress government over the last 50 years. However, we are only holding discussions.

Today it is very important to protect the interest of farmers. If you see the plight of farmers you will find that they are hardly able to meet two squares meal. After the cost of farming borne by the farmers and after selling their produce there is hardly any penny left with them. You all go to villages and you are aware that at times farmers do not have even hundred rupees for treatment of their children. They do not have money to perform marriages of their wards.

The hon. Minister of Agriculture is sitting here. I have with me an article written by him on 23rd instant. It is also a fact that it was his father Choudhary Charan Singh who first of all took the farmers round the boat club. He really worked for the interest of the farmers. I have with the photocopy of the article of 23rd instant. He should always remember the sentences which he has mentioned in the said article in favour of the farmers because the plight of farmers has not changed even now. Since he is holding this chair so he will have to change the fate of farmers. He himself belongs to a farmers family and he is well aware of the condition of farmers.

I would like to thank the hon. Prime Minister who can be credited for holding this discussion. Prior to this we never had such a serious discussion on farmers' issue. I think we need to make united efforts to improve the condition of farmers. We may be indulging in allegation and counter-allegation but the fact remains that farmers of the country are dying and we should make all out efforts to improve their condition.

[English]

17.03 hrs.

#### STATEMENT BY MINISTER\*

#### Re : Deliberations and Developments in the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference held in Doha, Qatar

MR. SPEAKER : Now, we shall take up item no. 12 – Statement by the Minister. Shri Murasoli Maran.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I rise to make a statement on the outcome of the WTO Ministerial Conference held at Doha, Qatar during 9-14th November, 2001 and copies of the Declarations are being placed on the Table of the House.

Before the Doha Ministerial Conference, the Government held wide consultations with various stakeholders and accordingly, I am glad to inform Hon. Members that we made major strides towards realising our goals and the Ministerial Declaration contains significant achievements for India.

Hon. Members may recall that we have attached high priority on resolution of the implementation concerns. The recognition of asymmetries for the first time was a major gain. Some of the implementation concerns have been adequately addressed. The remaining items have been referred either to negotiations or to subsidiary bodies for further examination and thus are an integral part of the Work Programmes.

Hon. Members would recall that India had strongly opposed linkage of core labour standards with trade. The Declaration reaffirms that ILO is the appropriate forum to address the core labour standards.

The key concerns of India in agriculture have been adequately safeguarded in the Declaration. The Ministers at Doha committed themselves to negotiations aimed at substantial improvement in market access, substantial reduction in trade distorting domestic support and

gradual phasing out of export subsidies. The special and differential treatment for developing countries including recognition of food security and rural development have now become an integral part of the mandated Agricultural Negotiations.

In services, the movement of natural persons has been given primary focus apart from reaffirmation of the guidelines and procedures of negotiations which is largely based on the Indian proposal.

On the four Singapore issues, trade and investment, trade and competition, transparency in Government procurement and trade facilitation, the study process will continue until the 5th Ministerial Conference and a decision regarding any negotiation would be based on explicit consensus.

A separate landmark declaration on TRIPS and Public Health is a major achievement in which India played a key role. It recognises the affordability and availability of medicines as a universal right. It would now enable member countries to take measures to protect public health as the Declaration recognises the flexibility under the TRIPS Agreement when dealing with public health problems affecting human beings, such as HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other epidemics and the respective national governments would decide about emergencies and epidemics and take appropriate measures to ensure access to medicine.

In the context of the TRIPS Agreement, we have been raising the issue of extension of higher level of protection for geographical indications as provided for in the Agreement to items other than wines and spirits. This issue will be specifically taken up by the TRIPS Council for considering extension to products like Basmati rice, Alphonso Mangoes, Darjeeling tea, etc. It has also been agreed that the Council for TRIPS will address the issues of biological diversity, protection of traditional knowledge and folklore.

Following the Uruguay Round Agreements (1994), the Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) was asked to study certain issues, and submit a report whether any modifications in the WTO rules were required. The Doha

declaration proposes negotiations on three items, namely, the relationship between the existing WTO rules and Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs), process for regular information exchange between MEAs and WTO and negotiations for market access for environmental goods and services. As is known, India is already a signatory to most of these MEAs and I would like to assure hon. Members that these negotiations would not widen the environmental window in trade.

Negotiations in the area of market access on non-agricultural products will focus on reduction or elimination of tariff peaks, tariff escalations and other non-tariff barriers which we had broadly flagged as priority area in any such negotiations. It also recognises the special needs and interests of developing countries including through less than full reciprocity in reduction commitments.

Negotiations have also been mandated under the Anti-dumping and Subsidies Agreements. The various implementation proposals on these subjects will also become part of the negotiations.

There is also a clear commitment to review the provisions for Special and Differential treatment for developing countries in various WTO agreements to see how these provisions can be strengthened, made more precise, effective and operational. These are very welcome features.

Hon. Members would agree that the Doha outcome is in conformity with the shared stakeholders' interests – the interests of agriculture, industry and most importantly our development. . . .(Interruptions) In sum, the Doha mandate will not in any way harm us; on the contrary, we have substantial gains.

Hon. Members, before I conclude, I would like to say that this is only the beginning. Permit me to highlight the point that the said negotiations are expected to be completed hopefully by 2005 and so there is enough time for us to reflect and effectively negotiate. Since these issues transcend party concerns, I earnestly seek your co-operation in this national endeavour in the international framework.

## WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION\*

### MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

Fourth Session

Doha, 9 - 14 November 2001

### MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

1. The multilateral trading system embodied in the World Trade Organization has contributed significantly to economic growth, development and employment throughout the past fifty years. We are determined, particularly in the light of the global economic slowdown, to maintain the process of reform and liberalization of trade policies, thus ensuring that the system plays its full part in promoting recovery, growth and development. We therefore strongly reaffirm the principles and objectives set out in the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization, and pledge to reject the use of protectionism.
2. International trade can play a major role in the promotion of economic development and the alleviation of poverty. We recognize the need for all our peoples to benefit from the increased opportunities and welfare gains that the multilateral trading system generates. The majority of WTO Members are developing countries. We seek to place their needs and interests at the heart of the Work Programme adopted in this Declaration. Recalling the Preamble to the Marrakesh Agreement, we shall continue to make positive efforts designed to ensure that developing countries, and especially the least-developed among them, secure a share in the growth of world trade commensurate with the needs of their economic development. In this context, enhanced market access, balanced rules, and well targeted, sustainably financed technical assistance and capacity-building programmes have important roles to play.
3. We recognize the particular vulnerability of the least-developed countries and the special structural difficulties they face in the global economy. We are committed to addressing the marginalization of least-developed countries in international trade and to improving their effective participation in the multilateral trading system. We recall the commitments made by Ministers at our meetings in Marrakesh, Singapore and Geneva, and by the international community at the Third UN Conference on Least-Developed Countries in Brussels, to help least-developed countries secure beneficial and meaningful integration into the multilateral trading system and the global economy. We are determined that the WTO will play its part in building effectively on these commitments under the Work Programme we are establishing.
4. We stress our commitment to the WTO as the unique forum for global trade rule-making and liberalization, while also recognizing that regional trade agreements can play an important role promoting the liberalization and expansion of trade and in fostering development.
5. We are aware that the challenges Members face in a rapidly changing international environment cannot be addressed through measures taken in the trade field alone. We shall continue to work with the Bretton Woods institutions for greater coherence in global economic policy-making.
6. We strongly reaffirm our commitment to the objective of sustainable development, as stated in the Preamble to the Marrakesh Agreement. We are convinced that the aims of upholding and safeguarding an open and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system, and acting for the protection of the environment and the promotion of sustainable development can and must be mutually supportive. We take note of the efforts by Members to conduct national environmental assessments of trade policies on a voluntary basis. We recognize that under WTO rules no country should be prevented from taking measures for the protection of human, animal or plant life or health, or of the environment at the levels it considers appropriate, subject to the requirement that they are not applied in a manner which would constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination between countries where the same conditions prevail, or a disguised restriction on international trade, and are otherwise in accordance with the provisions of the WTO Agreements. We welcome the WTO's continued cooperation

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\*Laid on the Table.

with UNEP and other inter-governmental environmental organizations. We encourage efforts to promote cooperation between the WTO and relevant international environmental and developmental organizations, especially in the lead-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in September 2002.

7. We reaffirm the right of Members under the General Agreement on Trade in Services to regulate, and to introduce new regulations on, the supply of services.
8. We reaffirm our declaration made at the Singapore Ministerial Conference regarding internationally recognized core labour standards. We take note of work under way in the International Labour Organization (ILO) on the social dimension of globalization.
9. We note with particular satisfaction that this Conference has completed the WTO accession procedures for China and Chinese Taipei. We also welcome the accession as new Members, since our last Session, of Albania, Croatia, Georgia, Jordan, Lithuania, Moldova and Oman, and note the extensive market access commitments already made by these countries on accession. These accessions will greatly strengthen the multilateral trading system, as will those of the 28 countries now negotiating their accession. We therefore attach great importance to concluding accession proceedings as quickly as possible. In particular, we are committed to accelerating the accession of least-developed countries.
10. Recognizing the challenges posed by an expanding WTO membership, we confirm our collective responsibility to ensure internal transparency and the effective participation of all Members. While emphasizing the intergovernmental character of the organization, we are committed to making the WTO's operations more transparent, including through more effective and prompt dissemination of information, and to improve dialogue with the public. We shall therefore at the national and multilateral levels continue to promote a better public understanding of the WTO and to communicate the benefits of a liberal, rules-based multilateral trading system.

11. In view of these considerations, we hereby agree to undertake the broad and balanced Work Programme set out below. This incorporates both an expanded negotiating agenda and other important decisions and activities necessary to address the challenges facing the multilateral trading system.

## **WORK PROGRAMME**

### **Implementation-Related Issues and Concerns**

12. We attach the utmost importance to the implementation-related issues and concerns raised by Members and are determined to find appropriate solutions to them. In this connection, and having regard to the General Council Decisions of 3 May and 15 December 2000, we further adopt the Decision on Implementation-Related Issues and Concern in document WT/MIN(01)/W/10 to address a number of implementation problems faced by Members. We agree that negotiations on outstanding implementation issues shall be an integral part of the Work Programme we are establishing, and that agreements reached at an early stage in these negotiations shall be treated in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 47 below. In this regard, we shall proceed as follows: (a) where we provide a specific negotiating mandate in this Declaration, the relevant implementation issues shall be addressed under that mandate; (b) the other outstanding implementation issues shall be addressed as a matter of priority by the relevant WTO bodies, which shall report to the Trade Negotiations Committee, established under paragraph 46 below, by the end of 2002 for appropriate action.

## **AGRICULTURE**

13. We recognize the work already undertaken in the negotiations initiated early 2000 under Article 20 of the Agreement on Agriculture, including the large number of negotiating proposals submitted on behalf of a total of 121 Members. We recall the long-term objective referred to in the Agreement to establish a fair and market-oriented trading system through a programme of fundamental reform encompassing strengthened rules and specific commitments on support and protection in order to correct and prevent restrictions and distortions in world agricultural

markets. We reconfirm our commitment to this programme. Building on the work carried out to date and without prejudging the outcome of the negotiations we commit ourselves to comprehensive negotiations aimed at: substantial improvements in market access; reductions of, with a view to phasing out, all forms of export subsidies; and substantial reductions in trade-distorting domestic support. We agree that special and differential treatment for developing countries shall be an integral part of all elements of the negotiations and shall be embodied in the Schedules of concessions and commitments and as appropriate in the rules and disciplines to be negotiated, so as to be operationally effective and to enable developing countries to effectively take account of their development needs, including food security and rural development. We take note of the non-trade concerns reflected in the negotiating proposals submitted by Members and confirm that non-trade concerns will be taken into account in the negotiations as provided for in the Agreement on Agriculture.

14. Modalities for the further commitments, including provisions for special and differential treatment, shall be established no later than 31 March 2003. Participants shall submit their comprehensive draft Schedules based on these modalities no later than the date of the Fifth Session of the Ministerial Conference. The negotiations, including with respect to rules and disciplines and related legal texts, shall be concluded as part and at the date of conclusion of the negotiating agenda as a whole.

## SERVICES

15. The negotiations on trade in services shall be conducted with a view to promoting the economic growth of all trading partners and the development of developing and least-developed countries. We recognize the work already undertaken in the negotiations, initiated in January 2000 under Article XIX of the General Agreement on Trade in Services, and the large number of proposals submitted by Members on a wide range of sectors and several horizontal issues, as well as on movement of natural persons. We reaffirm the Guidelines and Procedures for the

Negotiations adopted by the Council for Trade in Services on 28 March 2001 as the basis for continuing the negotiations, with a view to achieving the objectives of the General Agreement on Trade in Services, as stipulated in the Preamble, Article IV and Article XIX of that Agreement. Participants shall submit initial requests for specific commitments by 30 June 2002 and initial offers by 31 March 2003.

## MARKET ACCESS NON-AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

16. We agree to negotiations which shall aim, by modalities to be agreed, to reduce or as appropriate eliminate tariffs, including the reduction or elimination of tariff peaks, high tariff, and tariff escalation, as well as non-tariff barriers, in particular on products of export interest to developing countries. Product coverage shall be comprehensive and without *a priori* exclusions. The negotiations shall take fully into account the special needs and interests of developing and least-developed country participants including through less than full reciprocity in reduction commitments, in accordance with the relevant provisions of Article XXVIII *bis* of GATT 1994 and the provisions cited in paragraph 50 below. To this end, the modalities to be agreed will include appropriate studies and capacity-building measures to assist least-developed countries to participate effectively in the negotiations.

## TRADE-RELATED ASPECTS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

17. We stress the importance we attach to implementation and interpretation of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) in a manner supportive of public health, by promoting both access to existing medicines and research and development into new medicines and, in this connection, are adopting a separate Declaration.
18. With a view to completing the work started in the Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (Council for TRIPS) on the implementation of Article 23.4, we agree to negotiate the establishment of a multilateral system of notification and registration of geographical indications for wines and spirits by the Fifth Session of the Ministerial

Conference. We note that issues related to the extension of the protection of geographical indications provided for in Article 23 to products other than wines and spirits will be addressed in the Council for TRIPS pursuant to paragraph 12 of this Declaration.

19. We instruct the Council for TRIPS, in pursuing its work programme including under the review of Article 27.3(b), the review of the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement under Article 71.1 and the work foreseen pursuant to paragraph 12 of this Declaration, to examine, *inter alia*, the relationship between the TRIPS Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity, the protection of traditional knowledge and folklore, and other relevant new developments raised by Members pursuant to Article 71.1. In undertaking this work, the TRIPS Council shall be guided by the objectives and principles set out in Articles 7 and 8 of the TRIPS Agreement and shall take fully into account the development dimension.

#### **RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TRADE AND INVESTMENT**

20. Recognizing the case for a multilateral framework to secure transparent, stable and predictable conditions for long-term cross-border investment, particularly foreign direct investment, that will contribute to the expansion of trade, and the need for enhanced technical assistance and capacity-building in this area as referred to in paragraph 21, we agree that negotiations will take place after the Fifth Session of the Ministerial Conference on the basis of a decision to be taken, by explicit consensus, at that Session on modalities of negotiations.
21. We recognize the needs of developing and least-developed countries for enhanced support for technical assistance and capacity building in this area, including policy analysis and development so that they may better evaluate the implications of closer multilateral cooperation for their development policies and objectives, and human and institutional development. To this end, we shall work in cooperation with other relevant intergovernmental organisations, including UNCTAD, and through appropriate regional and bilateral channels, to provide strengthened and adequately resources assistance to respond to these needs.

22. In the period until the Fifth Session, further work in the Working Group on the Relationship between Trade and Investment will focus on the clarification of: scope and definition; transparency; non-discrimination; modalities for pre-establishment commitments based on a GATS-type, positive list approach; development provisions; exceptions and balance-of-payments safeguards; consultation and the settlement of disputes between Members. Any framework should reflect in a balanced manner the interests of home and host countries, and take due account of the development policies and objectives of host governments as well as their right to regulate in the public interest. The special development, trade and financial needs of developing and least-developed countries should be taken into account as an integral part of any framework, which should enable Members to undertake obligations and commitments commensurate with their individual needs and circumstances. Due regard should be paid to other relevant WTO provisions. Account should be taken as appropriate, of existing bilateral and regional arrangements on investment.

#### **INTERACTION BETWEEN TRADE AND COMPETITION POLICY.**

23. Recognizing the case for a multilateral framework to enhance the contribution of competition policy to international trade and development, and the need for enhanced technical assistance and capacity-building in this area as referred to in paragraph 24, we agree that negotiations will take place after the Fifth Session of the Ministerial Conference on the basis of a decision to be taken, by explicit consensus, at that Session on modalities of negotiations.
24. We recognize the needs of developing and least-developed countries for enhanced support for technical assistance and capacity building in this area, including policy analysis and development so that they may better evaluate the implications of closer multilateral cooperation for their development policies and objectives, and human and institutional development. To this end, we shall work in cooperation with other relevant intergovernmental organisations, including UNCTAD, and through appropriate regional

and bilateral channels, to provide strengthened and adequately resourced assistance to respond to these needs.

25. In the period until the Fifth Session, further work in the Working Group on the Interaction between Trade and Competition Policy will focus on the clarification of: Core principles, including transparency, non-discrimination and procedural fairness, and provisions on hardcore cartels; modalities for voluntary cooperation; and support for progressive reinforcement of competition institutions in developing countries through capacity building. Full account shall be taken of the needs of developing and least-developed country participants and appropriate flexibility provided to address them.

#### **TRANSPARENCY IN GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT**

26. Recognizing the case for a multilateral agreement on transparency in government procurement and the need for enhanced technical assistance and capacity building in this area, we agree that negotiations will take place after the Fifth Session of the Ministerial Conference on the basis of a decision to be taken, by explicit consensus, at that Session on modalities of negotiations. These negotiations will build on the progress made in the Working Group on Transparency in Government Procurement by that time and take into account participants' development priorities, especially those of least-development country participants. Negotiations shall be limited to the transparency aspects and therefore will not restrict the scope for countries to give preferences to domestic supplies and suppliers. We commit ourselves to ensuring adequate technical assistance and support for capacity building both during the negotiations and after their conclusion.

#### **TRADE FACILITATION**

27. Recognizing the case for further expediting the movement, release and clearance of goods, including goods in transit, and the need for enhanced technical assistance and capacity building in this area, we agree that negotiations will take place after the Fifth Session of the Ministerial Conference on the basis of a decision to be taken, by explicit consensus, at that Session on modalities of negotiations. In the period

until the Fifth Session, the Council for Trade in Goods shall review and as appropriate, clarify and improve relevant aspects of Articles V, VIII and X of the GATT 1994 and identify the trade facilitation needs and priorities of Members, in particular developing and least-development countries. We commit ourselves to ensuring adequate technical assistance and support for capacity building in this area.

#### **WTO RULES**

28. In the light of experience and of the increasing application of these instruments by Members, we agree to negotiations aimed at clarifying and improving disciplines under the Agreements on Implementation of Article VI of the GATT 1994 and on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, while preserving the basic concepts, principles and effectiveness of these Agreements and their instruments and objectives, and taking into account the needs of developing and least-developed participants. In the initial phase of the negotiations, participants will indicate the provisions, including disciplines on trade distorting practices, that they seek to clarify and improve in the subsequent phase. In the context of these negotiations, participants shall also aim to clarify and improve WTO disciplines on fisheries subsidies, taking into account the importance of this sector to developing countries. We note that fisheries subsidies are also referred to in paragraph 31.
29. We also agree to negotiations aimed at clarifying and improving disciplines and procedures under the existing WTO provisions applying to regional trade agreements. The negotiations shall take into account the developmental aspects of regional trade agreements.

#### **DISPUTE SETTLEMENT UNDERSTANDING**

30. We agree to negotiations on improvements and clarifications of the Dispute Settlement Understanding. The negotiations should be based on the work done thus far as well as any additional proposals by Members, and aim to agree on improvements and clarifications not later than May 2003, at which time we will take steps to ensure that the results enter into force as soon as possible thereafter.

## TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT

31. With a view to enhancing the mutual supportiveness of trade and environment we agree to negotiations, without prejudging their outcome, on:

- (i) the relationship between existing WTO rules and specific trade obligations set out in multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). The negotiations shall be limited in scope to the applicability of such existing WTO rules as among parties to the MEA in question. The negotiations shall not prejudice the WTO rights of any Member that is not a party to the MEA in question;
- (ii) procedures for regular information exchange between MEA Secretariats and the relevant WTO committees, and the criteria for the granting of observer status; and
- (iii) the reduction or, as appropriate, elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers to environmental goods and services.

We note that fisheries subsidies form part of the negotiations provided for a paragraph 28.

32. We instruct the Committee on Trade and Environment, in pursuing work on all items on its agenda within its current terms of reference, to give particular attention to:

- (i) the effect of environmental measures on market access, especially in relation to developing countries, in particular the least-developed among them, and those situations in which the elimination or reduction of trade restrictions and distortions would benefit trade, the environment and development;
- (ii) the relevant provisions of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights; and
- (iii) labelling requirements for environmental purposes.

Work on these issues should include the identification of any need to clarify relevant WTO rules. The

Committee shall report to the Fifth Session of the Ministerial Conference, and make recommendations, where appropriate, with respect to future action, including the desirability of negotiations. The outcome of this work as well as the negotiations carried out under paragraph 32(i) and (ii) shall be compatible with the open and non-discriminatory nature of the multilateral trading system, shall not add to or diminish the rights and obligations of Members under existing WTO agreements, in particular the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, nor alter the balance of these rights and obligations, and will take into account the needs of developing and least-developed countries.

33. We recognize the importance of technical assistance and capacity building in the field of trade and environment to developing countries, in particular the least-developed among them. We also encourage that expertise and experience be shared with Members wishing to perform environmental reviews at the national level. A report shall be prepared on these activities for the Fifth Session.

## ELECTRONIC COMMERCE

34. We take note of the work which has been done in the General Council and other relevant bodies since the Ministerial Declaration of 20 May 1998 and agree to continue the Work Programme on Electronic Commerce. The work to date demonstrates that electronic commerce creates new challenges and opportunities for trade for Members at all stages of development, and we recognize the importance of creating and maintaining an environment which is favourable to the future development of electronic commerce. We instruct the General Council to consider the most appropriate institutional arrangements for handling the Work Programme, and to report on further progress to the Fifth Session of the Ministerial Conference. We declare that Members will maintain their current practice of not imposing customs duties on electronic transmissions until the Fifth Session.

## SMALL ECONOMIES

35. We agree to a work programme, under the auspices of the General Council, to examine issues relating to

the trade of small economies. The objective of the this work is to frame responses to the trade-related issues identified for the fuller integration of small, vulnerable economies into the multilateral trading system, and not to create a sub-category of WTO Members. The General Council shall review the work programme and make recommendations for action to the Fifth Session of the Ministerial Conference.

#### **TRADE, DEBT AND FINANCE**

36. We agree to an examination, in a Working Group under the auspices of the General Council, of the relationship between trade, debt and finance, and of any possible recommendations on steps that might be taken within the mandate and competence of the WTO to enhance the capacity of the multilateral trading system to contribute to a durable solution to the problem of external indebtedness of developing and least-developed countries, and to strengthen the coherence of international trade and financial policies, with a view to safeguarding the multilateral trading system from the effects of financial and monetary instability. The General Council shall report to the Fifth Session of the Ministerial Conference on progress in the examination.

#### **TRADE AND TRANSFER TECHNOLOGY**

37. We agree to an examination, in a Working Group under the auspices of the General Council, of the relationship between trade and transfer of technology, and of any possible recommendations on steps that might be taken within the mandate of the WTO to increase flows of technology to developing countries. The General Council shall report to the Fifth Session of the Ministerial Conference on progress in the examination.

#### **TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING**

38. We confirm that technical cooperation and capacity building are core elements of the development dimension of the multilateral trading system, and we welcome and endorse the New Strategy for WTO Technical Cooperation for Capacity Building, Growth and Integration. We instruct the Secretariat, in coordination with other relevant agencies, to support

domestic efforts for mainstreaming trade into national plans for economic development and strategies for poverty reduction. The delivery of WTO technical assistance shall be designed to assist developing and least-developed countries and low-income countries in transition to adjust to WTO rules and disciplines, implement obligations and exercise the rights of membership, including drawing on the benefits of an open, rules-based multilateral trading system. Priority shall also be accorded to small, vulnerable, and transition economies, as well as to Members and Observers without representation in Geneva. We reaffirm our support for the valuable work of the International Trade Centre, which should be enhanced.

39. We underscore the urgent necessity for the effective coordinated delivery of technical assistance with bilateral donors, in the OECD Development Assistance Committee and relevant international and regional intergovernmental institutions, within a coherent policy framework and timetable. In the coordinated delivery of technical assistance, we instruct the Director-General to consult with the relevant agencies, bilateral donors and beneficiaries, to identify ways of enhancing and rationalizing the Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least-Developed Countries and the Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Programme (JITAP).

40. We agree that there is a need for technical assistance to benefit from secure and predictable funding. We therefore instruct the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration to develop a plan for adoption by the General Council in December 2001 that will ensure long-term funding for WTO technical assistance at an overall level no lower than that of the current year and commensurate with the activities outlined above.

41. We have established firm commitments on technical cooperation and capacity building in various paragraphs in this Ministerial Declaration. We reaffirm these specific commitments contained in paragraphs 16, 22, 25-27, 33, 38-40, 42 and 43, and also reaffirm the understanding in paragraph 2 on the important role of sustainably financed technical assistance and

capacity-building programmes. We instruct the Director-General to report to the Fifth Session of the Ministerial Conference, with an interim report to the General Council in December 2002 on the implementation and adequacy of these commitments in the identified paragraphs.

#### **LEAST-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES**

42. We acknowledge the seriousness of the concerns expressed by the least-developed countries (LDCs) in the Zanzibar Declaration adopted by their Ministers in July 2001. We recognize that the integration of the LDCs into the multilateral trading system required meaningful market access, support for the diversification of their production and export base, and trade-related technical assistance and capacity building. We agree that the meaningful integration of LDCs into the trading system and the global economy will involve efforts by all WTO Members. We commit ourselves to the objective of duty-free, quota-free market access for products originating from LDCs. In this regard, we welcome the significant market access improvements by WTO Members in advance of the Third UN Conference on LDCs (LDC-III), in Brussels, May 2001. We further commit ourselves to consider additional measures for progressive improvements in market access for LDCs. Accession of LDCs remains a priority for the Membership. We agree to work to facilitate and accelerate negotiations with acceding LDCs. We instruct the Secretariat to reflect the priority we attach to LDCs' accessions in the annual plans for technical assistance. We reaffirm the commitments we undertook at LDC-III, and agree that the WTO should take into account, in designing its work programme for LDCs, the trade-related elements of the Brussels Declaration and Programme of Action, consistent with the WTO's mandate, adopted at LDC-III. We instruct the Sub-Committee for Least-Developed Countries to design such a work programme and to report on the agreed work programme to the General Council at its first meeting in 2002.

43. We endorse the Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least-Developed Countries (IF) as a viable model for LDCs' trade development. We urge development partners to

significantly increase contributions to the IF Trust Fund and WTO extra-budgetary trust funds in favour of LDCs. We urge the core agencies, in coordination with development partners, to explore the enhancement of the IF with a view to addressing the supply-side constraints of LDCs and the extension of the model to all LDCs, following the review of the IF and the appraisal of the ongoing Pilot Scheme in selected LDCs. We request the Director-General following coordination with heads of the other agencies, to provide an interim report to the General Council in December 2002 and a full report to the Fifth Session of the Ministerial Conference on all issues affecting LDCs.

#### **SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT**

44. We reaffirm that provisions for special and differential treatment are an integral part of the WTO Agreements. We note the concerns expressed regarding their operation in addressing specific constraints faced by developing countries, particularly least-developed countries. In that connection, we also note that some Members have proposed a Framework Agreement on Special and Differential Treatment (WT/GC/W/442). We therefore agree that all special and differential treatment provisions shall be reviewed with a view to strengthening them and making them more precise, effective and operational. In this connection, we endorse the work programme on special and differential treatment set out in the Decision on Implementation-Related Issues and Concerns.

#### **ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE WORK PROGRAMME**

45. The negotiations to be pursued under the terms of this Declaration shall be concluded not later than 1 January 2005. The Fifth Session of the Ministerial Conference will take stock of progress in the negotiations, provide any necessary political guidance, and take decisions as necessary. When the results of the negotiations in all areas have been established, a Special Session of the Ministerial Conference will be held to take decisions regarding the adoption and implementation of those results.

46. The overall conduct of the negotiations shall be supervised by a Trade Negotiations Committee under the authority of the General Council. The Trade Negotiations Committee shall hold its first meeting not later than 31 January 2002. It shall establish appropriate negotiating mechanisms as required and supervise the progress of the negotiations.
47. With the exception of the improvements and clarifications of the Dispute Settlement Understanding, the conduct, conclusion and entry into force of the outcome of the negotiations shall be treated as parts of a single undertaking. However, agreements reached at an early stage may be implemented on a provisional or a definitive basis. Early agreements shall be taken into account in assessing the overall balance of the negotiations.
48. Negotiations shall be open to:
- (i) all Members of the WTO; and
  - (ii) States and separate customs territories currently in the process of accession and those that inform Members, at a regular meeting of the General Council, of their intention to negotiate the terms of their membership and for whom an accession working party is established.
- Decisions on the outcomes of the negotiations shall be taken only by WTO Members.
49. The negotiations shall be conducted in a transparent manner among participants, in order to facilitate the effective participation of all. They shall be conducted with a view to ensuring benefits to all participants and to achieving an overall balance in the outcome of the negotiations.
50. The negotiations and the other aspects of the Work Programme shall take fully into account the principle of special and differential treatment for developing and least-developed countries embodied in: Part IV of the GATT 1994; the Decision of 28 November 1979 on Differential and More Favourable Treatment, Reciprocity and Fuller Participation of Developing Countries; the Uruguay Round Decision

on Measures in Favour of Least-Developed Countries; and all other relevant WTO provisions.

51. The Committee on Trade and Development and the Committee on Trade and Environment shall, within their respective mandates, each act as a forum to identify and debate developmental and environmental aspects of the negotiations, in order to help achieve the objective of having sustainable development appropriately reflected.
52. Those elements of the Work Programme which do not involve negotiations are also accorded a high priority. They shall be pursued under the overall supervision of the General Council, which shall report on progress on progress to the Fifth Session of the Ministerial Conference.

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WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE  
Fourth Session  
Doha, 9 - 14 November 2001

**IMPLEMENTATION-RELATED ISSUES AND CONCERNS**

**Decision**

The Ministerial Conference,

*Having regard to* Articles IV.1, IV.5 and IX of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO);

*Mindful of* the importance that Members attach to the increased participation of developing countries in the multilateral trading system, and of the need to ensure that the system responds fully to the needs and interests of all participants;

*Determined to* take concrete action to address issues and concerns that have been raised by many developing-country Members regarding the implementation of some WTO Agreements and Decisions, including the difficulties and resource constraints that have been

encountered in the implementation of obligations in various areas;

*Recalling* the 3 May 2000 Decision of the General Council to meet in special sessions to address outstanding implementation issues, and to assess the existing difficulties, identify ways needed to resolve them, and take decisions for appropriate action not later than the Fourth Session of the Ministerial Conference;

*Noting* the actions taken by the General Council in pursuance of this mandate at its Special Sessions in October and December 2000 (WT/L/384), as well as the review and further discussion undertaken at the Special Sessions held in April, July and October 2001, including the referral of additional issues to relevant WTO bodies or their chairpersons for further work;

*Noting also* the reports on the issues referred to the General Council from subsidiary bodies and their chairpersons and from the Director-General, and the discussions as well as the clarifications provided and understandings reached on implementation issues in the intensive informal and formal meetings held under this process since May 2000;

Decides as follows:

#### 1. **General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade 1994 (GATT 1994)**

- 1.1 Reaffirms that Article XVIII of the GATT 1994 is a special and differential treatment provision for developing countries and that recourse to it should be less onerous than to Article XII of the GATT 1994.
- 1.2 Noting the issues in the report of the Chairperson of the Committee on Market Access (WT/GC/50) concerning the meaning to be given to the phrase "substantial interest" in paragraph 2(d) of Article XIII of the GATT 1994, the Market Access Committee is directed to give further consideration to the issue and make recommendations to the General Council as expeditiously as possible but in any event not later than the end of 2002.

#### 2. **Agreement on Agriculture**

- 2.1 Urges Members to exercise restraint in challenging measures notified under the green box by developing countries to promote rural development and adequately address food security concerns.
- 2.2 Takes note of the report of the Committee on Agriculture (G/AG/11) regarding the implementation of the Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least-Developed and Net Food-Importing Developing Countries, and approves the recommendations contained therein regarding (i) food aid; (ii) technical and financial assistance in the context of aid programmes to improve agricultural productivity and infrastructure; (iii) financing normal levels of commercial imports of basic foodstuffs; and (iv) review of follow-up.
- 2.3 Takes note of the report of the Committee on Agriculture (G/AG/11) regarding the implementation of Article 10.2 of the Agreement on Agriculture, and approves the recommendations and reporting requirements contained therein.
- 2.4 Takes note of the report of the Committee on Agriculture (G/AG/11) regarding the administration of tariff rate quotas and the submission by Members of addenda to their notifications, and endorses the decision by the Committee to keep this matter under review.

#### 3. **Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

- 3.1 Where the appropriate level of sanitary and phytosanitary protection allows scope for the phased introduction of new sanitary and phytosanitary measures, the phrase "longer time-frame for compliance" referred to in Article 10.2 of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, shall be understood to mean normally a period of not less than 6 months. Where the appropriate level

of sanitary and phytosanitary protection does not allow scope for the phased introduction of a new measure, but specific problems are identified by a Member, the Member applying the measure shall upon request enter into consultations with the country with a view to finding a mutually satisfactory solution to the problem while continuing to achieve the importing Member's appropriate level of protection.

- 3.2 Subject to the conditions specified in paragraph 2 of Annex B to the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, the phrase "reasonable interval" shall be understood to mean normally a period of not less than 6 months. It is understood that timeframes for specific measures have to be considered in the context of the particular circumstances of the measure and actions necessary to implement it. The entry into force of measures which contribute to the liberalization of trade should not be unnecessarily delayed.
- 3.3 Takes note of the Decision of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (G/SPS/19) regarding equivalence, and instructs the Committee to develop expeditiously the specific programme to further the implementation of Article 4 of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.
- 3.4 Pursuant to the provisions of Article 12.7 of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures is instructed to review the operation and implementation of the Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures at least once every four years.
- 3.5 (i) Takes note of the actions taken to date by the Director-General to facilitate the increased participation of Members at different levels of development in the work of the relevant international standard setting organizations as well as his efforts to coordinate with these organizations and

financial institutions in identifying SPS-related technical assistance need and how best to address them; and

- (ii) urges the Director-General to continue his cooperative efforts with these organizations and institutions in this regard, including with a view to according priority to the effective participation of least-developed countries and facilitating the provision of technical and financial assistance for this purpose.

- 3.6 (i) Urges Members to provide, to the extent possible, the financial and technical assistance necessary to enable least-developed countries to respond adequately to the introduction of any new SPS measures which may have significant negative effects on their trade; and

- (ii) urges Members to ensure that technical assistance is provided to least-developed countries with a view to responding to the special problems faced by them in implementing the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.

#### **4. Agreement on Textiles and Clothing**

Reaffirms the commitment to full and faithful implementation of the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing, and agrees:

- 4.1 that the provisions of the Agreement relating to the early integration of products and the elimination of quota restrictions should be effectively utilised.
- 4.2 that Members will exercise particular consideration before initiating investigations in the context of antidumping remedies on textile and clothing exports from developing countries previously subject to quantitative restrictions under the Agreement for a period of two years following full integration of this Agreement into the WTO.
- 4.3 that without prejudice to their rights and obligations, Members shall notify any changes

in their rules of origin concerning products falling under the coverage of the Agreement to the Committee on Rules of Origin which may decide to examine them.

Requests the Council for Trade in Goods to examine the following proposals:

4.4 that when calculating the quota levels for small suppliers for the remaining years of the Agreement, Members will apply the most favourable methodology available in respect of those Members under the growth-on-growth provisions from the beginning of the implementation period; extend the same treatment to least-developed countries; and, where possible, eliminate quota restrictions on imports of such Member;

4.5 that Members will calculate the quota levels for the remaining years of the Agreement with respect to other restrained Members as if implementation of the growth-on-growth provision for stage 3 had been advanced to 1 January 2000;

and make recommendations to the General Council by 31 July 2002 for appropriate action.

## 5. Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade

5.1 Confirms the approach to technical assistance being developed by the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade, reflecting the results of the triennial review work in this area, and mandates this work to continue.

5.2 Subject to the conditions specified in paragraph 12 of Article 2 of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, the phrase "reasonable interval" shall be understood to mean normally a period of not less than 6 months except when this would be ineffective in fulfilling the legitimate objectives pursued.

5.3 (i) Takes note of the actions taken to date by the Director-General to facilitate the increased participation of Members at

different levels of development in the work of the relevant international standard setting organizations as well as his efforts to coordinate with these organizations and financial institutions in identifying TBT-related technical assistance needs and how best to address them; and

(ii) urges the Director-General to continue his cooperative efforts with these organizations and institutions, including with a view to according priority to the effective participation of least-developed countries and facilitating the provision of technical and financial assistance for this purpose.

5.4 (i) Urges Members to provide, to the extent possible, the financial and technical assistance necessary to enable least-developed countries to respond adequately to the introduction of any new TBT measures which may have significant negative effects on their trade; and

(ii) Urges Members to ensure that technical assistance is provided to least-developed countries with a view to responding to the special problems faced by them in implementing the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade.

## 6. Agreement on Trade-Related Investment Measures

6.1 Takes note of the action taken by the Council for Trade in Goods in regard to requests from some developing-country Members for the extension of the five-year transitional period provided for in Article 5.2 of Agreement on Trade-Related Investment Measures.

6.2 Urges the Council for Trade in Goods to consider positively requests that may be made by least-developed countries under Article 5.3 of the TRIMs Agreement or Article IX.3 of the WTO Agreement, as well as to take into consideration the particular circumstances of least-developed countries when setting the terms and conditions including time-frames.

**7. Agreement on the Implementation of Article VI of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994**

- 7.1 Agrees that investigating authorities shall examine with special care any application for the initiation of an anti-dumping investigation where an investigation of the same product from the same Member resulted in a negative finding within the 365 days prior to the filing of the application and that, unless this pre-initiation examination indicates that circumstances have changed, the investigation shall not proceed.
- 7.2 Recognizes that, while Article 15 of the Agreement on the Implementation of Article VI of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 is a mandatory provision, the modalities for its application would benefit from clarification. Accordingly, the Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices is instructed, through its working group on Implementation, to examine this issue and to draw up appropriate recommendations within twelve months on how to operationalize this provision.
- 7.3 Takes note that Article 5.8 of the agreement on the Implementation of Article VI of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 does not specify the time-frame to be used in determining the volume of dumped imports, and that this lack of specificity creates uncertainties in the implementation of the provision. The Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices is instructed, through its working group on Implementation, to study this issue and draw up recommendations within 12 months, with a view to ensuring the maximum possible predictability and objectivity in the application of time frames.
- 7.4 Takes note that Article 18.6 of the Agreement on the Implementation of Article VI of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 requires the Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices to review annually the implementation and operation of the Agreement taking into account the

objectives thereof. The Committee on Anti-dumping Practices is instructed to draw up guidelines for the improvement of annual reviews and to report its views and recommendations to the General Council for subsequent decision within 12 months.

**8. Agreement on the Implementation of Article VII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994**

- 8.1 Takes note of the actions taken by the Committee on Customs Valuation in regard to the requests from a number of developing-country Members for extension of the five-year transitional period provided for in Article 20.1 of Agreement on the Implementation of Article VII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994.
- 8.2 Urges the Council for Trade in Goods to give positive consideration to requests that may be made by least-developed country Members under paragraphs 1 and 2 of Annex III of the Customs Valuation Agreement or under Article IX.3 of the WTO Agreement, as well as to take into consideration the particular circumstances of least-developed countries when setting the terms and conditions including time-frames.
- 8.3 Underlines the importance of strengthening cooperation between the customs administrations of Members in the prevention of customs fraud. In this regard, it is agreed that, further to the 1994 Ministerial Decision Regarding Cases Where Customs Administrations Have Reasons to Doubt the Truth or Accuracy of the Declared Value, when the customs administration of an importing Member has reasonable grounds to doubt the truth or accuracy of the declared value, it may seek assistance from the customs administration of an exporting Member on the value of the good concerned. In such cases, the exporting Member shall offer cooperation and assistance, consistent with its domestic laws and procedures, including furnishing information on the export value of the good concerned. Any

information provided in this context shall be treated in accordance with Article 10 of the Customs Valuation Agreement. Furthermore, recognizing the legitimate concerns expressed by the customs administrations of several importing Members on the accuracy of the declared value, the Committee on Customs Valuation is directed to identify and assess practical means to address such concerns, including the exchange of information on export values and to report to the General Council by the end of 2002 at the latest.

## 9. Agreement on Rules of Origin

9.1 Takes note of the report of the Committee on Rules of Origin (G/RO/48) regarding progress on the harmonization work programme, and urges the Committee to complete its work by the end of 2001.

9.2 Agrees that any interim arrangements on rules of origin implemented by Members in the transitional period before the entry into force of the results of the harmonisation work programme shall be consistent with the Agreement on Rules of Origin, particularly Articles 2 and 5 thereof. Without prejudice to Members' rights and obligations, such arrangements may be examined by the Committee on Rules of Origin.

## 10. Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures

10.1 Agrees that Annex VII(b) to the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures includes the Members that are listed therein until their GNP per capita reaches US \$1,000 in constant 1990 dollars for three consecutive years. This decision will enter into effect upon the adoption by the Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures of an appropriate methodology for calculating constant 1990 dollars. If, however, the Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures does not reach a consensus agreement on an appropriate methodology by 1 January 2003, the methodology proposed by the Chairman of the Committee set

forth in G/SCM/38, Appendix 2 shall be applied. A Member shall not leave Annex VII(b) so long as its GNP per capita in current dollars has not reached US \$ 1,000 based upon the most recent data from the World Bank.

10.2 Takes note of the proposal to treat measures implemented by developing countries with a view to achieving legitimate development goals, such as regional growth, technology research and development funding, production diversification and development and implementation of environmentally sound methods of production as non-actionable subsidies, and agrees that this issue be addressed in accordance with paragraph 13 below. During the course of the negotiations, Members are urged to exercise due restraint with respect to challenging such measures.

10.3 Agrees that the Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures shall continue its review of the provisions of the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures regarding countervailing duty investigations and report to the General Council by 31 July 2002.

10.4 Agrees that if a Member has been excluded from the list in paragraph (b) of Annex VII to the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, it shall be reincluded in it when its GNP per capita falls back below US \$ 1,000.

10.5 Subject to the provisions of Articles 27.5 and 27.6, it is reaffirmed that least-developed country Members are exempt from the prohibition on export from the prohibition on export subsidies set forth in Article 3.1(a) of the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, and thus have flexibility to finance their exporters, consistent with their development need. It is understood that the eight-year period in Article 27.5 within which a least-developed country Member must phase out its export subsidies in respect of a product in which it is export-competitive begins from the date export competitiveness exists within the meaning of Article 27.6.

10.6 Having regard to the particular situation of certain developing-country Members, directs the Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures to extend the transition period, under the rubric of Article 27.4 of the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, for certain export subsidies provided by such Members, pursuant to the procedures set forth in document G/SCM/W/471/Rev.1. Furthermore, when considering a request for an extension of the transition period under the rubric of Article 27.4 of the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, and in order to avoid that Members at similar stages of development and having a similar order of magnitude of share in world trade are treated differently in terms of receiving such extensions for the same eligible programmes and the length of such extensions, directs the Committee to extend the transition period for those developing countries, after taking into account the relative competitiveness in relation to other developing-country Members who have requested extension of the transition period following the procedures set forth in document G/SCM/W/471/Rev.1.

## **11. Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)**

11.1 The TRIPS Council is directed to continue its examination of the scope and modalities for complaints of the types provided for under subparagraphs 1(b) and 1(c) of Article XXIII of GATT 1994 and make recommendations to the Fifth Session of the Ministerial Conference. It is agreed that, in the meantime, Members will not initiate such complaints under the TRIPS Agreement.

11.2 Reaffirming that the provisions of Article 66.2 of the TRIPS Agreement are mandatory, it is agreed that the TRIPS Council shall put in place a mechanism for ensuring the monitoring and full implementation of the obligations in question. To this end, developed-country Members shall submit prior to the end of 2002 detailed reports on the functioning in practice of the

incentives provided to their enterprises for the transfer of technology in pursuance of their commitments under Article 66.2. These submissions shall be subject to a review in the TRIPS Council and information shall be updated by Members annually.

## **12. Cross-cutting issues**

12.1 The Committee on Trade and Development is instructed:

- (i) to identify those special and differential treatment provisions that are already mandatory in nature and those that are non-binding in character, to consider the legal and practical implications for developed and developing Members of converting special and differential treatment measures into mandatory provisions, to identify those that Members consider should be made mandatory, and to report to the General Council with clear recommendations for a decision by July 2002;
- (ii) to examine additional ways in which special and differential treatment provisions can be made more effective, to consider ways, including improved information flows, in which developing countries, in particular the least-developed countries, may be assisted to make best use of special and differential treatment provisions, and to report to the General Council with clear recommendations for a decision by July 2002; and
- (iii) to consider, in the context of the work programme adopted at the Fourth Session of the Ministerial Conference, how special and differential treatment may be incorporated into the architecture of WTO rules.

The work of the Committee on Trade and Development in this regard shall take fully into consideration previous work undertaken as noted in WT/COMTD/W/77/Rev.1. It will also be without prejudice to work in

respect of implementation of WTO Agreements in the General Council and in other Councils and Committees.

12.2 Reaffirms that preferences granted to developing countries pursuant to the Decision of the Contracting Parties of 28 November 1979 ("Enabling Clause")<sup>1</sup> should be generalised, non-reciprocal and non-discriminatory.

### 13. Outstanding Implementation Issues<sup>2</sup>

Agrees that outstanding implementation issues be addressed in accordance with paragraph 12 of the Ministerial Declaration (WT/MIN/(01)/DEC/-).

### 14. Final Provisions

Requests the Director-General, consistent with paragraphs 38 to 43 of the Ministerial Declaration (WT/MIN(01)/DEC/-), to ensure that WTO technical assistance focuses, on a priority basis, on assisting developing countries to implement existing WTO obligations as well as on increasing their capacity to participate more effectively in future multilateral trade negotiations. In carrying out this mandate, the WTO Secretariat should cooperate more closely with international and regional intergovernmental organisations so as to increase efficiency and synergies and avoid duplication of programmes.

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## WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

### MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

Fourth Session

Doha, 9 - 14 November 2001

### DECLARATION ON THE TRIPS AGREEMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH

1. We recognize the gravity of the public health problems afflicting many developing and least-developed countries, especially those resulting from HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other epidemics.

2. We stress the need for the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) to be part of the wider national and international action to address these problems.

3. We recognize that intellectual property protection is important for the development of new medicines. We also recognize the concerns about its effects on prices.

4. We agree that the TRIPS Agreement does not and should not prevent Members from taking measures to protect public health. Accordingly, while reiterating our commitment to the TRIPS Agreement, we affirm that the Agreement can and should be interpreted and implemented in a manner supportive of WTO Members' right to protect public health and, in particular, to promote access to medicines for all.

In this connection, we reaffirm the right of WTO Members to use, to the full, the provisions in the TRIPS Agreement, which provide flexibility for this purpose.

5. Accordingly and in the light of paragraph 4 above, while maintaining our commitments in the TRIPS Agreement, we recognize that these flexibilities include:

(a) In applying the customary rules of interpretation of public international law, each provision of the TRIPS Agreement shall be read in the light of the object and purpose of the Agreements expressed, in particular, in its objectives and principles.

(b) Each Member has the right to grant compulsory licences and the freedom to determine the grounds upon which such licences are granted.

(c) Each Member has the right to determine what constitutes a national emergency or other circumstances of extreme urgency, it being understood that public health crises, including those relating to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other epidemics, can represent a national emergency or other circumstances of extreme urgency.

<sup>1</sup>BISD 26S/203.

<sup>2</sup>A list of these issues is compiled in document job(01)/152/Rev.1.

(d) The effect of the provisions in the TRIPS Agreement that are relevant to the exhaustion of intellectual property rights is to leave each Member free to establish its own regime for such exhaustion without challenge, subject to the MFN and national treatment provisions of Articles 3 and 4.

6. We recognize that WTO Members with insufficient or no manufacturing capacities in the pharmaceutical sector could face difficulties in making effective use of compulsory licensing under the TRIPS Agreement. We instruct the Council for TRIPS to find an expeditious solution to this problem and to report to the General Council before the end of 2002.
7. We reaffirm the commitment of developed-country Members to provide incentives to their enterprises and institutions to promote and encourage technology transfer to least-developed country Members pursuant to Article 66.2. We also agree that the least-developed country Members will not be obliged, with respect to pharmaceutical products, to implement or apply Sections 5 and 7 of Part II of the TRIPS Agreement or to enforce rights provided for under these Sections until 1 January 2016, without prejudice to the right of least-developed country Members to seek other extensions of the transition periods as provided for in Article 66.1 of the TRIPS Agreement. We instruct the Council for TRIPS to take the necessary action to give effect to this pursuant to Article 66.1 of the TRIPS Agreement.

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[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (Tirunelveli): Mr. Speaker, we want a discussion on this issue....(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, there has to be a discussion on this statement. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are now allowing your Member to speak. I have already called Shri V.M. Sudheeran.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): There should be a discussion on this.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : There should be a detailed discussion on the hon. Minister's statement....(Interruptions)

17.10 hrs.

## DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

### Re: Problems being Faced by Farmers—Contd.

[English]

SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN (Alleppey): Mr. Speaker Sir, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion.

Sir, we were anxiously hearing the statement made by the hon. Commerce Minister. I am very sorry that he laid such statement, at this juncture, during the discussion on the plight of the farmers,. I strongly feel that the Doha Summit has caused more problems and more difficulties to the farming community. It does not envisage any rescue measures or any saving measures for the farming community in this country. The hon. Minister has asked us to wait till the final negotiations are held. But I am sorry to say that the plight of the farmers of our country will be worse and more and more our farmers will be forced to commit suicides. So, WTO situation has to be discussed in depth and all aspects have to come to the House, and we should not surrender ourselves to the interests of the foreign countries.

Sir, we all agree that the backbone of the Indian society has been the farmers. But the very existence of the backbone is in jeopardy and in extreme danger. Despair, disillusionment, destitutions and heavy debt have driven them to suicide. As already mentioned by my esteemed colleagues, we have been receiving reports from different parts of India including my own State Kerala, where farmers are committing suicides. Most of the agricultural commodities in our country, as a whole, and especially in Kerala, have been facing acute price fall. As a result of this, the farmers are under severe financial stress and are not in a position to repay the loans taken from banks and other financial institutions.

Sir, it is assessed that the decline in the yearly domestic average wholesale price of various crops in Kerala since 1999 is 45 per cent for coconut oil, 53 per cent for pepper, 64 per cent for coffee, 41 per cent for

ginger and 16 per cent for tea. The price of the natural rubber has also been steadily declining since 1995-96. It is highly regrettable to note that even after the declaration of minimum price for natural rubber, the price is far below the notified minimum price.

Sir, I am very happy that the hon. Minister for Commerce and Industry is sitting here. He will kindly note all these points very seriously. Though the Union Government had declared the support price for copra, NAFED has not entered the market for procurement of copra so far. The repeated assurances of the Union Government to Kerala Chief Minister, Shri, A.K. Anthony, have not been implemented so far. The credibility of the Union Government is very much suffered due to this.

Sir, the hon. Minister for Agriculture, Shri Ajit Singh, is a very respectable personality and has been honoured by people in the country. However, in Kerala, a feeling has been developing that his words could not be believed. That credibility crisis is there. So, Sir, please bear with us for making this statement because you have assured the Kerala Chief Minister twice and the Chief Minister announced your assurance, but nothing happened according to your assurance. This has adversely affected the credibility of your Government.

Sir, the very objective of notifying a minimum support price is totally defeated, if procurement operations are not done when the price crashes unprecedentedly. The plantation sector in Kerala especially coffee, tea, arecanut, etc., faces serious crisis due to decline in the prices of these commodities.

17.15 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

Sir, paddy cultivation is also on the verge of extinction as the cultivation has become uneconomical. The prices of the agricultural commodities have declined causing heavy losses to the economy of the State of Kerala. Recently, Shri K.M. Mani, our hon. Minister of Revenue, Government of Kerala has categorically stated that Kerala has incurred a loss of Rs. 6,000 crore of agricultural income during the last five years due to the fall of the prices of agricultural commodities. Apart from this, the intermittent

natural calamities also made the life of farmers extremely miserable. This year itself, Kerala sustained a total loss of about Rs. 552 crore.

Maybe on consideration of political advantage, the Central government has shown extreme generosity to certain States whereas Kerala has been totally ignored. Kerala's legitimate and repeated requests have been dumped into the waste-bin. It is deplorable and highly protestable. I place on record the strong protest of the people of Kerala against the indifferent attitude of the Union Government.

You have been kind enough to provide financial assistance to various States. But the calls or requests of Kerala have been mercilessly turned down by this Government which is most unfortunate. I urge upon the Union Government to sanction at least Rs. 500 crore as a special grant to Kerala for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the agricultural economy.

Sir, skin deep measures will not solve the unprecedented serious situation being faced by the farming community. A positive national policy and a fresh farmer-friendly approach is needed to the farmers. As the speakers before me have mentioned, we have been discussing the farmer issue from Session to Session. But what is the result? Nothing has been concretely done. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister and the Government to have a deep study of the problems being faced by them. There should be a national policy and a farmer-friendly approach to face the situation and save the farmers.

In order to protect our farmers from utter helplessness and disaster, the Government has to set up a National Farmers' Fund providing Rs. 20,000 crore for rendering effective relief and various assistance and incentives for the farmers for their existence. We have been creating so many funds and so many schemes. But what exactly have you done for the farmers? Mere lip service will not do anything. So let us find out the resources from various quarters and set up a National/Farmers' Fund to help the farmers in their interest and for their existence.

The Government have to support their lives by writing off all the agricultural debts to avoid them from committing further suicides. The Government of Kerala has recently

[Shri V.M. Sudheeran]

introduced a Bill to give some solace. But as the Union Government you have to take all the steps to write off all the debts of all sorts of the agriculturists in the country so that they may be given some basic relief.

Steps may be urgently taken for the inclusion of natural rubber and coir as agricultural commodities under the WTO Agreement on Agriculture. The negotiations are going to be held soon. So, I request the hon. Minister of Commerce to take action. We are very happy that the hon. Minister of Commerce has initiated some steps in this regard. He has to follow it up and take all steps to see that rubber and coir are included in the list of agricultural commodities.

Import of natural rubber to India should not be permitted. STC may be directed to procure at least 50,00 tonnes of natural rubber.

Sir, the tyre manufacturers may be asked to procure natural rubber ensuring declared Minimum Support Price to the growers. NAFED may be asked to procure Copra immediately, as has been assured by the Government, at the declared support price. Steps may also be taken to ensure that the benefits of procurement reaches the real growers. There are wide criticisms about some deal in respect of procurement of copra. So, it has to be ensured that real benefits of copra procurement reaches the farmers.

Sir, steps may also be taken to restrict the import of palm oil and the import duty on palm oil should be increased at the rate of 300 per cent. I am sorry to say that the rate of import duty on palm oil has been reduced as a result of the visit of our hon. Prime Minister to Malaysia. I am sorry to say and I may be pardoned for saying that when our hon. Prime Minister and other Ministers go abroad, they become very charitable to the cause to the countries they visit. But they are not charitable to the cause of the people of this country. Now the tariff and the import duty on palm oil has been reduced against the interests of the farmers of our country. The farmers producing coconut are very much worried about it and we are shocked to hear that the Government has decided to reduce the import duty on palm oil. A very serious situation has arisen out of this decision. The people are totally

disappointed and frustrated and they are protesting tooth and nail against this decision.

Sir, the bilateral agreement between India and Sri Lanka has adversely affected some of our agricultural products. We are making agreements with our neighbours and other countries at the cost of the interest of the farmers of our country. This is very bad. Steps must be taken to increase the basic customs duty on edible oil in keeping with the WTO bound rate of 300 per cent. The import duty on coffee and tea should be increased to 116 per cent and 150 per cent respectively. Substantial help may be provided for the re-construction and rehabilitation of the plantation sector. Financial assistance should be given for supporting paddy cultivation in this country. Floor price for coffee, pepper etc. should be declared and this should be procured by the system as has been devised by NAFED.

Sir, now crores of people in this country are being forced to eat only one meal a day on account of the withdrawal of the PDS facility. You know this subject very well. With the withdrawal of support price and purchase of foodgrains from the next crop season, the plight of the farmers would be simply pitiable. They would have to sell their products at throw away prices and they would be the mercy of the food cartel.

Sir, this Government has decided to withdraw subsidy on diesel from April, 2002 and this would make the price of diesel equivalent to petrol making it beyond the reach of the farmers and transporters. The Government has withdrawn subsidies on diesel, fertilizer, pesticides and on other agricultural inputs. As a result of this, the price of diesel has increased from rupees five per litre to Rs. 17 per litre. Similarly, the prices of LPG, fertilizer and other agricultural inputs have risen sharply. The rate of interest on loans advanced for the purchase of cars, colour TVs, fridges etc. have been slashed and brought down from 16 per cent to 11 per cent in one year whereas the rate of interest being charged by the nationalised banks from the farmers on loans taken for agricultural purposes is 24 per cent.

Seventeen per cent of the land development banks' money, 24 per cent of the cooperative banks' money, and the being advanced by various banks to agriculturists is being financed by the NABARD, which only charges 4 per

cent rate of interest from the above banks. The farmers are being arrested for default of repayment of loan. Their land is being sold through auction by the nationalised banks after obtaining decrees from civil courts. The wrong policies of the Government are responsible for the suicides of farmers. If the Government continues with these policies and this approach, we cannot prevent these suicides from happening and it may lead to an alarming situation. That is against the interest of our country.

The whole farming community is now watching and waiting for the outcome of this discussion. I would request the Government to come forward with some drastic and concrete measures to save the farmers. Otherwise, there would be no point in this discussion and there would be no point in our sitting in Parliament.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj) : Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, we are holding discussion on a very important subject today and I am happy to have been given an opportunity to participate in the discussion. Even last year there was a discussion on the subject of farmers but it did not yield any result. No concrete action was taken.

Sir, you may be remembering that there were lot of disputes and discussions about the procurement of paddy and rice of farmers. Several Proposals were moved. The then Minister of Food and Civil Supplies is not present here now. The present Minister of Food Shri Shanta Kumar ji has said that he is ready to allot as many procurement Centres to a state as it wants. There is a saying in Maithili—'ki per sai ghee cup tal liu ke lup'. This means when you do not want to give anything you give such a proposal. This would not be out of place to mention here that the Food Corporation of India had cheated the farmers of Bihar during the previous year. I think that the hon. Minister has no control over his department. When the hon. Minister had gone to Bihar during the previous year, he talked to the officers and referred to his party office. He did not even try to talk to the Members of Parliament from Bihar.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Raghunath Jha ji, the hon. Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Civil Supplies is himself a part of the Government.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I know that he is himself a part of the Government, but the present situation is pitiable. I would like to humbly submit that maximum number of farmers are in Bihar and 80 per cent population depend on agriculture. Now the farmers and labourers of the country are in the worst condition. We, who hail from Bihar are well aware of the conditions prevailing over there.

The hon. Union Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of state of Agriculture who also hail from a farmers' family are also well aware of the condition of Bihar. But this time I am sorry to read his statement. He has said that rice rather than paddy would be procured in Bihar. You all know that in Bihar there is no rice-mill and when rice is not produced how can rice be procured? The Prime Minister has announced a package for Punjab, so a similar package should be announced for Bihar. When discussion on partition of Bihar was being held here. We had demanded that a special package should be given for Bihar. At this the hon. Minister of Home Affairs very generously said that he is aware of the condition of Bihar. We want to constitute a dedicated cell in the Planning Commission for Bihar and we will extend help to Bihar through the Planning Commission. One year has passed since the state was divided but what did Bihar get? Why farmers of Bihar are being discriminated in this way? Sir, you are acquainted with the situation in Bihar. With the division of the state, all our industries have gone to Jharkhand, all our power generating stations have gone to that state and the only things left with us are the agriculture, flood, drought, potato and I will not speak about other things....

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : This Government is in power on the support from Bihar.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dasmunsiji, you are a senior Member. Please let the hon'ble member speak.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : From where do the floods originate. Every year we suffer loss due to the flood caused by the rivers of Nepal. All the districts of North Bihar right from Gopalganj to Kishanganj i.e. my constituency have been badly affected this time. Embankments of the rivers have been breached at many places, roads have been

[Shri Raghunath Jha]

washed away at many places. More than two hundred people have lost their lives due to the floods but nothing has happened towards providing any relief to their kith and kin. From Farakka to Kehalgaon, we see that soil erosion takes place every year due to the Ganga on both the banks. Lakhs of acres of land has been affected due to erosion, hundreds of villages have been submerged in the Ganga. The Government of India has not so far made any effort to provide any assistance to the people of these areas. I would like to humbly submit to the hon. Minister that people of Bihar should not be discriminated. The people of Bihar must be helped. A large area of our state is prone to waterlogging. We can see waterlogging in Behriyat, Mokamatal etc. inhabited by ten lakh people. If the Government comes to our help, we can grow 50 to 60 million tonnes of foodgrains on the land where we are growing 15 to 20 million tonnes at present. There is a need to help those people but this Government is not ready to extend any help. There were 32 sugar factories in Bihar. The Government of India have set up new sugar factories in various states of the country i.e. in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh – be it in Public sector or in private sector but not even a single sugar factory has been set up in Bihar. We were having agro based industries. Our Jute industries have also been closed down. Basu Deb Acharia ji was telling that Kishanganj, Katihar, Madhepura, Saharsa of Eastern Bihar that were once the jute producing area are no more producing jute. Today a big problem before the cane growers is as to how they should supply their cane to the sugar factories. New factories are not there, old factories have almost been closed down, only five-six factories are running. I want to know why such a treatment has been given to us. When factories have been set up in other states, why the factories have not been set up in Bihar? This is a charge I want to level against the Government. Mangoes, Leechies and Parched lotus seeds (Makhana) are grown in our area. Shri Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav ji hails from that area. Shri Nitish Kumar ji started some good work, let that work be extended further. We must see as to how mangoes and leechies would be marketed. Arrangements should be made for Cargo for the same. Government should invest money and then things can be sent outside from Patna, Muzaffarpur or Gaya

through Cargo. We do not have adequate storage arrangements here. You will be surprised to know that an Act is in force in Bihar that if a person is found involved in a murder, dacoity or kidnapping and put behind the bars, then he is treated as a guest of the government and if a farmer takes loan from the bank and he is not able to cultivate his land in time due to price rise, flood and drought and if police arrests him and he is put behind the bars, he has to bear the expenses so long as he is detained in the prison.

This black law enacted by the Britishers is still in force in Bihar. The criminals have got all the facilities there. But if a farmer is put behind the bars, then all the expenses are recovered from him. He will have to pay for his meals and the charges incurred on his arrest would also be recovered from him. This is the way the farmers are being discriminated there. I demand from the Government to help the farmers.

The Minister of Finance now belongs to Jharkhand. The issue of Kisan Credit Card has been discussed here many times. I would like to know as to how much percentage of Kisan Credit Cards has been distributed in Bihar. Why the distribution is not taking place in our state? All these circumstances are compelling the farmers of Bihar to launch an agitation. I belong to the party which is supporting the Government. I want to say with all humility that we would support the Government but if this attitude continues with the farmers of Bihar, then we will have to think about the next course of action. The people of Bihar have supported us and sent us here and excuse me, if I say that the support which Uttar Pradesh has not given to the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee in the Parliament, that support has been given by Bihar. When this Government was formed, it was formed with the backing of the MPs from Bihar and now the people of Bihar are most deprived lot. So the people of Bihar must get their rights and due share. As you premised in this house that package would be given, please come forward in giving the package to the people of Bihar. Every we suffer loss due to the rivers of Nepal, can the Government of Bihar talk to them? You have the authority, you please talk to them on our behalf.

I am glad to note that whenever any other state is hit by cyclone or any other natural calamity then you help

them. They must be helped. We also extend our cooperation in that matter. We want that those states should be helped. But if Bihar suffer loss due to the rivers originating from Nepal, then efforts must be made to check it and so long we do not make efforts to check it, till then the loss suffered should be compensated. We suffer loss worth 850 crores of rupees every year. Our land gets affected due to soil erosion, our roads are damaged, our school buildings collapse, our hospitals are damaged and our whole transportation system comes to a stand still. This Government should pay attention towards all these things, this is what I demand from the Government. Shri Ajit Singh ji is Minister of Agriculture and Shri Hukumdeo Narain Yadav ji is Minister of state in the Ministry of Agriculture. Both the Ministers have got agricultural background and as such some decisions should be taken in favour of the farming community and something should be done for them. Shri Hukumdeo Babu, please do not shake your head like this, muster courage and do something for the farmers.

With these words I conclude my speech.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, from the speeches delivered by the hon'ble members, it is quite evident that farmers throughout the country are in distress. India Today magazine carried front page headline 'Kheti kare, so mare'. (He who engages himself in agriculture is doomed to ruin) Farmers are committing suicides. There cannot be strong evidence than this that the farmers are in distress, they are leading miserable life. Today, farmers of Kerala and Karnataka are in tears. Farmers of Andhra Pradesh and Kerala are committing suicide. Farmers of Haryana, Punjab, Gujarat and Maharashtra are in distress. Today the farmers producing paddy, wheat, vegetables, Milk, fruits, sugar-cane, jute, soyabean are in distress. All the farmers engaged in Poultry farming, Goat and sheep rearing and fishery are also in distress.

Now my first question is directed to the Chair i.e. to you that all the parties of this house had demanded that a standing committee should be constituted to solve the problems of the farmers. Shri Nitish Kumar, the then Minister of Agriculture and Shri Pramod Mahajan, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs had also agreed saying that they had no objection and as such a Joint Parliamentary

Standing Committee should be constituted for solving the problems of the farmers.

The justification for it is that 18 departments are concerned with the problems of the farmers. Now if Raghunath Jha ji raises a question about procurement, what the Minister of Agriculture would reply to that. Likewise if the question is raised about soil erosion or flood, what the Minister of agriculture would reply to that. So how the problems of farmers would be solved? How the Minister would be able to reply to the points relating to fertilizers, seeds and World Trade Organisation. Only the formal discussion would be held and formal reply would be given. The hon'ble members of that side would thank him that he has distributed Credit Cards amongst the farmers. If the Credit Cards have really been distributed, then why the farmers are committing suicide, why they are launching agitations. This is the condition of the farmers in the entire country. In view of the prevailing injustice against the farmers, I do not know as to which anti farmers force is at work which is holding back the Government from constituting a standing committee to solve the problems of the farmers. My second question is also addressed to the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You do not ask questions from the Chair because there is no practice of asking questions from the Chair. You should ask questions from the Government.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Questions can be asked. Just now questions relating to farmers pertaining to various departments were asked here in the House. Who is going to reply to those questions because the farmers have made production and that is not being sold because that production is not fetching the minimum support price? Therefore, who is going to answer all these questions? I think that the Prime Minister himself should reply to these questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Government have the collective responsibility. The Minister of the government is present here in the House. Owing the collective responsibility, the government would reply to your questions.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : The formation of this Government was unfortunate for the farmers and

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

working class of the country. Today, farmers all over the country is ruining. The issue of Bihar is totally different. Bihar has been discriminated with. Nobody can deny the fact that discrimination has been done with farmers of Bihar and they have not only been neglected but also victimised and defrauded as well. Now Shri Hukum Deoji is a Minister. When he was with us, he used to make fairly long speeches about the problems of the farmers. He is being transferred frequently sometimes to the Shipping Department and sometimes to the Department of Animal Husbandry. At present he is the Minister of State in the Minister of Agriculture. According to the news item appeared in the 17th November edition of the "Hindustan" he said that the Government will procure only rice from the farmers instead of paddy. This procurement will be made through the Food Corporation of India. On the other hand in Orissa, the Food Minister of this Government Shri Shanta Kumarji on Friday had said that in order to save the farmers from crisis, the Union Government will procure paddy directly from the farmers. The Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has announced this in Orissa in the presence of the Chief Minister of the State Shri Naveen Patnayak. In Orissa, they are in power so this sort of statement was made there. Now you should see as to how they are safeguarding the interests of the farmers of Bihar. With the help of such sort of statements it reveals that they are making such statements only to remain in power.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should make your points and suggestions.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : It is a very good point. Two Ministers are talking of two different things in different States.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Injustice has been done to Bihar. On 9.11.2001 Shri Shanta Kumarji gave a statement that the Government propose to delink the minimum support price from recovery. It is a conspiracy and the Government should clear it. The Government also intend to discontinue the practice of minimum support price being given to the farmers. The Gupta Committee has also

submitted a report in this regard but the Government are bent upon to crush the farmers. A statement has been made that Bihar produces six per cent of wheat production of the country but recovery is not being done in the State all. The farmers are being cheated. Not only this but in the 11th report of the Department of Food and Civil Supplies also it has been stated that double standard are being adopted and Bihar is being grossly neglected. If this kind of injustice and discrimination continues, how the farmer of the country can become self-reliant.

In addition to this agricultural production has declined by one crore ten lakh tonnes during the last one year. In every sector, the production is declining. As such how food security can be ensured in the country. When this Government came to power, an announcement was made that production would be increased by hundred per cent during the next ten years. During the three years of their regime the production has declined by ten per cent and I am unable to understand how production would be increased by hundred per cent during the period of ten years. This is deception with farmers and injustice is being done to the farmers.

Sir, besides six crore tonnes of foodgrain is rotting in the godowns. Therefore, I would like to say that this Government is not only the anti-farmers but also ignorant as well. Sir, yourself has also been the Food Minister. You are aware that according to 1991 census report, sixteen crore families in the country are poor. Perhaps this number may have reached to twenty crores by now. Out of this, ten crore families are living above the poverty line and four crore families are living below the poverty line. Arrangements were made to supply wheat to these families at the rate of Rs. 9 per kilogram through the Public Distribution System. I do not know as to what criteria was adopted to provide wheat to these families at the rate of Rs. 9 per kilogram...*(Interruptions)*

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Sir, when I rise to speak in the House all the rules are applied on us but when he is speaking, the rules are set aside ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You cannot direct the Chair. Please sit done. You have been elected to this House for the first time. Please go through the rules.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Wheat is available at Rs. 4 per kilogram in the market. As such even not a single grain of wheat was sold through Public Distribution System. Subsequently, price of wheat under the Public Distribution System was raised to Rs. 6.10 per kilogram and even then wheat is being sold at rate of Rs. 5 to 6 per kilogram in the market. Sugar quota under the Public Distribution System for the people above the poverty line has been discontinued. It was decided that wheat would be made available to the people living below the poverty line at the rate of Rs. 2.50 to Rs. 3.00 per kilogram but that too could not be done.

The Government have fixed rate of wheat as Rs. 4.50 per kilogram but same is available at the rate of Rs. 5 per kilogram in the market. No poor fellow can buy wheat at this rate. So off take of foodgrain should be stopped ...*(Interruptions)*. You have almost done away with the Public Distribution System.

Sir, more than six crore tonnes of foodgrain is stored in the godowns. How much subsidy has been given for storage of these foodgrains and how much subsidy would be required to distribute this stock amongst the poor? It may be noted that the storage of these foodgrains required more subsidy whereas less subsidy would have been required for distributing this stock amongst the poor. . . *(Interruptions)*. Poor people are on the verge of starvation. On the one hand foodgrain is not available to the poor for sustaining and on other hand foodgrain is rotting in the godowns. The Annapurna scheme as well as Antyodaya scheme of the Government has failed. At the time of launching of the Antyodaya scheme the Government have said that six crore families in the country are living below the poverty line. The Government says poorest of the poor . . . *(Interruptions)*

I would like to know from the Government that as to how the Government would identify the poorest of the poor out of the people living below the poverty line. On this very account this scheme failed all over the country and off take of foodgrain was negligible under these schemes. The godowns of the Food Corporation of India are overflowing and therefore, the Government do not want to procure foodgrain. That is why irregularities are being committed in procurement. The Government are in favour of doing away with the minimum support price system itself. It will

not be a wise decision. If anti-farmers and anti-poor policies are adopted what will be the fate of the country?

Sir, the Agriculture Minister should reply as to why gross injustice has been done to Bihar? During the Ninth Five Year Plan Rs. 5000 crore were spent under the centrally sponsored schemes. Bihar constitutes the one tenth of the area of the country and our share should be Rs. 500 crore but only Rs. 55 crore has been sanctioned to Bihar. During the Ninth Five Year Plan only Rs. 25 crore were released. This should also be replied to. Injustice is being done to Bihar. Bihar is called the poverty stricken state. The farmers and labourers of Bihar have save Rs. 37 thousand crores to the economy of the country. Indian economy is much dependent on the revenue earning from Bihar. Just now Shri Raghunath Jhaji was saying that no arrangement were made to control flood in Bihar. No agreement was reached between India and Nepal in this regard ...*(Interruptions)*. A provision of Rs. 300-400 crore was made to deal with the problem of drought but even not a single penny was given to Bihar to deal with drought and flood situation in the State. You should reply to this ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, there are milk producing farmers in Bihar. Milk is being supplied at cheap rate from Bihar to Delhi. Why the milk produced in Bihar is not being supplied to Kolkata instead of Delhi despite Kolkata being nearer to Patna. The Government should reply to this as to why the decision was taken to supply milk at cheaper rate to Delhi instead of Kolkata. Who were vested interest behind this decision? Injustice is being done to the milk producing farmers of Bihar ...*(Interruptions)*

The artificial insemination centres have been closed down. The Government have assured in the technology mission that all the centres would be restarted, but nothing has been done in this regard so far ...*(Interruptions)*. This is the anti-poor and anti-farmer government. This Government cannot do any good for the farmers, therefore, this Government will have to go on the issue of the farmers.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, an important discussion has been initiated by hon'ble Shri Basu Deb Achara and several distin

[Shri Prahlad Singh Patel]

guished members who are expert in this subject have participated in the discussion before me. I hail from Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh. There is a local saying that when the Jackal feels cold he howls but by the morning he forgets it. Issue of farmers has not come up for discussion for the first time. We have spent 50 important years of our independence and we are proud of some of our achievements but the high yield which we had dreamt in the field of agriculture has become a curse for us. I urge upon all the hon'ble Members to seriously ponder over this issue collectively. We have to decide which of the policies are creating problems for farmers today and which policy has led to misery of farmers. Today farmers have achieved surplus production, now they face the problem of storage and selling. It is not true of all foodgrains but farmers are on the verge of committing suicide due to surplus production of wheat and rice.

When Nitish Kumarji was the Minister of Agriculture he brought forward the Agriculture Policy in this House and the same was adopted by the House. I want to thank the Government for that. But when it is time for implementation of the policy and farmers are ready with their crops then only the Government feel worried. We remain a silent spectator when they suffer a loss. It could be a matter of debate as to who was responsible for it and to what extent. I don't want to go into that today.

As far as the Government are concerned, they brought forward the Bio-diversity Bill and it was very important question relating to the farmers but even well educated farmers are not aware of it. The government brought the Plant variety Bill. But we have not bothered ourselves about it. I had raised an issue during the last session that one agriculture Channel should be there in our country. But I don't think that any effort is being made in this direction. When we talk of a channel for agriculture then it links the farmers with the policies of the government directly. We will not be able to compensate for the lopsided progress we have made.

I hail from paddy growing area. If a farmer has 200 quintals of paddy right now then mandi or society or federation is not ready to procure it. I can comment on this but I feel that this is not the right time to do so. At present farmers do not have electricity or diesel as a source of

energy. I would like to ask that if he dose not has electricity or diesel then how would he undertake farming? My Narsinghpur area is the most fertile area in Asia but I do not feel very proud of it because though this area does not need fertilizers yet the water table has fallen to such an extent that farmers cannot get second crop. When my region is in such a state then I do not think farmers of other regions would be in better condition. We have increased our production but at what cost it was done? The investment made by the farmers and returns he got is behind suicides by farmers. The Government have increased the minimum support price for which the Government deserve congratulations but the farmers are not getting the support price. Today the support price for paddy ranges between Rs. 522 to 540 but what actually they are getting is not more then Rs. 360 to 362. One of our hon'ble Members from Madhya Pradesh who is not present at the moment, blamed the FCI for it in his speech. I have said that societies and federations should do procurement but it has come to notice that farmers suffered a loss as traders were not ready to buy their foodgrains. Farmers have got foodgrains but it cannot be sold. Who will streamline this marketing system? No thought is given to mixed farming in our region. Attention should be given to promote mixed farming.

18.00 hrs.

We started a campaign in the field of production at first, particularly regarding wheat and paddy which turned out to be a campaign of our distruction. This campaign resulted in surplus production of wheat. We should ponder over it. Should we be prepared for doom just because we have bumper crop? Today, what is happening in Punjab and Haryana? I know about four states namely Chhattisgarh, MP, Haryana and Punjab where bumper crop of wheat is a reason for suicide by farmers because we have hiked the cost of inputs but failed to give proper returns. We charged higher rates of interest from the farmers. Later on farmers could not get the support price. That is why, the farmers were forced to commit suicide. We have disturbed the crop cycle, who is responsible for that? Natural calamity caused the damage. The crop was damaged by hailstorm and frost. The drought code dates back to British period. Per hectare foodgrains produced during that period is applicable as a scale even today. Our production has gone up but the drought code has not changed. Method

of compensation is also age old....(Interruptions) When the issue of farmers is raised we go for a long discussion. They suffer losses due to natural calamities. The scale for its assessment as also the drought code dates back to 1937 or even before that. Per hectare foodgrains produced at that time is a scale for us even now. We have increased our production ten folds since then but the scale of damage is not being changed. If the damage is not more than 37 percent then compensation will not be given and the same will not be treated as loss of crop. Thereafter compensation is fixed and if loss of crop is considered then in case of complete loss of crop Rs. 100 per hectare will be given. No effort was made to change this situation during the last fifty years. I have been elected to this House for the third time. In 1996, I gave notice of the question of "Anawari" (drought). I was asked as to what did it mean? I was taken aback by this question. The scale fixed in this regard is not rational. We have neither domestic nor global market for our produce. We raise finger at each other on the issue of storage capacity. Union and State Government have the joint responsibility for storage but they make allegation against each other. This cannot solve the problem. My area borders Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh. What was the condition of paddy during last year in Punjab? Rice was auctioned in the open market and was sent to Vidarbha, Maharashtra, where it was respolished. Thereafter, that rice was given as a levy.

I belong to Madhya Pradesh. By 1st of October, levy policy should have been decided there but by 9th of November levy policy was not decided because everybody wants his share. I think that in case of paddy the same policy would be in effect in other States also. On the one hand farmers give their paddy for procurement and on the other hand rice mills and traders purchase that paddy and sell rice to the farmers. It has never happened till date that first of all paddy is procured and then it is given to farmers after shelling. All good quality paddy is procured by traders and they do not give remunerative price to farmers. Traders do purchasing below the support price. That is why farmers do not get reasonable price for their crops. As a result, the farmers suffer. For such a situation, the Union Government is held responsible but both the Union as well as State Government are responsible for it. The farmers cannot be ignored. We have to ponder over it.

I want to make three submissions to the Government. I have already spoken about an independent agriculture channel. This demand should be accepted. When there can be a sports channel then why not there be an agriculture channel? We should have to be in touch with the affairs of farmers keeping in view the changed situation of the world. Mr. Chairman Sir, my demand is that this should be a totally Government owned channel not the one like Prasar Bharti Board so that if we want to change the crop cycle in the country in changed situation we can do so. We cultivate certain specific crops in eastern region of country, coconut is grown in Kerala and paddy and wheat in north India. Likewise in some parts of the country pulses or oilseeds are cultivated. The same crop is not cultivated all over the country. Therefore, if you want the welfare of farmers then utilise the services of a Government channel.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the end, I urge upon the Government that the damage by natural calamities are covered under insurance. The State Governments have made a mockery of insurance process. I would like to cite an example of Madhya Pradesh. Drought Report was sought in 1997 for three years but the State Government did not give report regarding the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme because it would have been binding on them. We do not want to calculate the loss suffered by farmers. The fact has to be accepted. Just now, the brother of the Chief Minister of our State was speaking and he was telling us some good things about Krishi Mandies. What has he done there? Farmers were paying 80 paise per quintal but now they have to pay Rs. 1.50. He told that farmers were paying excess amount so that those villages which were not linked with mandis could be connected with mandis but this has not happened. Instead, all the money has been kept in a pool and with that money the Public Works Department is constructing roads. Such people should be punished. My request is that contradicting things have become a regular feature, which should be stopped.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, a good discussion has been held on this topic but we should not be prejudiced in our approach. It is not in the interest of farmers to raise their high hopes and aspirations. If we talk in straight forward manner on their concerns then it would be better for them.

[English]

18.06 hrs.

STATEMENT RE : COMPANIES (AMENDMENT)  
ORDINANCE-LAID

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table of the House an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for immediate

legislation by the Companies (Amendment) Ordinance, 2001.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 23rd November, 2001 at 11 a.m.

18.07 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, November 23, 2001/ Arahayana 2, 1923 (saka).*

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