

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Seventh Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, August 20, 2001/Sravana 29, 1923 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the occasion of 54th anniversary of independence, trade and these belonging to minority community were beaten in Uttar Pradesh on the instructions of the State Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, this is too much.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 381—Shri Chandrakant Khair—Absent.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 382—Shri Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy—Absent.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 383.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh, this is too much.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Akhileshji, what are you doing? This is not 'Zero Hour'.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do you follow any rule? You are doing so everyday. You sit down, please.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Akhileshji, you sit down please. This is the Question Hour.

11.03 hrs.

At this stage Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and other hon. Members came and stood near the Table at the floor of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh, please go back to your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh, do not force me to name you.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

11.04 hrs.

At this stage Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and some other hon. Members of the House went back to their seats.

MR. SPEAKER: Mulayam Singhji, you tell the Members of your party that they should not raise the issue during Question Hour everyday, better raise it in Zero Hour.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): I have given Adjournment Motion, you must allow Shri Akhilesh to speak on it...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are doing the same in Question Hour everyday. If it is important then speak it during Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Akhileshji's behaviour is not proper, hence I have been saying repeatedly, that if you have any problem then raise it in Zero Hour.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: You please do not consider Adjournment Motion under these rules. I also know rules...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you have any problem, raise it in Zero Hour.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I am speaking according to rules. I want to say that I am ready to raise the matter in Zero Hour, if you agree to listen to it in Zero Hour.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I will listen during Zero Hour, but why do you keep on coming to the well, this is not right.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I follow the rules and you are also bound to follow rules, hence you must suspend the Question Hour.

MR. SPEAKER: It will be suspended also if the time comes.

11.05 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Performance of Sports Persons

*383. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the performance of Indian sports persons in the international meets have neither been satisfactory nor encouraging during the last one decade;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to remove bottlenecks impeding excellent performance such as faulty selection of players, malnutrition of sports persons, below standard training, lack of international level of sports infrastructure etc. to regain lost glory in the fields of Hockey, Wrestling, Boxing, Cricket etc.?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (KUMARI UMA BHARATI): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The performance levels of Indian sports persons has not been as encouraging as expected. However, there has been an improvement over the years in their performance. The process to improve the standard of sports is slow but has already started yielding promising results. New national records are being created every year in several disciplines. During the Sydney Olympics held in 2000, India for the first time had 7 sports persons/teams which ranked in the first ten.

(b) Severe financial constraints and the enormity of the challenge of sports promotion and development of sports infrastructure across the country are main reasons for the slow development of sports performance in the country. In addition, the ratio of persons participating in competitive sports is low leading to lesser competition and consequently lower performance. Food habits, culture and environment, and motivation apart from scientific training, availability of latest up-to-date equipment and infrastructure facilities play a crucial role in deciding the level of performance of a sports person.

* Not recorded.

(c) In order to improve the standard of Indian sportspersons, it is essential that the resource allocation for sports be substantially increased both for overall development of sports and for achieving excellence. In addition to this, the following steps are being taken for improving the performance of Indian sportspersons in International sports events:

1. As per the Government Policy and Olympic Charter, the National Sports Federations, recognized by the Government are primarily responsible for the promotion of their disciplines. The National Sports Federations have formulated Long Term Development Plans (LTDPs) covering various aspects, in consultation, *inter-alia*, with the Sports Authority of India. The National Sports Federations are being assisted in arranging coaching camps for sports persons included in the National Teams, with the help of Indian and Foreign Coaches, provision of requisite equipment and scientific support through the Sports Authority of India.
2. The Federations are also assisted in holding National level championships and in sending promising sports persons for participation in International Sports Events.
3. Promising sports persons are being provided a package of assistance (up to Rs. 5 lakhs per year) for training and up-gradation of their skills. Supporting personnel, as coaches and sports scientists, are also being assisted to undergo specialized training.
4. The National Coaching Scheme is being activated by assigning target-oriented duties to coaches.
5. Assistance is being provided for creation of sports infrastructure, including laying of Synthetic Surfaces.
6. With a view to further motivate the sports persons, Awards and incentives are provided; the scale of Awards has been increased substantially.

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my original question has been replaced by his Minister. In the first para of reply she has said:

[English]

"During Sydney Olympics held in 2000, India for the first time, had 7 sportspersons/team which ranked in the first ten."

[Translation]

Hon. Minister the countries with a population of less than one crore win gold medals. You are feeling very proud to say that we have attained tenth position. All the sportsperson and youth in the country are concerned that our performance is declining. You have tried to project in your reply that we are improving. The issue of saffornisation of sports in the country is being hotly debated presently and you are trying to saffornise it with maximum effort. I would like to ask my original question to you. The permanent and well known athletes of our country has accused the Government of introducing the culture of corruption and interference of politics in sports instead of giving priority to merit. I would like to know the reply of hon. Minister in this regard?

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in response to the Question the hon. Member has asked I would like to say that no such thing as the interference of politics in sports and change of important decisions in sports has been taking place as has been accused by several athletes and prominent sportspersons. I also share the sentiment of the House that our performance in Olympics is not worth feeling proud. However seven of our players performed well at Olympics and we should try to encourage them by respecting and eulogising their efforts. However in response to the comparison of our country's performance in sports to that having a population of one crore in regard to which he has said that even such country win gold medals in Olympics, I would like to submit to the hon. Member and the entire House to have a glimpse at the sports budget of our country as well as at the sports budget of other such countries. It will enable them to understand the root cause of problem.

[Translation]

SHRI J.S. BRAR: My question is that this allocation should be raised.

[English]

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Who is responsible for the budget? You are responsible for it...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Kumari Uma Bharati, you have to reply to Shri Brar's supplementary now, and not to any other hon. Member's supplementary.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to request all the hon'ble Members that they have been provided with facility to MPLADS and if out of it only 10 percent annually...(Interruptions)

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Umaji, please do not say like that...You always go a little far. Please give a straight reply to the question.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: If it is required to be done for developing infrastructure for sports or to increase sports facilities for sportspersons...(Interruptions). I am making a request here and not exerting any pressure. Mr. Speaker sir, I would like to make one more point here that it is not that the performance of sports persons will improve by increasing the budget only. But I would like to state here that I am responsible to reply to your question, however, the authority in this regard is vested with the federation. This question was also raised during tenure of the Minister belonging to your political party that unless the subject of sports is incorporated in the concurrent list we cannot take measures for improving the sports in the country particularly the performance of the sports persons. I, therefore, would like to urge all the leaders of different political parties, who are present here in this House that we cannot be held responsible without providing necessary powers to us in this regard and it can not be that we would be held responsible but authority is vested with the federation. We support that federation should be given autonomy but we will be able to make our contribution in improving performance of sports persons if sports is brought under the concurrent list.

Mr. Speaker Sir, my second submission is that all the political parties should cooperate us for bringing sports under the concurrent list. The Government equipped with necessary authority would bear the responsibility for bringing about better performance of sports persons in the country. I agree with the hon'ble Member that performance of sports persons was good but performance of India was poor, we should not be proud of that. Some more measures should also be taken to improve performance of India and we are ceaselessly striving in this direction.

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a topic of debate among athletes and sports persons of our country that their pace of progress is quite low and foreign professional coaches who can accelerate it, charge high perks. It is the need of the hour to hire foreign coaches for those categories of sport where they are required. My second point is that

[English]

'Charity begins at home.'

[Translation]

Madam, if you contribute Rs. 2 crore from your allotment received under MPLADS to sports persons then as an M.P. I promise to give my whole amount received under MPLADS for this purpose but you are making an appeal to all the MPs for it and I would like to say that the Government should provide funds for this purpose. My last of shoot question is that the eminent athlete Milkha Singh has levelled serious allegations of saffronisation against you and PMO and what is your reaction to that?

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker Sir, Shri Milkha Singh has stated on T.V. yesterday that he had not mentioned that name of Prime Minister and he is mentioning the name of Prime Minister time and again. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI J.S. BRAR: That was stated by Milkha Singhji. I do not know as to why Malhotraji reacts in this manner. Perhaps he does not know as to why such reaction has come. ... (Interruptions)

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Mr. Speaker Sir, first of all I would like to make it clear that I have not stated for contributing the whole allocation of Rs. 2 crore but only 10 percent which works out to be Rs. 20 lakh. In the context of the second point about saffronisation, I would like to say that.

[English]

Saffron is a very good colour. Saffron is the colour of sunrise.

[Translation]

Which is manifestation to the effect that the dark night has come to an end and the sun has risen.

[English]

Saffronisation is something to be very proud of.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: It is the same colour at the time of sunset...(Interruptions)

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Black is not considered to be a good colour however saffron is considered to be a good colour...*(Interruptions)* In context of the second point raised by the hon'ble Member, I would like to say that we hire foreign coaches in those disciplines of sports where we hope to win medals and foreign coaches could assist us. Mr. Speaker sir, now we are adopting different strategy. In our country several ex-sportsmen have become coaches. The earlier circumstances were different and you must be aware of it. Now we are trying to train Indian coaches as experts in sports culture, sports medicines and other disciplines like foreign coaches. A scheme has also been mooted for it, we will send Indian coaches abroad for training but only in those discipline of sports where we are in a position to win medals.

We hire foreign coaches when sportspersons and federations demand for them. I can cite examples when we have made arrangements of foreign coaches on the demand made by sports persons. Recently Abhinav Bindra of Punjab sent a demand to provide foreign coach that could help him in winning medals at the Olympics and we made that arrangements. At times I accept their demand while overlooking various rules in a hope that they would put up a better performance.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the third point is that the allegations made out against the PMO of interference in awarding the Arjuna Award are baseless, mischievous, deceitful and politically motivated. In this House I wholly discount these allegations.

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: Mr. Speaker Sir, I am the only sports person of international level in this House. Through you and on behalf of sportspersons I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister that while any sportsperson comes back to India after winning medals abroad he or she is received with all fanfare and is given plot of land and money by both Central and State Governments as has been done in the case of Smt. Malleshwari, whether any scheme has been formulated for assisting a fresher who wishes to represent India and wants to make a mark at international level. Secondly I would like to know about poor performance of our sportsmen at international level. Whether the Government or the federation as accused by the players is responsible for it?

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Sir, I would say 'yes' in response to the first question asked by the hon. Member.

I want that the players should be encouraged from the very beginning throughout their career span in sports and he should always be lauded and honoured for his performance. Players should be provided full protection and facilities to improve their performance. As far the second question asked by the hon. Member is concerned, I have been repeatedly saying and I would like to reiterate today in the presence of all the Members of main opposition parties that the Government is not at all against the autonomy of federations. In fact we want that the federation should be made more autonomous and their functioning more transparent and responsible. However at the same time if there federations indulge in irregularities then they should be taken to task. We are bound to take action against the erring federations. Hence the responsibility of improving the performance of the federation rests with the federations and not with the Government. The Government provides as much assistance to the federations as they require but the Government is not responsible for the performance of the players, it is the sports federations which are responsible for it.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, our country's population is 1,000 million. Hon. Minister has just now said that since it comes under the State List, it is very difficult to provide funds. Even agriculture, drinking water and sanitation come under the State List, but the Centre provides a lot of funds to the States to these areas. With an allocation of Rs. 100 crore, how can the Government achieve all its objectives? It is very difficult to improve the performance in sports with the meagre budget allocation. This allocation is not sufficient to implement all the schemes of the Ministry. I would like to know as to what steps the Government have taken for increasing the budget allocation in this Ministry.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Sir, I would like to thank the hon. Member for raising this question for it will also boost my morale. I would like to apprise the House that in this context I have submitted to the hon. Minister of Education in the House verbally as well as in writing also. Moreover, the Tenth Five Year Plan is also being prepared and my Ministry has also put forward a proposal that at least 10 per cent of the total budget of the Ministry of Education should be secured for infrastructure in sports.

You might remember that during the last session also, a special mention to this effect was made in the House. Had the hon. Members expressed their opinion at that time, this proposal could have been given conclusive shape that 10 per cent of the total budgetary allocation for education should be reserved for improving the infrastructure on sports. I don't want that the budgetary allocation for my portfolios should be enhanced however I certainly want that 10 per cent of the total budgetary allocation earmarked for education should be reserved for the infrastructure in sports. A proposal to this effect was also submitted by my Ministry at the time of preparation of the draft of Tenth Five Year Plan. We have already written to the Minister of Education in this regard and waiting for his reply.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fully share the concern expressed by the hon. Minister. Certainly, the Sports Minister of India is not at all responsible for the performance of the players in any discipline and for that, only the Olympic fraternity, the sports federations are answerable and accountable to the Government and the nation. I would like to inform, through you, the hon. Minister one thing. The skills in the Olympic disciplines, both in team and individual events, which were there 20 years before, were totally amateur. But in the last two decades, all the Olympic disciplines, both team and individual events, have been totally professionalised and India is still languishing with amateur skills, as a result of which, India cannot cope with even the emerging nations whose players have become thorough professionals. Is the hon. Minister aware of this?

Secondly, will the hon. Minister, therefore, appoint a Task Force to identify as to which are the disciplines that require to be professionalised to meet international standards and also to see what kind of professional coaches are required in the country for this purpose? I can tell you, with my experience, that a football coach of the United Arab Emirates is paid \$20,000, but I cannot afford to pay him even \$2,000. So, professionalism must be introduced in every discipline. I would like to mention here for the information of the House that the only top player in any Olympic discipline in India in the last 100 years has been exported to Europe and he is Baichung Bhutia. Then, last month, Shri Sukhwinder Singh has been declared as the Coach of the Month in the whole of Asia. These men have developed their skills only through their own efforts by getting training from abroad. Will the

Minister, therefore, decide, through the Task Force, as to which are the games that should be treated on professional lines and which are the disciplines that should be treated on amateur lines? Otherwise, we have not future. Will the Minister consider this?

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Thank you, Sir, this question has an element of guidance and suggestion in it. I had convened a meeting of the federation two months back to consider over the ways to improve the performance in sports. We had invited suggestions of the federations at that time. We have already been contemplating upon suggestion made by the hon. Member and I would like to express my thanks to him for his suggestion. Sir, through you, I commit to this House and to the hon. Members that we would soon set up a task force to consider the various suggestions ever by hon. Members. Hon. Member will also be given the responsibility in this task force for he is the President of a renowned sports federation in India and we all will share this responsibility collectively. We will chalk out a programme as per the report of the task force and implement the same.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has said in her reply that the performance of the Indian players is not very encouraging in the international arena. She also stressed that the Government don't have much authority to interfere in regard to improving the level of performance of players. If it is so what can be done by us to achieve the same? It has been seen that though the Government has taken a lot of steps to promote sports and improve the performance, not enough attention has been paid to nurture the natural talent of the young sportsperson in the countryside. For example no facility of training or any other incentive has been offered to the people belonging to Saini clan who have a natural aptitude for swimming. I am of the opinion that the reason for lack of good performance is the negligence on the part of the Government in providing training facilities etc. in rural areas where eighty per cent of our population reside and a lot of natural talent and vast potential is hidden among them as compared to the urban areas where all kinds of infrastructure has been laid. I would like to know whether the Government wants to formulate any sports promotion scheme for the rural areas and provide all kinds of facilities like material and training etc. so that the hidden talent in sports lying unrecognised in the rural areas may come to the fore and to India proud in the international arena?

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to apprise the hon. Member and the House that my remark related to dismal Indian performance in sports was meant for Olympics alone because in other sporting events like Commonwealth games, Asian games etc. and other individual games and performances of the sports person such as Abhinav Indira, Gopichand, Viswanathan Anand, Leander Paes etc. have done the country proud. It is only in the Olympic that we have not been able to do well.

Many other players have done India proud in many other games except Olympics. Second thing which has been said by the hon. Member is that how can they cooperate and assert in improving the performance of the country in sports. I would like to say that the cooperation lies in your hands for I have seen that the Minister from Bihar did not give his concurrence to our proposals in the previous two meetings of the sports Ministers. If we get the support of Janata Dal or Samajwadi party also as we have already got the oral support of the Congress for one proposal then we may also get the support from States as those States are controlled by your parties. What I said is literally true. I am saying that. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Congress Party has not given its support to you officially, it may be the personal opinion of an hon. Member. We don't want to snatch the powers of the States...(*Interruptions*)

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Margaret Alvaji supported us here. Second thing which you have said...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, what about the rural sports persons?

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: There are three parts of the question. So, I am giving the answers accordingly. The third part of the question is whether the rural sports persons are to be encouraged or not.

[*Translation*]

I wanted to come to that point. I would like to tell hon. Raghuvanshi that I have also a rural background like him. As soon as I came to know about our dismal performance in swimming, I have been thinking in terms of extending enough training facilities etc. in rural areas because the children belonging to some castes/subcastes like Nishads, Kevats and Mallahas etc. in villages are

capable of becoming leading swimmers in the world if, they are provided with proper training and facilities. Hence in view of this thing, I have been making full preparations to prepare good athletes among the rural folks especially those belonging to Adivasis areas and backward communities like Nishads, Kevats and Mallahas etc. in archery and swimming disciplines by launching various programmes at district, State and National level for accomplishing the same. I assure the hon. Member that it would be the endeavour of the Government to prepare athletes and nurture the talent among the children in rural areas so that they may do India proud in international sporting arena and could also raise standard of living.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: When the Government provides assistance and encouragement to the village sportsmen, Bihar will also extend its support to you.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: We have prepared a comprehensive rural sports promotion scheme, you must give us your support and concurrence from the side of Bihar.

[*English*]

Minimum Wages to Beedi Workers

*386. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to protect the Beedi workers from the exploitation by the employers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether minimum wages has been fixed for the Beedi workers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Government have enacted the Beedi & Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966, to protect the beedi workers from exploitation of the employers. This Act regulates the conditions of employment in the beedi and cigar industry and lays

down responsibilities on the employers in regard to various facilities to be provided to the beedi workers like cleanliness, sanitation, drinking water, ventilation, creches, washing facilities, first aid, canteen. It also prescribes the hours of work, wages for overtime work, interval for rest, weekly holidays, wages during leave period etc. It empowers the State Governments to frame rules in regard to various matters including on the manner in which sorting or rejection of beedis and disposal of rejected beedis is to be carried out, the fixation of maximum limit of the percentage of the rejection of beedis, manner of payment of wages, supervision by the inspectors over distribution of raw materials, settlement of disputes etc. Implementation of the above Act and the Rules made thereunder is done by the State Governments.

Also, under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, beedi making is included as a schedule employment in the State sphere. State Governments are the appropriate Governments to fix and revise minimum wages and enforce payment thereof including overtime working hours, authorized deductions etc. The officers appointed as Inspectors conduct regular inspections and advise the employers to make the payment of shortfall in the event of non-payment or less payment of minimum wages. There are legal and penal actions provided in the Act against the defaulting employers.

(c) and (d) A statement showing the rates of minimum wages currently prevailing in the concerned States is given in the Annexure enclosed.

Annexure

Statement showing the minimum Wages for Beedi Workers (State-wise)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Minimum Wages per thousand beedis (In Rupees)	Minimum Rates per day (In Rupees)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	44.00	—
2.	Assam	38.80	—
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	39.87	—
4.	Bihar	52.39	—
5.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	80.00
6.	Daman & Diu	—	50.00
7.	Gujarat	73.80	—
8.	Karnataka	—	58.29
9.	Kerala	132.50	—
10.	Madhya Pradesh	49.04	—
11.	Maharashtra	50.00	—
12.	Orissa	—	42.50
13.	Rajasthan	86.05	—
14.	Tripura	43.95	—
15.	Tamil Nadu	52.78	—
16.	Uttar Pradesh	—	59.62
17.	West Bengal	79.14	—

SHRI A. NARENDRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the last session, the Beedi Worker Welfare Bill was passed, under which a decision was taken to deduct one rupee from the salary of beedi workers in place of earlier practice of deducting 50 paise. I want to know about the facilities being provided to them with that one rupee. As per the answer, they are being provided many facilities, but the said facilities are not being availed by the workers in factories. Does the Government have any scheme to provide them facilities and also a regulating authority to oversee the management. Second part of my question relates to the intention of the Government to introduce mini cigarettes in place of beedis. If that is done, lakhs of workers will feel distressed since they depend on beedi for their livelihood and they have no other work to do. Thus, I want to know the Government's views on the issue.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, basically the question relates to checking the exploitation of beedi workers from the hands of their employers and also to paying them a minimum wage. Besides, he has also asked about the welfare schemes being implemented from the cess imposed by the Government on their wages since no results have been witnessed so far. I want to inform the hon. Member that at present the total number of beedi workers in the country is about 44 lakh. For such a huge population, the total amount received from the cess, is not adequate. In spite of that, Government provides them medical care by opening hospitals and dispensaries. Four hospitals have so far been constructed and 210 dispensaries are being run. The four hospitals are located at Dhuliyan in West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Karma in Jharkhand and at Mysore. Some more hospitals are being constructed. Lakhs of workers in beedi sector are being provided medical care. Most of the beedi workers work in their houses. Beedi production work in industrial sheds is minimal. Their children, who also work with them, are given scholarships. We also construct houses for beedi workers. The amount of assistance for construction of each house has been increased to Rs. 20,000. But the cess being received by us is not adequate and as a result medical facilities are not available adequately. A number of hon. Members have requested the Ministry for construction of hospitals and houses. In order to accomplish this task, the earlier cess of thirty paise was increased to fifty, then to rupee one and finally to Rs. 5 after getting it approved by the Parliament. But we are now reducing it to Rs. 2. We will be able to provide more facilities when this amount comes to us.

SHRI A. NARENDRA: There are lakhs of beedi workers in Andhra Pradesh. They do not have houses to live. They have not been given identity cards by the Government. Because of a number of irregularities, their money is being used for their exploitation only and they are not even getting wages. In Kerala, the wage for rolling per thousand beedis is Rs. 132, in Gujarat it is Rs. 73, in Rajasthan it is Rs. 86, but in Andhra Pradesh, where there are lakhs of beedi workers, they get only Rs. 44. I want to know from the hon. Minister the reasons of this amount being so low and also whether Government have formulated any scheme to ensure higher wages to them?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the responsibility of fixing rates of Beedi lies with the State Governments. Each State has fixed a minimum rate in view of the local conditions. The rate of rolling 1000 beedis has been fixed at Rs. 38.80 in Assam, Rs. 39.87 in Arunachal Pradesh, Rs. 52.39 in Bihar, Rs. 73.80 in Gujarat, Rs. 132.50 in Kerala, Rs. 49.04 in Madhya Pradesh, Rs. 50 in Maharashtra, Rs. 86.05 in Rajasthan and Rs. 52.78 in Tamil Nadu. Thus, the responsibility for fixing the wages lies with the State Governments and they have full freedom in this regard. It is not our task. But if all the States agree, we can look into the aspect of formulating a uniform policy ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: As the hon. Minister said, 90% of the beedi production takes place within the household and we all know that the provisions of Factory Act do not apply to them. Thus, the big beedi companies escape the purview of Factories Act. What are you doing in this regard? Therefore, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards the second part of the question relating to providing adequate funds to various States for the provision of housing facilities. Beedis are manufactured in houses and the companies escape of regulation by Labour Officers as provided under Factories Act. What efforts are being made to plug this loophole. Further, I also want to ask about the funds given for the housing needs of beedi workers of Madhya Pradesh and also name of the places which are being covered?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Actually, it is the State Government which proposes the number of houses to be constructed for beedi workers. When such proposals reach the Union Government, we start the construction work. The responsibility of giving identity cards to the beedi workers is that of the employer, but they are not doing it. The dispensaries meant for beedi workers can

also give them identity cards but, as I have said, they have limited numbers and do not cover all the workers. This task should be done by the employer. It is not possible for us to give identity cards to all of them in the absence of proper identification. We approve the construction of houses, if we receive proposals for it. For example, a proposal has come from Jawara in Madhya Pradesh and we have approved it.

[English]

SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM: In Vellore district, thousands of beedi workers are in pitiable condition. Entire families are engaged in Beedi making. They are suffering from a number of diseases. They do not have proper housing and hospital facilities. I would like to know whether there is any scheme in Vellore district to construct houses and enough hospitals.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: We will consider this proposal and in case of the availability of funds, we will certainly implement it.

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: The hon. Minister cannot exempt himself and his Ministry from the interest of the workers. There is a Labour Minister and the Central Government; there is a Central Labour Commissioner also. So, it is the duty of the Central Government to stop exploitation of workers.

I would like to inform the hon. Minister that beedi workers are mainly female employees when they do work at home. There are child labourers too. It is here that the duty of the Central Government starts. The minimum wage per beedi and the minimum wage per day are applicable only to the workers working in the factories. So, the interest of the female employees, particularly those coming from the weaker sections of the society, who work at home has to be protected. Gujarat gives tobacco to South Indian States and beedis are manufactured in great number in Andhra Pradesh and other States.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Central Labour Commissioner will take care of the workers working at home when the female and the child workers are exposed to the disabilities arising out of working with tobacco which is just near to their death.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: As has been stated by the hon. Member majority of women are engaged in doing this sort of work and the percentage of women force is 65.9 per cent. The children are not allowed to do that work. The tendu leaves for manufacturing beedi are required to be processed to clear the modules and warts on their surface. The children who are engaged in beedi manufacturing at one stage or the other *i.e.* rolling of beedis, making bundles etc. at their residences cannot be counted among those child labourers who are engaged in beedi manufacturing industry. As this industry provides opportunities of employment to these children, ousting of the children completely from this industry will create problems. We have also declared that tobacco is injurious to health. In view of the health hazards posed by the tobacco products consumption and the subsequent risk of their losing their means of livelihood, we will have to take such steps that their source of livelihood could also be saved besides protecting their health. We try to make available maximum funds to the hospitals and dispensaries to make available best medical facilities for protecting their health. We try to meet the requirements of this sector. However, the cess collected is very less. Only two rupees are being taken and what could be done with such a margin amount. The Commissioner who is also the welfare officer can certainly take welfare measures but the real responsibility to implement the law for checking exploitation rests with the State Governments. I would like to submit that the State Government should think in terms of rehabilitating the beedi workers, majority of whom are women. The Government has been providing a sum of twenty thousand rupees to the beedi workers for housing for the same and if anybody takes and grant of Rs. 20,000 is also given by the State Government on additional loan of Rs. 20000 then the total amount of workers comes to Rs. 60000 and with the amount a good house can be constructed. It is upto the State Government to take whatever welfare measures it can take for beedi workers. It is all I want to say in this regard.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, in Kerala, the beedi industry is a flourishing trade and in our State a sum of Rs. 132 is given for making one thousand beedis. It is mainly in the cooperative sector. Thousands of workers form a cooperative, make beedi in their

respective homes and the Society collects it from them and sells it in the market. So far, we had no problem. But the hon. Minister may please think over a very serious issue, that is, smoking is injurious to health. So, beedi will be thrown out from the market within a short time.

The beedis produced in Kerala were being sold even in Gulf countries and in London too. But they are not permitted to sell them there now because smoking is injurious to health. The United Nations have also taken up the issue and we are also thinking of bringing out a legislation prohibiting smoking in public places.

In that context, I would request the hon. Minister to think about the rehabilitation of these workers, find out some other jobs for them and rehabilitate them in some other way in society because there is no scope for beedi industry as such. It will not thrive now and we are facing that crisis. No beedi is being sold outside; it is sold only in a few places.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your supplementary?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I would request the Central Government to think in terms of rehabilitating the beedi workers in the context of smoking being injurious to health. A worldwide campaign has already been started against smoking. So, I would like to know what steps the Government is taking to save the beedi workers from starvation.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: The hon. Member has expressed his concern for beedi manufacturers and smokers in a balanced manner. Beedis are being manufactured as there is a demand for their consumption. Once beedi smoking is given up then it will render the beedi workers jobless and is a matter of great concern. The Government is certainly in favour of banning the smoking in view of the health hazards like tuberculosis etc. However, the alternative employment avenues must be explored. Though smoking is injurious to health but the people still resort to it despite aggressive advertisement campaign against it. Hence, it is upto the people not to use tobacco and the products like beedis. There should be a total ban on smoking. There are many hurdles in the path of achieving this objective.

There is a clear lack of awareness for enforcement of anti smoking law. As it is a health related subject, therefore, I do not want to speak on it. People smoke beedi or consume tobacco due to lack of awareness. Regarding the second aspect of your concern suggestions are invited in this regard, as how the beedi workers majority of whom are women can be rehabilitated in alternate employment. The Government will definitely look into your suggestions.

[English]

Holiday Packages Prepared by Indian Airlines

*387. SHRIMATI D.M. VIJAYA KUMARI:
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines has prepared holidays packages for promoting its business as well as tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Airlines has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with State Governments in this regard; and

(d) if so, the names of the States and details of the MoUs signed with them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of holiday packages are given in Annexure.

(c) and (d) Indian Airlines has signed MoUs with Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation (RTDC) and

Department of Tourism, Government of Kerala to join hands in taking initiative in promoting tourism. The details are as follows:—

Memorandum of Understanding with the Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation (RTDC)

1. Indian Airlines will tie up with various hotel properties including 'Heritage Hotels' and 'Palace on Wheels' in Rajasthan through RTDC to formalize holiday packages and sleepovers.
2. RTDC will assist in ensuring best rates being offered to Indian Airlines by the respective property and transport operator in developing packages/sleepovers. These rates will be exclusive to Indian Airlines and not offered to any other airlines operating on the common routes.
3. RTDC will appoint Indian Airlines as its GSA subject to executing GSA agreement at all foreign stations where Indian Airlines has an office.
4. Indian Airlines will develop packages to Rajasthan through RTDC, with Palace on Wheels/Heritage Hotels as a central attraction. Indian Airlines and RTDC will jointly promote these packages in India and abroad.
5. Whenever packages/sleepovers will be formalized, Indian Airlines will include RTDC logo in the promotional material produced by it. Similarly, in RTDC produced promotional material, Indian Airlines and Alliance Air logos will be displayed.
6. Indian Airlines will distribute RTDC produced promotional material such as posters etc. for prominent display at its own offices and in its travel agencies.
7. RTDC will make all arrangements in connection with launch of packages. RTDC and Indian Airlines in the mutually agreed proportions will share cost of all such promotions.

Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Tourism, Government of Kerala

1. Indian Airlines will tie up with various hotel properties in Kerala through Department of Tourism, Government of Kerala, to formalize holiday packages and sleepovers.
2. Department of Tourism, Government of Kerala will assist in ensuring best rates being offered to Indian Airlines by the respective property owner in developing packages/sleepovers. These rates will be exclusive to Indian Airlines and not offered to any other airline operating on the common routes.

3. Department of Tourism, Government of Kerala will appoint Indian Airlines as its GSA at all foreign stations where Indian Airlines has an office.
4. Indian Airlines, through Department of Tourism, Government of Kerala will develop special packages to Kerala viz. Health Packages with 'Ayurvedic Therapies' and 'Backwater Packages' as central theme. Indian Airlines and Department of Tourism, Government of Kerala will jointly promote these packages in India and abroad.
5. Whenever packages/sleepovers will be formalized, Department of Tourism, Government of Kerala will include Indian Airlines and Alliance Air logos in the promotional materials produced by it. Similarly, in Indian Airlines produced promotional material Department of Tourism, Government of Kerala logo will be displayed.
6. Indian Airlines will distribute Department of Tourism, Government of Kerala produced promotional materials such as posters etc. for prominent display at its own offices and in its travel agencies.
7. Department of Tourism, Government of Kerala will make all arrangements in connection with the launch of packages. Department of Tourism, Government of Kerala and Indian Airlines in the mutually agreed proportions will share cost of all such promotions.

Future plans: Indian Airlines has made offers of similar nature to the Tourism Departments of the State of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Assam.

Annexure

Existing Holiday Packages offered by Indian Airlines

Indian Airlines has tied up with select hotels at various tourist destinations to provide value add-ons to the passengers.

- **Sleepover Package:** Giving special rates to Indian Airlines Ltd. passengers with the following hotels: Siddharth and Vasant Continental and The Park at Delhi, Holiday Inn and Hotel Ambassador at Mumbai, Hotel Hindustan International and The Park at Calcutta, Radha Park Inn at Chennai, Hotel Ashok and Hotel Atria at Bangalore (Valid till 30th Sept. 2001).

- **Kerala Packages:** Tie up with Taj Group of Hotels, Casino Group Hostels and Alex Resorts. (Valid till 30th Sept. 2001).
- **Holiday Package with Majorda Beach Resort, Whispering Palms, Cidades-Goa and Leela Palace Hotel.** In Goa offer reasonable rates for 3 nights/4 days stay and includes air fare, sight seeing (Valid till 30th Sept. 2001).
- **Bodhgaya Holiday Packages:** Tie up with ITDC (Ashok Bodhgaya). Offers reasonable rates for 3 days/2 nights stay and sightseeing of Nalanda, Rajgir (Valid till 31st Mar. 2001).
- **Jammu Holiday Packages:** Tie up with Hotel Asia, Hotel KC Residency and M/s. Nidhish travels for Helicopter Service (Valid till 30th Sept. 2001).
- **Srinagar Holiday Package:** Tie up with Hotel Grand Palace International in Srinagar for 2 nights/3 days package (Valid till 30th Sept. 2001).
- **Health Package (Fitness Flyaway):** Tie up with Kairall Health Resort for an ayurveda treatment/fitness package ranging from 8 days/7 nights to 15 days/14 nights depending on the programme selected. (Valid till 31st Dec. 2001).
- **Rajasthan Holiday Package:** Tie-up with various star Hotels at Jaipur, Jodhpur and Udaipur for 4 nights/5 days package with 2 circuit option Delhi-Jaipur-Jodhpur-Delhi and Delhi-Jaipur-Udaipur-Delhi Package (Valid till 30th Sept. 2001).

SHRIMATI D.M. VIJAYA KUMARI: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Indian Airlines has signed an MoU with some private travel tourism agencies for holiday packages. If so, kindly give the details in this regard.

[Translation]

PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: We have signed MoUs with some State Governments to promote tourism. The Rajasthan and Kerala Governments are also among them.

[English]

SHRIMATI D.M. VIJAYA KUMARI: Sir, I would like to know whether the Indian Airlines has entered into any such agreement with the Government of Andhra Pradesh for promoting tourism in that State. If not, will the negotiations be started with Andhra Pradesh Government to have such an agreement?

[Translation]

PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Sir, we also want to upgrade our airlines in order to promote tourism. We have tried to sign agreements with those State Governments who have requested for the same. We will be very glad to receive any suggestion and sign MOUs with the Andhra Pradesh Government.

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Sir, in Rajasthan, recently we visited the hotel, 'Lakshmi Palace' in Udaipur, which is one of the prestigious hotels and one of the very good hotels. The union people met us and said that they are going to sell that hotel to the private people. Instead of protecting the Government property, they are going to sell it at the cost of Rs. 30 crore. The actual cost is Rs. 150 crore. I would like to know whether the Government has decided to sell that Hotel at this lowest price instead of protecting it.

In Karnataka, very important tourist places are there. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of Karnataka and the Government of India have any MoU to sign for developing tourism in Karnataka.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you can answer to the second part of his supplementary only.

[Translation]

PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Sir, as far the Kerala Government is concerned we have signed an MoU with it. We want to promote tourism and are ready to take every step to achieve the same. We will also welcome the suggestions of the hon. Member in this regard.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Centre has formulated holiday package schemes with the State Governments of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Assam. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to why the Government did not formulate any such scheme with the Government of Maharashtra? I would like to further ask as to whether the Indian Airlines has been earning profits or not in view of the Government's disinvestment proposals. When the Government is going in for disinvestment in Indian Airlines, I would like to know its Net Worth and the value of its assets?

PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: As far as question regarding Maharashtra is concerned. I have already said that we are signing MoUs with those States from where we have been receiving any request to do so. Now we have decided to write letters to all the State Governments regarding these proposals and will sign MoUs to promote tourism with those States which show their willingness to do so.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the cargo service for exporting vegetables and grapes from Maharashtra could be started by the Government.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is a separate Question.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPLANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the agreements with Indian Airlines have only been signed to promote tourism in those areas where the airports are situated or in other places also. I would further like to know whether the Government intend to develop an airport at Chittorgarh, which is a place of historical significance and it is a long pending demand too. Whether the Government can open an airport at Chittorgarh in future to promote tourism there in view of its agreement with the tourism department of Rajasthan Government. Whether the Government will choose, while signing an agreement with the State Tourism Corporation which...(Interruptions) whether the Government propose to do so?

MR. SPEAKER: This question is not related to airports.

[English]

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Andhra Pradesh is one of the important tourism destination spots. So many tourism spots like in Hyderabad, Charminar, Golkonda fort and Salarjung Museum are there. Likewise, in Visakhapatnam, the Borra Caves are there, Araku Valley is there, Buddhist tourism spots are there. These are not being reached by the Indian Airlines for including them. The Airport facility in Visakhapatnam, which is such an international destination, is not being taken up. It is also necessary. In spite of the best efforts and all the

interest being taken by our hon. Minister of Civil Aviation, Shri Sharad Yadav, very lethargic work is going on in Vizag Airport development. I would like to know whether the Vizag Airport will be upgraded immediately and the tourism spots will be included in the package. Shri Yerrannaidu Garu also wants to know this. Previously, from Visakhapatnam, the flight from Delhi used to be for all the seven days a week. How will the tourists plan if there is no daily flight even for the major places? So, it is also required that everyday flight should be connected from Delhi via Raipur for three days, and four days via Bhubaneshwar, for tourists to come. I would like to have specific answer for this.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Previously, there was a direct flight everyday from Delhi to Visakhapatnam. Now the flight is only for four days. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: We are already discussing the matter with the Government of Andhra Pradesh. I would like to inform the hon. Member that correspondence is going on with the State Government. However, reply has not come. The hon. Member should use his good offices in this regard for expediting the matter.

[English]

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: The House should know what you have written. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Murthi, please take your seat.

Survey on Unemployment

*389. SHRI[†] RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey in regard to problem of unemployment in different States;

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

(c) whether there is large scale migration of labour force from one State to another;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to protect the interest of labours and to create new employment sources in the States?

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (e) Nationwide data on employment, unemployment and labour force are collected by National Sample Survey Organisation from time to time through sample surveys. Last such survey was conducted during 1999-2000. Estimated unemployment rates in various States during 1999-2000 were as given in the Annexure-I.

According to 1991 census, about one crore and eleven lakh persons have been estimated to have migrated out of the States. State-wise details of migration, together with percentage of people migrating for employment are given in Annexure-II.

The Government have taken several steps for the welfare of labourers in the unorganized sector. A large number of existing labour laws like the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970, the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 and Inter-State Migrant Workmen (RE&CS) Act, 1979, the Building and other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 and Building and other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1996 are applicable to the workers in unorganized sector. These Acts look after the interests of the workers in terms of wages, working hours, social security, etc.

9th Plan had accorded priority to productive employment concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterized by higher rates of unemployment and under-employment. Government is also implementing special programmes for eradication of poverty and generation of employment opportunities.

Annexure I

S.No.	State/Union Territory	State-wise unemployment rate*			
		1999-2000			
		Rural		Urban	
		Male	Female	Male	Female
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.2	0.7	4.2	4.2
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.9	0.1	1.4	10.0
3.	Assam	4.7	11.9	9.1	22.3
4.	Bihar	2.4	0.6	7.6	9.4
5.	Goa	7.0	18.7	15.3	35.2
6.	Gujarat	0.8	0.3	2.1	2.6
7.	Haryana	1.3	0.5	2.7	4.6

1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3.0	1.8	6.3	11.8
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2.6	7.1	4.7	12.8
10.	Karnataka	1.0	0.3	3.0	4.7
11.	Kerala	7.6	19.7	6.9	26.4
12.	Madhya Pradesh	0.7	0.2	4.3	1.6
13.	Maharashtra	2.4	1.1	6.1	7.8
14.	Manipur	2.4	2.5	7.4	10.3
15.	Meghalaya	0.5	0.3	3.4	6.8
16.	Mizoram	2.1	0.5	4.4	2.6
17.	Nagaland	3.0	3.8	9.3	10.8
18.	Orissa	3.1	1.6	7.2	6.7
19.	Punjab	2.3	6.2	3.1	3.5
20.	Rajasthan	0.8	0.2	2.7	3.7
21.	Sikkim	3.5	2.0	6.7	10.0
22.	Tamil Nadu	3.0	1.2	3.9	5.8
23.	Tripura	0.8	4.6	5.5	8.8
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1.3	0.6	4.5	4.6
25.	West Bengal	3.4	3.8	7.7	11.1
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	3.3	7.6	3.8	23.9
27.	Chandigarh	1.0	—	3.9	14.4
28.	D & N Haveli	1.6	—	1.6	—
29.	Daman & Diu	1.3	—	1.4	8.3
30.	Delhi	3.9	26.0	3.2	5.3
31.	Lakshadweep	10.9	52.9	8.2	26.3
32.	Pondicherry	4.7	2.6	3.5	6.9
All India		2.1	1.5	4.8	7.1

* As per usual status approach.

Unemployment rate is the percentage of unemployed with reference to Labour Force.

Annexure II

S.No.	State/Union Territory	Distribution of out migrants with duration of residence of 0-9 years				
		Total Migrants			Migration due to Employment (%)	
		Persons	Male	Female	Male	Female
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	492030	217828	274202	36.2	4.8
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	17706	8770	8936	28.6	3.6
3.	Assam	172820	88541	84279	33.9	5.0
4.	Bihar	1226839	700317	526522	52.8	6.3
5.	Goa	28767	12109	16658	35.4	7.7
6.	Gujarat	305738	131623	174115	28.4	2.9
7.	Haryana	561504	196323	365181	36.7	2.1
8.	Himachal Pradesh	144362	69628	74734	47.3	4.8
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	81254	42287	38967	33.8	4.9
10.	Karnataka	582750	241915	340835	33.6	5.2
11.	Kerala	439285	228684	210601	53.5	13.7
12.	Madhya Pradesh	597184	209693	387491	33.2	4.3
13.	Maharashtra	770030	324888	445142	35.1	6.2
14.	Manipur	17317	8823	8494	28.1	6.1
15.	Meghalaya	22593	9895	12696	30.7	4.5
16.	Mizoram	11832	5754	6078	25.9	5.4
17.	Nagaland	12757	6305	6452	25.0	3.1
18.	Orissa	267594	135333	132261	56.6	7.0
19.	Punjab	513763	222972	290791	29.9	3.0
20.	Rajasthan	769967	335695	434272	40.2	4.1
21.	Sikkim	11560	4860	6700	31.5	4.1
22.	Tamil Nadu	679280	344542	334738	49.1	10.4
23.	Tripura	27100	12055	15045	29.9	5.1
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2457996	1317662	1140334	51.3	3.9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
25.	West Bengal	454862	193802	261060	43.6	3.9
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	7555	3345	4210	28.1	5.3
27.	Chandigarh	79224	36944	42280	23.0	3.6
28.	D & N Haveli	5879	1982	3897	34.1	4.1
29.	Daman & Diu	5325	1599	3726	26.9	8.6
30.	Delhi	281946	109318	172628	29.4	3.1
31.	Lakshadweep	3563	1379	2184	29.7	4.8
32.	Pondicherry	38754	13946	24808	23.5	4.0
All India		11089136	5238817	5850139	43.9	5.1

Source: From Table D-3, Census of India 1991, Part-V—Migration Tables.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: The position is not clear from the reply given in the statement as to what the Government are doing in this regard. As the unemployment is increasing on account of the economic reforms, whether the Government would review its policies at the earliest and whether appropriate measures would be taken in this regard? Besides, whether efforts will be made to include right to employment in the list of fundamental rights?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: The problem of unemployment exists both in the organised and unorganised sectors. As far his submission that right to employment should be declared as the fundamental right is concerned, it will be decided by the Parliament. However, as far the problem of unemployment is concerned, as per the data available with us, the number of educated unemployed persons in the country are 90 lakhs who have no job at all. The number of quasi-employed in the country are 2.5 crore. Out of our existing 40 crore work force, unemployment is comparatively less in organised sector while unemployment in the unorganised sector continues to our major concern. If the unskilled unemployed persons are trained, and made skilled, then it will certainly be a positive step towards employment generation from them and that will change their economic condition. Thus the unemployment scenario existing both in organised and unorganised sectors are a

matter of concern for the Government. The problem in organised sector is becoming more serious in the time to come while the prospect of employment in unorganised sector are gradually increasing.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: The hon'ble Prime Minister in his statement had said that one crore employment opportunities would be generated whereas the unemployment is increasing on account of the adoption of the policies of economic liberalisation. I have the figures according to which the cases of 3296 sick industries are pending with BIFR and in case of closing down of those industries, nearly 18 lakh, 85 thousand people are likely to be rendered jobless. The Government should take a clear decision in this regard.

DR. SATYNARAYAN JATIYA: As far the Members query regarding the creation of one crore employment opportunities is concerned, hon'ble Montek Singh Ahluwalia has submitted his report that says that more and more people will get employment in construction sector whether it is construction of the roads or buildings or infrastructure development of irrigation and other related fields. The people certainly get employment in cement industries, steel industries and brick kiln industries. Besides, once all these things are completed, employment opportunities increase in transport sector and the allied sectors. Thus as you have said, the blue print for the

creation of one crore employment opportunities have been drafted. In the coming years, its result will be apparent.

SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE: It may be stated whether the Government are implementing any special programme for creation of employment opportunities in agriculture sector, if so, what are those special programmes? Secondly, my submission is that the problem of unemployment can be solved by way of promoting agriculture and cottage industries. So, whether the separate provisions will be made by the Government for agriculture and cottage industries in the next budget?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: It is a fact that major portion to our GDP is contributed by the agriculture. A lot of things are to be done in the field of task force and the generation of new employment. The self-employment schemes also contribute towards the employment generation. Through the Integrated Village Development Programmes, young people are trained and loans are also granted to them under the Poverty Alleviation Programme. The employment generation works are being executed through the 'Swarn-Jayanti Swarojagar Yojana' and several other such schemes and from time to time all such schemes are reviewed by the Government.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have the economic policy of Free trade. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether unemployment will increase or decrease after signing the WTO agreement and Free trade?

MR. SPEAKER: There is not much time. Please ask your question.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the unemployment increases on account of this, whether the Government have or not any policy to check this phenomenon?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: As it has been said that unemployment will increase on account of economic liberalisation, but it is not permanent problem as the purpose of economic liberalisation has not yet been completed. You all know that we can enhance the skill of the people by giving them training so that they may look for the employment on their own and thus unemployment can be checked.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, half-an-hour discussion should be held on this topic...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Raising of Foreign Direct Investment Limit in Domestic Airlines

*381. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to raise Foreign Direct Investment limit in domestic airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the decision in this regard has since been implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) No, Sir. In January, 1997, new domestic air transport policy was adopted by the Government. As regards foreign equity participation, it was decided in April, 1997 that foreign equity should be limited upto 40% in the domestic air transport sector. However, the investment from Non Resident Indian (NRI) and Overseas Corporate Bodies (OCB) were permitted upto 100%. It was also decided at that time that the equity from foreign airlines will not be allowed directly or indirectly in this sector.

The issue of foreign equity participation in different sectors including civil aviation was subsequently reviewed in the Government in February, 2000. After detailed discussions, it was decided on 9th February, 2001 to continue the existing FDI cap and conditions for the present, since any substantive change at that stage could have impacted the ongoing disinvestment process of Air India and Indian Airlines Ltd.

Foreign Direct Investment in Telecom Sector

*382. SHRI Y.S VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) proposals worth Rs. 45,397 crore have been approved for the telecom sector during August, 1991 to October, 2000;

(b) if so, the number of proposals related to domestic private investment approved during the above period;

(c) the extent to which these proposals have been implemented;

(d) the total number of villages covered so far; and

(e) the impact of the FDI proposals on the telecom industry?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (e) While Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) proposals worth Rs. 45,397 crores have been approved for the Telecom Sector during August, 1991 to October, 2000, such proposals relating to domestic private investment in Telecom Sector do not need similar Government approval and therefore are not monitored. However, companies desirous of providing telecom service in the country need to obtain telecom service licenses under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885. During the period August, 1991 to October, 2000, 74 licenses were issued for providing basic and cellular mobile telephone service, of which, 70 are under implementation. FDI proposals have helped in the speedier growth of the Telecom Sector, particularly in Cellular Mobile Telephone Services and telecom manufacturing.

A total number of 4,10,757 villages have been covered with Public Telephones up to 31st July, 2001.

Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve

*384. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the buffer zone of the Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve, described as "large ecological areas for future and present use and a preserve of genetic diversity" has become a hunting ground for poachers;

(b) whether this biosphere is endangered due to high altitude medicinal herbs being smuggled out with impunity;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Cases of illegal hunting in the buffer zone of Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve have been detected and punitive action has been taken against the poachers.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, sporadic collection of medicinal herbs by the local people cannot be ruled out.

(d) The Central Government renders financial assistance to the State for training and equipping the staff with modern equipment to enable them to function effectively. During the current financial year an amount of Rs. 37.33 lakhs has been released to the State Government for effective management of the biosphere reserve.

[Translation]

Amendment in Forest (Conservation) Act

*385. SHRI MANSINH PATEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, in order to take care of the developmental problems which have a bearing on the forest;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has adequate flexibility to take care of the site specific developmental activities as well as to ensure that the impact of the project on the forests is minimal. Such a balance between development and conservation is crucial for the long term welfare of the mankind. In view of these facts there is no proposal to amend the Act.

[English]

Implementation of Pollution Control Rules

*388. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Pollution Control Boards are adopting and implementing their own rules;

(b) If so, whether the Central Pollution Control Board has decided to set up a Committee to frame guidelines/rules on a uniform consent procedure to be followed by the State Pollution Control Boards; and

(c) if so, the time by which uniform rules are likely to be framed and directions issued to States for implementing the pollution control norms in accordance with the said framed rules?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) State Pollution Control Boards are implementing the Rules framed by the Central and State Governments.

(b) and (c) On the basis of the recommendations of a Committee set up by the Central Pollution Control Board, guidelines on uniform consent procedure have been issued to the State Pollution Control Boards.

Development of Bamboo

*390. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have approached the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) to develop Bamboo and its products;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the nature of help sought from UNEP;

(c) the number of people likely to be benefited therefrom;

(d) whether sustained efforts are likely to be made to develop Bamboo growth; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Government have not approached the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) in this regard. However, during the visit of Executive Director of UNEP to India in February 2000, the issue of cooperation for development and utilisation of Bamboo resources was discussed.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Bamboo is planted along with other species in various afforestation programmes undertaken by the State Governments. The Government have identified development of bamboo resources as one of the thrust areas and is providing assistance to States under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. During the Ninth Five Year Plan a sum of Rs. 20.85 crore has been earmarked for raising 30,161 hectares of plantation.

[Translation]

Setting up of Youth Development Centres

*391. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have introduced a new scheme since 1994-95 to set up a Youth Development Centre for a group of each ten villages;

(b) if so, the number of Youth Development Centres set up in the country particularly in Bihar so far; and

(c) the total amount spent on their functioning, centre-wise?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (KUMARI UMA BHARATI): (a) Yes Sir, the Government had launched in 1994-95, a scheme for setting up of Youth Development Centre for a group of ten villages each through-out the country.

(b) Out of 1205 Youth Development Centres set up so far, 29 have been set up in Bihar up to 2000-2001. The location of each Centre is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) A total amount of Rs. 3,31,50,000/- has been released so far for setting up of 1205 Youth Development Centres in the country. For setting up of 29 Centres in Bihar, an amount of Rs. 8,70,000/- has been released.

Statement

District-wise position of Youth Development Centres in Bihar

Sl.No.	District	No. of Youth Development Centres
1	2	3
1.	Bhagalpur	01
2.	Darbhanga	02
3.	Katihar	01
4.	Muzaffarpur	01
5.	Dattanganj (Palamu)	01

1	2	3
6.	Purnia	02
7.	Giridih	01
8.	Sahebganj	02
9.	Siwan	05
10.	Sitamarhi	01
11.	Hazaribag	01
12.	Jahanabad	02
13.	Bokaro	06
14.	Patna	02
15.	Madhubani	01
Total		29

[English]

Afforestation Programme Taken up by NGOs

*392. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether compensatory afforestation programme undertaken at the National Level has been a success;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent of compensatory afforestation done by the industries and mines in the State of Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Forest (Conservation) Act, came into effect on 25th October 1980. The Central Government has since then approved 6246 projects involving diversion of 518793 ha. of forest land. The approval stipulated carrying out compensatory afforestation over 612280 ha. The achievement made in this regard in the various States and Union Territories are given in the statement. The progress of compensatory afforestation has not been to the desired extent in most of the States and Union Territories because the State Government/Union Territory Governments have failed to release the money realized from the user agencies to the executing agency namely Divisional Forest Officers and the Forest Corporation on time.

(c) Compensatory afforestation has been carried out over approximately 9625 ha. of forest and non-forest land in Orissa with the funds provided by the industries and mines.

Statement

The Position cases approved for Diverting Forest Land and Progress of Compensatory Afforestation as on 18/6/2001

Sl.No.	Name of State/UTs	No. of cases approved	Forest Area approved	Total Compensatory Afforestation Stipulated	Total Compensatory Afforestation Carried out
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	162	20308	17744	12594
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	43	1680	3267	1623
3.	Assam	119	1653	2338	1375
4.	Bihar	102	5979	3819	72
5.	Goa	45	375	759	658
6.	Gujarat	421	51783	76763	41636
7.	Haryana	201	1141	1632	1314

1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	Himachal Pradesh	267	4452	6974	5092
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	8	1286	1425	288
10.	Karnataka	255	30433	27836	29434
11.	Kerala	104	30618	58507	38854
12.	Madhya Pradesh	611	232492	256174	121260
13.	Maharashtra	1103	44517	76828	66393
14.	Manipur	8	247	1	0
15.	Meghalaya	43	182	258	240
16.	Mizoram	42	8519	8574	3377
17.	Orissa	197	24333	28323	17601
18.	Punjab	320	2287	3322	2756
19.	Rajasthan	184	10418	11735	7763
20.	Sikkim	38	432	1517	1517
21.	Tamil Nadu	163	4920	2055	1393
22.	Tripura	60	1994	1049	668
23.	Uttar Pradesh	1554	27148	16500	11346
24.	West Bengal	73	9217	2571	2400
25.	A & N Islands	36	2211	2047	2184
26.	D & N Haveli	87	168	262	266
Total		6246	518793	612280	372104

Collection from Central Road Fund

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

*393. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have collected more than Rs. 5000 crore from the Central Road Fund for maintenance of National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether details of the plan for road construction have been worked out;

(e) the details of amount likely to be spent in the States of Gujarat and Chhattisgarh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) An amount of Rs. 5092 crore has been provided for the development and maintenance of National Highways since 1999-2000 from the Central Road Fund.

(c) to (e) The funds from the Central Road Fund made available for the development of National Highways

are being utilized for the National Highway Development Project (NHDP) which comprises of 4/6 laning of the existing National Highways on the Golden Quadrilateral connecting Delhi-Kolkata-Chennai-Mumbai-Delhi and the North-South and East-West corridor from Srinagar in Jammu & Kashmir to Kanyakumari and from Silchar to Porbander including Salem-Cochin spur. Works amounting to Rs. 906.60 crore has been awarded under NHDP in Gujarat. However, no National Highway in the State of Chhattisgarh falls under the NHDP.

Uniform Emission Norms for LPG/CNG

*394. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared uniform emission norms for LPG and CNG run vehicles;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to amend Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) Mass emission norms for LPG and CNG run vehicles are based on uniform technical consideration. The reactive hydro carbon (non methane hydro carbons) in case of CNG are calculated on the basis of methane percentage as per the following formula:—

$$NMHC = HC \times (1-K/100)$$

Where HC = total hydrocarbons measured

K = % Methane content in natural gas fuel (not less than 70%)

In case of LPG, the reactive hydro carbons are considered as 50% of the total hydro carbons and accordingly the reactivity factor is considered as 0.5 for pollutant measurement.

(c) and (d) The up-dating of norms relating to mass emission standards is a continuous on-going process as improvement in engine technology & quality of fuel is continuously taking place.

[Translation]

Shrinking of Glaciers in Himalayas

*395. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
DR. ASHOK PATEL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that most of the glaciers in Himalayas have been shrinking as a result of which danger of drying up of the rivers like Ganga and Yamuna has arisen;

(b) if so, whether the Government have formulated any plan in pursuance of the study undertaken by the experts to save Ganga and Yamuna from drying up; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): (a) to (c) The recession of Glaciers, as a natural process in response to climatic fluctuations due to global warming is a worldwide phenomenon. Studies carried out by the Geological Survey of India have revealed that the Himalayan Glaciers are receding gradually. Based on a study of the climate for the last 1000 years, Geological Survey of India have conducted that in general, glaciers keep on fluctuating over a period of hundreds of years and the process of recession may be reversed in due course of time with favourable climatic conditions.

The lean season flow in perennial rivers is contributed by snow melt and ground water. The summer flows in Himalayan rivers is mainly dependent on snowfall of the preceding winters. The marginal recession of glaciers is not likely to cause drying up of these rivers.

Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India has not received any report of study by experts to save Ganga and Yamuna from drying up. Department of Science & Technology under the Ministry of Science & Technology is carrying out an integrated research, and development programme on Gangotri Glacier. The projects under this programme deal with various aspects of physical, chemical, geological and environmental processes of the glacier including collection of various kinds of meteorological data.

*[English]***Out of Turn Promotion for Arjuna Award Winners**

*396. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision to give out of turn promotion to "Arjuna Award" Winners;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have issued any instructions to all the department concerned to consider out of turn promotion to the Arjuna Award Winners;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether some departments have been responsible for violation of existing norms to provide out of turn promotion to the "Arjuna Award" winners;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) action taken by the Government in the regard?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (KUMARI UMA BHARATI): (a) There is no provision in the scheme.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (g) Do not arise.

National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development

*397. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development has strongly recommended the Government to enact a comprehensive law for joint management of inter-state rivers;

(b) if so, whether the existing river dispute laws are ineffective and need to be replaced; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): (a) to (c) The National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development Plan has stressed the need to treat each river basin as a hydrological unit for its development and has recommended enactment of a law on inter-state rivers (in the place of the River Boards Act) to be called the Inter-State Rivers & River Valley (Integrated and Participatory Management) Act, which inter-alia may provide for the constitution of River Basin Organisations and for their powers and functions.

The National Commission has further recommended certain measures to ensure speedy settlement of inter-States water disputes and for their speedy implementation. These include settlement of the disputes by mutual agreement through the mechanism of River Basin Organisations; hearing the views of not only the contestant States but also all the other stakeholders and amendments of the existing Inter-State Water Disputes Act as recommended by Sarkaria Commission and agreed to in the Inter-State Council.

The Inter-State Water Disputes Act is proposed to be suitably amended for which Government of India has framed an Inter-State Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill and the Government has introduced it in the Parliament. The bill has already been passed by the Lok Sabha and the same is to be moved in the Rajya Sabha.

Sewerage Treatment Plants

*398. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to give financial assistance to the State Governments for setting up of Sewerage treatment plants in order to clean certain rivers;

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

(c) the time by which the scheme is proposed to be implemented and the amount released to States for taking up the projects?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has approved a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely; the National River Conservation Plan for cleaning of major rivers in the country. Under this scheme, financial

assistance is provided to the State Governments for sewage treatment plants and other works aiming at abatement of river pollution as listed below:

- Interception and diversion works to capture the raw sewage flowing into the river through open drains and divert them for treatment.
- Sewage Treatment Plants for treating the diverted sewage.
- Low Cost sanitation works to prevent open defecation on riverbanks.
- Electric crematoria and Improved Wood Crematoria to conserve the use of wood and help in ensuring proper cremation of bodies brought to the burning ghats.
- River Front Development works such as improvement of bathing ghats etc.
- Other minor miscellaneous works.

The State-wise projects approved and funds released are at statement enclosed. These projects are targeted to be implemented by 2005.

Statement

State-wise list of approved cost and funds released under National River Conservation Plan

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Action Plan/ State	Approved Cost	Funds Released by GOI (27-07-2001)
1	2	3	4

National River Conservation Plan

1.	A.P.	5103.33	1259.20
2.	Bihar	3289.73	249.22
3.	Jharkhand	4086.15	445.51
4.	Gujarat	9383.39	3560.86
5.	Karnataka	2572.70	1039.37
6.	Maharashtra	11153.35	1690.68
7.	Madhya Pradesh	10119.26	2810.10
8.	Orissa	2398.30	91.93

1	2	3	4
9.	Punjab	23458.36	4227.64
10.	Rajasthan	1321.00	68.17
11.	Tamil Nadu	110309.75	7413.92
12.	Delhi	18656.42	3344.41
13.	Haryana	24855.89	15397.40
14.	Uttar Pradesh	53704.33	26362.28*
15.	Uttaranchal	3848.60	included in U.P.
16.	West Bengal	39465.24	1915.37
State Total:		323725.80	69875.96

*Inclusive of Uttaranchal.

Setting up of Regional Centres for Promotion of Sports

*399. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up more regional centres for the promotion of sports in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government have also devised any action plan to check the growing incidence of use of drugs by the sports-persons to enhance their ability;

(d) if so, the details of punishments to be awarded to such sports persons who use drugs to enhance their sporting ability; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (KUMARI UMA BHARATI): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) With a view to check the use of drugs in sports, the Ministry has taken the following steps:—

- (1) It has been decided in pursuance of the recent order of the Hon'ble Delhi High Court to set up a Committee consisting of the representatives of the Central Government, the Indian Olympic Association and Sports Authority of India to work out the modalities and measures to prevent drug abuse.

- (2) The Sports Authority of India (SAI) is seeking accreditation of SAI Laboratory from the Medical Commission of the International Olympic Committee. It is expected that our Laboratory will soon be accredited.
- (3) The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has written to all National Sports Federations that they should give an undertaking that dope test will be conducted as per the norms laid down by the International Federations of the concerned disciplines while submitting proposals for financial assistance.
- (4) The Ministry has also amended the provision of its scheme for assistance to National Sports Federations making it obligatory for federations to ensure that Dope Test for all its players is conducted regularly as per the norms/standards laid down by the International Federation of the concerned discipline.
- (5) The Sports Authority of India has requested the Indian Olympic Association to frame a policy to be implemented by all the National Sports Federations regarding sanctions to be imposed on such sports persons who test "Positive" in respect of any IOC banned class of drugs.

(d) and (e) Dope tests are conducted by SAI Laboratory on the request of the concerned National Sports Federations/Associations either during competitions or random tests during training. In the absence of accreditation of the Laboratory, the results so received can only be treated as indicative. The results of tests were forwarded to the concerned Federations for further action as per laid down norms of their respective International Federations as per the IOC Manual.

Employment to Handicapped Persons

*400. SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the handicapped persons are not getting employment despite reservation;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of handicapped persons registered in different Employment Exchanges as on July 1, 2001, State-wise;
- (d) the number of handicapped persons provided with jobs through Employment Exchanges during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to fill up reserve quota of the handicapped persons?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (e) The provisions of reservation contained in Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 are being implemented by the Central Government Establishments and PSUs as a continuing process. The reservation of posts is confined to Government departments and public sector, where there is limited scope for employment growth.

State-wise number of handicapped job-seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges as on December 31st, 1999 (latest available) and the placement made for them during 1997, 1998 & 1999 are given in the statement.

Apart from the legislative provisions, the following steps have been taken by the Government to promote employment of persons with disabilities:—

- Special Recruitment Drives for persons with disabilities from time to time;
- Identification of more posts suitable for persons with disabilities;
- Prompt reporting to vacancies to Staff Selection Commission/Union Public Service Commission/Central Employment Exchange etc. by Central Government Ministries/Departments;
- A conference of Public Sector undertakings and concerned Ministries was held on 15.11.2000 in which the progress of implementation of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 was reviewed and the Public Sector Undertakings have been advised to launch vigorous drive to identify vacancies and recruit persons with disabilities against them; and
- Provision of financial assistance to State Government for setting up of Special Employment Exchanges/Upgradation of Special Cells to Special Employment Exchanges under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Employment of the Handicapped.

Statement

S.No.	State/Union Territory	Number of Handicapped Persons			
		Liver Register Dec. 31st 1999	Placements made during		
			1997	1998	1999
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	61155	433	142	80
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	44	—	—	—
3.	Assam	4500	12	2	8
4.	Bihar	18615	4	12	1
5.	Goa	1055	54	15	8
6.	Gujarat	18608	456	249	380
7.	Haryana	10463	83	150	28
8.	Himachal Pradesh	7878	26	10	23
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	799	—	—	—
10.	Karnataka	26939	547	527	376
11.	Kerala	34937	650	716	1542
12.	Madhya Pradesh	29560	144	99	43
13.	Maharashtra	32663	450	287	183
14.	Manipur	1599	3	12	1
15.	Meghalaya	121	3	1	2
16.	Mizoram	87	—	—	—
17.	Nagaland	147	—	—	—
18.	Orissa	10432	140	25	66
19.	Punjab	10323	81	44	47
20.	Rajasthan	21717	223	191	138
21.	Sikkim*				
22.	Tamil Nadu	60959	984	939	1051
23.	Tripura	2300	—	34	55
24.	Uttar Pradesh	28723	70	50	22
25.	West Bengal	61637	54	29	128
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	380	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
27.	Chandigarh	984	11	5	4
28.	D & N Haveli	52	—	—	—
29.	Delhi	6929	22	89	19
30.	Daman & Diu	110	—	2	—
31.	Lakshadweep	88	—	—	—
32.	Pondicherry	1663	—	—	—
Total		455467	4450	3630	4205

Note:—*No Employment Exchange is functioning in this State.

— Nil.

[Translation]

Air Links

3975. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a perspective plan for connecting each Districts of the country by air has been prepared;

(b) if so, the estimated amount required for this project;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be given a final shape;

(d) the districts of various States including Maharashtra that have been connected with the air-services as on date;

(e) the districts which are proposed to be connected with air-services during the current financial year; and

(f) the time by which all the districts of the country are likely to be connected with air-services?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) At present, following stations are connected with air-services — Portblair, Hyderabad, Tirupati, Vizag, Puttaparthi, Patna, Guwahati, Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Silchar, Tezpur, Chandigarh, Amritsar, Delhi, Diu, Goa,

Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Bhuj, Rajkot, Bhavnagar, Porbandar, Jamnagar, Jammu, Srinagar, Leh, Bangalore, Mangalore, Calicut, Cochin, Trivandrum, Indore, Khajuraho, Bhopal, Gwalior, Jabalpur, Mumbai, Pune, Aurangabad, Nagpur, Imphal, Bhubaneshwar, Jaipur, Udaipur, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Coimbatore, Chennai, Madurai, Trichi, Lucknow, Varanasi, Agra, Dehradun, Calcutta, Bagdogra, Shimla, Kulu, Dharamshala, Ranchi, Raipur, Aizwal, Dimapur, Agartala and Agati.

(e) Airlines are free to operate to any station depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject to compliance with the route dispersal guidelines.

(f) Such eventuality cannot be forecast at this stage.

[English]

Agreement between India and China on Telecom Sector

3976. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:
SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and China have agreed to launch joint venture in third countries in the telecom sector;

(b) if so, the salient feature of the agreement; and

(c) the time by which the agreement is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

Workers Suffering from Diseases

3977. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of various minerals mines in seven districts of the Jodhpur division and the total number of labourers/employees working in these mines alongwith break up of male, female and child labourers, mine-wise;

(b) whether most of the labourers are suffering from T.B., Syphilis and other lungs diseases and also malnutrition due to their exploitation and non-compliance of Central labour laws enacted for safeguarding the interests of these labourers;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith persons responsible for the same; and

(d) the details of labour laws in force to safeguard the interests of the labourers working in these mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Agricultural Labour

3978. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the number of the agricultural labourers and marginal farmers in the country as on date, separately and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): A statement is enclosed.

Statement

S.No.	States/U.Ts	No. of Landless Agricultural Labourers (As per 1991 Census)	No. of marginal operational holdings* (As per Agricultural Census, 1990-91) No. in '000
1	2	3	4
I.	India (excluding J&K)	74,597,744	63389
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11,625,159	5211
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	20,054	16
3.	Assam	844,964	1521
4.	Bihar (including Jharkhand)	9,512,892	10193
5.	Gujarat	3,230,547	924
6.	Haryana	896,782	622
7.	Himachal Pradesh	58,668	532
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	902
9.	Karnataka	4,999,959	2262
10.	Kerala	2,120,452	5016

1	2	3	4
11.	Madhya Pradesh (including (Chattisgarh)	5,863,029	3136
12.	Maharashtra	8,313,223	3275
13.	Manipur	47,350	69
14.	Meghalaya	89,492	59
15.	Nagaland	7,233	13
16.	Orissa	2,976,750	2118
17.	Punjab	1,452,828	296
18.	Rajasthan	1,391,670	1517
19.	Sikkim	12,851	26
20.	Tamil Nadu	7,896,295	5848
21.	Tripura	187,538	217
22.	Uttar Pradesh (including Uttaranchal)	7,833,258	14819
23.	West Bengal	5,055,478	4639
24.	A & N Islands	4,989	2
25.	Chandigarh	1,642	1
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	6,233	6
27.	Delhi	25,195	26
28.	Goa	35,284	58
29.	Daman & Diu	1,199	3
30.	Lakshadweep	-	6
31.	Mizoram	9,527	29
32.	Pondicherry	77,203	26

* All land which is used wholly or partly for agricultural production and is operated as one technical unit by one person alone or with others without regard to the title, legal form, size or location.

[English]

Canal from Sankosh River

3979. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to construct a canal from Sankosh river and link it with the Ganga river in West Bengal for regular augmentation and

better flow of water in Calcutta Port particularly in lien months;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the project and funds allocated to State Government for the purpose, year-wise;

(c) the target fixed for completion of the project; and

(d) the area likely to be irrigated through this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) National Water Development Agency under Ministry of Water Resources had prepared prefeasibility report of Manas — Sankosh — Tista — Ganga Link for transferring the surplus flows of Manas and Sankosh rivers, tributaries of Brahmaputra river and intermediate rivers upto Teesta into the river Ganga upstream of Farakka. Part of this surplus water is proposed for augmentation of river Ganga to meet the lean water requirement of Calcutta Port.

(b) As per the prefeasibility report, the total cost of the project is estimated as Rs. 11,670 crore (1994-95 price level).

(c) At present the above link project is at Survey and Investigation stage for preparation of feasibility report which is programmed to be completed by the year 2003.

(d) Manas — Sankosh — Tista — Ganga Link Prefeasibility Report provides for enroute irrigation to the extent of 6.54 lakh ha.

Extinction of Rare Herbs

3980. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of rare herbs are on the verge of extinction;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to start any scheme for the conservation and development of rare herbs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Botanical Survey of India (BSI) has prepared a Red Data Book listing the threatened and endangered plant species of India. It has listed 27 species of herbs belonging to 20 genera which fall under rare, endangered and threatened category.

(c) to (e) The Government is implementing various Schemes for the conservation and development of threatened/endangered plant species. A 100% Centrally sponsored Scheme for Conservation and Development of Non-Timber Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants is being implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The network of protected areas comprising 89 National Parks and 497 Wildlife Sanctuaries is also helping in the *in-situ* conservation of wild flora including threatened/endangered herbal plants. The Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy is funding Central Schemes for "Development and Cultivation of Medicinal Plants" and "Development of Agro-techniques and Cultivation of Medicinal Plants."

[Translation]

Social Security Pension Scheme by ESIC

3981. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industrial centres in which social security pension is implemented by the Employees State Insurance Corporation, State-wise;

(b) the number of families benefited by it during the years 1998, 1999 and 2000, State-wise; and

(c) the strategy being adopted by the Government to implement the above scheme in all the factories of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The requisite information is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Since the responsibility for administration of medical care under the ESI Scheme vests with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, the ESI Scheme is implemented in new areas in a phased manner depending upon the facilities created by the State Governments for providing medical care. For this purpose ESIC also carries out periodical surveys.

Statement**Region-wise Coverage as on 31-3-98**

State/Area	Implemented Areas				
	No. of Centres	No. of Employers	No. of Employees	No. of IPs./ family (I.P) Units	No. of Beneficiaries
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh & Yenam	94	12,663	4,53,800	5,03,500	19,53,600
Assam & Meghalaya	19	1,235	40,850	43,850	1,70,100
Bihar	33	5,038	1,64,100	1,84,050	7,14,100
Chandigarh	1	1,353	29,750	30,900	1,19,900
Delhi	1	23,202	5,53,400	5,88,500	22,83,400
Goa	7	1,485	64,550	70,800	2,74,700
Gujarat	31	17,034	6,36,050	7,03,050	27,27,850
Haryana	29	8,495	3,63,650	4,04,800	15,70,600
Himachal Pradesh	7	483	32,900	35,900	1,39,300
Jammu & Kashmir	3	290	13,700	16,400	63,650
Karnataka	35	14,625	6,48,550	7,24,700	28,11,850
Kerala & Mahe	51	9,644	4,13,600	4,61,950	17,92,350
Madhya Pradesh	31	4,833	2,36,000	2,56,500	9,95,200
Maharashtra					
(i) Mumbai Area	1	33,813	10,32,900	11,11,250	43,11,650
(ii) Nagpur Area	13	3,638	1,18,500	1,25,100	4,85,400
(iii) Pune area	15	8,291	3,78,900	4,16,900	16,17,550
Orissa	52	2,357	1,39,400	1,54,700	6,00,250
Pondicherry	1	673	34,450	35,950	1,39,500
Punjab	44	9,579	4,20,850	4,35,750	16,90,700
Rajasthan	43	6,277	2,97,650	3,11,650	12,09,200
Tamil Nadu					
(i) Chennai Area	31	13,360	6,01,900	6,29,450	24,42,250
(ii) Coimbatore Area	12	5,522	2,21,200	2,50,350	9,71,350

1	2	3	4	5	6
(iii) Madurai Area	17	4,474	2,05,750	2,27,550	8,82,900
Uttar Pradesh	58	11,277	4,54,550	4,84,300	18,79,100
West Bengal	11	13,290	8,04,950	8,87,600	34,43,900
All India (As on 31.3.98)	640	2,12,931	83,61,900	90,95,450	3,52,90,350
All India (As on 31.3.97)	632	2,00,471	77,31,650	84,45,000	3,27,66,600

Region-wise Coverage as on 31-3-99

State/Area	Implemented Areas				
	No. of Centres	No. of Employers	No. of Employees	No. of IPs./ family (I.P) Units	No. of Beneficiaries
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh & Yenam	96	13,112	4,74,100	5,23,800	20,32,350
Assam & Meghalaya	19	1,265	38,000	41,000	1,59,100
Bihar	33	5,295	1,70,850	1,90,800	7,40,300
Chandigarh	1	1,341	28,350	29,500	1,14,450
Delhi	1	25,372	5,43,250	5,78,350	22,44,000
Goa	7	1,516	70,800	77,050	2,98,950
Gujarat	31	14,465	5,48,100	6,15,100	23,86,600
Haryana	29	8,830	3,56,300	3,97,450	15,42,100
Himachal Pradesh	7	551	48,600	51,600	2,00,200
Jammu & Kashmir	3	286	17,450	20,150	78,200
Karnataka	20	13,337	5,36,150	6,01,200	23,32,650
Hubli	15	2,173	91,250	1,02,350	3,97,100
Kerala & Mahe	51	10,363	3,78,950	4,27,300	16,57,900
Madhya Pradesh	30	5,600	2,36,000	2,56,500	9,95,200
Maharashtra					
(i) Mumbai Area	1	35,585	8,94,550	9,72,900	37,74,850
(ii) Nagpur Area	13	3,853	1,18,100	1,25,000	4,85,000

1	2	3	4	5	6
(iii) Pune area	15	8,985	3,68,550	4,06,550	15,77,400
Orissa	52	2,559	1,29,050	1,44,350	5,60,100
Pondicherry	1	738	39,750	41,250	1,60,050
Punjab	45	9,614	4,00,200	4,15,100	16,10,600
Rajasthan	43	5,216	2,92,250	3,06,250	11,88,250
Tamil Nadu					
(i) Chennai Area	31	14,149	6,14,750	6,42,300	24,92,150
(ii) Coimbatore Area	14	6,378	2,20,900	2,50,050	9,70,200
(iii) Madurai Area	17	4,707	2,17,200	2,39,000	9,27,300
Uttar Pradesh	58	12,315	5,14,750	5,44,500	21,12,650
West Bengal	9	12,199	7,37,000	8,19,650	31,80,250
All India (As on 31.3.99)	642	2,19,804	80,85,200	88,19,050	3,42,17,900
All India (As on 31.3.98)	640	2,12,931	83,61,900	90,95,450	3,52,90,350

Region-wise Coverage as on 31-3-2000

State/Area	Implemented Areas				
	No. of Centres	No. of Employers	No. of Employees	No. of IPs./ family (I.P) Units	No. of Beneficiaries
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh & Yenam	100	13715	512350	562050	2180750
Assam	21	1298	41600	45500	176550
Bihar	33	5509	143700	163650	634950
Chandigarh	1	1370	34200	35350	137150
Delhi	1	26797	532950	568050	2204050
Goa	7	1626	65000	71250	276450
Gujarat	31	14717	505600	572600	2221700
Haryana	29	9151	370850	412000	1598550
Himachal Pradesh	8	614	47200	50200	194800
Jammu & Kashmir	3	254	13450	16150	62650
Karnataka	15	11859	563450	628500	2438600

1	2	3	4	5	6
Hubli Area	20	1922	80600	91700	355800
Kerala & Mahe	51	10001	366500	414850	1609600
Madhya Pradesh	30	5973	229700	254500	987450
Maharashtra					
(i) Mumbai Area	1	36925	858250	936600	3634000
(ii) Nagpur Area	13	3956	104750	111650	433200
(iii) Pune area	15	9547	327000	365000	1416200
Orissa	52	2151	113050	128350	498000
Pondicherry	1	787	37150	38650	149950
Punjab	46	9668	374100	389000	1509300
Rajasthan	44	5520	290300	304300	1180700
Tamil Nadu					
(i) Chennai Area	31	14651	643500	671050	2603650
(ii) Coimbatore Area	14	6813	238550	267700	1038700
(iii) Madurai Area	17	5284	222350	244150	947300
Uttar Pradesh	62	12955	510250	540000	2095200
West Bengal	9	12013	635650	718300	2787000
All India (As on 31.3.2000)	655	225076	7862050	8601100	33372250
All India (As on 31.3.1999)	642	219804	8085200	8819050	34217900

[English]

**Project Under Inter State and Economic
Importance Scheme**

3982. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the projects taken up under the scheme of Roads of Inter-State and Economic Importance during the Ninth Plan Period, State-wise;

(b) the basis of selection of projects and sanction of

money of each projects during each of last three years;

(c) whether Orissa has ever availed funds under the scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the current status of the scheme and programmes for the Tenth Plan Period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) A Statement giving details of the projects taken up during the Ninth Plan is enclosed.

(b) The selection of the projects had been made on the basis of laid down criteria for this purpose. Funds under E&I are allocated State-wise and not project-wise. The funds allocated during the last three years to States wherein projects had been sanctioned are as under:—

(Rs. in Lakhs)			
State	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
1	2	3	4
Mizoram	300.00	208.00	23.93
Madhya Pradesh	Nil	Nil	918.49

Statement

Name of the State	Name of the Proposal	Estimated Cost (Rs. in lakh)	Central Share (Rs. in lakh)
Mizoram	Construction of Sairang-Langpui Road (Length 11.50 kms.)	891.95	710.91
Madhya Pradesh	Widening and strengthening from km. 83.4 to 108 and km 1 to 161/8 State Highway No. 6	1324.60	662.30
Tripura	(i) Const. of bridge on Khowai-Telimapur Road at Khowai over River Talcherra	113.46	56.71
	(ii) Const. of bridge at Karailong over river Sarducherra	112.42	56.21
	(iii) Const. of bridge over Taiducherratt Daidubari	120.83	60.48
	(iv) Const. of bridge at Rangamatti	255.51	127.76
Orissa	Const. of High Level Bridge over river Mahanadi near Boudh on Boudh-Kiakata-Rairakhole road (SH No. 24) in the district of Boudh, Orissa	2994.33	750.16

[*Translation*]

Non-Payment of Dues to Workers

3983. SHRI BABBAN RAJBHAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

1	2	3	4
Tripura	Nil	5.00	50.00
Orissa	50.00	500.00	151.56

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The funds released to the State of Orissa in the last three years under E&I Scheme are given in part (b).

(e) Henceforth, the proposals under E&I Scheme would be sanctioned under the revamped CRF. The detailed guideline in this regard have been formulated. The programme for the Tenth Plan is yet to be finalized.

(a) whether dues of the workers are not being paid in an appropriate manner even after their retirement in Bhatni and Deoria Units of Uttar Pradesh State Sugar Corporation Limited;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to look into the matter and ensure that all the dues of the workers are settled; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Coverage of Air Space by Radars

3984. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in providing Radar coverage to the air space in the country;

(b) the year by which the entire air space likely to be provided with Radar coverage; and

(c) the airports where Radars have been installed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) The airports located at Trivandrum, Hyderabad, Guwahati, Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Chennai, Mumbai and Delhi are equipped with Primary and Secondary Surveillance Radars. The airports at Nagpur, Varanasi and Mangalore are equipped with Secondary Surveillance Radars. The Secondary Surveillance Radar (SSR) is likely to be installed and commissioned at Berhampur by December, 2001 and thereafter, the entire airspace over Indian landmass would be covered under radar surveillance. Hence, there is no further requirement for providing SSR at any other airport in the country at this stage.

Telephone Facilities in Villages in West Bengal

3985. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages having/not yet having telephone facility in West Bengal particularly Dhabani as on July 31, 2001;

(b) the time by which all the villages are likely to be provided with such facility;

(c) whether the West Bengal Telecom Circle has received any request for providing continuous telephone service from Amar Kanan telephone exchange;

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

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government thereon and to make said exchange functional;

(f) whether the Government propose to set up Consumer Customer Centre at Panagarh telephone exchange; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) As on date, in West Bengal, 23,898 villages are having telephone facility and 14,439 villages are without telecom facility. Village Dhabhani has not been provided telephone facility as one date.

(b) All the villages are planned to be provided with telephone facility by 2002.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Amar Kanan exchange has since been connected with optical fibre link resulting in better and reliable telephone service.

(f) and (g) Panagarh is a 2000 lines exchange housed in a rented building. There is no extra space for starting a customer service centre. However, a departmental building has been constructed and it is planned to shift Panagarh exchange to the new building by March, 2002. A customer service centre is planned in the new premises.

[Translation]

Kelo Multi-Purpose Project

3986. SHRI VISHNUDEO SAI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the time since when Kelo Multipurpose Project in Raigarh in Chhattisgarh has been lying pending with the Union Government for clearance;

(b) the amount spent on establishment, survey and other working till the year 2000-2001, year-wise; and

(c) the action taken to clear or reject the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The Project Report of Kelo

Irrigation Scheme costing Rs. 57.88 crore which was received in Central Water Commission (CWC) in May, 1988 for techno-economic appraisal, was examined and comments sent to the State Government for compliance. The Project Report was sent back in November, 1996 due to non compliance of CWC comments for more than one year. Updated estimate of the project amounting to Rs. 188.18 crore was received in CWC in July, 1998. The State Govt. was requested to submit modified Project Report, after incorporating the compliance of the comments which is still awaited. The clearance of the project depends upon the promptness with which the State Government complies with the outstanding comments of the Central appraising agencies.

Irrigation being a State Subject the primary responsibility for planning, investigation, funding and execution of irrigation and flood control projects rests with the State Government including provision of requisite funds for works and establishment.

Building for Telephone Exchanges

3987. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges having departmental buildings at present in Bihar, district-wise;

(b) the progress made in the construction of telephone exchange buildings at Chewads, Barbigha and Hathiyana;

(c) the time by which the said work is likely to be completed;

(d) whether the Government propose to construct some more departmental buildings for telephone exchanges in the State during 2001-2002; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) 124 number as per details given in statement-I enclosed.

(b) and (c) As per details given in statement-II enclosed.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) As per details given in statement-III enclosed.

Statement I

Details of No. of Telephone Exchanges located in departmental buildings, district-wise

Sl.No.	Revenue district	No. of TE Buildings
1	2	3
1.	Bhojpur	2
2.	Buxar	2
3.	Bhagalpur	5
4.	Banka	2
5.	Saran	4
6.	Siwan	1
7.	Gopalganj	2
8.	Darbhanga	3
9.	Samastipur	3
10.	Madhubani	4
11.	Supaul	4
12.	Gaya	5
13.	Nawadah	1
14.	Aurangabad	3
15.	Jehanabad	2
16.	Vaishali	8
17.	Katihar	4
18.	Kishanganj	2
19.	Araria	2
20.	Purnea	2
21.	Khagaria	6

			Statement-II	
1	2	3	<i>Progress in construction of Telephone Exchange buildings</i>	
22.	Begusarai	2	(i)	Chewara Main structure of the building is complete — Finishing works are in progress—expected date of completion is October, 2001.
23.	East Champaran	4		
24.	West Champaran	5		
25.	Munger	2		
26.	Lakhisarai	2	(ii)	Barbiga Main structure of the building is complete — Plastering work is also complete — Floorings of Battery room, power room and Switch room are complete — Balance flooring works are in progress.
27.	Shekhpura	2		
28.	Jamui	2		
29.	Muzaffarpur	2		
30.	Sitamarhi	1	(iii)	Hathiyama Door frames and window frames are fixed. Expected date of completion September 2001.
31.	Sheohar	1		
32.	Patna	19		
33.	Nalanda	3		
34.	Saharsa	3		
35.	Madhepura	2	<i>The above works are likely to be completed as under:—</i>	
36.	Rohtas	5	(i)	Chewara October, 2001
37.	Bhabhua	2	(ii)	Barbiga September, 2001
Total			(iii)	Hathiyama November, 2001

Statement III*The following buildings are in progress:*

S.No.	District	Telephone Exchange buildings	T. Nos.
1	2	3	4
1.	Bhagalpur	Kahalgau, Sultanganj, Ishipur	3
2.	Banka	Amapur, Bausi	2
3.	Chapra	Chapra, Ekma, Masrakh, Marhaura, Majhi, Tariya, Parsa	7
4.	Gopalganj	Gopalganj	1
5.	Siwan	Basantpur, Mairwan, Maharajganj	3
6.	Darbhanga	Bhalpatti	1

1	2	3	4	
7.	Madhubani	Khatauna		1
8.	Samastipur	Rosera, Pusa		2
9.	Gaya	Gaya, Manpur		2
10.	Aurangabad	Nabinagar		1
11.	Katihar	Guru Bazar, Bahadurganj		2
12.	Purnea	Baisi		1
13.	Araria	Forbesganj		1
14.	Begusarai	Majhaul		1
15.	Khagaria	Muskipur, Parbatta, Alauli		3
16.	Bettiah	Jogapatti		1
17.	Motihari	Motihari, Harsidhi, Madhuban, Sugauli		4
18.	Sheikhpura	Babhanbiga, Chewara, Hathiyama		3
19.	Muzaffarpur	Ratwara, Mithanpura, Basantpur Patti		3
20.	Sheohar	Sheohar		1
21.	Patna	Patel Nagar, Fatuha, Punpun, Barh, Mokama, Bakhtiarpur, Bikram, Naubatpur		8
22.	Madhepura	Madhepura, Murliganj, Uda Kishanganj		3
23.	Supaul	Raghopur, Triveniganj, Birpur		3
Total				57

Review of Local Call Facility

3988. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the utility of local call facility available within a circumference of two hundred kilometres;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to remove this limit; and

(d) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) At present no such proposal is under consideration.

[English]

Post Offices/Sub-Post Offices in Kerala

3989. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the amount allocated for the construction of new buildings and maintenance of post offices in Kerala during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): Sir, the fund allocations made for construction of new buildings of post

offices and maintenance in Kerala during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are given below:—

Financial Year	Amount allocated	
	For construction of new building of post offices	For maintenance
1999-2000	Rs. 34.83 Lakh	Rs. 80 Lakh
2000-2001	Rs. 58.46 Lakh	Rs. 188 Lakh

Super-Speciality Treatment

3990. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have set up Revolving Fund for expeditious financing for speciality/super speciality treatment under ESI schemes;

(b) whether the funds released by Union Government to State Governments have been diverted to some other sectors;

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

(d) whether the Government propose to take up the matter with the remaining State Governments to open such Revolving Fund to meet the emergent demand;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (f) A revolving fund at the level of Regional Offices of ESIC has been constituted to grant advances/reimbursement for super-speciality treatment and all the State Governments except the Union Territories of Pondicherry & Chandigarh and State Government of Meghalaya have accepted the operation of this Fund.

As per agreement under Section 58 of ESI Act, 1948, the ESI Corporation pays 90% of its share towards Medical Benefit in advance in four quarterly instalments and the same is deposited in their treasuries. The State Governments release the same to their ESI Schemes as per their Budget provisions. The final 'On Account' payment is released by ESIC, only on receipt of Audit Certificate issued by A.G. of the respective State Government.

ESI Corporation has invited suggestions from the State Governments on the Scheme to ensure proper and timely flow of funds to the Scheme in the States/Union Territories.

Compensation to Farmers

3991. SHRI MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:
SHRI DILIP KUMAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any compensation is being paid/proposed to be paid to the farmers of victims in case of destroy their farms, located near wildlife sanctuaries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the agricultural land located near Dulegaon Rehekuri Wildlife Sanctuary has been destroyed regularly by wildlife animals during the last three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the compensation paid therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the agro-product?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Government of India provides financial assistance to States for paying compensation to the farmers against depredation of crops under "Project Elephant". The financial assistance provided to States for compensating the farmers for crop depredation during last three years is as follows:—

S.No.	Year	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	1998-1999	20.10
2.	1999-2000	9.03
3.	2000-2001	13.5

(c) and (d) Wild animals do tend to stray out of sanctuaries into the agricultural fields. However no specific report has been received from the State Government in respect of large scale depredation by wild animals around Rehekuri wildlife sanctuary.

(e) The steps taken by the Government to prevent depredation of crops by wild animals include erection of power fencing around fields, digging up of elephant proof trenches and educating the farmers living around the

protected areas to cultivate the crops which are not preferred food of wildlife. Central Government is willing to support farmers in creation of power fencing around their fields.

Selection of Players for Afro-Asian Games

3992. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the processes for selection of athlete and other players for coming Afro-Asian Games has been started;

(b) if so, the criteria fixed for selection;

(c) whether the Government propose to hold special training camps before and after trials;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the facilities provided to Indian Athlete to enhance their performance in the games?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Initially number of Athletes/players were invited for coaching camps in preparation of Afro-Asian Games. Now the process of weeding out the players, who did not improve their performance has begun. Final selection of players/teams will be made by duly constituted Selection Committee of the concerned National Sports Federations.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Various Coaching Camps for preparation of Indian Players/teams are in progress at Patiala, Bangalore, Shimla, Shilaroo, Ludhiana, Chennai, Jalandhar, Delhi and Lucknow. .

(e) To enhance the performance, the Indian Athletes are given specialized training during Coaching camps by the Indian & Foreign Coaches with required scientific and medical support.

[Translation]

Telephone Connections in Post Offices in Uttar Pradesh

3993. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the post offices in Uttar Pradesh where telephone connections has not been provided so far, location-wise; and

(b) the time by which the said facility is likely to be provided in all the post offices in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The connections are provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited subject to the availability of resources.

[English]

Direct Flight from New Delhi to Renigunta (Tirupathi)

3994. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are proposing to have a direct flight from New Delhi to Renigunta (Tirupathi); and

(b) if so, the time by which the proposal is likely to be made effective?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Six Laning of NH-8

3995. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme for conversion of a stretch from Jaipur to Kishangarh of the National Highway No. 8 into six lane under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana;

(b) if so, the time which it is likely to be converted;

(c) whether the above scheme also includes construction of a stretch from Udaipur to Ratanpura as four lane; and

(d) the time by which the stretch from Kishangarh to Udaipur is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) Presumably, the Hon'ble Member is referring to National Highway Development Project (NHDP). The stretch of NH-8 between Jaipur and Kishangarh is proposed for 6-laning by December 2003.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) December 2003.

[English]

Setting up of a National Rowing Academy

3996. SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a National Rowing Academy near Tank Bund at Hyderabad; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal has been received to set up a Rowing Academy at the Hussain Sagar Lake, Hyderabad. The Secretary, Department of Youth Advancement, Tourism & Culture, Government of Andhra Pradesh has communicated to Director General, Sports Authority of India vide letter dated 21.7.2001 that the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh has taken a decision to set up a Rowing Academy at the Hussain Sagar Lake at Hyderabad for which 2.147 acres of land will be allotted to the Sports Authority of India with the condition that the lake front would be used by other Associations and sports persons and other water sports clubs of Andhra Pradesh namely, Kayaking, Canoeing, Yatching etc.

Further, State Government has decided to transfer the existing building of Commissioner of Youth Services to the Sports Authority of India permitting them to construct additional floors for housing and dormitories. The State Government has valued the building at

Rs. 33.52 lakhs (@ Rs. 400/- per sq.ft) and wants SAI to pay the above amount to Commissioner of Youth Services. The State Government has also informed Sports Authority of India that facilities like dredging in lake front and other works can also be undertaken by the Municipal Corporation of Hyderabad on repayment of actual cost.

The proposal is under consideration.

Satellite Money Orders/VSATs System

3997. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Postal Department has not yet been able to achieve the targets for installing Extended Satellite Money Orders and VSATs system during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any targets have been fixed for the coming years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The Department procured the targetted number of VSAT systems and ESMOs during the past three years. Out of Seven Hundred Thirty Two (732) ESMOs, Two Hundred Sixty Six (266) have already been installed and commissioned. The remaining Four Hundred Sixty Six (466) ESMOs are in the process of being installed. One Hundred Fifty (150) VSAT systems targetted for installation are also in the process of being installed and commissioned for which a new software has been developed and which is under testing.

(c) and (d) During the year 2001-2002, the Department proposes to install another Four Hundred (400) Extended Satellite Money Order Stations.

Child Labour Projects

3998. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of child labour projects approved and set up during Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the number of child labour that have been rehabilitated during the last three years and the number out of them still awaiting rehabilitation;

(c) the details of stipend being paid to each child per month;

(d) whether the Government propose to increase the amount of stipend;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The Government has approved continuance of the Scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) for the duration of the Ninth Five Year Plan. 24 new National Child Labour Projects have been sanctioned during the Ninth Five Year Plan. As on date 100 NCLPs are under implementation in 13 child labour endemic States for the coverage of 2.10 lakh child labour. Under the scheme of NCLP, 53,000 child labour have so far been mainstreamed into the formal education system.

(c) Under the Scheme of National Child Labour Projects the stipend amount is Rs 100/- child per month.

(d) to (f) The Government considered the issue of increase in the amount of stipend during the revision of the Scheme and decided that the existing amount was sufficient. The revised scheme is under implementation *w.e.f.* 01.04.01.

Inter-State Water Disputes

3999. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to call a meeting of the Chief Ministers of Southern States to resolve the water disputes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Pending Proposals of Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal

4000. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals submitted by the Government of Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal for approval during the Ninth Plan till date;

(b) the details of proposals lying pending for approval with the Union Government, till date;

(c) the proposals approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs during the said period;

(d) the assistance provided to the Government of Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal for irrigation projects; and

(e) the details of projects being implemented in the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Government of Uttaranchal has not submitted any new resources project proposal after its formation. However, the erstwhile Government of undivided Uttar Pradesh had submitted 7 new Irrigation/ Multipurpose Project proposals out of which one project pertains to Uttaranchal State:

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Date of submission	Estimated Cost (Rs. in crore)	Benefits in Th. ha/MW	Appraisal Status
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Modernisation of Agra Canal	4.3.98	45.83	65.96/0	B
2.	Increasing Capacity of Bhupali Pump Canal	28.8.97	29.39	34.605/0	A
3.	Hathnikund Link Channel for Eastern Yamuna Canal	8.9.99	22.49	—	B

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Kanchnoda Dam	30.10.2000	70.46	13.55/0	A
5.	Improving Water Management of Existing Sarda Canal System	12.7.2001	102.98	65.54/0	A
6.	Uttar Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring Project	27.4.2001	843.70	300/0	A
7.	Kishau Dam Project (has now come under the jurisdiction of State of Uttaranchal)	15.7.97	3455.11	0/600	A

A— Under correspondence with the State Government.

B— Accepted by Advisory Committee of Ministry of Water Resources subject to certain observations.

(c) After the compliance by the State Government on the observations of the Central Appraising Agencies on the Detail Project Reports, the projects are accepted by the Advisory Committee of Ministry of Water Resources. The investment clearance is thereafter accorded by the Planning Commission after environment & forest clearance is accorded by Ministry of Environment

and Forests. The project proposals do not need the clearance of Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs.

(d) Central Assistance has been provided by Central Government to the undivided State of Uttar Pradesh under Accelerated irrigation Benefits Programme and Command Area Development Programme. The details of releases (Rs. crore) during the Ninth Plan period are as follows.

Uttar Pradesh	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
AIBP	78.00	76.50	286.00	122.25	27.45*
CADP	30.58	39.59	28.05	32.47	Nil*

*Release of funds during 2001-2002 upto July 2001

(e) The details of on-going projects in Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Financial & Physical details of ongoing Major & Medium Projects of Uttar Pradesh

Sl. No.	Project Name	Started in Plan	Financial Details	
			Estimated cost (Rs. crore)	
			Original	Latest
1	2	3	4	5
Major Projects (spilled over from VIII Plan to IX Plan)				
1.	Bewar Feeder	III	27.91	59.90

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Sarda Sahayak	III	64.84	1290.00
3.	Maudha Dam	V	66.82	127.90
4.	Chitaurgarh Reservoir	V	34.06	36.70
5.	Madhya Ganga Canal	V	66.01	615.00
6.	Saryu Nahar	V	78.68	2810.00
7.	Eastern Ganga Canal	V	48.46	579.00
8.	Sone Pump Canal	V	5.64	72.55
9.	Gyanpur Pump Canal	V	110.51	159.88
10.	Rajghat Dam (UP Share) (IS)	V1	23.22	150.30
11.	Rajghat Canal (UP)	V	126.43	230.95
12.	Bansagar Dam (UP Share) (IS)	V	91.31	234.00
13.	Bansagar Canal (UP)	V	169.52	266.00
14.	Bansagar Canal (MP)(UP share)	V	27.92	27.92
15.	Kanhar Irrigation	V	—	240.00
16.	Chambal Lift	78-79	—	91.00
17.	Tehri Dam (UP share)	79-80	197.92	711.14
18.	Providing Kharif Channels in Hindon Krishni Doab	79-80	15.53	56.00
19.	Jarauli P.C. Medium Projects (spilled over from VIII Plan to IX Plan)	90-91	47.92	48.22
1.	Guntanala Dam	VI	1.85	24.00
2.	Pathrai Dam	VII	12.54	48.33

Financial & Physical details of ongoing Major & Medium Projects of Uttaranchal

Sl. No.	Project Name	Started in Plan	Financial Details Estimated cost (Rs. crore)	
			Original	Latest
Major Projects (spilled over from VIII Plan to IX Plan)				
1.	Lakhwar Vyasi	V	140.97	578.40
2.	Jamrani Dam	V	61.25	433.00
Medium Projects (Spilled over from VIII Plan to IX Plan)				
—Nil—				

*[English]***Performance of VSNL**

4001. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) has shown better performance during the year 2000-2001 and declared higher dividend in comparison to the previous three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the factors responsible for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of performance of the VSNL for the past four years is given below:—

(Amount in Rs. Million)

Particulars	Financial year ended March 31st			
	1998	1999	2000	2001
Net Sales from operations	61,251	68,314	69,676	72,975
Other Receipts	3,110	3,441	2,629	6,684
Total Revenue	64,361	71,756	72,305	79,659
Total Expenditure	50,077	52,101	52,878	54,964
Profit Before tax	14,284	19,655	19,427	24,695
Profit After Tax	9,679	13,250	8,403**	17,788
Dividend declared (%)	40	80	80	500*
Amount of dividend paid	380	760	760	14,250*

* Subject to approval by Share holders at AGM.

** Due to ICO Write-off of Rs. 5127 million as an extra ordinary item.

(c) The profitability for the year 2000-2001 has been higher primarily due to the following factors:

- (i) Increase in voice telephony traffic.
- (ii) Increase in revenue from Value Added Services such as Internet, International private leased circuits, Frame Relay etc.
- (iii) Increase in return from Intelsat.
- (iv) Higher other income.
- (v) The profit for the year 1999-2000 was lower due to write-off of an amount of Rs. 5127 Mn. in respect of investment in ICO Global Communications (Holdings) Ltd. Hence, on a year-to-year comparison, profit for 1999-2000 was substantially lower than the profit for the year 2000-2001.

*[Translation]***Complimentary Tickets Issued by Indian Airlines**

4002. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complimentary tickets issued by the Indian Airlines and Air India during the last three years;

(b) the names of the persons given the complimentary tickets along with the reasons for issuing the said tickets; and

(c) the details of foreign trips made by the officers of the Air India during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Connection of Jodhpur with NH-65

4003. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Jodhpur district of Rajasthan has been connected with the National Highway-65;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the National Highway-65 has been damaged at Jodhpur city for the last six months;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government to repair the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The total length of National Highway-65 in Rajasthan is 494.9 km, out of which 106 passes through the Jodhpur district.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. However, a few small stretches out of total length of 26 km. of National Highway 65 in Jodhpur City improved for riding quality have developed some potholes due to recent rains and leakage of water pipeline. These are being attended through the same contract within the defect liability period.

[English]

Construction of Airport at Vellore

4004. SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to construct an airport at Vellore; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Adopting of Safety Measures by Fertilizer Plants

4005. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some private sector fertilizer plants are not taking adequate safety measures as there was leakage of Ammonia gas in Oswal Fertilizer Plant at Paradeep in Orissa and has been creating serious health hazard since long in the locality;

(b) if so, the action taken against the owner of such plant; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure the safety of the people in that locality?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Fertiliser plants are required to take safety measures to be required under various statutory provisions including Factories Act, 1948, Indian Explosives Act and Rules, 1983, Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989.

As informed by Orissa Pollution Control Board, leakage of ammonia from the Phosphatic Fertiliser Complex of M/s. Oswal Chemicals & Fertilisers Ltd. in Paradeep, Orissa occurred on two occasions, the first one on 24.05.2000 and the second one on 01.11.2000. While there was no adverse environmental impact on the first occasion, ammonia level in ambient air varied from 0.8 ppm to 18.4 ppm after the second incident. However, there have been no reports of persisting health hazard.

(b) and (c) In Orissa, safety measures taken by the industry are looked into by the Chief Inspector of Factories and Boilers, Orissa. A safety audit was conducted through Director General, Factory Advice Services & Labour Institute, Sion, Mumbai for implementation of the recommendations of the Chief Inspectorate of Factories. The Central Govt. and Orissa Pollution Control Board have also inspected the site and issued direction under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, directing the industry to take immediate action for safety and improved

environmental management. Further, Orissa State Pollution Control Board has filed a case against the company in the Court of Sub-Judicial District Magistrate, Jagatsinghpur, Orissa under the provisions of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

[Translation]

Installation of Coin Box Telephones

4006. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL), Delhi approved PCO/STD/ISD booth operators are charging Rs. 3 to 5 per call by installing ordinary telephone set instead of the coin box telephone;

(b) if so, the number of cases noticed in this regard;

(c) whether it is obligatory for the booth operators to show names and telephone numbers of vigilance officers and other officers on a board;

(d) if so, whether such instructions are not being complied; and

(e) if so, the action being taken by the Government against the operators charging extra money to comply the instructions strictly and instal coin boxes at public booths?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Some complaints have been received regarding over charging by PCO operators in MTNL Delhi only.

(b) 86 cases have been noticed from 1/8/2000 to 31/7/2001.

(c) PCO booth operators have to display the name and telephone numbers of the Area Assistant Vigilance Officer.

(d) In some cases, such instructions are found not implemented. Such franchises are again asked to implement these immediately. The area GMs have been asked to make adherence of these instructions obligatory through amended agreements with franchises.

(e) (i) All complaints received in Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) Headquarters are investigated.

(ii) Occasional surprise checks of PCO booths are carried out.

(iii) Regular inspection of PCO booths by field staff has been introduced.

(iv) At present, local PCOs are being installed with CCB instruments.

(v) Steps are being taken to replace existing push button type PCOs with CCB type in a phased manner.

[English]

Central Training Establishment of Indian Airlines

4007. DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hyderabad based central training establishment of the Indian Airlines is imparting training to the pilots;

(b) if so, the number of pilots that has been trained so far and the number of pilots being trained at present along with the details of its future training programme;

(c) whether the pilots from foreign airlines are also being trained there; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Training Establishment (CTE) has, since its inception in the year 1958 trained 1554 pilots, the details of which are as under:—

1. No. of Trainee Pilots of Indian Airlines — 922
2. No. of Pilots of outside parties and Foreign airlines - 610
3. No. of Private candidates trained for B-737 endorsement - 22

Apart from the above, CTE Indian Airlines had been conducting periodical refresher programmes for its own Pilots, Pilots from Airline Allied Services Limited (AASL), SHOD and Indian Air Force. It had also been conducting

courses for conversion from one type of aircraft to another. No. of Pilots currently undergoing training in the CTE at Hyderabad are:—

1. 53 Trainee Pilots undergoing induction course for Airbus A-320.
2. 15 external candidates undergoing endorsement training on B-737.
3. 17 Pilots undergoing Airbus A-320 conversion course.
4. 07 Pilot undergoing Airbus A-300 endorsement course.

The CTE would continue in future to administer the following courses for Pilots:

Classroom Training Licenses: Commercial Pilot's Licenses Course, Airline Transport Pilot's Licence Course, Flight Radio Telephone Operator's Licence Course, Cockpit Resource Management.

Endorsement: B-737-200, A-320 and A-300 Type of aircraft.

Refresher: B-737-200, A-320 and A-300 Type of Aircraft.

Simulator: Type endorsement training, Pilot-in-command training or recurrent training on B-737-200, A-320, A-300 Aircraft.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. At present, Air Lanka is availing the training facility at CTE. They have utilized A-320 simulator facility for a duration of approximately 100 hours during the financial year 1999-2000 and 110 hours during the financial year 2000-2001.

Telecom Dispute Settlement and Appellate Tribunal

4008. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the jurisdiction of the Government in the Limited Mobility case;

(b) whether the Telecom Dispute Settlement and Appellate Tribunal has asked the Government to clarify the power on Wireless in Local Loop (WLL); and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) As per Section 14 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 (TRAI Act, 1997) Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) has powers to adjudicate any dispute:

- (i) between licensor and a licensee.
- (ii) between two or more service providers.
- (iii) between a service provider and a group of consumers.

The petition against limited Mobility in Wireless in Local Loop (WLL), filed by Cellular Operators Association of India, is before TDSAT. The decision in policy matters falls within the jurisdiction of the Government.

[Translation]

Setting up of a Hindustan Zinc Plant

4009. SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have accorded its sanction to the setting up of a Hindustan Zinc plant at Kapasan in Chittorgarh district;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) to (c) Government accorded approval in February, 2001 for setting up of a New Zinc Smelter of 100,000 tonne per annum (TPA) capacity at Kapasan, Distt. Chittorgarh (Rajasthan) by Hindustan Zinc Limited at an estimated cost of Rs. 1203.75 crore. The project is expected to be executed in 48 months from the date of completion of the process of disinvestment of HZL.

[English]

Coastal Regulation Zone

4010. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received any proposal to amend the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 1991 to save existing fishery projects in this area;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Agriculture has drawn up the Aquaculture Authority Bill keeping in view, *inter-alia*, the interests of aquaculture farmers.

[Translation]

Employment Exchanges in Jammu & Kashmir

4011. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employment exchanges functioning at present in Jammu & Kashmir, district-wise;

(b) the number of persons registered in each employment exchange as on date; and

(c) the number out of them belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, district-wise and employment exchange-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) Total number of employment exchanges functioning in Jammu & Kashmir is 14 as on date. Employment Exchange-wise number of job seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, on the Live Registers of the Employment Exchanges in Jammu & Kashmir and number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes job-seekers out of them are given in statement. District-wise information is not maintained.

Statement

S.No.	Employment Exchanges	Registration (in thousands)		
		Total	Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Anantnag	3.7	@	—
2.	Badgam	5.5	@	@
3.	Baramulla	12.4	@	@
4.	Doda	10.0	0.3	@
5.	Jammu	65.9	0.5	1.1
6.	Kargil	4.0	@	0.5
7.	Kathua	7.3	1.8	0.1
8.	Kupwara	3.3	@	@
9.	Leh	5.1	0.1	@
10.	Poonch	1.8	0.1	0.1
11.	Pulwama	4.1	@	@

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Rajouri	3.0	0.5	0.4
13.	Srinagar	27.2	0.2	0.1
14.	Udhampur	13.8	0.7	0.1
Total		167.3	4.2	2.5

@ Figures less than 50.

— Nil

Telecom Facilities

4012. SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL:
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages/Gram Panchayats having telephone facility in Uttar Pradesh particularly in Mainpuri District as on July 31, 2001, district-wise;

(b) the time by which the said facility is likely to be provided in villages having no such facility;

(c) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in rural areas of the State at present, district-wise;

(d) the number of telephone connections provided during the last three years and till-date in the said State;

(e) whether his Ministry has received any complaint about unsatisfactory telephone services provided to the subscribers by the Baraut Telephone Exchange in Allahabad, District;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the action taken by the Government to clear the waiting list and provide better telephone service in the said area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Construction of National Highways

4013. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of National Highways proposed to be constructed and under consideration of the Government during the current financial year, with special reference to Chhattisgarh, State-wise; and

(b) the total cost estimated to be incurred thereon, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) (a) and (b) There are a total of 175 National Highways in the country including nine National Highways in Chhattisgarh. Development of National Highways is a continuous process and is being taken up depending on condition of National Highway, traffic needs, *inter-se* priority and overall availability of funds. The total funds earmarked for development during the year 2001-2002 for expenditure in each of State, including Chhattisgarh, are indicated in statement enclosed.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Funds earmarked for expenditure (Rs. crores) during Year 2001-2002
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	90.00
2.	Assam	70.00
3.	Bihar	55.00

1	2	3
4.	Chandigarh	1.50
5.	Chhattisgarh	30.00
6.	Delhi	10.00
7.	Goa	20.00
8.	Gujarat	85.00
9.	Haryana	55.00
10.	Himachal Pradesh	47.00
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	4.00
12.	Jharkhand	25.00
13.	Karnataka	75.00
14.	Kerala	75.00
15.	Madhya Pradesh	80.00
16.	Maharashtra	108.00
17.	Manipur	18.00
18.	Meghalaya	25.00
19.	Mizoram	18.00
20.	Nagaland	16.00
21.	Orissa	70.00
22.	Pondicherry	2.00
23.	Punjab	48.00
24.	Rajasthan	100.00
25.	Tamil Nadu	95.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	129.00
27.	Uttaranchal	20.00
28.	West Bengal	105.38

Optical Fibre Cables

4014. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL:
SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of laying of Optical Fibre Cables (OFC) in each district of Karnataka and Maharashtra;

(b) whether the laying of OFC was stopped in Bangalore city due to non-approval by the Bangalore Mahanagar Palika;

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government for completion of the said work;

(d) whether the Government have received any representation for laying of about 1100 km. OFC in Jalgaon district of Maharashtra;

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

(f) the estimated expenditure proposed to be incurred on the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The present status of laying of Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) district-wise in Karnataka and Maharashtra is given in statement I & II respectively.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam is in touch with concerned State Government authorities. Approval is being received case by case.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Action has been taken for procurement of 962.6 route kilometer of optical fibre cable required for ongoing works.

(f) Estimated cost to be incurred for laying of optical fibre cable of 962.6 route kilometers would be Rs. 1771.184 lacs.

Statement I*District-wise status of optical fibre laying (upto 31.7.2001) of Karnataka*

S.No.	District	OF Rt. Kms Available as on 31.3.2001	Commissioned During 2001-2002	Total Achievement 31.7.2001
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Bangalore	910.31	348.04	1258.35
2.	Belgaum	938.40	105.63	1044.03
3.	Bellary	817.57	82.24	899.81
4.	Bidar	582.17	43.43	625.60
5.	Bijapur	562.00	60.87	622.87
6.	Bagalkot	400.12	56.00	456.12
7.	Chikmagalur	688.59	17.18	705.77
8.	Chidradurga	557.00	40.00	597.00
9.	Davagere	500.00	52.80	552.80
10.	Gulbarga	1084.99	111.88	1196.87
11.	Hassan	760.76	58.40	819.16
12.	Hubli	447.29	11.03	458.32
13.	Haveri	350.00	10.00	360.00
14.	Gadag	350.00	11.00	361.00
15.	Karwar	927.77	179.62	1107.39
16.	Kolar	905.88	44.93	950.81
17.	Madikeri	558.95	5.74	564.69
18.	Mandya	449.26	21.81	471.07
19.	Mangalore	939.09	40.74	979.83
20.	Udipi	800.92	37.00	837.92
21.	Mysore	488.00	20.00	508.00
22.	C.R. Nagar	400.56	17.12	417.68
23.	Raichur	500.44	20.13	520.57
24.	Koppal	425.00	20.13	445.13
25.	Shimoga	991.09	46.73	1037.82
26.	Tumkur	501.04	66.20	567.24
Total		16887.20	1528.65	18415.85

Statement II*District-wise status of optical fibre laying (upto 31.7.2001) of Maharashtra*

S.No.	District	OF Rt. Kms Available as on 31.3.2001	OFC Commissioned	Total Achievement 31.7.2001
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ahmednagar	728.88	—	728.88
2.	Akola	202.2	39	241.2
3.	Wasim	116	—	116
4.	Amravati	304	106.3	410.3
5.	Aurangabad	464.5	—	464.5
6.	Beed	52.5	—	52.5
7.	Bhandara	156	—	156
8.	Gondia	162	—	162
9.	Buldhana	307.7	—	307.7
10.	Chandrapur	308.6	—	308.6
11.	Dhule	125	40.7	165.7
12.	Nandurbar	113.6	15.85	129.45
13.	Gadchiroli	100	—	100
14.	Goa North	240.6	—	240.6
15.	Goa South	203	—	203
16.	Jalgaon	491.1	46.98	538.08
17.	Jalna	237	—	237
18.	Kalyan	858.95	—	858.95
19.	Kolhapur	1066.76	63.01	1129.77
20.	Latur	328.73	13.8	342.53
21.	Nagpur	460.3	—	460.3
22.	Nanded	538	—	538
23.	Nasik	717	63.8	780.8
24.	Osmanabad	330.1	—	330.1
25.	Parbhani	203.6	—	203.6
26.	Hingoli	120	—	120
27.	Pune	1706.61	204.31	1910.92

1	2	3	4	5
28.	Raigad	517.2	—	517.2
29.	Ratnagiri	359.37	—	359.37
30.	Sangli	560.79	—	560.79
31.	Satara	437.8	—	437.8
32.	Sindhudurg	553	—	553
33.	Solapur	569.25	—	569.25
34.	Wardha	159	15.88	174.86
35.	Yeotmal	214.5	10.33	224.83
Total		14045.1401	619.94	14665.0801

[English]

Civil Aviation Projects Submitted by Andhra Pradesh

4015. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of projects submitted by the Government of Andhra Pradesh relating to this Ministry are pending for clearance;

(b) if so, the details of the projects received by the Government during the last three years;

(c) the number out of them cleared;

(d) the number out of them still pending;

(e) the reasons for their pendency; and

(f) the time by which all the pending projects are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (f) Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested for action on various proposals related to Civil Aviation in Andhra Pradesh. The details of various projects and action taken thereon are placed in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Proposals from Government of Andhra Pradesh	Action Taken/Status
1	2
Declaration of domestic airport at Hyderabad as international and construction of a new airport of international standards at Shamshabad near Hyderabad under joint sector.	The Government has declared the existing airport at Hyderabad as international airport; and has approved construction of a new airport of international standards on joint venture basis at Shamshabad near Hyderabad; closure of existing airport at Hyderabad for civil operations on the commissioning of new airport; and transferring of international status to the new airport proposed at Shamshabad on its commissioning, in case it enjoys all the necessary infrastructure facilities required for an international airport.

1

2

Expansion of existing
Hyderabad airport

At Hyderabad airport, construction of new International Terminal Building and modification/expansion of existing Domestic Terminal Building, installation of four Aerobridges was completed in 1999. profile correction of runway and associated pavements was done in March, 2001. Work for extension of Apron and construction of new link taxi-track and isolation bay have been taken up which is likely to be completed in March, 2002. Also, detailed engineering planning has been completed for strengthening and extension of existing runway to 10,600 ft.

Development of
Vishakhapatnam airport.

At Vishakhapatnam airport, it has been proposed to construct a new runway of dimension 10,000ft. X 150ft. There are also proposals for construction of new Apron, link taxi-way etc., installation of Navigational aids and Ground Lighting facilities, provision of boundary wall, perimeter road, sub-fire station, approach road etc. and construction of a new Integrated Terminal Building.

Upgradation of Vijayawada
airport.

The work of strengthening of runway and construction of new Apron with link taxi way was completed in July, 1999. The airport is fit for operation of B-737 class of aircraft.

Development of Tirupati
airport.

The work of extension of runway from 6,000ft to 7,000ft has been completed. Ground Lighting facilities have also been provided.

Development of Rajamundry
airport.

Work for strengthening of runway, construction of a new Apron and link taxi-way and boundary wall have taken up which is likely to be completed in March, 2002.

Cold storage and other
facilities at Hyderabad
airport.

A state-of-the-art center for perishable cargo has been established at Hyderabad airport at the cost of Rs. 2 crores. On the basis of tender the perishable cargo center has been handed over to Andhra Pradesh State Trading Corporation (APSTC) on 7.06.2001.

NOC to Housing Complex in Mumbai

(d) if so, what is the real problem;

4016. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(e) whether the State Government has once again requested to release and give NOC to Housing Complex near Mulund and Kandivali, Mumbai;

(a) whether the Government have received any request from the Government of Maharashtra to release their proposal for housing in various parts of Mumbai;

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

(b) whether his Ministry has not given permission under the CRZ guidelines;

(g) the time by which the proposal is likely to be cleared?

(c) whether the State Government Corporation has allotted plots to the people of lower income group and down-trodden for housing before CRZ regulations came into existence;

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (g) The Central Government has received proposals from the State Government of Maharashtra with regard to housing projects under the Slum Rehabilitation Scheme and housing projects of the Maharashtra Housing and Development Authority

(MHADA) to be taken up in Coastal Regulation Zone. The Central Government has not given approval since the proposals are not in accordance with the provisions of Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, dated 19th February, 1991.

Postal Service in Manipur

4017. PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether postal services in Manipur were recently affected due to an indefinite strike by the postal employees;

(b) if so, the details of their demands; and

(c) the extent to which their demands have been fulfilled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) In protest against a "within the office" transfer order, the staff went on "cease work" on 1.6.2001. It was called off on 7.6.2001 after a compromise was reached and transfer orders were modified in the overall public interest and harmony.

[Translation]

Expansion of Khajuraho Airport

4018. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the expansion of the Khajuraho Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the works to be undertaken under the proposed expansion programme of the airport and the amount likely to be spent thereon; and

(d) the time by which the expansion work is likely to be commenced and the targeted date of its completion?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has planned to undertake expansion work at Khajuraho airport in phases. In Phases-I, it is proposed to extend the runway from 6000 ft. to 7500 ft. to make it suitable for AB-320 operation. The existing Terminal Building will be modified for provision of better passenger facilities. Under Phase-II, the runway is proposed to be extended to 9000 ft. and a new terminal building constructed for handling wide bodied jet aircraft and passenger operations of increased capacity accordingly.

(c) and (d) The work in Phase-I, at an estimated cost of Rs. 20 Crore is likely to commence in December, 2001/January, 2002 and completed in 12 months time. The works in Phase-II, will be taken up depending upon traffic requirements/passenger growth at the airport.

[English]

Increase in Outlays for Irrigation Projects

4019. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have asked the Government of Karnataka to increase outlays for irrigation projects to get matching federal funds to achieve target in food production; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Government of Karnataka has approached the Planning Commission to increase the State's Central Loan Assistance ceiling under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme from Rs. 300 crore to Rs. 525 crore for the year 2001-02.

Transfer of Control of Work to BBMB

4020. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the control of head works of Ropar, Harike and Ferozpur lies with the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) as per Punjab Re-organisation Act;

(b) if so, whether despite repeated requests of the Government of Rajasthan, the Union Government have not been able to give the control of said head works to BBMB;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to resolve this long pending dispute early to solve the water problem of drought prone Rajasthan; and

(d) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) The control of head works at Ropar, Harike and Ferozpur, under the Government of Punjab at present, remains to be transferred to the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) as per the relevant provision of the Punjab Reorganisation Act 1966, despite requests from Rajasthan and also the efforts made by the Union Government of India. According to the BBMB, even after the transfer of the said head works, all the Contact Point would not west with the BBMB and for ensuring correct supplies to all the Partner, States, the best arrangement would be that all the Partner States honour distribution made by the Technical Committee of BBMB in which Rajasthan is also represented, and deliver correct supplies at various Control/Contact Points. It is the endeavour of the Union Government of India to convene a meeting of the Chief Ministers of the three States to arrive at an amicable settlement on inter-State water related issues including the said transfer.

[Translation]

Upgradation of Jaipur Airport

4021. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the places where international airports are located in India;

(b) the item-wise details of works on which expenditure has been incurred so far at Jaipur Airport and the budget allocations made for works to be carried out;

(c) the works remained to be carried out to convert the Jaipur Airport into an International Airport;

(d) whether all planes have to land perforce at Jaipur Airport during heavy fog in Delhi; and

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be upgraded?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) International airports are located at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Trivandrum, Amritsar, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Cochin (Nedumbassery), Goa, Guwahati and Hyderabad.

(b) and (c) Jaipur Airport, which has already been developed as a Model Airport at a cost of Rs. 14.24 crores, is now being further upgraded. Runway is being extended to 9000 ft to cater for operation of AB-300 type of aircraft at a cost of Rs. 24.03 crores. Work has already been awarded and is likely to be completed by March 2003. Work for construction of new Technical Block cum Control Tower at a cost of Rs. 4.92 crores is in progress and likely to be completed by December, 2001. In the long-term development plan, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has proposals to construct a new terminal building, apron, car park and fire station besides other infrastructure at Jaipur Airport subject to traffic pickup. Adequate budgetary provision for the development works at Jaipur has been made by AAI. Declaration of an airport as international airport will depend upon traffic potential and demand from airlines for operation of international flights. At present there is no proposal to declare any airport as international airport.

(d) No, Sir. Jaipur airport is designated as an alternate airport to handle diverted flights of AB-320/AB-310 class of aircraft, and not for wide-bodied aircraft.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Bangalore-Mysore Infrastructure Corridor Project

4022. SHRI R.S. PATIL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an expert Committee has been set up recently for considering the Environment Clearance of the Bangalore-Mysore Infrastructure Corridor Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Karnataka has urged the Union Government to clear this project; and

(d) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The proposal for environmental clearance of Bangalore-Mysore Infrastructure Corridor Project was considered by the Expert Committee for environmental impact assessment of Infrastructure Development and Miscellaneous Projects which was re-constituted on 2nd August, 2000.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The proposals has been accorded environmental clearance on 8th August, 2001.

Irregularities in Finalisation of Tenders

4023. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Material Management in his Ministry has invited any tenders recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any complaint regarding irregularities committed in the finalisation of tenders; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) There is no Material Management section in this Ministry. However, PSUs (Public Sector Undertakings) under this Ministry invite tenders. The details of recently invited tenders are enclosed in the statement.

(c) Tenders are under evaluation and no complaint regarding irregularities committed in the finalisation of tender has been received.

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

Statement

Details of Recently Invited Tenders

Sr.No.	Item	NIT Date
1.	Digital Access Cross Connect System	03.04.01
2.	Appraisal of Tel. Service in India	12.04.01
3.	Digital Transmission Analyser (DTA)	16.04.01
4.	International Gateway Functionality Equipment	24.04.01
5.	DWDM Equipment	24.05.01
6.	DWDM Analyser	12.06.01
7.	WLLCDMA Equipment	21.06.01
8.	12F/24F OF Cable	24.07.01
9.	D TAX Main+Extn.	30.04.01
10.	DLC	21.06.01

[Translation]

Free Telephone Service to Ex-MPs

4024. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation to provide free telephone facility to Ex-Members of Parliament;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A representation received from Dr. Gunawant Sarodey, Ex-MP (LS) has been forwarded for consideration of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs which is the competent authority to take final decision in this regard.

*[English]***INTERNET Service by VSNL**

4025. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) has recently launched three INTERNET based service for corporates customers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the income earned therefrom; and

(d) the extent to which it is benefited to evaluate the assets of VSNL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Name of three services are:—

(1) V-Mail (Corporate Mail solutions)

V-Mail is targeted to small and medium size corporates and is expected to cater to mail requirement of corporate customers.

(2) VPN (Virtual Private Network)

VPN allows user a secure way to access network resources using the telecommunication infrastructure that already exist. It facilitates users to communicate in a secured way and in most cost effective way.

(3) Alice (An Integrated Communication suite for corporation)

Alice is an effective and low cost enterprise e-mail software solution for corporates.

(c) Service have been launched recently on 3rd July, 2001. There are a lot of commercial enquiries about these services. However, due to very short time lapsed since launch it is difficult to determine the income therefrom.

(d) Revenue from INTERNET Services have been about 5% of total revenue earnings by VSNL during 2000-2001. The reference services have good potential to enhance the revenues of VSNL for INTERNET Services.

*[Translation]***Complaints Against Various Organisations**

4026. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints of irregularities in following the procedure and assigning the works to various organisations in regard to construction of new roads in the country;

(b) if so, the full details of the charges levelled in the complaints;

(c) the names of the Government organisations and Private organisations against whom the charges of committing irregularities have been levelled; and

(d) the amount estimated to have been budgeted as per the above complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS(MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Fifteen complaints were received against National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and M/s. RSB Projects Ltd., M/s. SMJ-RK-SD (JV), M/s. You One Mahaia (JV), M/s. Ho Hup simplex (JV), M/s. Tarnat Backbone (JV), M/s. Dinesh Chandra Aggarwal, M/s. Lanco-Rani (JV), M/s. Prakash-Atlanta (JV), M/s. L.G-NCC (JV), M/s. Sumber Mitra Jaya, M/s. SMJ-NCC (JV) and M/s. Technology Suppliers G1 Steel Strips. Complaints relate to improper application of prequalification and evaluation criteria as well as selection of contractors with poor track record.

(d) There is no budget estimate for such matters.

*[English]***Functioning of Speed Posts**

4027. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the speed post services rendered by the Department of Posts are indulging in unfair trade practices and not delivering the articles within the stipulated period;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry on the functioning of Speed Posts have been conducted by the Government;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government to tone up the functioning of Speed Posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Speed Post articles are generally delivered in accordance with the delivery norms fixed in this regard by the Department. However, there are occasions when such articles are not delivered within the norms on account of failure of transport or human failure. In such cases speed post charges are refunded in full by the Department to the sender.

(b) In an internal enquiry into late delivery of Speed Post articles, Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission held that the Department of Posts did not fulfil its obligation of delivering two Speed Post articles in stipulated time and therefore, the services were not satisfactory.

(c) The facts of the case are that two Speed Post articles no. 3882 and 3883 booked on 08/10/1994 from Haus Khas Post Office and destined for Siliguri and Gangtok were not delivered within delivery norms. The Speed Post charges of Rs. 31/- and Rs. 56/- for these two articles were not refunded to the sender due to late delivery. The sender also informed the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission that she did not wish to pursue the matter having received the refund of Speed Post charges. The Commission, however, investigated the matter and directed that the Department of Posts should not indulge in unfair trade practice by not making the customer aware of terms and conditions of acceptance of letter/articles and by not delivering them within the stipulated time.

(d) The Department of Posts has already taken the following steps to tone up the functioning of the Speed Post Services:—

(i) Delivery through dedicated staff

(ii) Mechanisation of delivery

(iii) Free Pick-up service from the customers premises

(iv) Computerisation of booking and delivery

(v) Introduction of track and Trace System

(vi) Monitoring of quality

Installation of Close Circuit Cameras at IGIA

4028. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Vigilance Commissioner had earlier recommended installation of close circuit cameras in operational areas of the Indira Gandhi International Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether close circuit cameras have since been installed in operational areas of Indira Gandhi International Airport;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for the delay and the time by which close circuit cameras are likely to be installed there?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (e) Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) had advised installation of Surveillance Closed Circuit Televisions (CCTV) system at airports in order to curb malpractices. However, there is no specific instruction from CVC to install Surveillance cameras in Operational Area of Delhi airport. Surveillance CCTV cameras are currently in use at Terminal 1A, 1B and Terminal-2 of IGI Airport, Delhi. There is no plan at present to instal Surveillance cameras in the operational areas of Delhi airport. However, new Surveillance CCTV systems with provision for common control room to be used by Customs, Immigration and Security and Airports Authority of India, is likely to be installed at the terminal building of this airport by the end of September, 2001. The baggage break up and make up areas and city side kerb are also being covered through the cameras.

Industries Under Public Utility Services

4029. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether services in certain industries have been declared public utility services by the Government in July, 2001;

(b) if so, the details of such industries; and

(c) the reasons for such declaration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The following 4 industries have been declared as Public Utility Services during July, 2001 under the I.D. Act, 1947;

- (i) Uranium Industry;
- (ii) The industry engaged in the manufacture or production of Mineral Oil, (Crude Oil) Motor and Aviation, Spirit, Diesel Oil, Kerosene Oil, Fuel Oil, Diverse Hydrogen Oils and their blends, including synthetic fuels, Lubricating Oils and the like.
- (iii) Copper Mining Industry; and
- (iv) Iron Ore Mining Industry.

The above industries have been declared as Public Utility Services under the I.D. Act, 1947 in public interest.

NOC to Non-scheduled Operators

4030. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have granted No objection Certificate to a large number of non-scheduled operators to start domestic air services in the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard indicating the air services assigned to them for operation; and

(c) the guidelines issued for charging of fares and tariffs by them?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A list of non-scheduled operators having valid operating permit is Annexed. The non-scheduled (charter) operators are free to operate their services on any routes/places in the country based on their best commercial judgement.

(c) Non-scheduled operators keep adjusting their fares as they perceive the market from time to time.

Statement

List of Non Scheduled Operators

1	2
1.	ACE Airways Pvt. Ltd.
2.	Aerial Services Pvt. Ltd.
3.	Agni-Aerosports Adventure Academy Pvt. Ltd.
4.	Ahmedabad Aviation Academy Ltd.
5.	Airworks India Engg. Pvt. Ltd.
6.	Asia Aviation Ltd.
7.	Aizal India Pvt. Ltd.
8.	Blue Dart Aviation Ltd. (CARGO)
9.	Century Textiles & Industries Ltd.
10.	Deccan Aviation Pvt. Ltd.
11.	Dwarka Air Taxi
12.	Escorts Ltd.
13.	East India Hotels, The Oberoi
14.	Government of Rajasthan
15.	Great Eastern Shipping Company
16.	Hindustan Institute of Engg. Technology
17.	India International Airways
18.	Indo-Pacific Aviation
19.	Jagson Airlines
20.	J K Corp. Ltd.
21.	Kudremukh Iron Ore Co. Ltd.
22.	Malhotra Helicopters
23.	Megapode Airlines
24.	MESCO Airlines Ltd.
25.	Orient Flying School
26.	Pawan Hans Helicopters Ltd.
27.	Rajputana Aviation Academy Pvt. Ltd.
28.	Raymonds Ltd.
29.	Reliance Transport & Travels Ltd.

1	2
30.	Sahara India Airlines
31.	Saraya Aviation Pvt. Ltd.
32.	Span Air Pvt. Ltd.
33.	Taneja Aerospace & Aviation Ltd.
34.	Tata Tea Ltd.
35.	Trans Bharat Aviation
36.	U.B. Air
37.	Uttar Pradesh Airways
38.	Vidyut Travel Services

Accidents in Mines

4031. SHRI VIJAY GOEL:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of recent accidents in Collieries of various ancillaries of BCCL and Coal India Limited special safety arrangements have been made by the Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) to prevent accidents in coal and non-coal mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof, separately;

(c) the details of restricted and other type of inquiry conducted by DGMS in various coal and non-coal mines during the last three years and current year 2001, separately;

(d) the details of outcome of inquiry report; and

(e) the details of action taken by the Government on the basis of the inquiry report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Provisions for safety of persons employed in mines are contained in the Mines Act, 1952 and the Rules and Regulations framed thereunder. The safety laws are kept under constant review and amended from time to time. The Directorate General of Mines Safety also issues guidelines in the form of circulars to the management for improving safety measures. These provisions are required to be complied with by the mine

managements. The officers of the Directorate General of Mines Safety inspect the mines periodically to oversee the status of compliance with the safety provisions, and to take action as provided for under the Mines Act, 1952 in case of default.

After the disaster in Bagdigl colliery of Bharat Coking Coal Limited due to inrush of water, a circular has been issued by Directorate General of Mines Safety to all the mining companies regarding accuracy in surveying and preparation of accurate plans in respect of below ground mines particularly while working near mine boundaries and in vicinity of old water logged workings.

Besides the legislative measures, the Directorate General of Mines Safety is promoting the following initiatives to prevent accidents in coal mines.

- (i) Conference on safety in mines.
- (ii) Self-regulation by management.
- (iii) Workers' participation in safety management.
- (iv) Tripartite and Bipartite reviews at various levels.
- (v) Training of workers.
- (vi) Observance of safety weeks and Safety Campaigns.
- (vii) National Safety Awards.

(c) to (e) The number of inspections and enquiries made in coal/non-coal Mines by officers of Directorate General of Mines Safety during 1998-2001 (upto July) are as under:—

Year	Inspection	Enquiries
1998	7457	9011
1999	9365	11193
2000	6592	7698
2001* (upto July)	2441 (coal)	489 (coal)

*Provisional.

Each and every fatal accident that occurred in Coal as well as non-coal mines during the last three years and as in current year has been

enquired by officers of Directorate General of Mines Safety. Stable action has been taken against the persons held responsible for the accidents.

Action taken against persons held responsible for fatal accidents in Coal Mines and Non-coal mines is given below:

Type of Action	1998	1999	2000	2001 upto July*
(a) Action taken by DGMS				
1. Suspension/Cancellation of Certificate	0	1	0	0
2. Warnings issued	25	99	1	0
3. Prosecution launched	155	133	104	2
4. Misadventure—No action	7	13	8	0
5. Other Action taken	12	9	0	0
(b) Action taken by Management				
1. Suspended	73	66	36	0
2. Debarred from promotion	3	8	2	0
3. Demoted	3	2	4	0
4. Transferred	2	1	1	0
5. Increment withheld	17	21	13	0
6. Service Terminated	14	15	11	0
7. Warned by Management	47	42	10	0
8. Disciplinary	6	4	2	0
9. Deceased No Action	51	44	50	0

*Figures are provisional and for coal mines.

[Translation]

Organisations Engaged in Environment Development

4032. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the organisations engaged in environment development receiving foreign assistance;

(b) whether the Government have received any complaint in regard to the activities of these organisations; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

*[English]***Mumbai Cellular Operators**

4033. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mumbai cellular operators have launched an extremely aggressive tariff plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Delhi operators are not keen to follow the said scheme;

(d) the extent of tariff rates of cellular telephones are different in Delhi from Mumbai;

(e) whether the Government have urged the Delhi cellular operators to follow the said scheme; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Delhi cellular operators thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (f) Cellular mobile tariff are specified by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in its Telecommunication Tariff Order (TTO), 1999. These tariffs are for standard tariff package, which must always be offered to the subscribers by the service providers. The standard tariff package offered by the service providers is identical in all Metro Service Areas including Mumbai and Delhi.

In addition to the standard package, the service providers are free to offer alternative tariff package subject to approval of the Authority. Each operator offers a number of alternative packages comprising different rates of rental and airtime charges. The subscriber may choose from amongst the different tariff packages on offer, including the standard tariff package.

In the recent past, there has been an overall reduction in the cellular tariff prevailing to various service areas including Mumbai and Delhi. As an example, the main features of few alternative tariff plans with low airtime rate offered by cellular operators in Mumbai and Delhi are given below:

	BPL Mobile Mumbai	Hmax, Mumbai	Bharti Cellular, Delhi	Sterling Cellular, Delhi
Monthly Rental	Rs. 395	Rs. 395	Rs. 400	Rs. 395
Airtime out Going (per min.)	Rs. 1/-	Rs. 1/-	Rs. 1.48	Rs. 1.48
Airtime incoming (per min.)	Nil	Nil	Rs. 1.48	Rs. 1.48
Monthly Commitment	Rs. 1999	Rs. 1995	Rs. 800	Rs. 795

It would be seen from the above table that in Mumbai the monthly minimum commitment charge is higher as compared to the alternative tariff plan available in Delhi. Thus, in a tariff plan, which comprises more than one element of charge, viz., rental, airtime and other features such as monthly minimum commitment charge, a comparison between different tariff plans is difficult and may be misleading.

Further, it is not mandatory for any service provider in a particular service area to adopt alternative plans that may be available in other areas of the country. As mentioned above, all service providers are free to offer,

in addition to the standard package, any number of alternative tariff plans that may be suitable for different category of subscribers, subject to approval of the TRAI.

Internet Facility

4034. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA:
SHRI RAJO SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the names of the cities where internet facility has been provided/proposed to be provided during 2001-2002, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): State-wise list of the places where internet facility is available is given in statement. However, all the other cities have also access to Internet on local call basis.

Statement

Internet facility provided as on date of the current year

State	Cities
1	2
<i>Uttar Pradesh (E)</i>	Kanpur, Allahabad, Lucknow, Varanasi.
<i>Uttar Pradesh (W)</i>	Agra, Aligarh, Amroha, Baghpat, Bareilly, Bijnore, Budaun, Bulandshahar, Etha, Firozabad, Ghaziabad, Hathras, Mathura, Meerut, Moradabad Modinagar, Noida, Pillibhit, Rampur, Roorki, Saharanpur.
<i>Tamil Nadu</i>	Coimbatore, Chennai, Cuddalore, Dharamapuri, Erode, Kanchipuram, Karaikudi, Kumbakonam, Marurai, Nagarcoli, Ooty, Pallipalayam, Salem, Thanjavur, Tirunelveli, Trichy, Tiruppur, Tuticorin, Vellore, Virudhunagar.
<i>Andhra Pradesh</i>	Hyderabad, Adilabad, Ananthpur, Cuddapah, Eluru, Guntur Karnool, Kakinada, Karimnagar, Khammam, Mahboobnagar, Nalgonda, Nellore, Nijamabad, Ongole, Rajamundry, Sangareddi, Srikakullam, Tirupati, Tanku, Vijana-Garam, Vishakhapatna, Warangal.
<i>Maharashtra</i>	Arvi, New Bombay, Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur, Ahmednagar, Akola Amravati, Aurangabad, Deed, Bhandara, Chandrapur, Dhule, Gadchiroli, Gondia, Hingoli, Jalgaon, Jalna, Kalyan, Kolhapur, Khamagaon, Latur, Margao, Nanded, Naik, Osmanabad, Parbhani, Raigad, Ratnagari, Sangli, Satara, Solapur, Wardha, Yeotmal.

1	2
<i>Orissa</i>	Bhubaneshwar, Baripada, Bhawanipatna, Bolangir, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Keonjar, Koraput, Phulbani, Raurkela, Sambalpur.
<i>Gujarat</i>	Gandhinagar, Ankleshwar, Amreli, Anand, Baroda, Bharuch, Bhavnagar, Bhoj, Gandhidham, Himmatnagar, Jamnagar, Junagarh, Mehsana, Palanpur, Rajkot, Sennagar, Surat, Sundemapur, V.V. Nagar, Valsad, Vapi, Vadodara.
<i>Karnataka</i>	Bangalore, Begalkot, Belgaum, Bellary, Bidar, Bijapur, Chamarajnagar, Chikmanglur, Chitradurga, Davangera, Dharwad, Gadag, Gulberga, Hassan, Havery, Hubli, Kodagu, Kolar, Koppal, Mandhya, Mangalore, Mysore, Raichur, Shimoga, Tumkur, Udipi, Uttar-Kannada.
<i>West Bengal</i>	Kolkata, Durgapur, Geyzing, Haldia, Malda, Mangan, Namchi, Raiganj, Siliguri, Suri, Kharagpur, Bankura, Purulia, Coochbehar, Jalpaipuri, Balurghat, Krishnanagar.
<i>Madhya Pradesh</i>	Bhopal, Gwalior, Jabalpur, Indore
<i>Rajasthan</i>	Jaipur, Kota, Udaipur, Jodhpur, Ajmer, Alwar, Banswara, Barmer, Bhilwara, Bikaner, Bharatpur, Bhilwara, Bundi, Chittaurgarh, Churu, Dausa, Dholpur, Dungarpur, Hanu-Mangarh, Jaisalmer, Jalore, Jhalwar, Jhunjhunu, Karauli, Kankroli, Pali, Swai-Madhopur, Sikar, Sirohi, Sriganganagar, Tonk.
<i>Kerala</i>	Alleppey, Calicut, Cochin, Emakulam, Iddukki, Kannur, Kavarathy, Kollam, Kottayam, Palghat, Pathanamthippa, Thiruvananthapuram, Tiruvella, Trichur.
<i>Punjab</i>	Amritsar, Bhatinda, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Mohali, Patiala.

1	2
<i>Chandigarh</i>	Chandigarh
<i>Bihar</i>	Patna, Ara, Begusarai, Bhagalpur, Chapra, Dharbanga, Gaya, Hajipur, Katihar, Khagaria, Madhubani, Motihari, Munger, Muzaffarpur, Purnea, Saharsa, Sasaram.
<i>Jammu & Kashmir</i>	Jammu, Srinagar, Uddhampur, Rauauri, Leh.
<i>N.E. States</i>	Meghalaya, Shillong, Tripura (Agartala), Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland.
<i>Jharkhand</i>	Jamshedpur, Ranchi, Dhanbad, Dumka, Daltonganj, Hazaribagh.
<i>Uttaranchal</i>	Almorah, Hardwar, Nainital, Dehradun.
<i>Haryana</i>	Ambala, Faridabad, Gurgaon, Kamal, Panipat.
<i>Assam</i>	Berpatha, Bongaigaon, Dhubri, Dibrugarh, Golghat, Guwahati, Jorhat, Karimganj, Nongaon, North Lakhimpur, Shivasagar, Silchar, Tejpur, Tinshukia.
<i>Andaman</i>	Port Blair.
<i>Sikkim</i>	Gangtok.
<i>Himachal Pradesh</i>	Shimla.
<i>Pondicherry</i>	Pondicherry.
<i>Goa</i>	Goa.
<i>Delhi</i>	Delhi.

[*Translation*]

Irrigation Facilities in Madhya Pradesh

4035. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals lying pending with the Union Government for increasing irrigation facilities in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the number of proposals likely to be cleared under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme during the current year; and

(c) the amount likely to be given to the State Government for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Eight proposals for increasing irrigation facilities in Madhya Pradesh are in different stages of appraisal.

(b) and (c) The allocations under Accelerated Irrigation benefits Programme (AIBP) are made on year to year basis for those ongoing irrigation projects which satisfy the AIBP criteria and are proposed by the State, subject to availability of funds and the budget outlays provided by the State for these projects in their respective annual plans and keeping in view State ceiling of Central Loan Assistance prescribed by Planning Commission for the year which is Rs. 205.00 crore for 2001-2002.

[*English*]

Reconstruction/Maintenance of Bridges and Wooden Bridges

4036. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to reconstruct and maintain the bridges and wooden bridges on National Highway-52;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount allocated for the same during the current year;

(d) whether there is any proposal for conversion of National Highway-52 into double lane; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS(MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. The Annual Plan 2001-2002 includes reconstruction of 7 nos. of wooden bridges at a cost of Rs. 18.13 crore and rehabilitation of 4 nos. of bridges at a cost of Rs. 1.08 crore. The existing bridges including wooden bridges are being maintained within the availability of funds. The funds are allocated State-wise and not work-wise.

(d) and (e) Out of the total length of 873 km of NH 52, 345 km is already double lane. Widening of the remaining length would be taken up in phases depending upon availability of funds and *inter-se* priority. It is not possible to indicate likely date of start and completion at this stage.

[Translation]

Mineral Reserves in Jharkhand

4037. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India (GSI) has conducted any survey to explore new mineral resources in Jharkhand during the last three years;

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

(c) the details of the places where minerals have been found and the details of these minerals alongwith the estimated quantum thereof;

(d) the time by which the Government propose to exploit these minerals;

(e) whether the Government propose to invite private participation in this work; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. During the last three years the Geological Survey of India (GSI) has carried out number of mineral investigations for base metals, gold, nickel, rare metals, coal and resource survey for dimension stones in different parts of Jharkhand.

(b) and (c) During the years 1998-2001, exploration for the following minerals was carried out as per details given below:—

Base-metal in Bhatin-Rajdah area, Chhota Jamjora area and around Mouda,

Gold at Morchagora-Jaikana and Kundadankkam area, Singubhum group metasediments and Dalma Volcanics,

Nickel at Sasdih and Rehakochatala East Singhbhum belt,

Rare-metals a programme for search of REE and RM mineralisation in parts of North Purulia Shear Zone, Ranchi District,

Dimension Stones - Dumka, Deoghar, Koderma, Hazaribagh, Giridih, Lohardaga, Gumla, Ranchi, East Singhbhum and West Singhbhum districts and

Coal in Bokaro, Hazaribagh and Dumka districts of Jharkhand.

(d) to (f) Since investigations are in a preliminary stage, extraction of these minerals/resources will depend on their economic viability. Further, any Indian National or a Company as defined in sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Companies Act, 1956 is free to exploit the mineral reserves after getting mining lease in accordance with the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 and Rules framed thereunder.

Construction Cost of Roads

4038. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had estimated the cost of construction of roads before entrusting the work of road construction to the private sector in the country;

(b) if so, whether the cost of road construction is likely to vary from place to place in view of diversity of the places and circumstances besides huge size of the country;

(c) if so, the number of groups constituted for preparation of broad estimates of road construction; and

(d) the cost of road construction determined for each group alongwith the names of the institutions which have prepared the estimates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Government are offering some road projects to the private on Build, Operate & Transfer (BOT) basis and Annuity Payments basis. For these projects, the cost estimates are prepared by the private sector parties, who incur the expenditure on construction. However, estimates are also prepared by NHAI through consultants for verification of the bids given by the private sector entrepreneurs. These estimates are project specific and may vary from project to project based on location, facilities being provided etc.

[English]

Action Plan for NH-31, 34 and 35

4039. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that due to floods occasionally National Highway Nos. 31, 34 and 35 get severest damages in the State of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of specific plan the Government is contemplating to raise the level of these National Highways from the water level during floods and its expansion to accommodate traffic from the rest of the country to the North East;

(d) whether the National Highway linking the districts of Malda and Uttar Dinajpur of West Bengal are facing a major threat in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) (a) and (b) The Government are aware that damages do occur occasionally on NH Nos. 31, 34 and 35 in the State of West Bengal due to floods. This year no severe damages have been reported so far.

(c) At present no such specific plan is contemplated to raise the level of the low lying reaches of these

National Highways. For the improvement of these National Highways to accommodate traffic efficiently, works amounting to Rs. 78 crores have been sanctioned from 1999-2000 till date.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Construction of By-Passes

4040. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from the State Governments particularly Kerala regarding the construction of By-passes;

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

(c) the reasons for the delay in completing the proposed By-pass projects so far taken into execution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Out of the nine proposals included in the current Annual Plan (2001-2002) for construction of bypasses in various States, two proposals have been received from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh. No other proposals have been received.

(c) The main reasons for delay in completing bypass projects under execution are site problems, shifting of utilities, contractual problems etc.

[Translation]

Construction of By-Passes in Allahabad

4041. RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a By-pass is proposed in Allahabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be completed; and

(d) the place where said By-pass is likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) to (d) Allahabad bypass forming part of Golden Quadrilateral under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) is proposed from km. 158 (Kokhraj) to km. 245 (near Handia) of NH-2 and is traversing through three districts of Kaushambi, Pratapgarh and Allahabad. Keeping in view the time required for land acquisition, environmental clearance etc., no firm date for completion can be given.

Domestic Workers

4042 SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the children working as domestic servants come under the (Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986;

(b) if so, the number of child labour engaged in domestic work as per the census of 1981 and census of 1991; and

(c) the number of incidents brought to the notice of the Government regularly sexual abuse and other misbehaviour perpetrated on child labour during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Employment of children below the age of 14, is prohibited in 13 occupations and 57 processes listed in the schedule to the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986. The schedule does not include domestic servants. Government has issued a notification on 14.10.99 inserting a provision/rule in the CCS (conduct) Rules, 1964 stating that "no Government servant shall employ to work any child below the age of 14 years".

(b) and (c) Authentic information on the number of working children is generated during the decennial census. As per the 1991 census, the total number of working children in the country is 1.12 crore. Figures of the number of child labour engaged in domestic work are not maintained.

Telecom Facility

4043. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2085 on March 12, 2001 regarding Opening of Telephone Exchanges and Post Offices and state:

(a) the present position of department building of Thakma Telephone Exchange;

(b) whether the C-DoT exchange of 1000 lines has been completed so far;

(c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be completed;

(d) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections under said exchange at present; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to clear the waiting list and lay cable line in each of the village under the said exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The departmental building is ready. Environmental work is in progress.

(b) and (c) The installation of 1000 lines C-DoT exchange is in progress. The exchange is likely to be commissioned by November, 2001.

(d) and (e) The present waiting list for telephone connections under Thakma exchange is 324. Alongwith exchange installation, cable laying work is also in progress to make the exchange area technically feasible. The waiting list is likely to be cleared within a month's time of the commissioning of the exchange.

[English]

Security Cover at Airports

4044. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the security cover at the airports both international and domestic terminals is being further strengthened;

(b) if so, whether the Union Home Ministry has cleared a proposal for increasing the deployment of police personnel on the airports;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) The extent to which the security has been further strengthened?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Security arrangements at all international/domestic airports in India are according to the international standards and recommended practices prescribed by International Civil Aviation Organisation.

(b) and (c) The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security assesses the requirement of security personnel at various airports depending on their sensitivity. Ministry of Home Affairs has issued instructions to provide Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs) at certain highly sensitive airports. State Governments have also been requested to provide adequate security to the airports by way of mobile patrolling in the apron areas particularly alongside the perimeter.

(d) All security measures as prescribed by the ICAO in Annex-17 to the Convention on Security, are strictly followed. The measures taken include:

- (i) Frisking of passengers and checking hand baggage before boarding;
- (ii) Ladder point security check of passengers;
- (iii) Deployment of Sky Marshals on selected routes on random basis;
- (iv) Deployment of CISF at airports for security duties in a phased manner;
- (v) Deployment of Quick Reaction Teams at selected airports.

Upgradation of Guwahati Airport

4045. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE:
SHRI K.A. SANGTAM:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Guwahati Airport has been upgraded as an International Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether not even a single international flight operates from here despite being an International Airport;

(d) whether no foreign airline has evinced any interest to operate to and from Guwahati and if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Indian Airlines operate international flights from many Indian airports and if so, whether these flights were found commercially viable;

(f) if so, whether the Government have made any market survey as to the potential of Guwahati for generating enough international traffic;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether Indian Airlines propose to start operating flights from Guwahati to destinations like Kathmandu, Bangkok etc.; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Guwahati Airport has already been declared as an International Airport.

(c) and (d) No airline has shown interest in operating international flights from Guwahati airport so far.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) and (g) Market surveys/traffic studies are undertaken by airlines from time to time. Decision to start international flights from any airport is taken by them based on economic viability and traffic potential.

(h) and (i) Indian Airlines has, at present, no proposal to start international flights from Guwahati.

Cleaning of Coastline

4046. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether prominent beaches in North Goa coastline were recently blackened;

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

(c) the steps taken to clean the coastline?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) During the month of May, 2001, there were incidents of oily sediments, tar balls and other oily substances being washed to the shore along the coastline of Goa starting from the Northern beaches of Arombol, Candolim and Sinquerim to the southern beaches of Varca and Mobor. These oily substances are supposed to originate from oil spills due to tanker washings, accidents and leakages that occur in the Arabian Sea all along the route of oil tankers going to and coming from the Gulf countries. Minor oil spills from fishing boats and other vessels in and around the major port of Mormugao and other smaller ports also contribute to the problem.

(c) The State Government of Goa has, on some occasions, undertaken cleaning of such beaches. It has been reported by the Goa Government that, in course of time, such oily sediments and other oily substances disappear due to biodegradation and evaporation and are also washed back to the sea.

Flight between Mumbai-Vadodara

4047. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is going to stop the daily flight between Mumbai-Vadodara very soon;

(b) if so, whether the Government are proposing to start daily flight on Rajkot-Vadodara-Mumbai and Mumbai-Vadodara-Rajkot sector; and

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Prior to 1st July, 2001, Alliance Air was operating a daily B-737 service on Mumbai-Vadodara-Mumbai sector. Due to lean season and low passenger demand, this service has been withdrawn by Alliance Air from 1st July till 31st August, 2001. Alliance Air has plans to restore the services on Mumbai-Vadodara-Mumbai route effective 1st September, 2001.

(b) and (c) There is, at present, no such proposal under consideration of the Government to operate a daily flight on the sector Rajkot-Vadodara-Mumbai and return. Airline operators are, however, free to operate on any sector subject to compliance with the Route Dispersal Guidelines and commercial viability.

[Translation]

Decline In Utilisation of Labour Force

4048. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA:
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:
SHRI RAMESHWAR DUDI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been decline in utilisation of vast labour force in India after the introduction of the second generation reforms, liberalisation and economic reforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the pace of mechanisation in production process has increased;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in the interests and welfare of labourers in the process of liberalisation and various reforms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (e) There is no evidence to show that there is decline in utilisation of vast labour force owing to second generation reforms, liberalisation and economic reforms. Modernisation and upgradation of machinery is a continuous process in industrial activities, and it takes place to make them competitive to face the World market. The Government is conscious of the need to protect the interest of the workers and have constituted the Second National Commission on Labour to match and safeguard the interest of the workers in the changing World economic scenario.

[English]

Telecom Factories

4049. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the target of production fixed for telecom factories at Kharagpur, Jabalpur and Mumbai for the last two years;

(b) the extent of target achieved; and

(c) the steps taken to tone up the production capacity of these factories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b)

The target and achievement of telecom factories for last two years are indicated below:

(Rs. in crore)

Factory	1999-2000			2000-2001		
	Target	Achievement	% achievement	Target	Achievement	% achievement
Kharagpur	5.00	4.09	81.8%	7.50	6.71	89.5%
Jabalpur	70.00	70.99	101.4%	64.00	56.19	87.8%
Mumbai	80.00	72.00	90.0%	89.00	79.63	89.5%

(c) Consequent upon corporatisation of the erstwhile Department of Telecom, with effect from 1st October, 2000, the new corporate entity Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has been assigned the task of running the Telecom Factories, BSNL has taken various steps to tone up the production capacity of these factories. These steps include (i) procurement of new Plant and Machinery worth Rs. 4.5 Crores to augment production of items like Cable Termination Boxes, Distribution Point Boxes, Line Jack Units (ii) posting of senior level officers specifically for Material Management, Development & Marketing of products and (iii) manufacture of high value castings at TF Kharagpur for better utilization of the plant.

Works Under NHDP in A.P.

4050. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have proposed any work to be undertaken by National Highway Development project in Andhra Pradesh during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the funds earmarked and released under this programme till date and the amount utilized so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Projects on a total length of about 1152 kms on NHDP in Andhra Pradesh are in progress during the current year.

(c) The total estimated cost of the on-going projects in Andhra Pradesh is about Rs. 4700 crore. The expenditure incurred upto 31st July 2001 is about Rs. 513 crore.

[Translation]

Water Resource Projects of Jharkhand

4051. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposals from the Government of Jharkhand regarding water resources projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of projects out of them lying pending with the Union Government and the steps taken by the Government to clear them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BHOYA CHAKRAVARTY:

(a) to (c) Government of Jharkhand has not submitted any new major or medium project proposal for techno-economic appraisal after formation of Jharkhand. However, the erstwhile Government of undivided Bihar had submitted 11 new Irrigation/

Multipurpose Project proposals, out of which 7 projects pertain to Jharkhand State, namely:—

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Appraisal Status
1.	Punasi Reservoir	B
2.	Subernarekha Multipurpose Project	B
3.	Siktia Barrage (Ajoy Barrage)	B
4.	Upper Sakri Reservoir	B
5.	Kanhar Reservoir Project	A
6.	North Koel Reservoir Project	B
7.	Konar Irrigation Project	B

- A- Under correspondence with the State Government
 B- Accepted by Advisory Committee of Ministry of Water Resources subject to certain observations.

The clearance of the projects depends upon the promptness with which the State Government complies with observations of Central Appraising Agencies.

De-Recognition of All India Women Football Federation

4052. SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Women Football Federation now known as All India Women Football Federation was de-recognised in the year 1991; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) The Women Football Federation of India (WFFI) was derecognised on 11th September, 1991 because it failed to comply with the directives of International Football Federation (FIFA) regarding merger of WFFI with All India Football Federation (AIFF). However, WFFI subsequently took a decision to merge with All India Football Federation (AIFF) on 14th December, 1996.

[English]

Modernisation and Upgradation of Kolhapur Airport

4053. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received requests from Members of Parliament for the modernisation/upgradation of Kolhapur airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Recently, no such request has been received by Government for the modernisation/upgradation of Kolhapur airport. This airport has been transferred to the State Government of Maharashtra for a period of 15 years w.e.f. 1.2.1997 for development and operation.

Advanced Training Institute, Guindy

4054. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to increase the staff strength in the Advance Training Institute at Guindy, Chennai.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present staff strength and the expected postings to be made at the institute, category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The sanctioned staff strength category-wise of the Advanced Training Institute, Guindy is as follows:

Group A — 30

Group B — 12

Group C — 44

Group D — 24

The present staff strength of the institute category-wise is as follows:

Group A — 23

Group B — 16

Group C — 40

Group D — 21

Filling up of vacancies would depend on availability of suitable candidates on their selection through relevant recruitment rules, and the revival of posts that have attracted ban orders as part of economy measures of the Government.

Effect of Global Warming

4055. SHRI JAGANNATH MALLIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to fight the situation arising from the effect of global warming due to the increased concentration of green house gases in the atmosphere;

(b) whether the Government observed any effects of climate change due to this;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps and precautions taken by the Government in this respect;

(d) whether the excess of Industrialisation and Deforestation has also contributed to the Global Warming in India;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Indian Industries are following the norms laid down by the Central Pollution Board for the effluents treatment and their drainage; and

(g) if not, the action taken by the Government for these defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The steps taken by the Government include measures to address growth of emission of green house gases through power sector reforms, enhanced afforestation, significant capacity addition of renewable energy technology, fuel switching, energy efficiency in industries, conservation of energy and upgradation of vehicular emission norms as well as launching of studies to enhance the understanding of impacts of climate change and adaptation.

(b) to (e) Advanced regional climate modelling required to study effects of climate change at the national level and impact of industrialisation and deforestation on global warming in India are currently not available.

(f) and (g) The Indian industries are required to follow the norms laid down by the Central Pollution Control Board and instances of violation of norms are being dealt with under law as and when they are brought to the notice of the Government.

Cancellation of Indian Airlines Flights

4056. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines flights in North East Region particularly in Dimapur, Nagaland are being cancelled frequently and the passengers are placed in Five Star Hotels resulting in heavy loss to the exchequer Indian Airlines/subsidiary cos.;

(b) if so, the flights that have been cancelled during the last six months in North East Region and the expenses incurred on this account; State-wise;

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

(d) if so, the findings thereof; and

(e) the action taken against the officials involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) On an average Indian Airlines operate 152 flights per month to North East, out of which 7 flights on the average have been cancelled.

It is pertinent to mention here that of the 41 flights cancelled in the last six months, 28 flights were cancelled due to the reasons beyond Indian Airlines control like destination/en-route bad weather, non-availability of navigational aids at Dimapur, non-availability of fuel at Aizwal and Imphal etc. There are no Five Star Hotels available in the North East. However, the stranded passengers of Indian Airlines flight are accommodated in the best Hotels available in each city in the North East.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Supply of WLL Equipment

4057. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are about 7000 villages which are yet to be connected with telephone lines in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to supply the Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) equipment to the A.P. Telecom Circle; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) 6,059 villages in Andhra Pradesh are yet to be provided with telephone facility. All these villages are to be provided with telecom facility by Private Basic Service Operator.

(b) and (c) 13,000 lines of WLL systems have been allotted to Andhra Pradesh to provide telephone connections and replace faulty Multi-Access Radio Relay (MARR) based Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in the rural areas. The equipment is likely to be supplied by end of December, 2001.

Krishna Water Dispute

4058. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken the final decision on the utilisation of Karnataka's share of Krishna Water under scheme "B";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is on the basis of the expert committee report; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) Scheme "B" is not a part of the Final Order of the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal. The question of the Union Government setting up an expert Committee on the issue or taking a final decision on the issue does not therefore arise.

Permission to International Airlines for Operating Flights

4059. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the international carrier viz. Peace Air, Sri Lankan Airlines, Switzerland and British Airways are expressing their interest in operating flights from Geneva and London to Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested to the Government for according their permission; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d) Designated airlines of Switzerland, Sri Lanka and United Kingdom have shown interest to operate services to/from Hyderabad. State Government of Andhra Pradesh has also requested for introduction of direct flights between Hyderabad and London & Geneva. Hyderabad is not presently available as a point of call to the designated airlines of Switzerland, Sri Lanka and United Kingdom and such matters are discussed during Government level air services consultations. Peace Air has not yet been designated by the Government of Switzerland for operating services between India and that country.

[Translation]

Cancellation of Flights by Air India

4060. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some national and international flights of the Air India were cancelled or delayed owing to various reasons during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the loss of revenue suffered as a result thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government against the erring officials of Air India responsible for this situation; and

(d) the steps that are being taken by the Government to check recurrence of such events in the future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Guidelines to NALCO

4061. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the National Aluminium Company (NALCO) has been neglecting the Small Scale Industries engaged in production of downstream aluminium products in Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any guidelines have been issued by the Government to NALCO to take care of the downstream Industries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) to (e) The Aluminium sector is decontrolled and aluminium is in the Open General Licence category for Import/Export. Government has not issued any guidelines to NALCO regarding marketing of Aluminium.

Improvement of NH-212

4062. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the newly formed National Highway-212 is having the requisite standards of National Highway;

(b) if not, the steps taken by the Union Government for the improvements of NH-212;

(c) whether the Union Government are aware of the traffic congestion in the Ghat Section of NH-212;

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government to strengthen and widen the Ghat Section for the smooth trafficking of the vehicles; and

(e) the action taken by the Government to carry out the repairs and bitumen concreting work after the formation of NH-212?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) (a) and (b) NH-212 has been declared as National Highway in July, 1999 and is yet to be developed to National Highway standards. Development and maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process and works are taken up in a phased manner depending upon the *inter-se* priority and availability of funds.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. For improvement of the congested part of the Ghat Section, provision of Rs. 7.00 Crore has been made in Annual Plan 2001-2002.

(e) After declaration of National Highway, about Rs. 10.43 Crore have been sanctioned for repairs and improvement of riding quality in addition to routine maintenance.

[Translation]

Construction of International Airport at Panwel

4063. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from Maharashtra Government for construction of International Airport in Panwel (Maharashtra);

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken any decision on this proposal; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) The State Government of Maharashtra has plans to develop a second airport at Navi Mumbai to meet the long term air traffic requirements. The State Government has been asked to complete the proposed technical/traffic studies and then send a formal proposal for the consideration of the Government.

*[English]***CNG/LPG Vehicles**

4064. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether CNG, LPG vehicles have been allowed in the country;

(b) if so, the States which have sought permission in this regard; and

(c) the names and numbers of CNG and LPG kit suppliers in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) (a) and (b) Use of CNG and LPG for automotive purposes has been legislated by the Parliament. The safety and emission requirements have also been notified. Any manufacturer or supplier of CNG and LPG kits would have to get the same certified by any of the testing agencies authorized under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989. No state-wise permission is given.

(c) The names and numbers of CNG kit suppliers in the country, who have obtained certificate from the testing agencies is being compiled and will be laid on the Table

of the House. In case of LPG, testing of kit is taking place, however no kit has been certified so far.

Spectrum Dues Against Cellular Telephone Companies

4065. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge amount spectrum dues are outstanding against the cellular companies;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to recover the said dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Company-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Government has taken a serious view of default in payments by cellular companies and they have been asked to clear their dues expeditiously.

Statement*Company-wise Details of Outstanding Spectrum Dues upto December 31, 2001**

*(Dues are payable in advance for the calendar year)

	Company	Circle/Metro	Amount Due for period covering upto 31.12.2001 (in Rupees)	Amount Deposited (in Rupees)	Amount Outstanding (In Rupees)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	M/s. Hutchison Max Telecom	Mumbai (Metro)	18,94,31,900	14,74,01,900	4,20,30,000
2.	M/s. BPL Mobile	Mumbai (Metro)	15,91,93,600	11,26,26,700	4,65,66,900
3.	M/s. Usha Martin	Kolkatta (Metro)	8,19,01,000	7,96,46,700	22,54,300

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	M/s. Spice Ltd.	Kolkatta (Metro)	7,65,55,575	4,99,37,200	2,66,18,375
5.	M/s. RPG Cellular	Chennai (Metro)	6,53,24,600	6,19,14,600	34,10,000
6.	M/s. Sky Cell	Chennai (Metro)	7,50,48,800	7,50,48,800	NIL
7.	M/s. Sterling	Delhi (Metro)	24,42,36,600	20,71,52,200	3,70,84,400
8.	M/s. Airtel	Delhi (Metro)	17,00,92,400	15,49,22,500	1,51,69,900
9.	M/s. Escotel Mobile Communications Ltd.	Kerala	20,47,82,400	3,77,64,448	16,70,17,952
10.	M/s. Escotel Mobile Communications Ltd.	Haryana	14,60,89,000	2,80,45,136	11,80,43,864
11.	M/s. Escotel Mobile Communications Ltd.	UP (West)	26,64,07,300	4,51,24,172	22,12,83,128
12.	M/s. BPL US West	Kerala	12,83,96,500	3,46,45,483	9,37,51,017
13.	M/s. BPL US West	Maharashtra	13,46,52,400	7,41,35,943	6,05,16,457
14.	M/s. BPL US West	Tamil Nadu	12,32,95,000	4,11,26,000	8,21,69,000
15.	Birla At & T Communications Ltd.	Maharashtra	24,92,82,100	7,88,51,400	17,04,30,700
16.	M/s. Birla At & T Communications Ltd.	Gujarat	15,94,85,400	6,41,25,200	9,53,60,200
17.	M/s. Fascel	Gujarat	15,84,67,300	9,23,93,200	6,60,74,100
18.	M/s. Aircell Digilink	Haryana	5,47,94,100	NIL	5,47,94,100
19.	M/s. Aircell Digilink	UP (East)	9,43,50,800	NIL	9,43,50,800
20.	M/s. Aircell Digilink	Rajasthan	9,60,92,800	26,00,000	9,34,92,800
21.	M/s. Hexacom India Ltd.	Rajasthan	5,97,54,100	1,11,75,132	4,85,78,968
22.	M/s. JT Mobiles Ltd.**	Punjab	5,40,95,900	NIL	5,40,95,900
23.	M/s. Bharti Mobiles Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh	7,55,43,100	1,94,37,482	5,61,05,618
24.	M/s. Bharti Mobiles Ltd.	Karnataka	8,61,65,900	2,91,91,280	5,69,74,620

1	2	3	4	5	6
25.	M/s. Spice Communications	Karnataka	5,30,15,400	2,38,61,456	2,91,53,944
26.	M/s. Spice Communications	Punjab	14,21,85,400	34,13,259	13,87,72,141
27.	M/s. Tata Cellular Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh	15,27,86,600	8,40,11,700	6,87,74,900
28.	M/s. Koshika** Telecom	UP (West)	13,67,53,700	27,58,400	13,39,95,300
29.	M/s. Koshika Telecom	UP (West)	21,21,10,200	90,62,800	20,30,47,400
30.	M/s. Koshika** Telecom (Bihar)	Bihar	10,45,08,100	NIL	10,45,08,100
31.	M/s. Koshika** Telecom (Orissa)	Orissa	2,65,38,400	NIL	2,65,38,400
32.	M/s. RPG	Madhya Pradesh	8,72,41,600	2,10,29,600	6,62,12,000
33.	M/s. Reliance Telecom Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh	10,03,22,700	4,82,52,200	5,20,70,500
34.	M/s. Reliance Telecom Ltd.	Himachal Pradesh	1,12,95,500	34,89,000	78,06,500
35.	M/s. Reliance Telecom Ltd.	West Bengal	2,66,32,700	1,76,55,900	89,76,800
36.	M/s. Reliance Telecom Ltd.	Assam	1,54,51,300	98,11,300	56,40,000
37.	M/s. Reliance Telecom Ltd.	North Eastern Region	57,88,600	38,46,500	19,42,100
38.	M/s. Reliance Telecom Ltd.	Bihar	5,54,39,400	3,41,57,600	2,12,81,800
39.	M/s. Reliance Telecom Ltd.	Orissa	3,18,28,300	1,66,97,800	1,51,30,500
40.	M/s. Bharati Telenet	Himachal Pradesh	3,07,76,700	45,62,500	2,62,14,200
41.	M/s. Aircel	Tamil Nadu	16,26,15,800	1,67,63,800	14,58,52,000

**These Licenses stand terminated.

Note: Amount for the period after 1.8.1999 is provisional.

[Translation]

Telephone Directory

4066. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the latest telephone directories have been printed and distributed to the subscribers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, circle/district-wise;

(c) the date upto which these have been updated; and

(d) the time by which the next editions of telephone directories, circle/district-wise are likely to be published?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Sports Activities in Orissa

4067. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Centrally sponsored scheme related to sports activities is being implemented in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount allocated under the said scheme during each of the last three years and for 2001-2002 to promote sports and games in the tribal areas of the said State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) Following Centrally sponsored schemes related to sports activities are being implemented all over India including the State of Orissa;

- (i) Grants of creation of Sports Infrastructure;
- (ii) Grants for Promotion of Sports in Universities & colleges;
- (iii) Grants for installation of synthetic playing surface;
- (iv) Promotion of Sports and Games in school;
- (v) National Championships for women;
- (vi) Rural Sports Programme;
- (vii) Sports Scholarships Scheme.

(c) Funds are not allocated to any State. Financial assistance is given to various States/UTs on receipt of viable proposals from them. However, following assistance was given to the State of Orissa during the last three years under various schemes:

Year	Amount sanctioned
1998-1999	Rs. 4,32,493/-
1999-2000	Rs. 5,02,483/-
2000-2001	Rs. 11,25,000/-

Expansion of Postal Network

4068. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether postal Department held negotiations with SEBI and the nationalised banks to use its vast network to offer their financial services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether other Government departments and public sector undertakings have also been contacted;

(d) if so, their response in this regard;

(e) whether any steps have also been taken to involve post offices in other countries to raise revenue; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) While the Department of Posts has not held any negotiations with SEBI and Nationalised Banks regarding use of its network to offer financial services, it is open to such usage of its network by financial institution, subject to operational, technical and financial feasibility.

(c) and (d) Some financial companies and banks such as Stockholding Corporation of India, UTI Bank, IDBI Bank, Bank of Punjab and ICICI Bank have contacted the Department for utilizing its network to provide some of their financial service including setting up of Automated Teller Machines, Cash Management services, loan facility against National Savings Schemes and Demat account opening facility.

(e) and (f) No steps have been taken to involve post offices in other countries for collaborations in the financial services sector to raise revenue.

Ambu Lifts for Handicapped at Airports

4069. SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ambu-lifts available in each of the major airports viz. Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi; Shivaji Airport, Mumbai; Netaji Subhas Airport, Calcutta; Chennai Airport and Hyderabad Airport for the use of handicapped passengers;

(b) whether wheelchairs are also available for their use at each of the above airports;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has placed one Ambulift each at Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai and Chennai International Airport. In addition, Indian Airlines has provided two Ambulifts at Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi, and one Ambulift

at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport, Kolkata. Since the terminal at Hyderabad International Airport is provided with aerobridges, no ambulift has been provided there.

(b) and (c) Airline Operators normally provide the wheelchairs as a facility to their passengers. However, AAI also has wheelchairs and Airlines are free to use the same as and when they desire so.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Exhibition and Training of Animals

4070. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prohibited the exhibition and training of bears, monkeys tigers, panthers and lions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the exhibition and training of these animals are still going on despite ban; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to prevent such exhibition and training?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, sir. The Central Government in exercise of its powers under Section 22 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 has banned exhibition and training of bears, monkeys, tigers, panthers and lions. The decision of the Government has also been upheld by the Supreme Court but the Court has not issued any directions about the transfer of animals held by circuses to the Government.

(c) and (d) The circuses move from place to place with the animals and possibilities of their displaying the animals in remote and far flung areas can not be ruled out. Directives have been issued to the Chief Wildlife Wardens of States to cancel the legal procurement certificates pertaining to these animals, in view of the fact that the very purpose for which animals were acquired stands prohibited as a consequence of the orders of the Central Government banning exhibition and training of these animals. However, certain circuses are keeping these animals after obtaining stay orders from different High Courts.

[Translation]

Unauthorised Hoardings on NHS

4071. SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether small and big unauthorized hoardings have been put up on a large scale along the Delhi-Dehradun-Badrinath, Delhi-Nainital/Lucknow and other National Highways of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the places where above unauthorised hoardings have been put up, State-wise;

(c) whether several accidents have taken place due to these unauthorised hoardings at different places;

(d) if so, the number of accidents occurred since January 1, 1998 till now, State-wise;

(e) the extent of loss to life and property alongwith the details thereof; and

(f) the cases in which compensation was given alongwith the extent thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) (a) and (b) Unauthorized hoardings have been noticed along some of the National Highways in the country including National Highways falling along Delhi-Dehradun-Badrinath, Delhi-Nainital/Lucknow and other National Highways of Uttar Pradesh. No survey has been carried out to assess the number of such unauthorized hoardings.

(c) No accidents have been reported for exclusive cause of unauthorized hoardings.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

[English]

Specification of CNG Engines

4072. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI MV.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have laid down the specification of CNG engines;

(b) if so, the authority who check the same;

(c) whether a large number of duplicate and fake engines are availed in the Market; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) (a) and (b) The emission norms have been prescribed in respect of CNG engines being used for automotive purposes. The manufacturer has to obtain a type approval certificate from one of the testing agencies authorized under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.

(c) No specific complaint has been received in this Ministry about duplicate/fake engines.

(d) Does not arise.

Irrigation Project in Kashmir

4073. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether three projects for irrigation over eight thousand hectares of unirrigated land in the command areas in Kashmir Valley are likely to be taken up with the Central funding;

(b) if so, the funds released so far for the purpose; and

(c) the time by which the projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BHOYA CHAKRAVARTY):

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Three projects namely (i) Martand, (ii) Rafiaband and (iii) Marval Stage-IV covering a culturable command area of 7907 hectare have been approved recently for funding under the Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme. So far, no request has been received from the State Government for release of central assistance for these projects. The projects are to be completed by 31.3.2002.

Settlement of Grievances

4074. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special drives have been launched in all the circles to settle people's grievances relating to Saving Bank, Money Order and Registration Services of the postal department;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure prompt settlement of all the grievances/complaints registered during special drive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the drives launched and the number of complaints received and settled during the past three years are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Efforts continue to be made to ensure prompt settlement of all the grievances received during the drive period. These are continuously monitored till they are settled.

Statement

Details of the Special Drives Launched Relating to Savings Bank, Money Order and Registration Services During the Years 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-2001

Year	Nature of drive launched	period of drive	Number of complaints			
			Pending at the beginning of the drive	New complaints received during the drive period	Number of complaints settled during the drive period	Number of complaint pending
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1998-99	1. settlement of complaints about Registered articles	1-9-98 to 30-9-98	14280	13240	16710	10810

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		2. Settlement of complaints about money orders	1-11-98 to 30-11-98	14380	20962	23190	12152
		3. Settlement of Savings Bank/CC complaints	15-2-99 to 15-3-99	10478	11927	16155	6250
1999-2K	1.	Settlement of Money order complaints	15-7-99 to 14-8-99	24097	27809	32081	19285
	2.	Settlement of Savings Bank/CC complaints	1-11-99 to 30-11-99	14438	21970	27194	9214
	3.	Settlement of complaints about Registered articles	15-2-2K to 14-3-2K	24918	24318	22818	26418
2000-2001	1.	Settlement of Savings Bank/CC complaints	1-8-2000 to 31-8-2000	8760	15185	20389	4186
	2.	Settlement of complaints about money orders	20-3-2001 to 19-4-2001	47829	22480	32119	37190

C.R.F. Projects

4075. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation made from Central Road Fund (CRF) for different roads and bridges during each of last three years, State-wise;

(b) the cost and the present status of each of the project and responsibility of the concerned State Government therein;

(c) the criteria for selection of project; and

(d) the details of projects taken up during the Ninth Plan Period and names of spill over projects for the Tenth Plan Period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN.

(RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) (a) A statement giving details of allocation of funds for State roads under the Central Road Fund during the last three years is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) At present 978 number of works amounting to Rs. 1687.89 crore are in various stages of progress. The respective State Governments are required to complete these projects within 24 months of their sanction.

(c) Proposal for improvement/development of State Highways, Major District Roads and other roads of importance can be considered in accordance with detailed guidelines circulated by Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

(d) 929 number of projects amounting to Rs. 1604.43 crore have been taken up during the Ninth Plan. It is too early to give details of all spill over projects for the Tenth Plan period at this stage.

Statement*Allocation of Funds for State Roads Under the Central Road Fund During the Last Three Years*

Sl. No.	State/UT	1998-1999 (Rs. in lakh)	1999-2000 (Rs. in lakh)	2000-2001 (Rs. in lakh)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	261.31	223.90	2720.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	78.89	371.00
3.	Assam	34.43	26.52	503.00
4.	Bihar	2.31	—	856.00
5.	Chandigarh	59.77	—	100.00
6.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	768.00
7.	Delhi	26.25	—	1068.34
8.	Goa	2.09	—	131.00
9.	Gujarat	613.91	304.99	2336.00
10.	Haryana	33.12	—	1047.00
11.	Himachal Pradesh	6.49	—	348.00
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.52	—	1028.00
13.	Jharkhand	—	—	607.00
14.	Karnataka	245.67	16.01	1917.00
15.	Kerala	187.04	12.19	923.00
16.	Madhya Pradesh	25.27	287.02	2084.00
17.	Maharashtra	15.80	961.14	3627.00
18.	Manipur	3.11	26.24	111.00
19.	Meghalaya	55.26	8.11	149.00
20.	Mizoram	5.32	3.94	202.00
21.	Nagaland	32.17	4.92	85.00
22.	Orissa	155.75	16.14	970.00
23.	Pondicherry	—	105.00	73.00
24.	Punjab	192.81	12.56	1433.00
25.	Rajasthan	127.46	138.02	2527.00
26.	Sikkim	—	14.55	37.00
27.	Tamil Nadu	401.39	130.54	2234.00

1	2	3	4	5
28.	Tripura	19.39	3.94	64.00
29.	Uttar Pradesh	285.21	264.27	2932.00
30.	Uttaranchal	—	—	367.00
31.	West Bengal	132.17	95.10	1191.00
32.	A & N Island	0.22	—	58.33
33.	Dadar Nagar Haveli	—	13.15	40.67
34.	Daman Diu	—	7.77	30.00
35.	Lakshadweep	—	—	2.33

[Translation]

Statement**Micro Wave Tower**

4076. SHRI VISHNUDEO SAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the microwave towers set up/being set up in Chhattisgarh;

(b) the names of the company to whom contract has been awarded for installation of said towers;

(c) whether the necessary equipments for setting up of said tower have been supplied at Jashpur District Headquarter;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the said towers are likely to be installed and operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The details of Microwave towers for Wireless in the Local Loop (WLL), Mobile and Microwave systems planned in the year 2001-2002 in Chhattisgarh Circle are enclosed in statement.

(b) The contract for erection of planned towers has been awarded to two parties namely:

(i) M/s Raj & Co., Lucknow.

(ii) M/s Pragati Traders, New Delhi.

(c) and (d) In Jashpur District, 4 number of towers have been planned at stations; Bagicha, Jokbhela, Kersai and Kunkuri. Necessary tower materials are available at three out of these four stations.

(e) The towers at Bagicha and Kersai are expected to be installed by December, 2001 tower at Kunkuri by January, 2002 and tower at Jokbhela by March, 2002 subject to availability of materials.

Tower Plan in Chhattisgarh Circle

S.No.	SSA	Name of Station	Tower Plan
1	2	3	4
1.	Bastar	Antagarh	80 M
2.	Bastar	Bakawand	40M
3.	Bastar	Beejapur	80M
4.	Bastar	Bhanpuri	40M
5.	Bastar	Bhanupratappur	80M
6.	Bastar	Bhopalpatnam	40M
7.	Bastar	Bishrampur	40M
8.	Bastar	Charama	40M
9.	Bastar	Dantewada	80M
10.	Bastar	Geedam	40M
11.	Bastar	Jagdalpur New xge	50M
12.	Bastar	Kilepal	40M
13.	Bastar	Korar	40M
14.	Bastar	Narayanpur	40M
15.	Bastar	Narharpur	40M
16.	Bastar	Pakhanjore	60M
17.	Bastar	Sukma	80M

1	2	3	4
18.	Bilaspur	Bango	40M
19.	Bilaspur	Barpaikalan	40M
20.	Bilaspur	Belgahna	40M TTH
21.	Bilaspur	Damapur	40M
22.	Bilaspur	Dhurkot	40M
23.	Bilaspur	Kartala	40M
24.	Bilaspur	Kera	40M
25.	Bilaspur	Lormi	40M
26.	Bilaspur	Malkharoda	40M
27.	Bilaspur	Marwahi	40M
28.	Bilaspur	Nagoi	40M
29.	Bilaspur	Pamgarh	60M
30.	Bilaspur	Pasan	40M
31.	Bilaspur	Pataita	40M
32.	Bilaspur	Pendra Road	40M
33.	Bilaspur	Rampur	40M
34.	Bilaspur	Seoni	40M
35.	Bilaspur	Tiwarta	40M
36.	Durg	Anda	40P
37.	Durg	Bodla (Sarodadadar)	40M/80M
38.	Durg	Borai	40M
39.	Durg	Chichola	40M
40.	Durg	Churiya	80M
41.	Durg	Chliyikhadan	40M/80M
42.	Durg	Deori	40M
43.	Durg	Dhamda	80M
44.	Durg	Dondi	40M

1	2	3	4
45.	Durg	Dondilohara	40M
46.	Durg	Gandai	40M
47.	Durg	Gunderdehi	40M
48.	Durg	Gurur	80M
49.	Durg	Jamgaon-M	40P
50.	Durg	Manpur	40M/80M
51.	Durg	Mohla	40M/80M
52.	Durg	Nagpura	40M
53.	Durg	Rajnandgaon	100M
54.	Durg	Sahaspur Lohra	40M
55.	Durg	Saja	80M
56.	Durg	Sambhalpur	40M
57.	Raigarh	Bagicha	40M
58.	Raigarh	Dharamjaigarh	80M
59.	Raigarh	Gharghoda	40M
60.	Raigarh	Joakbhela	40M
61.	Raigarh	Kersai	40M
62.	Raigarh	Kunkuri	40M
63.	Raigarh	Lailunga	40M
64.	Raipur	Dharseeewa	40M
65.	Raipur	Mainpur	40M
66.	Raipur	Mandirhasud	40M
67.	Raipur	Rajendra Nagar	60M
68.	Surguja	Baikunthpur	80M
69.	Surguja	Balrampur	40M
70.	Surguja	Bhaiyathan	40M
71.	Surguja	Chimiri	40M

Post Offices in Bihar

4077. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices in Bihar at present alongwith the number of post offices with speed post services; and

(b) the number of post offices where the said service is likely to be provided during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The number of Departmental post offices in Bihar at present is one thousand one hundred and twenty seven (1127). Out of these, speed post facility is available in sixty seven (67) post offices.

(b) Speed Post is a premium product and is run on commercial considerations. Expansion of this network is an on-going process depending on market situation, assessment of the need, the anticipated revenue and transport network.

**Introduction of Helicopter Service for
Tourist Places**

4078. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce helicopter service for the tourist places in Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the helicopter service being introduced for such places in both the States at present?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited (PHHL) is examining the feasibility of a joint partnership arrangement with Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam (an Uttaranchal Government undertaking) for operation of helicopter services on Kedarnath-Badrinath-Rudraprayag-Dehradun sector. For Uttar Pradesh, PHHL has offered a helicopter on wet-lease basis and the response of the State Government is awaited.

[English]

Flood Control in Kerala

4079. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any project from the Government of Kerala to control flood in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the project is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BHOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Twenty numbers of critical anti river erosion schemes (with total estimated cost of Rs. 32.79 crore) had been received by Central Water Commission (CWC) from Govt. of Kerala. These schemes have been examined by CWC and comments sent to the State Government for compliance and updating of the schemes. Reply to the comments of CWC is awaited from State Government.

Accidents in Industrial Establishments

4080. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents occurred in industrial establishments in the country particularly in Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh during the last three years as on date, State-wise; and

(b) the guidelines/directives issued to prevent such accidents in future and to provide sufficient safeguards in these industrial establishments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) The provisions of safety and health to the workers working in the Factories under the Factories Act, 1948 are enforced by State Governments/Union Territory Administrations through their factory inspectorates. The state Government also have their own factory rules, as appropriate Government for this purpose. The information relating to accidents taking places in industrial establishments are collected and maintained by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, information available in the Ministry about accidents which occurred in industrial establishments in the country during the last three years particularly in Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) The safety measures being implemented by State Governments under the Factories Act are as under:

1. Fencing of machinery.
2. Safety in the use of hoists and lifts.
3. Safety in the use of pressure plants.
4. Restriction on carrying weight by persons employed in factories.

5. Protection of eyes from injuries.
6. Precautions against dangerous fumes, gases etc.
7. Protection against explosion of flammable gases, dust etc.
8. Precautions in case of fire.

In addition to above, provisions of safety also exists in Chapter IV-A of the Act relating to hazardous processes.

Statement

State-wise total number of individual injuries in factories during 1998-2000

Sl. No.	States/Union Territory Administrations	1998		1999		2000	
		Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3649	104	3022	127	2969	121
2.	Assam	100	5	126	7	152	5
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
4.	Bihar	1018	46	861	48	650	40
5.	Chhattisgarh	15	17	14	30	25	25
6.	Goa	197	7	185	5	156	8
7.	Gujarat	11611	214	10440	196	8107	179
8.	Haryana	400	32	380	49	397	42
9.	Himachal Pradesh	28	12	28	12	2	2
10.	Jammu & Kashmir*	-	-	-	-	-	-
11.	Jharkhand**	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	488	29
12.	Karnataka	3644	71	3799	52	2086	54
13.	Kerala	1356	37	1067	24	1019	15
14.	Madhya Pradesh	7071	53	4804	66	3051	47
15.	Maharashtra	16739	163	14073	151	11606	165
16.	Manipur	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
17.	Meghalaya*	-	-	-	-	-	-
18.	Mizoram	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
19.	Nagaland*	-	-	-	-	-	-
20.	Orissa	1888	20	1027	22	996	35

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
21.	Punjab	308	28	322	34	350	38
22.	Rajasthan	2891	61	2788	59	2700	44
23.	Sikkim	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
24.	Tamil Nadu	3720	46	2647	41	2039	38
25.	Tripura	3	0	4	2	6	3
26.	Uttaranchal**	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
27.	Uttar Pradesh	923	74	1248	55	@	@
28.	West Bengal	40905	58	34652	46	@	@
29.	Andaman & Nicobar	105	3	98	7	83	6
30.	Chandigarh	13	1	1	2	12	1
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	11	3	13	1	9	1
32.	Diu Daman	11	3	13	1	9	1
33.	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
34.	Delhi	183	91	214	101	157	116
35.	Pondicherry	917	2	860	4	854	2

*Information not available.

**The states come into existence in the year 2000 respectively.

@ figures for 2000 not available.

Telephone Advisory Committee

4081. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:
SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telephone advisory committee has been constituted in all Telecom Districts;

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

(c) if not, the time by which these committees are likely to be constituted;

(d) whether the Government have received any complaint against nomination of members of TAC;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which the same is likely to be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Amount Spent by NHAI

4082. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the large amount has been spent by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) on the areas other than National Highways in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof particularly in Maharashtra during the last financial year; and

(c) the budget earmarked for this purpose during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

World Bank Assistance for Development of Mines

4083. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the mines developed with financial assistance from the World Bank, State and Union Territory-wise;

(b) the amount of financial assistance provided by the World Bank in each case during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(c) whether any achievements have so far been made from such assistance;

(d) if so, the details thereof, Mine-wise; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) There is no financial assistance from the World Bank for the development of mines of non-ferrous minerals.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Under-Utilisation of Plan Expenditure

4084. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has failed to utilise its plan expenditure fully in some schemes during the last two years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, scheme-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to utilise the funds fully?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The total Budget Estimates for the Plan Schemes of the Ministry of Labour during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 were Rs. 111.40 crore and Rs. 98.00 crore respectively. Against this, the actual expenditure incurred was Rs. 83.11 crore and Rs. 84.00 crore respectively. A statement indicating Head-wise Budget Estimates & Expenditure for the years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 is enclosed.

The under utilisation of expenditure is mainly in schemes relating to employment & training, research & statistics and Welfare of SC/ST. The reasons for shortfall in Plan expenditure in these schemes are non-clearance of proposals for setting up of new centres & creation of posts and revival/recreation of posts lying vacant under existing centres/projects.

(c) There is a three-tier monitoring mechanism already under operation in the Ministry to review the pace and progress of expenditure. Under this mechanism, Secretary reviews the pace of expenditure in periodical meetings with the Divisional Heads and Financial Adviser and identifies the main bottlenecks and steps to overcome them. This is followed by meetings taken by the Additional Secretary to examine the actual implementation of the decisions taken at the level of Secretary. Also, the Divisional Heads and Financial Adviser separately review individual cases. This practice of reviewing the pace and progress of plan expenditure at close and regular intervals at various levels has yielded good results and is being continued.

Statement

Head-wise Budget Estimates and Expenditure

Major Head		1999-2000		2000-2001	
		B.E.	Exp.	B.E.	Exp.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Research and Statistics	10.43	7.00	8.00	6.69
2.	Industrial Relations	4.44	2.99	3.60	2.58
3.	Working Conditions and Safety	5.80	3.08	3.95	2.72
4.	Labour Education	5.50	5.68	6.59	6.62

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour	4.00	3.83	4.25	9.21
6.	Improvement in working conditions of Child and Women Labour	40.20	36.90	36.20	37.73
7.	Employment	3.82	0.65	3.79	0.70
8.	Training	34.10	21.48	19.56	16.67
9.	Welfare of SC/ST and Backward classes	1.18	0.60	1.21	0.39
10.	Other items	1.93	0.90	1.05	0.68
11.	Provision for North-Eastern region	—	—	9.80 (10% of total as per Govt. Policy)	—
Total		111.40	83.11	98.00	84.00

Telephone Exchanges in Tamil Nadu

4085. SHRI E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal for expansion and modernisation of telephone exchanges in Tamil Nadu during 2001-2002;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up new telephone exchanges in the State particularly in Sivganga and Ramanand districts;

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

(f) the time by which these exchanges are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It is planned to expand net switching capacity of exchanges in Tamil Nadu during 2001-2002. The district-wise details of net switching capacity addition of telephone exchanges in Tamil Nadu is given in statement enclosed. 97788 Lines have already been

added from 1.4.2001 to 31.7.2001. All the telephone exchanges working in Tamil Nadu are modern digital electronic exchanges except Chennai where one analogue electronic exchange of 25000 lines is still working. It has been planned to replace the existing analogue exchange of 25000 lines with modern electronic digital exchange during 2001-2002.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The district-wise details of New Telephone Exchanges to be set up in the State during 2001-2002 particularly in Sivganga and Ramanand district is given in statement-II. enclosed.

(f) It has been planned to set up these new exchanges by March 2002.

Statement-I

District-wise details of expansion planned in Tamil Nadu state during 2001-2002

Sl.No.	Name of the district	Net capacity addition for wired telephone in lines
1	2	3
1.	Ariyalur	1600
2.	Coimbatore	34400

1	2	3
3.	Cuddalore	15000
4.	Dharmapuri	10100
5.	Dindigul	7000
6.	Erode	14300
7.	Kancheepuram	7800
8.	Kanyakumari	16700
9.	Karur	7000
10.	Madurai	7000
11.	Nagapattinam	10400
12.	Namakkal	6000
13.	Nilgiris	4500
14.	Perambalur	3700
15.	Pudukottai	3700
16.	Ramanand	6250
17.	Salem	14000
18.	Sivganga	6250
19.	Thanjavur	12500
20.	Theni	2000
21.	Tiruvarur	3600
22.	Tirunelveli	5000
23.	Tiruvannamalai	6000
24.	Tiruvellore	3900
25.	Trichy	8000
26.	Tuticorin	5000
27.	Vellore	16000
28.	Villupuram	8000
29.	Virudhunagar	5300
30.	Chennai	185200
Tamil Nadu Total		437200

Statement-II

The details of district-wise New Telephone exchanges planned in Tamil Nadu state during 2001-02

Sl.No.	Name of the district	New exchanges planned
1.	Ariyalur	1
2.	Coimbatore	0
3.	Cuddalore	2
4.	Dharmapuri	2
5.	Dindigul	0
6.	Erode	2
7.	Kancheepuram	0
8.	Kanyakumari	0
9.	Karur	0
10.	Madurai	0
11.	Nagapattinam	3
12.	Namakkal	0
13.	Nilgiris	0
14.	Perambalur	1
15.	Pudukottai	0
16.	Ramanand	6
17.	Salem	0
18.	Sivganga	2
19.	Thanjavur	2
20.	Theni	0
21.	Tiruvarur	0
22.	Tirunelveli	0
23.	Tiruvannamalai	2
24.	Tiruvellore	0
25.	Trichy	2
26.	Tuticorin	2
27.	Vellore	1
28.	Villupuram	4
29.	Virudhunagar	3
30.	Chennai	40
Tamil Nadu Total		75

Establishment of Forest Development Agencies Chhattisgarh

4086. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Forest Development Agencies (FDAs) are being established in the country to take up the development of forests and forest dwellers;

(b) if so, the number of FDAs constituted and registered so far in Chhattisgarh;

(c) whether the Government of Chhattisgarh has sent any project report of the FDAs for sanction and release of funds;

(d) if so, the details of the amounts sanctioned and released, till-date; and

(e) if not, the likely time frame under which the said project is likely to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) A total of three Forest Development Agencies (FDAs) have so far been constituted in Chhattisgarh out of which two have been registered. The Chhattisgarh State Forest department has forwarded project proposals in respect of three FDAs to the Ministry for consideration. The proposals under the Scheme are sanctioned keeping in view their technical feasibility, while also maintaining reasonable regional distribution among various States and availability of funds.

Noise Pollution in Delhi

4087. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Muffle noise before it kills, High Courts tells city Govt.", appearing in the 'Times of India' on August 6, 2001;

(b) if so, the details of the factors responsible for growing menace of noise pollution;

(c) the details of the policy of the Government to tackle the noise pollution;

(d) whether the Government have issued necessary directions in this regard to implement anti-pollution rules in letter and spirit;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of industries creating noise pollution in Delhi and action taken by the SDM concerned to check noise pollution?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Higher levels of noise are mainly due to increase in population, industrial-commercial activities, vehicular traffic, use of loudspeakers and bursting of crackers.

(c) to (e) The Government have taken various policy measures to tackle noise pollution and concerned authorities have been directed to implement the Rules. The steps taken to regulate and control noise pollution include the following:

- (1) Ambient Air Quality Standards in respect of noise have been notified in 1989 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for the industrial, commercial, residential areas and silence zones.
- (2) Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 have been notified in February, 2000.
- (3) Noise standards for stationary diesel sets (15-500 KVA) have been notified in January, 1999.
- (4) Noise standards for fire crackers had been notified in October, 1999.
- (5) Noise limits for portable generator sets run with petrol and kerosene have been notified in September, 2000.
- (6) Noise limits for vehicles have been revised and notified in September, 2000 effective from 1st January, 2003.
- (7) Noise level standards for coal mines have been evolved and notified in September, 2000.
- (8) Guidelines approved by Delhi Government have been published in local newspapers especially for control of noise pollution from generator sets.

- (9) Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) instituted a study entitled "Sonic spectrum of Delhi" and under this study, 46 residential colonies were monitored for noise levels.

(f) Delhi Pollution Committee has been taking action under Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 against the industrial units/establishments generating noise beyond the specified norms. The action taken also include closing down/shifting of polluting units. Some of the noise polluting units have been closed by Sub-Divisional Magistrates in Delhi.

Nehru Yuva Kendras

4088. SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM:
SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plans to increase the financial assistance for various Nehru Yuva Kendras in the country;

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

(c) the total amount allocated, released and utilised by various NYKs in the country in the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(d) whether the Government have any proposal to increase the number of NYKs and co-ordinator posts in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) The programme funds for each NYK was enhanced from Rs. 1.05 lakh to Rs. 1.35 lakh during the last financial year and has further been enhanced to Rs. 1.50 lakh during the current financial year. Further enhancement will depend on higher budgetary outlays.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The information is maintained State-wise/UT-wise and not Kendra-wise. It is given in the statement enclosed.

(d) and (e) there is no proposals at present to increase the number of Kendras.

Statement

S.No.	States	Amount Allocated, Released & Utilised		
		1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11179276	10949755	8711153
2.	Assam	11328412	13979593	9637383
3.	Bihar	22117790	19821043	21338155
4.	Gujarat	8084645	8739100	7303556
5.	Haryana	8362348	8614958	7610633
6.	Himachal Pradesh	5911867	7179770	5957961
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	5867515	6492309	5944336
8.	Karnataka	9669128	9553719	6849791
9.	Nagaland	2235540	2868379	2176306
10.	Kerala	7837403	11805284	5320687
11.	Madhya Pradesh	22377380	22357200	21304705
12.	Maharashtra	13213326	14232882	14583950

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Manipur	4887696	5464148	4007109
14.	Meghalaya	1559013	2264231	1984623
15.	Orissa	8311700	10100067	7656852
16.	Punjab	6282386	7160464	6568087
17.	Rajasthan	12479776	12605554	12634187
18.	Sikkim	2465059	1552242	1291193
19.	Tamil Nadu	13489016	14400293	10288815
20.	Tripura	1720640	2297825	1363344
21.	Uttar Pradesh	28898424	27041049	25386434
22.	West Bengal	12599059	13177998	12089218
23.	Arunachal Pradesh	1199579	1384500	919480
24.	A & N Island	2177288	2569941	2511960
25.	Chandigarh	353325	356652	449705
26.	Delhi	1765038	2075464	2297870
27.	Goa	1376200	630886	631940
28.	Mizoram	1155952	1592477	995143
29.	D & N Haveli	303969	269093	312991

Central Royalty to Keonjhar District of Orissa

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

4089. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

[Translation]

(a) whether the Government have provided adequate Central royalty to Keonjhar District of Orissa corresponding to its contribution to the national exchequer by way of its mining activities;

Answering Machine Service

4090. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(a) whether the Government have introduced the answering machine service;

(c) if not, the manner in which the Union Government propose to compensate this backward district for its all-round development?

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be introduced;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGHRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) Royalty on minerals is payable by the mining lease holders to the State Governments and is directly collected by the State Government concerned from the individual mining lease holder.

(d) the benefits likely to be accrued to the subscribers therefrom;

(e) whether the said machines are being manufactured indigenously; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) This service has already been introduced by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL) in Delhi. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) is planning to introduce this service during 2002-2003.

(d) The subscriber can receive messages even when his telephone is either busy or unattended.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. The equipment of Answering machine installed by MTNL in Delhi is manufactured in U.S.A.

[English]

Privileges to Arjuna Award Winners

4091. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the privileges provided to the "Arjuna Award" winners in the country;

(b) whether the privileges provided to the winners are not adequate;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any proposal to increase privilege to the "Arjuna Award" winners;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) Under the scheme of Arjuna Awards, there is no provision to provide any privileges to winners in Arjuna Awards.

However, following some Ministries like Railways, Petroleum and Natural Gas have provided certain facilities to the awardees:

Ministry of Railways

The Ministry of Railways is giving First Class/AC-II tier Railway complimentary Card passes for self to the Arjuna Award winners.

Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas provide reservation of 2% dealership/distributorships of petroleum products to outstanding sports persons including Arjuna Awardees.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Inadequacy of funds.

[Translation]

Financial Assistance for Players

4092. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some financial assistance is being given to the National and State level players on monthly basis; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) Under the scheme of 'National Welfare Fund for Sports Persons' an outstanding sportsperson living in indigent circumstances is given monthly pension as indicated below:

- (i) In the case of an outstanding sportspersons who is permanently or indefinitely incapacitates for service or otherwise, of a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,500/-; and
- (ii) In other cases, of a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,000/-. Provided that in either case the period for which the pension would be available (including life pension) shall be determined by the Committee.

Free Telephone Connections to MTNL Employees

4093. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have provided/propose to provide free telephone connections to all the employees of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the expenditure incurred/likely to be involved as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir. Only Telephones at concessional tariff are being provided.

(b) terms and conditions for grant of concessional telephone facility to serving employees of MTNL are indicated in order no. MTNL/IRW/27(107)99/JNC/157 dated 8/2/2001 (Copy enclosed as statement.)

(c) On a continuing basis, the out flow of expenses is limited to Rs. 250/- per month per eligible employee.

Statement I**Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited**

(A Government of India Enterprise)

No. MTNL/IRW/27 (107)/91JNC

Dated: 8.2.2001

Sub: Grant of Concessional Telephone Facility to serving employees of MTNL

Orders were issued under this Office letter No. MTNL/IRW/21 (82)/99/JNC/2453 dated 7.3.2001 for providing residential service telephone connection to all the regular serving employees of MTNL who have completed 16 years of service. Consequent to the issue of orders from DOT under their No. 2-09/98PHA (Part-1) dated 28th September, 2000 granting concessional telephone facility to all the regular serving employees of DOT, DTS and DTO, employees of MTNL had been demanding extension of this facility to them also. In order to keep the employees motivated, it has been decided to extend the facility to all the remaining serving employees of MTNL with immediate effect. The

terms governing the provision for the employees with less than 16 years of service shall be as follows:

- (i) All regular serving employees of MTNL with less than 16 years of service who are entitled for a residential telephone connection, can register their request for telephone without registration charges, in the enclosed Proforma.
- (ii) No installation charges would be payable by the employees for installation of phone.
- (iii) No rental will be charged from the service employee (The quantum of rental reckoned for this purpose is as on date of issue of instructions). Any increase in rental in future, will be borne by the employees themselves.
- (iv) The employees will not be required to pay one year's advance rental as Security deposit.
- (v) The number of free calls admissible would be as applicable to normal telephone subscriber's. Calls beyond the permissible limit would be charged and payable by the employees.
- (vi) The serving employees who are already having a telephone connection at their residence in their name in private account, can seek exemption from payment of rental on that telephone. Refund of applicable Security deposit to such telephones will be allowed.
- (vii) No STD facility will normally be provided to these telephones.

2. The concession will be admissible to all Non-Executive employees appointed/absorbed in MTNL on regular basis which includes, Civil, Electrical, Architectural Wing and Accounts and Finance staff, for the period they work in MTNL.

3. The facility will be admissible to those employees of MTNL who proceed in deputation to other Ministries/Departments during their tenure of deputation to such organizations, provided no such facility is given by the borrowing organization.

4. The employees of such Ministries/Deptts. etc. coming on deputation/deemed deputation to MTNL, will also be entitled to this facility during the tenure of their deputation in MTNL provided to residential service connection is given to them by the parent organisation.

5. The serving employees will be required to furnish a valid documentary proof of their being a regular

employee of the MTNL. A certificate countersigned by the Controlling Officer that no residential service telephone connection has been sanctioned for the concerned employee will have to be furnished as per the attached Specimen.

6. In case the orders issued by the DOT for grant of concessional telephone facility to serving employees for DOT/DTS and DTO (now BSNL) under their letter No. 2-09/98 PHA (Part I) dated 28th September, 2000 are withdrawn in view of the Supreme Court judgement in the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 375 of 2000 filed by common cause, these orders issued for MTNL, employees shall also stand withdrawn. The employees shall be required to furnish an undertaking to this effect in the enclosed proforma.

7. All executives, Gr. A & B Officers, JAOs, JEs (Civil) JEs (Electricals) and Non-executives with 16 years or on completion of 16 years of service shall be provided residential service telephone connection with usual call limits of 1150 bi-monthly.

-Sd-
(A.K. JEDHKE)
DGM (PERSONNEL)

CGMs, MTNL Delhi/Mumbai

All GMs/PGMs/Directors in Crop. Office

Copy to:

1. All GMs, MTNL Delhi/Mumbai
2. GM (Fin), MTNL Delhi/Mumbai
3. CE (C) MTNL Delhi/Mumbai
4. SE ©, MTNL Corp. Office
5. General Secretary, MTNL Staff Union New Delhi/
General Secretary, MTN Kamgar Sangh, Mumbai
6. PS to CMD
7. Notice Board

-Sd-
DGM (PERSONNEL)

[English]

Centrally Sponsored Labour Schemes

4094. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to reduce the number of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes related to his Ministry being run in various States;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes that are likely to be cancelled;

(c) the reaction of the State Governments in this regard; and

(d) the extent to which it is likely to affect the schemes of his Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) At present, Ministry of Labour has the following 13 Centrally Sponsored Schemes:

1. Equipment Modernisation Scheme
2. Equipment Maintenance Scheme
3. Introduction of new Trades in ITIs
4. Establishment of Basic Training Centres
5. Establishment of Related Instruction Centres
6. Expansion of Advanced Vocational Training System
7. Establishment of new women ITIs
8. Introduction of new Trade in existing women ITIs
9. Hi-tech Training Scheme
10. Establishment of Management Information System (MIS)
11. Establishment of new ITIs in North Eastern States and Sikkim
12. Strengthening/Modernisation of ITIs in the State of J&K
13. Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour.

Out of these, Schemes at Sl. No. 1-10 are under the erstwhile World Bank assisted Vocational Training Project and will be completed at the end of the IXth Plan. The Schemes at Sl. No. 11 & 12 are new Centrally Sponsored Schemes and are proposed to be taken up during 2001-2002 after completing necessary formalities. The scheme at Sl. No. 13 is in operation since 1978 and would continue.

Meeting of Chiefs of Telecom Divisions

4095. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the meeting of the Chiefs of Telecom Divisions was organised in Delhi on September 22, 2000;

(b) if so, the matter discussed therein; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to implement the recommendations/suggestions made in the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir. However a Conference of Heads of Telecom Circles was held on 22.9.2000 in New Delhi.

(b) Various matters related release of new lines (DELS) for 2000-2001, providing Village Public Telephones (VPTs), Supply of cables, WLL equipment, switching and transmission equipments, Maintenance of VPTs (Village Public Telephones) and Introduction of mobile services were discussed.

(c) Effective monitoring is being done for timely implementation of the recommendations/suggestions made in the meeting.

[Translation]

Unemployed Persons

4096. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of men and women given employment in Rajasthan during the last three years; and

(b) the number of women and men out of the total belonging to SCs/STs along with the number of unemployed persons, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Placements are made through various sources including through employment exchanges. The data on registration and placement

through the employment exchanges are maintained. The number of total placements gender-wise in Rajasthan during 1998,1999 and 2000 were as follows:

Year	Placement (in thousands)		
	Total	Women	Men
1998	5.3	1.8	3.5
1999	4.9	1.2	3.7
2000	1.6	0.6	1.0

(b) The total number of job seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, on the Live Registers of the Employment Exchanges located in Rajasthan and the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes out of them as on 31st December 2000 were 7.9 lakh, 1.25 lakh and 0.6 lakh respectively. The gender-wise break-up for SC/ST jobseekers are not maintained.

[English]

Harvesting of Rain Water

4097. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of areas brought under Rain Water Harvesting and additional areas proposed to be covered by the end of current financial year;

(b) the achievements made so far and likely to be made during the said period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) Water, being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government to plan, finance and execute schemes for augmenting water resources. The Central Government is also promoting rain water harvesting through water shed management programme, artificial recharge of ground water and roof top rain water harvesting. The Central Ground Water Board (GGWB) under the Ministry of Water Resources is implementing a pilot Central Sector Scheme on "Studies on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water" in different States in coordination with concerned State Government agencies. The Government have earmarked funds amounting to Rs. 25.00 crore for the scheme during the IX Five Year Plan. This scheme is under implementation in 24 States/Union Territories and work is in progress in 136 areas.

Collision Avoidance System in Aircraft

4098. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has acquired/propose to acquire new 'collision avoidance system';

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed system;

(c) the countries from which the AAI has procured the system and the terms and conditions thereof; and

(d) the extent to which it is likely to be useful for avoiding any air accidents?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d) Airborne Collision Avoidance System (ACAS) is installed in aircraft by Airlines to reduce the risk of mid air collision between aircraft. It has been made mandatory for all aircraft having seating capacity of more than 30 and all up-weight more than 5700 kg. to have ACAS in the Indian airspace since 1st January, 1999. At present all aeroplanes falling in this category are installed with this system. Airports Authority of India is not concerned with purchase or installation of ACAS.

MTNL Computerised Complaint Service

4099. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) computerised complaint service No. 198 is providing wrong information to its subscribers and their faulty telephones are shown as OK;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the MTNL to provide better service to its subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The following steps are taken by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) to provide better service to its subscribers:

- Opening of more number of switching nodes viz. Remote Switching Unit (RSUs) & Digital Line Concentrators (DLCs).
- Deployment of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL).
- Replacement of paper core cable in a time bound manner.
- Rehabilitation of external plant network.
- Introduction of Cordec technology.
- Introduction of Call Centres.

Air India Service to Hong Kong

4100. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI VIJAY GOEL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India has recently introduced some direct services to Hong Kong and other places;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of flights being run between India and Hong Kong at present, airline-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Air India has recently introduced the following direct flights:— (i) Mumbai-Hongkong-Mumbai (Biweekly flight), (ii) Chennai-Hongkong-Chennai (Biweekly flight), (iii) Mumbai-Singapore-Mumbai (Tri weekly flight), (iv) Kozhikode-Jeddah-Kozhikode, (Weekly flight) (v) Hyderabad-Jeddah-Hyderabad (weekly flight) (vi) Dubai-Hyderabad-Dubai (Effective 18 May 2001), and Hyderabad-Dubai-Hyderabad (Eff. 8 July 2001) (vii) Thiruvananthapuram-Dammam-Thiruvananthapuram (Effective 21 May 2001).

(c) The current operations of Air India to Hong Kong are: Bombay/Delhi/Hongkong/Osaka v.v. (Biweekly), Bombay/Delhi/Hongkong/v.v. (Tri weekly), Bombay/Madras/Hongkong v.v. (Biweekly), and Bombay-Hongkong v.v. (Biweekly).

Details of other International Airlines presently operating to Hong Kong are as under:—

(i) Cathay Pacific — Hongkong/Bangkok/Bombay/Dubai v.v. & Hongkong/Delhi v.v. (Four time each in a week) (ii) United Airlines - Los Angeles/Hongkong/Delhi/London/Washington/Los Angeles and back (daily).

[Translation]

Functioning of NHDP and NHAI

4101. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highway Development Project and the National Highways Authority of India are functioning under his ministry;

(b) if so, the responsibilities assigned to these organisations and the date on which these organisations were set up;

(c) the annual average expenditure being incurred on these organisations;

(d) the number of employees on the roll of the each organisation up to March 2001; and

(e) the strength of these employees separately, grade-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) National Highway Development Project (NHDP) is not an organisation, but a massive project for 4/6 laning of National Highways in a length of 13,252 km started in October 1998. The project is being implemented by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), an autonomous body established under National Highways Authority of India Act 1988 which came into effect on 15.06.1989. NHAI became operational in February 1995.

(c) The annual average expenditure incurred during the last three years by NHAI is about Rs. 850 crore.

(d) The number of employees on the roll of National Highways Authority of India as on 31st March, 2001 was 408. In addition, the Authority has one Chairman and three Members at present.

(e) The strength of these employees separately, grade-wise is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

S.No.	Name of Posts	Pay Scale	Strength
1	2	3	4
1.	Chief General Managers	Rs. 18400-22400	4
2.	General Managers (including CVO)	Rs. 14300-400-18300	38
3.	Dy. General Manager	Rs. 12000-375-16500	37
4.	Managers	Rs. 10000-325-15200	129
5.	Assistant Managers	Rs. 6500-200-10500	7
6.	Senior Accounts Officer	Rs. 8000-275-13500	1
7.	Accounts Officers	Rs. 7450-225-11500	13
8.	Assistant Programmer	Rs. 7450-225-11500	2
9.	Hindi Officer	Rs. 6500-200-10500	—
10.	Librarian	Rs. 6500-200-10500	1
11.	Private Secretary	Rs. 6500-200-10500	3

1	2	3	4
12.	Maintenance Officer	Rs. 5500-175-9000	1
13.	Personal Assistant	Rs. 5500-175-9000	30
14.	Cashier	Rs. 5500-175-9000	1
15.	Works Supervisor	Rs. 5000-150-8000	1
16.	Junior Hindi Translator	Rs. 4500-125-7000	1
17.	Stenographer Gr. 'D'	Rs. 4000-100-6000	74
18.	Accountant	Rs. 4000-100-6000	43
19.	Receptionist	Rs. 4000-100-6000	1
20.	Draftsman	Rs. 4000-100-6000	6
21.	Staff Car Driver	Rs. 3050-75-4590	5
22.	Jamadar	Rs. 2650-65-4000	1
23.	Peon/Watchman	Rs. 2550-55-3200	9
Total			408

[English]

Building and other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1996

4102. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to convene a meeting of all the State Labour Ministers for the implementation of the Building and other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1996 and the Building and other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is not mandatory for the State Governments to implement these Central Acts and to frame rules; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 (Main Act) and the Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1996 extend to the whole of India. Section 63 of the Main Act provides that nothing contained in this Act shall affect the operation of any corresponding law in a State providing welfare schemes which are more beneficial to the building and other construction workers than those provided under the Act. The power to frame rules under the Main Act lies with the appropriate Government. The States have been advised to implement these Acts and the matter is being regularly followed up.

Surprise checks at Airports

4103. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have mooted plans to conduct surprise checks at important airports to examine the efficacy of customer services and provide adequate facilities at airports during the last few months;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of discrepancies found;

(c) whether customer grievances cell is proposed to be formed at all the important airports to look into the complaints of the customers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) A Committee under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary and Grievances Officer of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and consisting of representatives from the Airports Authority of India, Indian Airlines, Air India and the Ministry has been constituted in May, 2001 to inspect various airports. The Committee carried out inspection of IGI Airport, Delhi in the month of July, 2001. The surprise survey pointed out deficiencies in the areas such as coordination, cleanliness, air conditioning, flight information display boards, grievance cell, wheel chairs and trolleys, signage, baggage claim, toilets, etc.

(c) and (d) A Grievance Cell has been established at the headquarters of the Airports Authority of India. At all important airports, Duty Manager attends to the immediate problems of the passengers. In addition, Public Grievance Officers have been nominated at all the airports. It is the endeavour of the AAI to provide the best services for the smooth functioning of the airports.

Commercial use of Encroached Land of AAI

4104. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether earlier efforts of the Government to free the encroached land at Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad and Delhi airports did not bring any fruit;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether some fresh efforts have been made to get the encroached land free at the above airports to make commercial use of that land;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the outcome of the fresh move made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The earlier efforts made by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) to free the encroached land at Mumbai, Chennai, Delhi and Hyderabad Airport did not bring any fruitful results due to various reasons including resistance by the encroachers, insistence by the State Government for rehabilitation/resettlement of the encroachers.

(c) to (e) Efforts are on to get the encroached land freed from encroachers to use it for commercial purposes. In Mumbai Airport AAI has signed a tripartite agreement

with Shiv Shahi Punarvasan Prakaalp Ltd. (SPPL) and Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA) in February, 2001 for removal of about 2500 hutments from airport land. The AAI has sanctioned Rs. 30 crores and has already paid first instalment of Rs. 7 crores SPPL have constructed multistorey tenements to shift the hutment dwellers. However, land can be put for commercial use only when encroachers are evicted.

Official Work in Hindi

4105. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether instructions have been issued to only 10 sections in his Ministry to do all the official work in Hindi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether more sections are likely to follow suit; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) Sixteen sections of the Ministry of Labour have been instructed to do their entire work in Hindi. In addition, 24 subjects in 8 other sections have been identified in which work is to be done only in Hindi.

Grievances of Forest Dependent People

4106. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have invited the views of Forest Dependent People on forest policy;

(b) if so, whether any steps are being taken to address the grievances of forest Dependent People;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to recognise the rights of Forest Dependent People; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) The views of forest dependent people and forest dwellers are invited from time to time as per the National Forest Policy, 1988.

Further with a view to involving people in the management and conservation of forests as also to meet their genuine needs, the Joint Forest Management Programme is being implemented in 26 States through 62,864 Village Level Committees and an area of about 14.24 million ha. In the JFM process, the people participate actively in the management of the forests on care and share basis. The rights and concessions of the forest dependent people are fully recognised and protected and benefits are given to them as per the Working Plan prescriptions, JFM and in accordance with various State Acts and rules concerning forests protection and conservation.

[Translation]

Air Services from Bhopal to Jabalpur

4107. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has requested the Government to extend air services from Bhopal upto Jabalpur and connect Madhya Pradesh with South India particularly Hyderabad and Chennai by air;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government of Madhya Pradesh has taken up the case for operating Delhi-Raipur-Jabalpur-Bhopal services. Indian Airlines introduced Jabalpur-Bhopal link from July, 1999 by operation of a twice weekly DO-228 service on Delhi-Jabalpur-Bhopal and vice-versa route. Jabalpur-Bhopal link was withdrawn due to introduction of Delhi-Gwalior-Jabalpur and vice-versa DO-228 service as part of route restructuring *w.e.f.* November, 1999. Alliance Air introduced a Bhopal-South India link by operation of a twice weekly B-737 service on Chennai-Nagpur-Bhopal and vice-versa route from March, 2000. The service was withdrawn from August, 2000 due to poor passenger response.

[English]

By-Pass at Nagaon

4108. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Assam for construction of By-passes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Assam had demarcated the necessary land for the construction of by-pass at Nagaon;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the present status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) (a) and (b) The Annual Plan 2001-2002 includes land acquisition for Mangaldoi and Tinsukia bypasses and for construction of Nagaon bypass (Phase I). Proposals are awaited from the Government of Assam. Land acquisition for Silchar bypass is being taken up by BRO.

(c) to (e) The land for construction of Nagaon bypass has been demarcated and is being acquired by the State PWD. The technical proposal and cost estimate for construction of the bypass is under preparation by the State PWD.

[Translation]

Construction of Road Assigned by NHDP and NHAI

4109. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of roads in the country has been assigned to the National Highway Development Project and National Highways Authority of India;

(b) if so, the names of institutions which have been assigned the job to construct roads, length-wise;

(c) the cost at which these roads are proposed to be constructed, separately; and

(d) the reasons for difference in the cost of road construction by different institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) (a) and (b) National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has been entrusted with the implementation of National Highway Development Project (NHDP) which envisages 4/6 laning of existing National Highways in a length of 13,252 Km. The work of construction has been awarded to over one hundred contracting firms.

(c) The estimated cost of 4-laning is approximately Rs. 4 crore per Km.

(d) The reasons for difference in the cost of construction are on account of site conditions, engineering designs, construction cost inputs, etc.

Length of NH-76

4110. SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the length of Pindawala-Udaipur-Chhittorgarh-Bara-Shivpuri National Highway-76;

(b) whether the said National Highway has been included in the World Bank Project; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) (a) The length of Pindwara-Udaipur-Chhittorgarh-Baran-Shivpuri National Highway-76 is 620 km.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Effects of drought on Wild lives

4111. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state the steps taken to mitigate the ill effects arising out of prevailing drought condition on wildlives and forests and also to give relief to the people living in drought affected areas?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): On the basis of the proposals received from the State Government financial assistance of Rs. 84.55 lakhs has been provided for mitigating the ill-effects of drought in eight wildlife sanctuaries and national parks of Gujarat.

Vanishing of Bamboo Plants

4112. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have chalked out a contingency plan to save the Bamboo plant from vanishing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his ministry has asked the State Governments to draw up a plan to save this plant;

(d) if so, the response of the State Governments thereto;

(e) whether the State Governments have requested for funds for special drive being undertaken by them to save the Bamboo plant;

(f) if so, the details thereof and the help being provided by Union Government to State Government in their task;

(g) whether any expertise is being obtained from some foreign countries like China to save this plant; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (f) The cyclic flowering of bamboos is an established phenomenon and there is no information available about vanishing of bamboo plant due to this. However, large scale gregarious flowering entails possibilities of severe forest fires and rodent menace. The areas where this phenomenon takes place has to be suitably managed by the State Government after taking into account all the relevant factors. Although, no separate contingency plan has been chalked out to save the Bamboo plant from vanishing, plantation of Bamboo is one of the items of work under the existing centrally sponsored scheme of Non-Timber Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants which is being implemented throughout the country. In addition, development of Bamboo resource was declared a thrust area, and projects solely for Bamboo Plantation have been sanctioned from 1999-2000 onwards on the basis of proposals received from the State Governments. Till date, 21 projects in 21 States have been sanctioned for Bamboo Plantation with an outlay of Rs. 20.86 crores for treating an area of 30,163 hectares during the Ninth Plan. An amount of Rs. 11.00 crores has been provided to the State Governments so far.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Foreign Investment in Road Construction

4113. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposals from foreign investors for construction of road in the country;

(b) if so, the details of proposals received during the last three years till date, country-wise; and

(c) the action taken by the Government on each proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) (a) to (c) Government of Malaysia made two proposals for National Highways for undertaking projects on Build, Operate & Transfer (BOT) basis through their Construction Industry Development Board Inventures (CIDBI). These are (i) 4-laning of Tada-Nellore section of NH-5 and Vijayawada-Nandigama section of NH-9 in Andhra Pradesh, and (ii) 8-laning of Delhi-Gurgaon section of NH-8 in Delhi and Haryana. The Government has approved the proposal at (i) and has not approved the proposal at (ii).

[*English*]

Linking with NH-2

4114. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kharagpur to Raniganj via Mejia (NH-60) in West Bengal is linked with NH-2 i.e. Panjabi More (Raniganj) to Moregram via Pandabeswar;

(b) if so, the extent to which the distance is less from South Bengal to North Bengal;

(c) whether there is any proposal to link Kharagpur to Balasore (Orissa) with National Highway to lesser the distance from Southern States to Northern States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) (a) Kharagpur to Raniganj via

Mejia (NH-60) in West Bengal is linked with NH-2 but from Panjabi More (Raniganj) on NH-2 to Moregram on NH-34 via Pandabeswar is not linked. Panjabi More (Raniganj) on NH-2 to Moregram on NH-34 is linked via Panagarh-Dubrajpur-Siuri-Rampurhat.

(b) The distance from Kharagpur to Moregram via Mejia-Pandabeswar is 294 Km and the distance from Kharagpur to Moregram via Panagarh-Dubrajpur-Siuri-Rampurhat is 346 Km. The distance therefore from Kharagpur (South Bengal) to Moregram (North Bengal) via Mejia—Pandabeswar is less to the extent of 52 Km.

(c) and (d) The reach from Kharagpur to Balasore (Orissa) is a part of NH-60 and is being four laned as segment of Golden Quadrilateral and is targeted for completion by December, 2003. The Golden Quadrilateral is planned to link the four metropolitan cities of New Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai and Mumbai by shortest distance.

[*Translation*]

Connection to NH-89 and 65

4115. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bikaner, Nagaur, Jodhpur and Pali district of Rajasthan have been connected to National Highway-89 and 65;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the National Highway-65 in Jodhpur has been damaged within six months of its construction due to use of substandard material; and

(d) if so, the persons found responsible for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) (a) and (b) National Highway-89 takes off from Bikaner, passes through Nagaur district and terminates at Ajmer city, while National Highway-65 passes through Nagaur, Jodhpur district and terminates at Pali.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, a few small stretches out of total length of 26 km. of National Highway 65 in Jodhpur City improved for riding quality have developed some potholes due to recent rains and leakage of water pipeline. These are being attended through the same contract within the defect liability period.

Modernisation of Post Offices

4116. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to modernise post offices in various States;

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

(c) the number of post offices modernised, till-date; and

(d) the number of post offices likely to be modernised during the remaining period of the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) One thousand six hundred six (1,606) post offices have been modernised till date in the country.

(d) One hundred and twenty five (125) post offices are likely to be modernised during the remaining period of the current financial year.

Statement*Post Offices to be modernised*

Sl. Number	State	Number of POs to be modernised during 2001-2002
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
3.	Assam	5
4.	Bihar	8
5.	Chhattisgarh	6
6.	Delhi	2
7.	Goa	1
8.	Gujarat	7
9.	Haryana	6

1	2	3
10.	Himachal Pradesh	8
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	2
12.	Jharkhand	2
13.	Karnataka	5
14.	Kerala	4
15.	Madhya Pradesh	5
16.	Maharashtra	5
17.	Manipur	2
18.	Meghalaya	1
19.	Mizoram	2
20.	Nagaland	1
21.	Orissa	5
22.	Punjab	5
23.	Rajasthan	7
24.	Sikkim	2
25.	Tamil Nadu	5
26.	Tripura	2
27.	Uttar Pradesh	5
28.	Uttaranchal	9
29.	West Bengal	5
Total		125

Management of Rain Water

4117. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent on management of rain water in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal to tame the water of Chambal, Vanas and Morale rivers of Rajasthan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Rain Water Management is an

integral part of various types of Water Resources Development and Management Programmes. The Programmes include major, medium & minor irrigation projects including ground water development as well as flood control works. Water being a State subject, water resources development projects are planned, executed and financed by the State Government in accordance with their own priorities and from their own resources. The State-wise details of total amount spent on Irrigation

and Flood Control sector during the last three years *i.e.* from 1996-97 to 1998-99, is given in statement-I (a) to (c).

(b) and (c) The Morale river is a tributary of Vanas (Banas) river which itself is a tributary of Chambal river. Government of Rajasthan has submitted one major and three medium irrigation projects in Chambal basin to Central Water Commission for techno-economic appraisal.

Details of their appraisal status are given as under:

Sl.No.	Name of Project	Estimated cost (Rs. in crores)	Benefits (Th.Ha.)	Appraisal Status
1.	Pipalda Lift Major Irrigation Project	11.39	14.87	Reply awaited from State Govt.
2.	Chakan Medium Irrigation Project	9.55	3.38	Accepted by the TAC subject to certain conditions.
3.	Piplad Medium Irrigation Project	21.88	4.70	Modified report awaited from State Govt.
4.	Gararda Medium Irrigation Project	39.51	9.22	Accepted by the TAC subject to certain conditions.

Statement (a)

Actual Expenditure: 1996-97 (Central + State Plan)

Irrigation & Flood Control Sector

Sl. No.	States	Expenditure in Rs. Crore				
		M&M	MI	CAD	FC	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	560.05	102.76	10.98	15.71	689.50
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.94	14.58	0.89	3.36	19.77
3.	Assam	21.56	59.98	3.66	18.11	103.31
4.	Bihar	195.97	43.13	14.46	41.63	295.19
5.	Goa	25.53	5.25	1.33	0.83	32.94
6.	Gujarat	860.10	112.74	13.77	3.75	990.36
7.	Haryana	162.27	37.00	13.06	15.74	228.07
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4.55	33.68	1.09	3.68	43.00
9.	J&K	18.11	26.02	2.68	15.67	62.48
10.	Karnataka	1070.38	73.82	31.88	12.00	1188.08

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11.	Kerala	139.12	46.76	12.00	35.80	233.68
12.	Madhya Pradesh	301.53	121.47	3.53	0.99	427.52
13.	Maharashtra	719.49	398.60	98.49	2.88	1219.46
14.	Manipur	43.23	2.02	7.37	1.03	53.65
15.	Meghalaya	1.46	5.20	0.21	1.43	8.30
16.	Mizoram	0.00	2.74	0.05	0.00	2.79
17.	Nagaland	0.60	2.66	0.20	0.20	3.66
18.	Orissa	330.46	105.34	3.48	17.15	456.43
19.	Punjab	59.49	31.02	35.66	54.28	180.45
20.	Rajasthan	286.55	42.83	95.26	42.20	466.84
21.	Sikkim	0.00	2.56	0.06	2.34	4.96
22.	Tamil Nadu	22.53	30.01	13.44	0.55	66.53
23.	Tripura	7.25	8.05	0.02	2.12	17.44
24.	Uttar Pradesh	403.92	177.07	20.09	22.50	623.58
25.	West Bengal	119.53	63.21	2.05	59.99	244.78
Total - States		5354.62	1548.50	385.71	373.94	7662.77
Total - UTs		1.46	6.03	0.01	20.89	28.39
Total-States+UTs		5356.08	1554.53	385.72	394.83	7691.16
Central Sector*		535.22	45.15	138.32	67.60	786.29
Grand Total		5891.30	1599.68	524.04	462.43	8477.45

M&M-Major & Medium

MI - Minor Irrigation

CAD - Cammond Area Development

FC - Flood Control

Statement (b)**Actual Expenditure: 1997-98 For Irrigation & Flood Control**

Sl. No.	States	Expenditure in Rs. Crore				
		M&M	MI	CAD	FC	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	659.70	111.04	7.16	17.85	795.75
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.36	16.73	0.98	3.76	21.83

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Assam	30.34	89.70	3.19	16.24	139.47
4.	Bihar	240.67	41.15	11.30	42.34	335.46
5.	Goa	22.94	3.30	0.92	0.94	28.10
6.	Gujarat	1212.95	148.16	11.32	4.00	1376.43
7.	Haryana	214.75	30.00	12.14	20.71	277.60
8.	Himachal Pradesh	10.12	41.35	1.09	3.65	56.21
9.	J&K	21.41	26.07	3.53	17.61	68.62
10.	Karnataka	1308.29	70.05	24.11	10.31	1412.76
11.	Kerala	153.58	41.67	11.54	22.13	228.92
12.	Madhya Pradesh	375.47	139.62	3.48	0.72	519.65
13.	Maharashtra	1606.24	348.69	53.14	0.98	2009.05
14.	Manipur	40.33	5.71	1.83	6.75	54.62
15.	Meghalaya	1.50	5.50	0.25	1.50	8.75
16.	Mizoram	0.04	1.96	0.04	0.00	2.04
17.	Nagaland	0.80	2.73	0.20	0.20	3.93
18.	Orissa	519.98	81.39	4.00	18.31	623.68
19.	Punjab	51.15	26.82	43.77	51.05	172.79
20.	Rajasthan	386.95	34.58	58.99	12.34	492.86
21.	Sikkim	2.16	0.00	0.00	1.09	3.25
22.	Tamil Nadu	87.96	42.66	16.73	0.00	147.35
23.	Tripura	5.00	7.84	0.02	4.64	17.50
24.	Uttar Pradesh	473.87	99.34	30.58	14.40	618.19
25.	West Bengal	102.04	30.39	2.60	62.32	197.35
Total - States		7528.60	1446.45	303.27	333.84	9612.16
Total - UTs		0.51	8.86	0.21	18.25	27.83
Total-States+UTs		7529.11	1466.31	303.48	352.09	9639.99
Central Sector		36.72	42.84	129.26	67.17	275.99
Grand Total		7565.83	1498.15	432.74	419.26	9915.98

M&M-Major & Medium

MI - Minor Irrigation

CAD - Cammond Area Development

FC - Flood Control

Statement (c)**Anticipated Expenditure: 1998-99 for Irrigation & Flood Control**

Sl. No.	States	Expenditure in Rs. Crore				
		M&M	MI	CAD	FC	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	790.70	148.11	13.00	49.00	1000.81
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.31	12.87	0.78	4.16	18.12
3.	Assam	45.91	68.61	2.94	20.27	137.73
4.	Bihar	121.00	27.00	12.00	43.00	203.00
5.	Goa	20.54	6.25	1.82	1.16	29.77
6.	Gujarat	1347.32	251.82	13.19	5.00	1617.33
7.	Haryana	342.79	58.75	12.50	20.00	434.04
8.	Himachal Pradesh	12.25	47.67	0.30	5.88	66.10
9.	J&K	73.52	39.31	4.11	26.12	143.06
10.	Karnataka	1354.27	86.28	11.46	7.00	1459.01
11.	Kerala	140.00	39.60	12.00	24.00	215.60
12.	Madhya Pradesh	425.85	209.24	4.49	1.00	640.58
13.	Maharashtra	2627.99	366.26	72.40	1.16	3067.81
14.	Manipur	36.65	9.50	11.05	5.10	62.30
15.	Meghalaya	4.00	6.45	0.30	2.00	12.75
16.	Mizoram	0.03	4.89	0.30	0.00	5.22
17.	Nagaland	0.04	4.27	0.10	0.09	4.50
18.	Orissa	602.81	92.96	5.00	15.00	715.77
19.	Punjab	58.62	38.04	17.20	184.84	298.70
20.	Rajasthan	436.74	49.40	69.18	4.53	559.85
21.	Sikkim	0.00	0.85	2.84	0.02	3.71
22.	Tamil Nadu	294.96	72.89	21.88	0.80	390.53
23.	Tripura	7.58	8.93	0.02	3.24	19.77
24.	Uttar Pradesh	470.00	68.15	14.08	45.90	598.13

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
25.	West Bengal	58.12	18.65	0.61	82.22	159.60
	Total - States	9272.00	1736.75	303.55	551.49	11863.79
	Total - UTs	1.12	10.06	0.07	21.72	32.97
	Total-States+UTs	9273.12	1746.81	303.62	573.21	11896.76
	Central Sector	49.11	48.29	174.90	74.49	346.79
	Grand Total	9322.23	1795.10	478.52	647.70	12243.55

M&M-Major & Medium

MI - Minor Irrigation

CAD - Cammond Area Development

FC - Flood Control

[English]

Replacement of Old Telephone Instruments

4118. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for replacement of old and outdated telephone instruments all over the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has planned to replace 90% of life expired telephone instruments working as on 31.3.1996 within next two years.

Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL) has planned to replace all telephone instruments which are older than 5 years in a phased manner.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) & (b) above.

Crime Against Wildlife

4119. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the crime against wildlife in the country has increased manifold and Non-Governmental Organisations are pressing the Government to take effective steps in this regard;

(b) if so, whether Subramaniam Committee had also recommended in the year 1994 to set up Directorate to check crime against wildlife;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government have decided to establish a Directorate of Prevention of Crime against wildlife in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Action for creating the necessary posts for the Wildlife Crime Cell has been initiated.

Irrigation Projects/Schemes in Tribal and Backward Areas

4120. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of irrigation projects/schemes, which have been started in all tribal and backward areas in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether one of the projects/schemes are running much behind the schedule; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The details of irrigation projects/schemes under Tribal Sub Plan which have been

started in tribal and backward areas of the country during the IX Plan is given in the enclosed *statement*.

Irrigation being a State subject, irrigation projects are being planned, funded and executed by the State Governments themselves out of their own resources and as per their own priorities.

Statement

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Name of State	Major			Medium				
		No.	Latest Estimated Cost	Likely cumulative Expenditure	Ultimate Potential (Th. ha.)	No.	Latest Estimated Cost	Likely cumulative Expenditure	Ultimate Potential (Th. ha.)
1.	Gujarat	2	300	1.79	32.56	19	443.42	7.30	93.53
2.	Madhya Pradesh	3	536.37	0.19	32.37	1	89.51	0.52	13.37
3.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—	2	19.21	0.79	6.39
4.	Maharashtra	1	267.64	146.93	11.83	2	50.17	34.48	10.62
5.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—	1	133.76	1.91	11.5
6.	Rajasthan	1	450	—	—	1	18.70	0.18	8.90
7.	West Bengal	2	163.80	0.126	1.04	3	167.82	0.568	7.80

[Translation]

Work on NH-57

4121. SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work of National Highway-57 (Darbhanga-Farbisganj) has been stopped;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time limit fixed for completion of the said work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present 9 works amounting to Rs. 16.40 crores for improvement of Riding Quality and reconstruction/repair of bridges have been sanctioned in this reach. 4 works are already in progress and tenders are under finalisation for the remaining 5 works. Further Darbhanga-Forbesganj section of NH-57 is part of East-West Corridor under National Highway Development Programme (NHDP) and 4-laning of this section is targeted to be completed by the years 2007 in phases.

[English]

Guidelines for Protection and Preservation of Environment and Forest

4122. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the directives/guidelines issued by the Union Government to States regarding environment and forests during the last two years;

(b) whether some State Governments have failed miserably in implementing these directives/guidelines;

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

(d) the concrete measures taken by the Union Government to see that the directives/guidelines are strictly adhered to by the States?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) The Government issues directions/guidelines under specific provisions of various Acts/Statutory Regulations from time to time to the State Governments. During the last two years, some of the directives/guidelines that have been issued to State Governments, *inter-alia*, include:-

- (i) Directions to the Departments of Electricity and Public Works, Govt. of Goa for disconnection of electricity and water under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to those Beach Resorts and Hotels in Goa where constructions were undertaken in violation of the environmental guidelines, rules and regulations, in pursuance of the orders of the High Court of Bombay at Panaji Bench.
- (ii) Guidelines on Samanvit Gram Vanikaran Samirddhi Yojana (SGVSY) and Creation of Forest Development Agency (FDA) issued during May, 2000.
- (iii) Directions to the Department of Environment, Govt. of Rajasthan under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 issued on 9.11.2000 to ensure stoppage of work on construction of Jarosite ponds for disposal of jarosite sludge generated at Hindustan Zinc Ltd., Udaipur and to take steps so that contaminated site is not disturbed.
- (iv) Guidelines for streamlining the procedure for forest clearances and raising of compensatory afforestation for effective implementation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Normally the State Governments implement the guidelines etc. Wherever specific cases of non-compliance come to the notice of the Government, appropriate measures are taken for safeguarding the environmental interests.

Setting up of Post Offices

4123. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new post offices proposed to be opened particularly in Andhra Pradesh during the current year, State-wise;

(b) the quantum of amount allocated, State-wise;

(c) whether this amount is higher than the previous year and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Targets allocated for Andhra Pradesh and for rest of the Circles in the country for current year 2001-2002, are given in Statement I.

(b) Circle-wise fund allocations for the year 2001-2002, are given in Statement II.

(c) The total funds allocated for the activity of Expansion of Postal Network is higher during the current financial year 2001-2002, as compared to last year.

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

Statement I

Physical Targets for Opening of Post Offices For the Plan Year 2001-2002

S.No.	Circle	EDBOs	DSOs
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15	1
2.	Assam	35	2
3.	Bihar	60	5
4.	Chhattisgarh	25	1
5.	Delhi	2	2
6.	Gujarat	20	3
7.	Haryana	2	1
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5	1
9.	J & K	13	1

1	2	3	4
10.	Jharkhand	30	2
11.	Karnataka	20	2
12.	Kerala	2	1
13.	M.P.	21	3
14.	Maharashtra	70	7
15.	North East	35	2
16.	Orissa	14	2

1	2	3	4
17.	Punjab	6	2
18.	Rajasthan	20	2
19.	Tamil Nadu	5	2
20.	Uttar Pradesh	45	2
21.	Uttaranchal	25	1
22.	West Bengal	30	5
Total		500	50

EDBOs-Extra Departmental Branch Offices
DSOs-Departmental Sub Offices

Statement II

Circle-wise Allotment of Funds - 2001-2002

Allotment of Funds (Amount in Lakhs of Rs.)

S.No.	Circles	Urban Areas 3201- 02.101.01	Rural Areas 3201- 02.101.05	Tribal Areas 3201- 02.101.06	PSSKs 3201-02- 101.07.02(i)	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	25.82	8.46	3.19	12.65	50.12
2.	Assam	46.67	32.92	7.87	8.69	96.15
3.	Bihar	23.73	52.72	17.28	70.31	164.04
4.	Chhattisgarh	3.77	6.37	4.38	13.34	27.86
5.	Delhi	22.21	5.8	—	—	28.01
6.	Gujarat	30.87	21.18	5.62	15.9	73.57
7.	Haryana	18.44	12.04	—	10.60	41.08
8.	Himachal Pradesh	8.66	4.67	0.34	7.90	21.57
9.	J & K	11.1	13.14	3.37	1.67	29.28
10.	Jharkhand	5.09	2.55	2.55	13.81	24.00
11.	Karnataka	34.43	19.19	6.83	5.72	66.17
12.	Kerala	20.88	8.14	—	—	29.02
13.	M.P.	38.2	28.89	13.16	40.31	120.56
14.	Maharashtra	50.83	52.18	13.28	29.95	146.24

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15.	North East	31.99	17.78	19.12	9.49	78.38
16.	Orissa	24.65	12.62	4.58	14.27	56.12
17.	Punjab	19.76	13.76	1.04	9.44	44.00
18.	Rajasthan	14.87	24.66	5.26	13.90	58.69
19.	Tamil Nadu	24.65	14.29	4.24	15.07	58.25
20.	Uttar Pradesh	29.55	52.04	3.19	43.34	128.12
21.	Uttaranchal	3.76	3.59	5.60	6.10	19.05
22.	West Bengal	72.64	29.4	4.30	3.12	109.46
Total		562.57	436.39	125.20	345.58	1469.74

Investment in Telecommunication Sector

Basic Services

Rs. 3,605.48 Crores

Cellular Mobile Telecom Services

Rs. 11,860.91 Crores

V-SAT

Rs. 184.52 Crores

Mobile Radio Trunk Service

Rs. 250.00 Crores

Paging Service

Rs. 663.47 Crores

The year-wise break up of private investment is not available.

(b) to (d) Indian companies with foreign partners had participated in the tender invited for providing Basic Telephone Service in the country. The company providing Basic Telephone Service can have up to 49% Foreign direct investment. Licenses have been granted to six such companies for providing Basic Telephone Service in the circles Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Maharashtra (including Mumbai), Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh & Gujarat. Further, as per NTP '99, Basic Telephone Service has been opened for free competition. The roll out obligation of the existing licensees of Basic Telephone Service includes coverage of rural and uneconomic areas.

[Translation]

Foreign Tour by MTNL Officials

4125. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Officers/Officials in Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) have been sent abroad after changing their designation;

4124. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of investment made in Telecommunication sector by the private sector under the liberalisation policy during the last three years and till date;

(b) whether the private sector and foreign telecommunication companies have shown interest to make investment for development of telecommunications facilities in the backward districts of the country;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) As per the information received from the private operators, the total investment in the major telecom service sector by private operators upto 31.3.2000 is approximately Rs. 16564.38 Crores. Break-up is as under:-

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof during the last two years; and

(c) the action taken/being taken by the Government against the guilty officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Construction of an Airport at Shirdi

4126. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received a request from the Government of Maharashtra to construct an airport at Shirdi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) The State Government of Maharashtra has requested for technical feasibility study for construction of an airport at Shirdi in District Ahmednagar of Maharashtra. The site identified by State Government was found suitable for construction of airport designed for operation of 50 seater aircraft. The State Government was advised for land acquisition and also to obtain No objection certificate (NOC) from Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Environment and Forest. State Government has not intimated further progress on the subject.

Construction of Airports

4127. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to construct an airport in the capital city of each State;

(b) if so, the name of the States so far identified therefor;

(c) whether the Government also plan to construct airport in Kohima, the capital of Nagaland, and in the Mokokchung;

(d) if so, the plans worked out and funds earmarked for the same; and

(e) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Almost all the State capitals are served by airports. Hence, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has no proposal to construct any new airport.

(c) to (e) Dimapur already has an airport which also serves Kohima, the capital of Nagaland. At present there are no plans to construct airport at Kohima and Mokokchung.

Rehabilitation of Families on Encroached Land

4128. SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether acres of land belonging to the Airports Authority of India (AAI) is under encroachment in Secunderabad;

(b) if so, the measures the AAI is taking to take possession of said land;

(c) the package that the AAI has conceived to rehabilitate the affected families; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d) In Secunderabad, 97 acres of land belonging to the Airports Authority of India (AAI) is under encroachment by about 5300 families. In April, 1994 the rehabilitation package of Rs. 9.61 crores from State Government was approved by AAI. In May, 1994 AAI deposited Rs. 125 lakhs with State Government as first instalment towards its contribution of Rs. 4.58 crores. In February, 1998, State Government sent a revised proposal with escalated cost estimate at a staggering Rs. 42.74 crores. The total revised contribution from AAI as proposed by State Government was Rs. 17.74 crores. The State Government has been requested to reconsider the cost of rehabilitation. There is no immediate operational requirement of the said land, as Government has already approved the proposal of State Government of Andhra Pradesh for construction of a new airport at Shamshabad with private sector participation.

Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited

4129. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) has lowered its revenue on ISD call rates;

(b) whether it has any impact on revenue earning of VSNL;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the new proposal mooted by VSNL in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) ISD call rates have been lowered with effect from 1/10/2000 in accordance with the decision of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India.

(b) It does not impact per minute revenue of VSNL significantly. However, due to volume growth in outgoing traffic post revision, revenue of VSNL has increased.

(c) The volume in outgoing traffic has risen to 17% against 5% normal growth. Therefore, we can attribute differential growth of 12% due to tariff reduction which translates to Rs. 29 Crore during 2000-2001.

(d) As the subject of tariff does not pertain to VSNL, no new proposal has been mooted by VSNL on this subject.

Setting up of Sub-Groups

4130. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the working group on telecom sector for the Tenth Five Year Plan has proposed to set up four sub-groups for chalking out an approach for the telecommunications sector and promotion of private sector investment;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the functions of these sub-groups;

(c) the time by which these groups are likely to submit their reports; and

(d) the extent to which these working groups are likely to be helpful in implementing the telecom policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The functions of these sub-groups are as under:

To evolve Approach on Telecom Sector for the 10th Plan keeping in view the basic goal of development of world class telecom infrastructure for supporting accelerated growth of IT and other sectors of the economy, fulfilling the objectives of the New Telecom Policy (1999), convergence of services and markets, international scenario in the wake of WTO/IPR regimes and other relevant factors.

To make recommendations on the further restructuring/reforms required in the telecom sector in the post convergence scenario.

To make recommendations on development of an appropriate system of telecom network in rural areas which should be affordable but self-financing and capable of supporting a multi-media system of communications.

To suggest measures to be adopted for promoting private sector investment in the light of the experience gained so far and the requirement of funds for future growth.

To review the performance of telecom equipment manufacturing sector so far, identify the constraints and make recommendations for evolving an appropriate policy to ensure growth on the pattern of software sector.

To suggest measures to be adopted for Research and Development approach.

(c) These subgroups were required to submit their reports by 31.7.2001.

(d) The recommendations of these sub groups will be helpful in implementing the various telecom policies such as:

(i) Development of rural telephony.

- (ii) To achieve the objective of telephone density as envisaged in New Telecom Policy 1999.
- (iii) All modern telecom services to be made available as public facility.

Joint Venture of TCIL in Nepal

4131. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecommunication Consultants of India Limited (TCIL) has decided to pick up 26.66 percent stake in a joint venture telecom company in Nepal for providing limited mobiles services; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Telecommunication Consultants India Limited (TCIL) has decided to invest 26.66% of equity of a Joint Venture (JV) Company in Nepal for providing Basic Telecom Services based on Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) technology.

(b) Based on bid submitted jointly by TCIL, MTNL, VSNL and the Nepalese Company Nepal Ventures Private Limited (NVPL), the letter of intent (LOI) for the award of

the license for Basic Services on WLL basis was received. While NVPL's equity stake was 20% as per the minimum requirement of Nepalese Government, MTNL, TCIL and VSNL decided to share the balance equity equally. The JV Company is being registered in the name of "United Telecom Limited."

New Telephone Exchanges

4132. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to implement new telecom projects through financial and technical assistance from foreign countries and agencies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of telecom projects which are being implemented through financial and technical assistance from foreign countries and agencies are given as under:

S.No.	Name of the Project	Foreign Agency
1.	Multi-purpose Community Tele-centres (MCT) in district Rajkot, Gujarat	International Telecommunication Union (ITU) & United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)
2.	In-service Primary Teacher's Training by Interactive Television in Distance Education	International Telecommunication Union (ITU) & United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)
3.	Distance Learning & Remote Library Access	Asia Pacific Telecommunity (APT)
4.	Telecommunications Framework Project	Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
5.	Telecommunications Operations Projects	Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
6.	Rural Satellite based Telephone in the State of Bihar	French Govt.

**Loans taken by Scheduled Airlines and
Non-scheduled Airlines**

4133. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some scheduled airlines, non-scheduled airlines and flying clubs/institutions have taken loan from banks, individuals etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these companies have committed any irregularity in the repayment of loans as per the schedule;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether these companies have been given the security clearance; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Development Financial Institutions (DFIs) viz Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) and Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) have provided financial assistance to the following four scheduled/non-scheduled airlines:

(As on 31.3.2001) (Rupees in Crore)

IDBI	i.	Mesco Airlines Ltd.	26.43
	ii.	Skyline NEPC India Ltd.	7.58
IFCI	i.	Sahara Airlines Ltd.	16.96
	ii.	Jet Airways Pvt. Ltd.	93.00
ICICI	i.	Jet Airways Pvt. Ltd.	93.00
	ii.	Mesco Airlines Ltd.	0.79
Total			144.76

As Mesco Airlines and Skyline NEPC defaulted in payment of interest and principal, legal action has been taken by IDBI to recover the dues. The case against Mesco Airlines as debtor and Mideast India Ltd., a group company as guarantor is pending with Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT), New Delhi & that against Skyline NEPC and its guarantors is pending with Debt Recovery Tribunal,

Mumbai. IDBI has also filed recovery application before DRT, Chennai against NEPC India Ltd. and its personal guarantors.

RBI database does not generate information about the loans taken by Aviation Companies from banks, their repayments etc.

(e) and (f) Skyline NEPC is no longer in operation while security clearance of Mesco Airlines has recently been withdrawn by Ministry of Home Affairs. The reverification of Directors associated with M/s. Jet Airways is still awaited from MHA.

Threat to Kidnap Indian Cricketers

4134. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Pakistani extremist groups have threatened to kidnap Indian cricketers;

(b) if so, the details of security arrangement made for the Cricketers;

(c) whether the Government have decided to play with Pakistan in view of the threat; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) As per information received from Ministry of Home Affairs, the Government is aware that the terrorist organization Lashkar-e-Toiba has issued a threat to some Indian players. Adequate security has been provided to all of them.

(c) and (d) Under the prevailing circumstances the Government considers it inappropriate to play in two-nation matches against Pakistan. There is, however, generally no objection to playing against Pakistan in multilateral matches/tournaments at regular venues.

Expenditure on Employment Exchanges

4135. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the annual expenditure incurred in setting up of employment exchanges in various States including Maharashtra;

(b) whether unemployment has increased with the entry of multinational companies in the country;

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

(d) whether the Government have made changes in the syllabus/subject materials of the ITI's and Poly-Technique colleges in order to impart training to the skilled, semi-skilled & non-skilled youths by introducing new trades and also by procurement of new equipments; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the instructions issued in this regard, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Employment Exchanges are under the administrative and financial control of the State Governments. The expenditure incurred on Employment Exchanges are not maintained by Central Government.

(b) and (c) No specific study has been made to ascertain the effect of the entry of the multinational companies on the unemployment situation in the country.

(d) and (e) The syllabi of the various trades of Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS) implemented through ITI's are reviewed and revised from time to time to take care of technological changes taking place in industry.

New trades are introduced in ITI's on the recommendation of the National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT) to meet the skilled manpower requirements of industry. Seven trades have been introduced under CTS recently.

Introduction of new trades in ITI's and procurement of equipments required as per the up dated list of tools and equipment in syllabi of each trade is the responsibility of the State Government.

The syllabus/subject materials for Polytechnics/ Colleges are prepared by the State Governments in consultation of the respective State Technical Education Boards.

Pending Power Projects of Karnataka

4136. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some power projects in Karnataka are pending for the forest clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to accord early clearance to those projects?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Out of all the proposals received from the State of Karnataka for power projects during the last five years, only two proposals are pending for the forest clearance as per details and their present status as below:—

S.No.	Name of Proposal	Date of Receipt	Present status
1.	Construction of mini hydel project at MHGE station Tail Race in Jog, Shimoga	6.12.00	Revised proposal awaited from the State Government
2.	Setting up of wind farm in Jogimatti State Forest, Chitradurga	24.7.01	Wanting details being sought from the State Government

The Ministry is committed to clear all such proposals, which are complete in all respects within 90 days. In case of incomplete proposals, decision can be taken only after wanting details sought from the State Government/project authority has been received. As such no time limit can be fixed for clearance of such projects.

[*Translation*]

Rules for Putting up Hoardings along NHs

4137. SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any rules, laws, policy, etc. for putting up hoardings alongside the National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not framing any rules, laws and policy etc. for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per Ministry's policy, no advertisement hoardings are allowed on National Highway land except informatory signs of public interest. However, under the policy of private sponsorship of Road Signs and Greening of National Highways, the private entrepreneurs are allowed to depict the name/logo of their company in a sign of specified dimension.

(c) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Profit earned by Private Airlines

4138. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private airlines are making huge profit whereas Indian Airlines/Air India have been incurring losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years airlines-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) During the financial years 1998-99 and 1999-2000, Air India has incurred loss of Rs. 174.48 crores and Rs. 37.63 crores respectively. During the year 2000-01, the net loss of Air India is estimated at

Rs. 52 crores. This loss is mainly due to increase in fuel prices. If there had been no increase in fuel prices, Air India could have achieved a profit of about 200 crores in 2000-01.

Profit earned by Indian Airlines during 1998-99 & 1999-2000 are Rs. 13.12 crore & Rs. 45.27 crores respectively. During the year 2000-2001 provisional loss of Indian Airlines is Rs. 177.25 crores. This loss has also been mainly due to massive increase in the price of ATF during 2000-2001, which resulted in additional outgo of Rs. 231 crore on this count in IAL.

Indian Airlines has taken steps such as (i) strict budgetary control with all the major items of expenditure are subject to cost benefit analysis, operational and commercial expediency; (ii) Better fleet utilization, increased international operations; (iii) Better scheduling of aircraft and route planning, Capacity deployment alignment with market requirements; (iv) Code sharing with the foreign airlines, High level participation in computerized Reservation System; (v) Freeze on recruitment unless absolutely necessary for operational reasons, fuel monitoring and tinkering, reduction in publicity and sales promotional expenditure, Review of uneconomic flights, Outsourcing of services to the extent feasible etc.

So far as Jet Airways, a Private Limited Company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 is concerned Section 220 read with Section 610 of the Act, restricts accessibility of its Profit and Loss account to a person other than its members. As regards Sahara Airlines, a Public Limited Company, its profit for the year ended 30th June, 1998 and 30th June, 1999 is Rs. 23.37 crores and Rs. 4.06 crores respectively. The Company, however, incurred a loss of Rs. 17.6 crores for the year ended 31st March, 2000.

Holding of Non-Sporting Events in Stadia

4139. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the existing rules permitting holding of non-sporting events in stadia premises under the Sports Authority of India (SAI);

(b) the names of non-sporting events held in the stadia under SAI during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(c) the amount of income made from each event, year-wise; and

(d) the areas where such income is to be utilised, stadia-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected from the Sports Authority of India.

[Translation]

Shifting of Headquarters of BALCO

4140. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present management of Bharat Aluminium Company (BALCO) has taken a secret permission from the Government to shift the company headquarters from Chhattisgarh to Korba; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Laying of OFCs in Delhi

4141. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to lay Optical Fibre Cables in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) 600 Kms. of Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) has been planned to be laid during 2001-2002 and 84.298 Kms. of OFC has already been laid since 01.04.2001.

[English]

Atmospheric Pollution in Delhi

4142. SHRI J.S. BRAR:
SHRI SAIDUZZAMA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the atmosphere over Delhi have been vitiated due to presence of RSPM, Nitrogen Dioxide and Sulphur in excess of the safe level;

(b) if so, impact thereof on the health of the residents; and

(c) the steps being taken to bring the atmospheric Pollution within safe level?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The data on ambient air quality, is being monitored at seven locations in Delhi, indicates that the average levels of Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM), Oxides of Nitrogen and Sulphur dioxide were generally within the safe limits. However, the levels of Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM) and Oxides of Nitrogen exceeded the prescribed limits on a few days at a few locations mainly due to vehicular emissions.

(b) Air pollution may cause respiratory ailments. However, no conclusive data are available to establish the co-relationship between the increasing trend of air pollution and incidence of respiratory diseases.

(c) The steps taken to control pollution include the following:—

- (i) Action Plan to control pollution in Delhi has been prepared and is being implemented.
- (ii) Emission standards for on-road vehicles and mass emission standards for new vehicles have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and are enforced by Transport Departments of the State Governments including Delhi.
- (iii) A comprehensive Policy for Abatement of Pollution that lays stress on both the control and preventive aspects of pollution has been formulated.

- (iv) Unleaded petrol is supplied in the entire country from 1.2.2000 and diesel with 0.25% sulphur maximum content is supplied from 1.1.2000 in the entire country. Ultra low sulphur (0.05%) fuel (petrol and diesel) has also been introduced in major cities including Delhi.
- (v) Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) is supplied for automobiles through a number of retail outlets in Delhi to cater to the CNG vehicles.
- (vi) Benzene concentration in petrol has been reduced.
- (vii) Emission standards for industries have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to check pollution.
- (viii) Industries are also required to install necessary pollution control equipments before commissioning of their plants.
- (ix) Industries are required to take consent from the respective State Pollution Control Board under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

Setting up of Ganga Action Cell

4143. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have set up a Ganga Action Cell to save the river from contamination;
- (b) if so, the composition of members of the proposed Ganga Action Cell;
- (c) whether the Government propose to connect some other rivers with Ganga; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is a National River Conservation Directorate (which was earlier known as Ganga Project Directorate) functioning in the Ministry of Environment & Forests. This Directorate supervises the implementation of the National River Conservation Plan (which includes the Ganga Action Plan).

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Water Resources and the Central Water Commission formulated a National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development in 1980 which envisages inter-linkages among various peninsular rivers and the Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from water surplus basins to water deficit basins for optimum utilisation of water resources. The Plan envisages 17 water transfer linkages under the Peninsular Rivers Development Component and 14 water transfer linkages under the Himalayan Rivers Development Component. To follow it up, the Government of India have established the National Water Development Agency (NWDA), an autonomous society in July, 1982 to, *inter-alia*, carry out the water balance and feasibility studies of the National Perspective Plan. The names of all the proposed 31 inter-basin transfer linkages from the presently assessed surplus basins to the deficit basins are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

List of Proposed Water Transfer Links for which Prefeasibility Reports have been Prepared by NWDA

Peninsular Rivers Development Component:

1. Mahanadi (Manibhadra) - Godavari (Dowlaiswaram) link
2. Godavari (Polavaram) - Krishna (Vijaywada) link
3. Godavari (Inchampalli) - Krishna (Pullichintala) link
4. Par-Tapi link
5. Ken Betwa link
6. Kalisindh - Chambal link
7. Pamba -Achankovil - Vaigai link
8. Godavari (Inchampalli) - Krishna Nagarjunasagar) link
9. Godavari (Inchampalli low Dam) - Musi and Krishna (Nagarjunasagar Tail Pond) links
10. Damanganga - Tansa link
11. Bodti - Varda link
12. Netsavati - Hemavati link
13. Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) - Pennar (Somasila)-link
14. Krishna (Srisaillam) - Pennar (Podattur) link

15. Krishna (Almatti) - Pennar link
16. Pennar (Somasila) - Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link
17. Cauvery (Kattalai) - Vaigai - Gundar link

Himalayan Rivers Development Component

1. Kosi - Mechi link
2. Kosi - Ghaghra link
3. Gandak - Ganga link
4. Ghaghra - Yamuna link
5. Sarda - Yamuna link
6. Yamuna - Rajasthan link
7. Rajasthan - Sabarmati link
8. Chunar - Sone Barrage link
9. Sone Dam - Southern Tributaries of Ganga link
10. Brahmaputra - Ganga link (Manas - Sankosh - Tista - Ganga)
11. Farakka - Sunderbans link
12. Ganga - Damodaran - Subernarekha link
13. Subernarekha - Mahanadi link
14. Jogighopa - Trista Faarakka link

[Translation]

Assessment of Expenditure on Irrigation Projects

4144. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment of expenditure incurred on irrigation projects under construction by the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total expenditure proposed to be incurred during the remaining period of Ninth Plan; and

(d) the estimated additional amount required to complete the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The likely expenditure during the IX plan on major/medium ongoing irrigation projects upto March, 2000 is Rs. 15817.80 crore against Ninth Plan outlays of Rs. 40951.30 crore. Irrigation being a State subject the primary responsibility of planning, investigation, funding and execution of irrigation and flood control projects rests with the State Government.

(d) Balance cost for completion of these projects as per current estimated cost is Rs. 62567.20 crore.

[English]

Illegal Exchanges

4145. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to a news-item captioned 'Entrepreneurs' run illegal exchanges, rob MTNL' appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated May 21, 2001;

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

(c) whether some employees of MTNL were also found involved in this fraud;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken against the persons involved in this fraud?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 3 cases of illegal exchanges (EPABX) have come to notice. Action against them, namely, M/s. Shree Jee Communications, Chawri Bazar, M/s. Kesho Ram & Sons Pvt Ltd., Chandni Chowk and Ms. Sawera Communication, Faiz Road, Karol Bagh have been taken.

(c) No, Sir.

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

(e) Two private persons were arrested by Delhi Police.

Demand and Supply of Bamboo*[Translation]*

4146. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total production, demand and supply of bamboo in the country at present;

(b) whether the present production of bamboo is less than its demands;

(c) if so, the manner in which the demand of bamboo is likely to be met;

(d) whether there is any proposal to increase the areas for bamboo cultivation;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the extent to which the demand of bamboo is likely to be met during the Tenth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (f) Based on inventory reports published by the Forest Survey of India, Dehradun from time to time, it has been estimated that the area under bamboo in the country is 89,600 square kilometres (or 8.96 million hectares) and the growing stock of bamboo is 80.428 million tonnes. There are no reports with the Central Government of scarcity of bamboo in supply *vis-a-vis* the demands.

Plantation of Bamboo is one of the items of work under the existing centrally sponsored scheme of Non-Timber Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants which is being implemented throughout the country. In addition, development of Bamboo resource is now declared a thrust area, and projects solely for Bamboo Plantation are being sanctioned from 1999-2000 onwards on the basis of proposals received from the State Governments subject to availability of funds. Till now, 21 projects for Bamboo Plantation have been sanctioned with an outlay of Rs. 20.86 crores for treating an area of 30,163 hectares during the Ninth Plan.

Reduction in Rates of ISD and STD Call

4147. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to reduce the ISD and STD call rates; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir. At present there is no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

*[English]***Expansion of Telecommunications**

4148. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any programme has been prepared for the expansion of telecommunications in the country particularly for Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the programme drawn up in this regard, State-wise; and

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Programme has been prepared for the expansion of Telecommunications in the country and the details particularly for Madhya Pradesh is enclosed in statement I.

(b) and (c) The programme has been drawn up for expanding the telephone lines in the country as shown in statement II by:-

- (i) introducing modern technology switches;
- (ii) use of WLL, CDMA based mobile, and GSM technology based cellular mobile telephone service both in rural and urban sectors;
- (iii) using new technology Access Network like DLC/CNE on optical fibre in local network; and
- (iv) use of Cordect technology for providing telephone connections.

Statement I**Programme for expansion of Telecommunications in Madhya Pradesh**

S.No.	Activity/Service	Target
1	2	3
1.	Net Switching Capacity including WLL and CMTS	144700

1	2	3
2.	Direct Exchange Lines (DELs)	155000
3.	Optical Fibre Cable (Rt. KMs.)	8700
4.	Microwave (Rt. KMs.)	400
5.	TAX Lines	54500
6.	Internet Dhabas	313

Statement II**State-wise programme for the expansion of Telecommunications in the country and provisional funds allocation in crores**

S.No.	Name of the States	DEL's Target	Provisional funds allocation in crores during 2001-2002
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	10000	20.07
2.	Andhra Pradesh	530000	1127.61
3.	Assam	100000	207.22
4.	Bihar	200000	477.72
5.	Chhattisgarh	40000	176.37
6.	Gujarat	650000	1222.74
7.	Haryana	245500	426.37
8.	Himachal Pradesh	90000	219.10
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	80000	158.90
10.	Jharkhand	82000	225.38
11.	Karnataka	500000	974.01
12.	Kerala	663000	1093.39
13.	Madhya Pradesh	155000	479.51
14.	Maharashtra	950000	2329.08
15.	Meghalaya	10100	-
16.	Tripura	12900	-
17.	Mizoram	9000	-

1	2	3	4
	North East-1	32000	126.03
18.	Nagaland	5700	-
19.	Manipur	8600	-
20.	Arunachal Pradesh	7200	-
	North East-II	21500	96.59
21.	Orissa	135000	388.41
22.	Punjab	460000	851.71
23.	Rajasthan	300000	684.94
24.	Tamil Nadu	596000	1127.69
25.	Uttaranchal	100000	187.35
26.	Uttar Pradesh	625000	1283.04
27.	West Bengal	465000	981.10
28.	Delhi	200000	800.00

Assistance for Anti-Erosion Works

4149. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from Andhra Pradesh for sanction of central assistance under anti-erosion works on Godavari flood banks and Nallmode drains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have released the amount to the State Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the time by which the amounts likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) The Central Water Commission under Ministry of Water Resources, had proposals from the Government of Andhra Pradesh comprising 15 nos. Anti-erosion Works on Godavari Flood banks estimated to cost Rs. 2.50 crore and 13 nos. of Anti-erosion Works on Nallamada drain, Ogeruvagu and Nakkavagu drain of Krishna Delta with an estimated cost of Rs. 1.50 crore. Both the schemes have been examined

by the Central Water Commission and comments sent to the State Government for compliance. Reply to the comments of Central Water Commission is awaited from the State Government.

Target for Completion of NH-215

4150. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any target date has been fixed for completion of National Highway 215;

(b) if so, the active steps taken for its completion; and

(c) the funds allocated/released for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) (a) Development of National Highways is a continuous process. Improvement works are taken up depending on availability of funds and inter-se-priority.

(b) and (c) So far, works to the tune of Rs. 9.7 crores have been sanctioned for improvement of this National Highway. Further improvement works will be taken up in phases.

Task Force for Farakka Project

4151. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up any task force for Farakka Barrage Project to negotiate with Indo-Bangladesh River Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) As of now, Government of India is not having any such proposal to set up any Task Force for Farakka Barrage Project to negotiate with Indo-Bangladesh River Commission.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Computerised Customer Care Centre

4152. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up computerised customer care centres at all the District Headquarters/Divisional Headquarters of the Department of Posts;

(b) if so, the number of such centres set up during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise; and

(c) the time by which the computerised customer care centres are likely to be set up at the remaining District Headquarters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to set up computerised customer care centres at all the Divisional Headquarters.

(b) The project of setting up of computerised customer care centres initially started in the year 1997-98 and till the end of the year 2000-2001, the following number of customer care centres have been set up. The circle-wise

and year-wise details of such installation is given in the enclosed statement.

Year	Number of Computerised customer care centres set up
1997-1998	67
1998-1999	60
1999-2000	55
2000-2001	22
	204

(c) This project is likely to be completed within the next Five Year Plan period (2002-2007) subject to the availability of funds.

Statement

List of computerised Customer Care Centres set up

During the Years 1997-98, 98-99, 99-2000 and 2000-2001 State-wise

1. *Assam Circle*

1997-98

1. Guwahati

1998-99

2. Dibrugarh

3. Silchar

4. Tezpur

1999-2000

5. Jorhat

6. Nowgong

7. Tinsukia

2000-2001

8. Nalabari

2. *Andhra Pradesh*

9. Hyderabad

10. Vijayawada

11. Visakhapatnam

- | <i>1998-99</i> | <i>2000-2001</i> |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 12. Guntur | 31. Delhi North Division |
| 13. Kakinada | 6. <i>Gujarat Circle</i> |
| 14. Nizamabad | <i>1997-98</i> |
| <i>1999-2000</i> | 32. Ahmedabad |
| 15. Anantapur | 33. Rajkot |
| 16. Mehboob Nagar | 34. Surat |
| <i>2000-2001</i> | 35. Vadodara |
| 17. Nellore | <i>1998-99</i> |
| 3. <i>Bihar Circle</i> | 36. Bardoli |
| <i>1998-99</i> | 37. Godhra |
| 18. Muzaffarpur Region | 38. Nadiad |
| 19. Patna Division | 39. Gandhi Nagar-30 |
| <i>1999-2000</i> | Gujarat Circle |
| 20. Patna GPO | <i>1999-2000</i> |
| 21. Muzaffarpur Division | 40. Fatehgarh HO |
| 22. Patna Circle Office | 41. Valsad HO |
| Bihar Circle | 42. Anand HO |
| <i>2000-2001</i> | <i>2000-2001</i> |
| 23. Vaishali | 43. Jamnagar |
| 4. <i>Chhattisgarh Circle</i> | 7. <i>Haryana Circle</i> |
| <i>1997-98</i> | <i>1998-99</i> |
| 24. Jabalpur | 44. Ambala |
| <i>1998-99</i> | 45. Karnal |
| 25. Balaghat | <i>1999-2000</i> |
| 26. Raipur | 46. Faridabad |
| <i>1999-2000</i> | 47. Rohtak |
| 27. Bilaspur HO | <i>2000-2001</i> |
| 5. <i>Delhi Circle</i> | 48. Gurgaon |
| <i>1997-98</i> | 8. Himachal Pradesh |
| 28. Circle Office Delhi | <i>1998-99</i> |
| <i>1999-2000</i> | 49. Shimla |
| 29. Delhi GPO | 50. Mandi |
| 30. I.P. Head Office | 51. Hamirpur |

- 1999-2000
52. Solan
53. Dharamshala
2000-2001
54. Una
9. *Jammu & Kashmir*
1999-2000
55. Srinagar Circle Office
56. Jammu Circle Office
2000-2001
57. Udhampur
10. *Kerala Circle*
1997-98
58. Trivendrum
59. Cochin
1998-99
60. Calicut
1999-2000
61. Pathanamthitha HO
62. Tellicherry HO
2000-2001
63. Alappuzha
11. *Jharkhand Circle*
1998-99
64. Ranchi Division
2000-2001
65. Ranchi Region
12. *Karnataka Circle*
1997-98
66. Bangalore
67. Dharwad
68. Mysore HO
1998-99
69. Mangalore
70. Shimoga
71. Kolar
72. Puttur
73. Belgaum HO
74. Bellary HO
75. Bidar HO
76. Bijapur HO
77. Gulbargha HO
78. Karwar HO
79. Raichur
Karnataka Circle
1999-2000
80. Bagalkot HO
81. Sirsi HO
2000-01
82. Hassan
13. *Madhya Pradesh*
1997-98
83. Indore
84. Bhopal
1998-99
85. Hoshangabad
86. Vidisa
87. Ujjain
88. Khandwa
89. Rattam
90. Mandsaur
91. Sehore
1999-2000
92. Chhattarpur
2000-2001
93. Sagar HO

14. *Maharashtra Circle*

1997-98

94. Mumbai

95. Pune

96. Solapur

1998-99

97. Aurangabad

98. Nasik

99. Goa

100. Kolhapur

101. Sangli

102. Nagpur

103. Nagpur Congress Nagar

1999-2000

104. Dhule Division

105. Jalgaon Division

2000-2001

106. Thane

15. *North East Circle*

1998-99

107. Agartala

108. Shillong

1999-2000

109. Imphal

110. Aizwal

111. Itanagar

2000-2001

112. Kohima

113. Dikranagar

16. *Orissa Circle*

1997-98

114. Bhubneshwar

115. Cuttack

1998-99

116. Puri

Orissa Circle

1999-2000

117. Berhampur

118. Sambalpur

2000-2001

119. Rourkela

17. *Punjab Circle*

1997-98

120. Chandigarh

121. Jalandhar

122. Amritsar

123. Ludhiana

1998-99

124. Patiala

125. Sangrur

126. Hoshiarpur

127. Gurdaspur

1999-2000

128. Ferozepur HO

129. Bhatinda HO

2000-2001

130. Faridkot

18. *Rajasthan Circle*

131. Jaipur

132. Ajmer

133. Jodhpur

2000-2001

134. Alwar

135. Kota

136. Pali

19. *Tamil Nadu Circle*

1997-98

137. Madras

138. Aprakkonam

139. Kancheepuram

140. Cheglipatti

141. Vellore
142. Karaikudi
143. Karur
144. Kumbakonam
145. Mayiladhutturai
146. Puttokotai
147. Padukotai
148. Srirangam
149. Thanjavur
150. Vrindhachallam
151. Trichur RMS
152. Dindigul
153. Kanya Kumari
154. Kovilputt
155. Priyakulam
156. Ramanathapuram
157. Trinulveli
158. Coimbatore
159. Dharampuri
160. Erode
161. Madurai
162. SSRM Madurai
163. Nagapathinam
164. Nilgiris
165. Namakul
166. CCC Madurai
167. Polaichi
168. Salem
169. Sivaganga
170. Tuticorin
171. Tirrupur

172. Trichurapalli
173. Virudhonagar
1999-2000
174. Madurai HO
175. Nagar Coil HO
20. *Uttar Pradesh Circle*
1999-2000
176. Lucknow GPO
177. CO Lucknow
178. Sultanpur
179. Kanpur
180. Aligarh
181. Gorakhpur
182. Partapgarh
183. Agra
184. Bareilly
185. Allahabad
186. Azamgarh
187. Meerut
188. Ghaziabad
189. Muzaffar Nagar
2000-2001
190. Gonda
21. *Uttaranchal Circle*
1999-2000
191. Dehradun
22. *West Bengal Circle*
1997-98
192. CCC Calcutta
1998-99
193. Sikkim
194. Howrah
195. Bankura

196. Baruipur
 197. Andaman Nicobar
 198. Calcutta GPO
 199. Berhampur (B)
 1999-2000
 200. Darjeeling
 201. Burdwan
 202. Asansol
 2000-2001
 203. Jalpaiguri
 204. Midnapur

[*Translation*]

Telephone Adalats

4153. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Telephone Adalats organised in the country during the last three years and till date; and
 (b) the number of cases received/filed in these Adalats alongwith the number of cases disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

Losses Suffered by Alliance Air and Pawan Hans

4154. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the losses suffered by Alliance Air and Pawan Hans during the last three years and the current year so far, year-wise;
 (b) the reasons therefor; and
 (c) the concrete steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to make them profitable?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Alliance Air and Pawan Hans have made profit/(loss) during the last three years as under:—

Year	1998-99	1999-2000 (Rs. in crs.)	2000-01 (After tax)
Alliance Air	4.10	0.94	(72.87)
Pawan Hans	72.05	67.47	55.59

While Pawan Hans has not incurred any losses, Alliance Air has incurred a loss of Rs. 17.04 crores during the first quarter of the current financial year.

(b) The main reasons for losses suffered by Alliance Air are as under:—

- (i) Increase in Sales Tax on ATF in certain States.
 (ii) Hike in domestic ATF prices by around 18% in March, 2000 and by 25% in September, 2000.
 (iii) Increase in Landing and Route Navigational charges by 4-7.5% for all domestic airports in November, 1999 and further increase thereto due to categorisation of seven more domestic airports as international.
 (iv) Additional expenditure on various security measures introduced after hijacking of Kathmandu flight.
 (v) Increase in Insurance premium rates and foreign exchange rates.

(c) Alliance Air has taken the following steps to contain losses and make the company profitable:—

- Strict budgetary control
- Better fleet utilisation
- General improvement and upgradation of services to the users
- Flexi - fare introduced on specific routes to augment revenue.

With effect from 25th May, 2001 fares were reviewed on selective Alliance Air routes under the Flexi-fare scheme introduced by Indian Airlines to augment revenue for the Financial Year 2001-02.

- Special promotional fares were introduced on Delhi/Indore, Delhi/Chandigarh, Delhi/Agra and Delhi-Amritsar routes and special package tours "Rajasthan Flyways" were introduced to increase passenger traffic on Alliance Air routes.

The Government had deregulated the domestic ATF price from 1st April, 2001. In anticipation of deregulation of ATF price, a saving in ATF cost has been assumed in the budget. There was reduction in the ATF price in April, 2001 and savings were expected to be more than anticipated in the budget. However, with the hardening of the international price of ATF, the domestic price has also gone up from June, 2001 and thereafter. As a result, the additional savings in ATF costs due to deregulation over and above that assumed in the budget may not materialize.

Construction of Bridges over Rivers

4155. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to construct bridges over some rivers on the National Highways in the country;

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

(c) the details of bridges which were taken up for construction and are still incomplete;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor, State-wise; and

(e) the steps being taken to complete these bridges on priority basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) (a) and (b) The construction of 317 number of bridges on National Highways are included in the Annual Plan for the year 2001-2002. Statement I giving State-wise details is enclosed.

(c) A statement II giving details of bridges in progress is enclosed.

(d) and (e) Taking up of bridges for construction and their completion is a continuous process. Necessary funds are being provided for their timely completion.

Statement I

Statewise details of Bridges on National Highways included for construction in Annual Plan 2001-2002

Sl.No.	State	No. of Bridges
1.	Andhra Pradesh	24
2.	Assam	16
3.	Bihar	7
4.	Chandigarh	1
5.	Chhattisgarh	18
6.	Delhi	0
7.	Goa	3
8.	Gujarat	0
9.	Haryana	1
10.	Himachal Pradesh	11
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	0
12.	Jharkhand	10
13.	Karnataka	5
14.	Kerala	12
15.	Madhya Pradesh	15
16.	Maharashtra	98
17.	Manipur	9
18.	Meghalaya	9
19.	Mizoram	5
20.	Nagaland	1
21.	Orissa	14
22.	Pondicherry	2
23.	Punjab	8
24.	Rajasthan	7
25.	Tamil Nadu	14
26.	Uttar Pradesh	15
27.	Uttaranchal	8
28.	West Bengal	4
Total		317

Statement II*Statewise details of Bridges in Progress*

Sl.No.	State	No. of Bridges
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7
2.	Assam	9
3.	Bihar	15
4.	Chhattisgarh	6
5.	Delhi	1
6.	Goa	1
7.	Gujarat	1
8.	Haryana	3
9.	Himachal Pradesh	10
10.	Jharkhand	12
11.	Karnataka	22
12.	Kerala	2
13.	Madhya Pradesh	21
14.	Maharashtra	36
15.	Manipur	5
16.	Meghalaya	12
17.	Nagaland	2
18.	Orissa	10
19.	Punjab	2
20.	Rajasthan	7
21.	Tamil Nadu	5
22.	Uttar Pradesh	10
23.	West Bengal	14
Total		213

*[Translation]***Scheme for Flood Control in Mithilanchal**

4156. SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mithilanchal in Uttaranchal has been affected by floods;

(b) if so, the percentage of area affected;

(c) whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme to control flood menace in this region permanently; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir. The Mithalanchal area under North Bihar has been affected by floods.

(b) 76% area of the North Bihar is prone to floods. The State Government has reported on 11.8.2001 that an area of 0.155 m. ha. is affected by floods in North Bihar covering the districts of Gopalganj, Samastipur, Begusarai, West Champaran, Sitamarhi, Muzaffarpur, Sheohar, Darbhanga, East Champaran, Saran, Siwan, Madhubani, Katihar and Vaishali.

(c) and (d) Flood Management being a State subject, flood control schemes are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments themselves out of their own resources and as per their own priorities. Central Government renders assistance that are technical, catalytical and promotional in nature. The Government of India has set up Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC) to tackle the flood problem in Ganga basin, which has prepared comprehensive Plans for flood management for all the 23 river systems of Ganga basin. In these comprehensive plans, which have been forwarded to the respective State Governments including Government of Bihar, both long term and short term measures have been suggested.

*[English]***Assessment of Security Measures at Airports**

4157. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the security measures around all the Airports have been assessed recently and found to be foolproof;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether intelligence data/reports are being shared by all agencies involved in Airport Security; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Review of security arrangements at airports in the country is an ongoing process. After review, the shortcomings are rectified by the concerned department/agencies to preclude possibility of any unlawful interference with civil aviation operations.

(b) During the year 2001, till June, 59 inspections of airports in the country have been carried out.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Mobile Tariff

4158. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the details of mobile tariff maintained by various mobile/cellular telephone companies, company-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): Sir, the tariff for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) are specified by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in its Telecommunication Tariff Order (TTO), 1999. These tariffs are for standard tariff package, which must always be offered to the subscribers by the service providers and in addition, CMTS providers may offer alternative tariff packages also. The subscriber is free to choose from among all tariff packages including the standard tariff package. Competition has resulted in alternative tariffs being reduced in several places. However, the Government does not maintain a records of tariff plans offered by the cellular Service Providers in various parts of the country.

At present, the mandatory standard tariff package offered by service providers in Metros City Service Areas includes a monthly rental of Rs. 475/- and airtime charge of Rs. 4/- per minute. In Telecom Circle Service Areas, the corresponding package is Rs. 500/- for monthly rental and Rs. 4.50/- for airtime. In many service areas the alternative tariffs offered by cellular service providers are lower. In addition, TRAI is keeping the tariff structure under review for introducing any changes in the same if so warranted.

Expansion of Speed Post Services

4159. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to extend the Speed Post Services to towns and cities that are not directly connected by Air Service; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Speed Post centres have already been set up in many cities/towns not directly connected by air services. Speed Post articles are received/sent from and for such centres through rail and road network. Speed Post is a premium product and is run on commercial considerations. Expansion of the network is an on-going process depending on market situation, assessment of the need, the anticipated revenue and transport network.

Vanasthalipuram Telephone Exchange

4160. SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the present capacity of Vanasthalipuram Telephone Exchange under the Hyderabad Telecom District in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the Government have received any complaints about harassment of the subscribers by not attending to their complaints for the last six months;

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

(d) the further action the BSNL propose to take to improve the performance of this exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The present capacity of Vanasthalipuram Telephone Exchange under Hyderabad Telecom District in Andhra Pradesh is 29,000 lines.

(b) No Sir.

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

Acquisition of Aircraft by Indian Airlines

4161. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines has decided to review its ambitious \$2-3 billion aircraft acquisition programme;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Indian Airlines had already received technical and financial bids for purchase of Airbus and Boeing aircraft;

(d) if so, whether the Government have decided against infusing more funds in the Indian Airlines' equity base; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Based on the evaluation of 15 aircraft types, a task force of Indian Airlines, headed by the then Deputy Managing Director, considered and short-listed nine aircraft types manufactured by Boeing Company and Airbus Industries in the seat range of 95-175 seats for replacement and augmentation of its fleet capacity. These aircraft are B717, B737-600, B737-700, B737-800 and B737-900 of Boeing Company and A318, A319, A320 and A321 of Airbus Industries. The final recommendations have been kept confidential in the commercial interest of the Indian Airlines and especially in view of the ongoing disinvestment process of Indian Airlines.

(d) and (e) In view of the impending disinvestment in Indian Airlines, Government is not considering infusion of more funds in Indian Airlines' equity base at present.

National River Action Plan

4162. DR. BALIRAM:

SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the rivers of Uttar Pradesh and Kerala included in the National River Action Plan;

(b) whether these States have requested to the Union Government to include more rivers in National River Action Plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the action taken by the Government so far?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) The rivers of Uttar Pradesh included under the National River Conservation Plan are Ganga, Yamuna and Gomati. No river of Kerala is included under the on-going National River Conservation Plan. However, a number of proposals have been received from these States for inclusion of new rivers under this scheme. The State-wise details of such proposals with their current status given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Statewise list of proposals received from State Governments for inclusion under National River Conservation Plan.

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	State	Estimated cost (Rs. crore)	Current Status
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Yamuna Action Plan- Extended Phase	Uttar Pradesh, Haryana & Delhi	220.60	Approved in May 2001
2.	Kali Nadi	Uttar Pradesh	26.19	Received outline proposal only. State Government asked to submit Detailed Project Report.
3.	Pamba River	Kerala	155.00	It has been decided to release an amount of Rs. 3 lakh to the State Government for preparation of Pre-Feasibility Report

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Chaliyar River	Kerala	271.00	Report received is not as per Ministry's guidelines. State Government asked to submit Detailed Project Report.

Amenities Along National Highways

4163. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to increase the amenities all along the National Highways to facilitate the National Highway travelling in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and also the works assigned and taken up, State-wise;

(c) the details of the funds allocated so far; and

(d) the details of the total number of projects taken up and the approximate time frame with in which the proposed projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Government has a policy to facilitate provision of passenger oriented wayside amenities along National Highways both through budgetary support and private financing. Under the policy initiated in 1986-87, 21 facilities have been made operational as per statement enclosed. The policy was modified in April 1998 and the Government now acquires land for setting up of wayside amenities and thereafter it can be leased to private entrepreneurs through a transparent bidding process for development of wayside amenities. Estimates for land acquisition for 15 cities at a cost of Rs. 272.63 lakhs have been sanctioned in Karnataka. Land acquisition is in progress and it is premature to indicate a time frame for completion of the facilities.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Number of Amenities under budgetary support	Number of amenities under private financing
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	1

1	2	3	4
2.	Assam	—	1
3.	Goa	1	—
4.	Haryana	—	1
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	1
6.	Kerala	—	1
7.	Madhya Pradesh	—	1
8.	Maharashtra	1	1
9.	Orissa	1	—
10.	Punjab	—	1
11.	Rajasthan	—	3
12.	Tamil Nadu	1	—
13.	Uttar Pradesh	—	3
14.	West Bengal	—	2
Total:		5	16

EPF-ESI Offices

4164. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the names and addresses of offices under Employees Provident Fund Organisation and Employees State Insurance Corporation located in Delhi along with names of areas being covered by each office as on June 30, 2001;

(b) the present criteria for payment of pension to employees who are members of EPF Scheme;

(c) whether any code number is allotted to members opting EPF and ESIC Scheme;

(d) if so, whether such code number is made available to employees on their request;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether any loan is advanced to members of EPF in emergent case against their deposits;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (h) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Amount in EPF

4165. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of Employees Provident Fund deposit with the Government at present;

(b) the manner and the time by which the Government propose to give benefit to the workers of the closed industries of Swai Madhopur, Jaipur under the family pension scheme;

(c) the time by which the Government propose to provide cards for provident fund benefits to the workers as announced; and

(d) the manner and the time by which the workers of Cement Plant (Swai Madhopur) are likely to be provided family pension indicating the workers to be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) The total amount of Employees Provident Fund deposit with the Government as on 31.3.2001 is Rs. 49,015.97 crore.

The cement plant at Swai Madhopur was closed on 01.07.87, restarted on 10.09.95 and again closed on 21.08.1996 and not restarted till date. The employees who did not join the duties in 1995-96 are deemed to have ceased their membership in 1987. Such employees are not covered by Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995. The employees who joined duties 1995-96 are entitled

for benefits of pension & Family pension on their superannuation/death as per the provisions of Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995.

Pension under Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995/EPF, 1971 has been paid to 33 employees in Cement Plants of Swai Madhopur. Remaining 2222 employees will be paid withdrawal benefits/pension after determining their entitlements on receipt of their applications complete in all respects.

The process of registration of members and generation of Nationally Unique Numbers will be done through in-house computer systems. The work of allotment of Smart Card will follow once the exercise of allotment of Nationally Unique Identification Number is complete.

First phase of the modernization programme involves setting up of pilot centers in six locations covering all four zones to be made operational in a time span of 24 months.

After stabilisation of six pilot centres the re-designed system is proposed to be replicated all over the country in a phased manner.

Cases of Hunting of Animals In Rajasthan

4166. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases in regard to hunting of animals lodged in Rajasthan during the last three years;

(b) the number of cases in regard to which the challans were filled;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide additional assistance to check the incidents of hunting of animals; and

(d) if so, the amount of additional assistance likely to be provided in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Conservation of wildlife is the responsibility of the State Government. The information regarding hunting cases in the State of Rajasthan is not compiled at the level of the Central Government. As per the information available in the Ministry, 145 incidents of poaching have occurred in the State of Rajasthan and in all the incidents cases have been registered.

(c) and (d) Financial assistance is provided to the State Governments as per their requests and the availability of funds with the Central Government.

[English]

Development/Construction of Roads/Bridges

4167. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Border Roads Organisation have undertaken some major projects for development/construction of roads/bridges in the country;

(b) if so, the projects already under execution and the new ones proposed to be taken up;

(c) whether there has been inordinate delay and corresponding cost overrun in the completion of the projects already under execution; and

(d) if so, the reasons for such time and cost overrun?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 458 road projects and 53 bridge projects on G.S. roads and 133 road and 40 bridge projects on agency roads entrusted to Border Roads Organisation are under execution by BRO. The BRO has proposed 8 road projects and 39 bridge projects on GS roads and 18 road projects and 38 bridge projects on agency roads as new projects.

(c) and (d) There has been delay in completion and consequent cost overrun in some of the projects. The main reasons for the delay and cost overrun have been due to time taken in land acquisition and forest clearance, short working period, disruption in work because of unforeseen heavy rains and snow falls in border areas, difficult working conditions, periodical revision in labour wages, increase in cost of material etc.

Foreign Airlines Operating in India

4168. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the

details of the foreign airlines operating scheduled air services in India?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): 51 foreign airlines belonging to 46 countries are presently operating to/from India by deploying total capacity of 1,25,565 seats per week in each direction.

Renewing of Mining Lease to Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd.

4169. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to renew Mining lease to Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL);

(b) if so, whether the Government also proposed to operate the iron ore mining;

(c) if so, whether some private sector companies are keen to take the iron ore mines near Kudremukh on lease;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the factors taken into consideration before renewing the mining lease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) and (b) No Sir. As per the provisions of Section 8 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, the power to grant renewal of mining leases in respect of mineral iron ore is with the concerned State Government.

(c) and (d) As per the information furnished by the State Govt. of Karnataka, no new mining lease will be considered for grant in the Western ghat region which covers the area near Kudremukh.

(e) The renewal applications are submitted by the lessees to the concerned State Government in Form 'J' prescribed in Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 (MCR). The mining leases are renewed in terms of the provisions of the MCR.

Instrument Landing System at Dimapur

4170. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Dimapur Airport is lacking basic amenities required for landing and taking off of Aircrafts;

(b) whether the Government propose to install Instrument Landing System (ILS) at Dimapur Airport to make it functional;

(c) if so, the funds allocated therefor; and

(d) the time frame worked out to install the same?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir. Minimum facilities like Very High Frequency Omni Range (VOR), Non-Directional Beacon (NDB) and Distance Measuring Equipment (DME) necessary for safe operation of aircraft are available at Dimapur Airport.

(b) to (d) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has planned to instal Instrument Landing System (ILS) at Dimapur Airport and allocated Rs. 1.75 crores for the same. The ILS equipment has already been ordered and it is likely to be installed by December, 2002 subject to clearance of obstructions by State Government.

[Translation]

Revenue From Hoardings Put up Along National Highways

4171. SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are earning any revenue from the small and big hoardings put up along the National Highways;

(b) if so, the revenue earned to the Government from the hoardings put up along the Delhi-Dehradun/ Badrinath, Delhi-Nainital/Lucknow Highways besides the hoardings put up along the other highways in Uttar Pradesh durign each of the last five years, year-wise;

(c) whether revenue is also earned from the small and big unauthorized hoardings put up along these highways;

(d) if so, the revenue receipt from the said hoardings separately, year-wise; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

(e) As per Ministry's policy, no advertisement hoardings are allowed on National Highway land. Therefore, there is no earning of revenue on this account.

[English]

Illegal Quarrying in Mumbai

4172. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any complaint illegal quarrying in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to stop such illegal quarrying in the residential zone of Powai in Mumbai?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The State Pollution Control Board of Maharashtra had received complaint from residents of Hirananda Residential Complex, Powai, Mumbai regarding noise pollution and vibrations created on account of stone quarrying adjacent to the Complex in Powai. The State Government, after investigations, closed down two stone quarries, namely Bombay Stone Crushing Company and Supreme Asphalt Company in July, 2001, which were located within 500 metres of the residential complex and did not have a valid consent.

New International Airport for Mumbai

4173. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to commence work for the new International Airport for Mumbai during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the progress so far made;

(c) whether any time limit has been prescribed for the completion of work on the project;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (e) No, Sir. However, the State Government of Maharashtra has plans to develop a second airport at Navi Mumbai to meet the long term air traffic requirements. The State Government has been asked to complete the proposed technical/traffic studies and then send a formal proposal for the consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Decline in Ground Water in Delhi

4174. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the water table has gone down sharply in Delhi during the past few years;

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken for extraction of ground water in Delhi with the cooperation of WAPCOS or any other agency;

(c) whether any funds have been allocated to Delhi

Government during the last three years and till date to raise the water table; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which the Delhi Government has been successful in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Long term observations made by the Central Ground Water Board have shown that ground water levels have declined by 4 to 10 metres in Mehrauli Block, 4 to 8 metres in City Block, 4 to 7 metres in Najafgarh Block and 4 to 5 metres in Kanjhawala and Alipur Blocks of NCT of Delhi during the last ten years.

(b) There is no proposal for extraction of ground water in Delhi with the cooperation of WAPCOS. The Central Ground Water Board drills exploratory wells under its ground water exploration programme. The successful exploratory wells are handed over to the Delhi Jal Board for their utilisation for drinking water supply.

(c) and (d) Water being a State subject, action to augment water supplies and replenishing of ground water is to be taken by the concerned State Government. However, the Central Ground Water Board is executing 15 proposals of rain water harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water in NCT of Delhi under its pilot Central Sector Scheme on "Studies on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water." The details of proposals approved for NCT of Delhi are given in the Statement. The impact of so far conducted studies have shown very encouraging results.

Statement

Proposals Under Execution in NCT of Delhi

Sl. No.	Name of the proposal	Amount allocated (In Rs. Lakh)	Status
1	2	3	4
1.	Scheme for rain water harvesting and artificial recharge at JNU, IIT and Sanjay Van Areas of NCT of Delhi	46.05	Completed
2.	Artificial recharge scheme for President's Estate, New Delhi.	12.73	Completed

1	2	3	4
3.	Artificial recharge to ground water in Kushak Nala, New Delhi.	3.32	Completed
4.	Artificial recharge to ground water in Lodhi Garden, New Delhi.	5.37	Completed
5.	Scheme for roof top rain water harvesting in Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi.	4.10	Completed
6.	Scheme for artificial recharge to ground water at Prime Minister's Office, South Block, New Delhi.	5.38	Under progress
7.	Scheme for artificial recharge to ground Water at Vayusenabad, Air Force Station, Tughlakabad, New Delhi.	5.41	Under progress
8.	Scheme for artificial recharge to ground water at Tuglak Lane and surrounding areas, New Delhi.	9.36	Under progress
9.	Scheme for artificial recharge to ground water at Meera Bai Polytechnic Campus, Maharani Bagh, New Delhi.	1.76	Under progress
10.	Artificial recharge scheme to ground water at Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi.	8.23	Under progress
11.	Scheme for artificial recharge to ground water at 5, Janpath Road, New Delhi.	0.60	Under progress
12.	Scheme for artificial recharge to ground water at Group Housing for Abhiyan CGHS Ltd., Plot-15, Sector-12, Dwarka, New Delhi.	0.85	Under progress
13.	Scheme for artificial recharge to ground water at Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital, New Delhi.	4.55	Yet to be taken up
14.	Artificial recharge scheme in park of D-block, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi.	5.60	Under progress
15.	Scheme for artificial recharge to ground water in Government Servant's Cooperative House Building Society. Block-A to D, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi.	10.00	Yet to be taken up
Total		123.31	

*[English]***Pollution in Various Cities**

4175. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
 DR. M.P. JAISWAL:
 SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:
 SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Environmental Pollution Control Authorities for various cities to check the spread of pollution;

(b) whether the pollution in most of the cities other than Metropolitan cities is increasing;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government have chalked out schemes to check spread of pollution in other cities also;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of NGOs working in different States of the country to check the problem of pollution and the amount of funds being spent thereon by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) There is no proposal to set up Environmental Pollution Control Authorities for various cities to check pollution. Besides the Central Pollution Control Board and the State Pollution Control Boards, the Ministry has constituted various authorities to deal with different matters relating to prevention and control of pollution and these include:

- (i) The National Environment Appellate Authority;
- (ii) Dahanu Taluka Environment (Protection) Authority;
- (iii) Central Ground Water Authority;
- (iv) Aquaculture Authority;
- (v) The Water Quality Assessment Authority;
- (vi) Loss of Ecology (Prevention and Payment of Compensation) Authority;
- (vii) Environment (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Authority for the National Capital Region.

(b) to (d) The levels of pollution have been found increasing in some cities of the country due to increasing population, industrial activities and vehicular traffic and several schemes have been formulated for prevention and control of pollution which include:

- (i) Comprehensive Plan on Prevention and Control of Vehicular Pollution;
- (ii) Restoration of environmental quality in critically polluted areas;
- (iii) Pollution control in highly polluting industries and industries discharging waste water into rivers and lakes;
- (iv) Preparation of Zoning Atlas for siting of industries based on environmental consideration;
- (v) Action against defaulting industries through State Pollution Control Boards.

(e) Over four thousand Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) have been involved in the environmental awareness campaign and approximately Rs. 2.5 crores of financial assistance had been provided to them during last year.

Issuing of New Bond by NHAI

4176. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India (NHA) has issued new bonds on July 20, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount collected by the NHAI by issuing these bonds; and

(d) the manner in which this amount is likely to be utilized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The bond issue is being offered with benefits of capital gains exemption under Section 54 EC of the Income Tax Act. The issue will be available to investors on private placement and on tap basis.

(c) Till 14 August, 2001 approximately Rs. 40 crores has been collected.

(d) The amount will be utilized for spending on the National Highway Development Project, which comprises of 4/6 laning of 13252 km. of National Highways.

Policy on Rain Harvesting

4177. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated a comprehensive policy on rain harvesting;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the time by which the said policy is proposed to be formulated;

(d) whether any financial assistance is being given to States which have already taken a lead in this direction; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (e) Water, being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to plan, finance and execute schemes for augmenting water resources. The Central Government is also promoting rain water harvesting through water shed management programme, artificial recharge of ground water and roof top rain water harvesting. The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under the Ministry of Water Resources is implementing a pilot Central Sector Scheme on "Studies on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water" in different States in coordination with concerned State Government agencies. The Government have earmarked funds amounting to Rs. 25.00 crore for the scheme during the IX Five Year Plan. State-wise details of the proposals approved under the scheme are given in enclosed Statement. The approved proposals are expected to be implemented within 1-2 years.

Statement

State-wise Details of Proposals Approved Concerning Ground Water Recharge Schemes

Sl. No.	State	Schemes (Nos.)	Approved cost (Rs. in Lakh)	Status
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10	54.55	Under implementation
2.	Assam	1	56.69	Under implementation
3.	Bihar	4	18.69	Under implementation
4.	Delhi	14	86.43	Four schemes completed and rest are under implementation
5.	Gujarat	3	18.95	Under implementation
6.	Haryana	8	139.12	Three schemes are completed and rest are Under implementation
7.	Himachal Pradesh	6	81.65	Three schemes are completed and rest are under implementation.
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	11	190.19	One scheme completed and rest are under implementation
9.	Jharkhand	6	28.04	Under implementation
10.	Karnataka	1	13.75	Under implementation

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Kerala	9	67.62	Five schemes are at final stage of completion and rest are under implementation.
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5	53.85	Four schemes completed and rest are under implementation
13.	Maharashtra	3	76.63	Under implementation
14.	Meghalaya	1	28.00	Under implementation
15.	Mizoram	1	28.00	Under implementation
16.	Nagaland	1	70.00	Under implementation
17.	Orissa	2	437.40	Under implementation
18.	Punjab	15	251.49	Six schemes completed and rest are under implementation.
19.	Rajasthan	13	84.27	One scheme is completed and rest are under implementation
20.	Tamil Nadu	8	198.98	One scheme completed and rest are under implementation
21.	Uttar Pradesh	5	37.21	Under implementation
22.	Uttaranchal	1	2.00	Under implementation
23.	West Bengal	8	167.82	Under implementation
Total		136	2191.33	

[Translation]

**Discomfort Experienced by Air Passengers
in IA Flights**

4178. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the passengers had to experience a lot of discomfort and their lives were in danger due to improper installation of ladder in the Indian Airlines aircraft that come from Poona on November 19, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in regard to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Indian Airlines had flights from Pune

to Delhi and Bangalore on the 19th November, 2000. No untoward incident has been reported on flights of that date either at the originating station or at the destinations and there is no complaint on record to date about these flights.

[English]

Deployment of Police Guards at Airports

4179. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have been utilising services of police guards for airports at Hyderabad, Tirupati, Vijayawada and Vishakhapatnam for anti-hijacking/anti-sabotage duties;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Civil Aviation Department has not paid the charges for the above services since 1981 to the Government of Andhra Pradesh;

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

(e) whether an amount of near about 8 crore is outstanding against the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS);

(f) if so, whether Andhra Pradesh has requested for the early payment of the dues;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the time by which the payment is likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, at Hyderabad and Vishakapatnam airports, Central Industrial Security Force has been deployed for security duties *w.e.f.* 3.4.2000 and 21.6.2000 respectively.

(c) to (g) A request has been received from the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh for reimbursement of expenditure incurred by them on deployment of A.P. Police personnel for airport security duties. Some of the amount in respect of Tirupati airport pertains to the year 1981.

(h) Such claims of the State Governments are settled by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) after due verification of bills. The payment of bills is a continuous process. AAI makes efforts to settle the claims expeditiously.

Setting up of Telecom District Mahanagar Office

4180. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom District Mahanagar Office at Keonjhar set up recently has started functioning;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Telecom District Manager's office is functional.

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

Flights from Kerala to European Countries

4181. SHRI T. GOVINDAN:
SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any requests/proposal from the Government of Kerala to operate more international flights including flights to European countries from Kerala for the convenience of the air passengers working abroad;

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

(c) the time by which more international flights are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) State Government of Kerala has requested for introduction of more services from airports in Kerala to destinations in Europe and Gulf. Besides Air India and Indian Airlines, who are operating international services from Thiruvananthapuram, Cochin and Calicut in Kerala, Gulf air Kuwait Airways, Oman Air, Qatar Airways, Silk Air and Air Lanka are presently operating to/from Thiruvananthapuram. The designated airline of Oman (Oman Air) has already been granted access to the newly declared international airport at Cochin. Cochin has also been offered as a point of call in place of Chennai to the designated airline of Saudi Arabia and a commitment has been given to UAE (Dubai) to grant either Cochin or Thiruvananthapuram to their designated carrier, Emirates by September, 2002. Indian Airlines and Air India have also enhanced their operations from airports in Kerala, particularly Cochin.

Losses of Indian Airlines

4182. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether losses has been incurred by Indian Airlines during the first quarter of the current financial year;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government for the healthy growth of the Indian Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) The Budget Estimates of the Company projected a deficit of Rs. 251 crores for the year 2000-02. The budgeted deficit reflects impact of a steep rise in the prices of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) and various other input costs such as Landing and Navigational Charges, Handling Charges, Security Expenditure, increase in Aircraft insurance Premium, increase in foreign exchange rates etc. Further, the domestic price of ATF, a major input had gone up by about 50% during the year 2000-01. While the cost of operations had gone up substantially by an amount of over Rs. 300 crores, no fare substantially by an amount of over Rs. 300 crores, no fare increase had been assumed in preparing the Budget Estimates for the year 2001-02.

Had the above cost escalation not taken place, the Company would have projected a net profit for 2001-02.

(b) The latest position is as under:—

- (i) in the first two months of the current financial year i.e. April and May, 2001, the Company has made a net loss of Rs. 32.60 crores as against the budgeted net loss of Rs. 35.09 crores, a reduction in net loss by Rs. 2.49 crores against the budgeted loss.
- (ii) The Company has adopted the policy of flexible fares on its domestic network w.e.f. 25th May, 2001. The flexi-fare regime is expected to improve revenue earnings of the Company due to higher capacity utilisation and better yields. This coupled with various other measures taken by the Company is likely to have positive impact on the financial performance of the Company.
- (iii) The Government has deregulated the domestic ATF price from 01.04.2001. In anticipation of deregulation of ATF price, saving in ATF cost has been assumed in the budget. There was reduction in ATF price in April, 2001 and the savings were expected to be more than anticipated in the Budget. However, with the hardening of international price of ATF, the domestic price has also gone up from June, 2001 and thereafter. As a result, the additional savings in ATF cost due to deregulation over and above that assumed in the Budget may not materialise.

(c) The Company has taken various steps since August, 2000 to improve its financial and operating performance which have yielded the desired results in as much as there was substantial increase in the operating revenue as would be seen from the table below:

	2000-01 Budgeted	Achieved (Provisional)	1999-2000 Actual (Rs. in crores)
Operating Revenue	3,681.00	3,758.50	3,549.17

Some of the measures taken to improve the performance are:

- (i) Strict Budgetary Control; all the major items of expenditure are subject to cost benefit analysis, operational and commercial expediency, financial sanctions etc.
- (ii) Better Fleet Utilisation; improvement in the productivity of Pilots, Aircraft Engineers, Minimising the ground turn round time, Night flights on certain domestic sectors, Increased international operations, Better scheduling of aircraft and route planning, Capacity deployment in alignment with market requirements etc.
- (iii) Improvement in the quality of product; Improvement in On-time performance, general improvement and upgradation of services to the users etc.
- (iv) Marketing initiatives; Code sharing with the foreign airlines, High level of participation in Computerised Reservation System. Various promotional schemes including corporate incentives etc.
- (v) Flexible Fares; Fixation of fares on seasonality, competition, timing of flight and other demand and supply variables.
- (vi) Cost control measures; Control of overtime, casual labour, hotel/travel expenditure, crew lay over expenditure, Freeze on recruitment unless absolutely necessary for operational reasons, Fuel monitoring and tankering, control on aircraft maintenance, Reduction in publicity and sales promotional expenditure, Review of uneconomic flights, Inventory management, Outsourcing of services to the extent feasible etc.

Issue of LOI by DoT

4183. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has issued Letter of Intents (LOIs) to M/s. Bharti Telenet to provide basic Telephone services in States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the area identified for their operations, State-wise; and

(c) the names of others companies which are being considered for issuing of LOIs for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Department of Telecom (DOT) has issued Letters of Intent (LOIs) to M/s. Bharti Telenet Limited for providing Basic Telephone Service in the service areas of Delhi, Punjab, Karnataka, Kerala, Haryana, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu Telecom Circles.

(c) In addition to above, names of the companies to whom also LOIs were issued are M/s. Aircel Digilink India Ltd., M/s. Reliance Communications Pvt. Ltd., M/s. Birla At & T Ltd., M/s. Tata Teleservices Ltd., and M/s. HFCL Infotel Ltd., Names of other companies, whose applications are pending final disposal due to delay in rectification of deficiencies by them, are M/s. Aircel Limited, M/s. Sterling Cellular Ltd., M/s. BPL Cellular Ltd. M/s. BPL Mobile Communications Ltd., M/s. Shyam Telelink Ltd., M/s. Fascel Limited, M/s. Siti Cable Network Ltd., and M/s. Modi Corp. Limited.

Irregularities in Allotment of PCO

4184. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints regarding irregularities prevalent in the allotment of PCO's in rural sectors during the last three years and as on July 31, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps being taken by the Government to check these irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Construction of G.T. Road

4185. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are formulating a special contingency plan to reconstruct G.T. Road; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) (a) and (b) There is no special contingency pan to reconstruct G.T. Road. However, portions of G.T. Road from Jalandhar to Kolkata falling on National Highways 1 and 2 are included in National Highway Development Project (NHDP) which envisages four laning of these National Highways. The section from Jalandhar to Agra has already been four laned and the balance sections are targetted to be completed by December, 2003.

[English]

Mining Projects in the Country

4186. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any New Mining Projects to be implemented in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and also the work assigned and taken up in Tamil Nadu;

(c) the details of the funds allocated and disbursed so far, Project-wise and State-wise;

(d) the approximate time frame with in which the proposed projects are likely to be completed;

(e) whether the Government have any proposal to implement through financial and technological assistance from foreign countries and also agencies; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) After liberalization in the mining sector, following the National Mineral Policy, 1993 and the consequent amendments in the mining statute, the mineral sector has been thrown open for private sector investment. The new mining policy lays emphasis on private sector investment in mining and the Ministry of Mines do not have any new mining projects of its own for implementation.

(b) to (f) In view of (a) above, do not arise.

[Translation]

Visiting of Foreign Countries

4187. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the names of countries visited by him during the last three years and the agreements signed during these visits;

(b) the details of agreements signed; and

(c) the expenditure incurred on foreign visits and details of benefits accrued to the country?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya, Minister of Labour has visited (i) Genva (Switzerland) on three occasions (May-June, 1999, 2000 & 2001) to attend the meetings of the International Labour Conference of ILO held every year to discuss labour related issues including setting of labour standards. In continuation of his visits to Geneva, he visited in June, 2000, the International Training Centre of ILO at Turin (Italy) and London (UK) in June, 2001 enroute to India. No agreements were required to be signed in these meetings (ii) People's Republic of China from 26th to 30th September, 2000 to discuss various labour issues and to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the two countries for mutual cooperation in the areas relating to Labour and social security legislation, measures and policies of employment promotion, labour relations, policies on vocational training and social security system. The total expenditure sanctioned for all the four visits by Minister of Labour during the last three years is Rs. 37.94 lakhs.

[English]

Exploration of Prospective Mines

4188. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to encourage the exploration of prospective mines, excavation and its distribution in the potentially mineral rich States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to explore the existence of new mineral wealth;

(c) whether the Government propose to form an Indo-French working Group on mineral exploration; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. The initiatives of the Government are aimed at encouraging exploration and development of the mineral resources in the potentially mineral rich States. Exploration of minerals are being carried out through its own agencies like Geological Survey of India (GSI) and Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL), State Directorates of Geology and Mining (DGM's) and by the private sectors.

(b) Mineral exploration will be continued by GSI in all mineral rich States. MECL is continuing exploration in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Orissa and West Bengal. 115 prospecting licences/reconnaissance permits have been granted in favour of many companies for aerial prospecting in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Indo-French Working Group on Mineral Exploration and Development was set up under the aegis of the Indo-French Joint Committee on Economic and Technical Co-operation in 1986, to enhance the capabilities of the Indian organisations in the field of geology and mining and also to obtain state-of-the-art technology and equipment. French bilateral assistance aggregating around 204.23 million FF has been given through 21 projects under the Indo-French Financial Protocol.

Gold Reserves

4189. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the estimated quantum of Gold reserves in the country at present;
- (b) the quantum of gold explored annually in the country;
- (c) the locations of Gold reserves is going on and the quantity of the gold being explored annually;
- (d) whether the Government have taken steps to formulate Gold Exploration Policy; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) As per the information furnished by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a subordinate organisation under the Ministry of Mines, the recoverable reserves of gold ore in the country are placed at 17.79 million tonnes containing about 67.9 tonnes of gold metal.

(b) and (c) As per the information furnished by IBM, details of gold exploration by Geological Survey of India (GSI), Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. and the State Government of Karnataka and locations thereof, is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) and (e) No policy has been formulated exclusively for Gold exploration. However, National Mineral Policy announced in March 1993 seeks *inter-alia* to explore for identification of mineral wealth in the land and in off-shore areas. Under the policy, the Government has laid emphasis on induction of state of the art technology and private participation in exploration and mining of precious and rare minerals. For this purpose, large area prospecting licences/Reconnaissance permits have been granted for various minerals including gold. So far, out of 115 large area prospecting licenses/Reconnaissance permits that have been granted till 31st July, 2001, 98 have been granted *inter-alia* for gold in the States of Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

Statement

Details of exploration for Gold by Geological Survey of India (GSI), Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) and Government of Karnataka since 1997-98

Andhra Pradesh: Consequent to the exploration by GSI a resource of 5.91 million tonnes of gold ore was estimated with 1.15 g/t of gold in Dona-east area of Kurnool district. Similarly in the Boksampalle North block area, Anantpur district, investigations indicated promising mineralisation with gold value upto 1.4 g/t. and in Pedapari-Kunta block of Chittoor district indicated gold values from 1 to 5.5 g/t.

Bihar: The exploration resulted in locating gold bearing rocks in Sursi-Kharswan sector of Sonapet Valley and sample assayed maximum 1.10 g/t in stream sediments in Kullchallinala and quartz vein samples analysed upto 1.6 g/t of gold. Further, in Morchagora Bhilardari area, the volcano sedimentary pile of rock traversed by quartz vein and bed-rock samples in the area yielded 0.06 g/t to 3.75 g/t.

Karnataka: Under the GSI-BRGM (France) collaborative programme, the geo-chemical prospecting have resulted in gold value maximum at 1.4 g/t in South of Kakkol and Ranebennur areas, Dharwar district.

Kerala: In Kottathara block in Palakad district, the exploration resulted in estimation of additional reserve of 24,000 tonnes of gold ore with an average grade of 13.36 g/t of gold, thus totalling 0.6 million tonnes of ore estimated in this area.

Rajasthan: In Bhukia (East) Central Block of Banswara district, a recalculation of reserve for gold ore increased at 90,000 tonnes of gold ore with a grade 2 g/t to 2.96 g/t.

Uttar Pradesh: In Gurharpahar block, Sidhi district, a probable ore reserve of 5.37 million tonnes of gold ore with 1.04 g/t gold has been estimated of which 2.1 million tonnes are with grade 1.28 g/t.

Besides above, GSI has carried out exploration work in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Gujarat, Orissa etc.

A total of 17.12 million tonnes of gold ore reserves in small to medium size of deposits were established by MECL at Chittur and Annantpur in Andhra Pradesh, Singhbhum in Bihar, Raichur, Dharwad, Hassan, Kolar and Haveri in Karnataka and Malappuram in Kerala.

Government of Karnataka has reported exploration work going on at:-

Hutti - Maski schist belt —

(a) Ooti, (b) Hirabudni and (c) Hutti.

Shimoga - Chitradurga-Gadag Schist belt -

(a) Chinmalgund, (b) Kudurekonda, (c) Pallavanahalli, (d) Chalageri, (e) Hunsikatte, (f) Ajjanahalli and (g) G.R. Halli.

Cauvery Water Dispute

4190. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Cauvery River Water Tribunal has not imposed any restrictions on Karnataka for undertaking new water resources developmental activities in Cauvery Basin;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Karnataka has not obtained consent of the Co-basin States of specific orders from the Tribunal and went ahead with the desiltation of old tanks in Cauvery Basin; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The Cuavery Water Disputes Tribunal in its Interim Order dated 25th June, 1991 has *inter-alia* directed the Government of Karnataka that they shall not increase its area under irrigation by the waters of the river Cauvery beyond existing 11.2 lakh acres.

(c) and (d) In the light of the above restriction imposed by the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal, the Government of Karnataka has been advised to obtain the consent of co-basin States or specific orders from the Tribunal for the proposal of desiltation of old tanks in Cauvery basin in the State with World Bank assistance, which the State Government has not yet obtained.

Irrigation is a State subject and the primary responsibility for planning, investigation, execution and funding of minor irrigation schemes including desiltation of old tanks rests with the State Government.

Constitution of Study Group for Sports Men

4191. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:
SHRI Y.V. RAO:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had constituted a study group to study and analyse the causes for the poor showing by our sportsmen in the recently concluded World Olympics, 2000;

(b) if so, whether proper sports infrastructure coupled with attractive monetary benefits are proposed to put in place so as to attract sports talent from across the country;

(c) if so, the extent to which talent is likely to be encouraged by the Government; and

(d) the steps proposed to step up efforts in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Sales Tax and Duties on A.T.F.

4192. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring a legislation to grant outright exemption from the payment of custom duties, sales tax and local duties on 'Aviation Turbine Fuel' (A.T.F.) uplifted by aircraft of international carriers in pursuance of the Air Services Agreement;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that this exemption of tax places Air India at a disadvantage position *vis-a-vis* its competitors; and

(c) if so, the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government to provide relief to Air India from the above mentioned charges in order to bring it at par with other foreign airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) A Bill has been introduced in Parliament to enact a legislation under Article 253 of the Constitution to exempt from all duties and taxes, the fuel and lubricants uplifted by an aircraft registered in another State operating international services to, from and through India.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Ministry of Law has suggested that Central Sales Tax Act will have to be amended to render sale and supply of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) to Air India unchargeable to local sales tax.

NEAC Campaign for Sustainable Development

4193. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have invited project proposals from Non-Governmental Organisations, other institutions and schools to participate in the 'NEAC-2000-02', campaign for sustainable development;

(b) if so, whether the Government have extended by financial assistance to each of them;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the main purpose of participating in the 'NEAC-2000-02' campaign; and

(e) the extent to which it has been successful?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government invites project proposals every year from the interested organisations including non-government organisations and schools under National Environment Awareness Campaign. The theme for the NEAC this year is Sustainable Development.

(b) and (c) During 2000-2001, an amount of Rs. 2,57,76,500 was provided as financial assistance to 4581 organisations for conducting awareness activities like camps, padyatras, rallies, public meetings, exhibitions, essay/debate/painting/poster competitions, folk dances and songs, street theatre, puppet shows etc. all over the country. For the current year, the last date for submission of proposals to the Regional Resource Agencies is 20th August 2001. The proposals received would be considered thereafter and financial assistance would be provided for suitable proposals.

(d) and (e) The purpose of participating in the campaign is to sensitize general public about the environmental issues and to motivate them to take up programmes for environmental improvement. The campaign has been quite successful in achieving these objectives.

Sick Private Airlines

4194. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the sick private airlines for which the Government are trying to secure funds;

(b) whether these airlines have defaulted in payment to the public sector undertaking viz. on account of oil;

(c) if so, the details thereof, airline-wise;

(d) whether any request has been received from such private airlines;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) East West Airlines, Damania, NEPC Skyline, Archana Airways and Modiluft earlier operating as scheduled airlines are now no longer currently in operation. Skyline NEPC defaulted in payment of interest and principal to IDBI and legal action has been taken by IDBI for recovery of dues. Modiluft is negotiating out of Court settlement with Oil Companies for payment of their dues to these companies.

(d) to (f) Government does not interfere in the financial matters of private airlines.

*[Translation]***Upgradation of Communication System**

4195. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amount allocated by the Union Government to upgrade develop telecommunication system and to make it more effective and to extend benefits to the subscribers during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of applicants in the waiting list as on date, category-wise and State-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken to remove the continuously increasing complaints of telephone subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Details are given in statement I.

(b) Details are given in statement II.

(c) Following measures are being taken to improve increasing complaints of telephone subscribers:—

- (i) Monitoring of fault repairs by Senior Officers.
- (ii) Computerization of fault repair service in more exchanges for better monitoring of faults.
- (iii) Provision of pagers to line staff for fast communication of faults in some cities.
- (iv) Replacement of telephone instruments having completed expiry period in phased manner.
- (v) Rehabilitation/upgradation of external plant.
- (vi) Opening of more and more remote line units in order to reduce the cable network upto subscribers premises which is the main contributor in the fault rate.
- (vii) Introduction of new technology e.g. Wireless in Local Loop, Digital Line Concentrator etc. to eliminate the need for underground cable.

Statement I

*Statement of Allocation of Funds (Final Grants) for Upgradation of Communication System
During the Last Three Years Statewise*

(In crores)

Sr.No.	Name of Circle	1998-99	1999-00	Provisional 2000-01
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	16.48	27.25	23.79
2.	Andhra Pradesh	681.85	1121.70	1469.68
3.	Assam	112.69	143.51	137.38
4.	Bihar	293.16	385.04	665.28
5.	Chhattisgarh*	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Gujarat	583.11	819.74	1014.48
7.	Haryana	213.23	305.27	335.53
8.	Himachal Pradesh	119.98	368.09	207.19
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	52.20	111.18	87.39
10.	Jharkhand*	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Karnataka	683.99	962.46	1140.99
12.	Kerala	730.27	926.36	851.64
13.	Madhya Pradesh	416.17	516.72	520.47
14.	Maharashtra	893.65	1236.92	1535.25
15.	NE 1	131.98	210.64	181.74
16.	NE 2*	0.00	0.00	0.00
17.	Orissa	167.70	224.12	287.55
18.	Punjab	524.67	579.94	758.71
19.	Rajasthan	374.75	568.14	645.25
20.	Tamil Nadu	1007.06	1398.12	1460.36
21.	UP (E)	617.55	660.38	829.31
22.	UP (W)	438.15	529.87	500.44
23.	Uttaranchal*	0.00	0.00	0.00
24.	West Bengal	669.87	798.38	795.65
25.	Delhi	918.76	956.44	979.23
26.	Mumbai	523.21	506.38	508.88
27.	Others	700.93	606.17	982.97
Total		10871.41	13962.82	15919.16

Note: Maharashtra includes Goa, West Bengal includes Kolkata Phones and Tamil Nadu includes Chennai Phones.

* Newly formed States/Telecom circles.

Statement II

Waiting list as on date 30/6/2001 Statewise and category wise

Sr.No.	Name of States	Category		
		OYT	General	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	0	970	970
2.	Andhra Pradesh	2	161438	161440
3.	Assam	16	28013	28029
4.	Bihar	2	93907	93909

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	9898	9898
6.	Gujarat	1	238973	238974
7.	Haryana	4	126548	126552
8.	Himachal Pradesh	8	48707	48715
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	113	46145	46258
10.	Jharkhand	0	23531	23531
11.	Karnataka	12	205983	205995
12.	Kerala	3857	834781	838638
13.	Madhya Pradesh	0	21306	21306
14.	Maharashtra	24	329291	329315
15.	NE 1	0	13239	13239
16.	NE 2	8	9228	9236
17.	Orissa	0	79954	79954
18.	Punjab	32	226276	226308
19.	Rajasthan	23	152278	152301
20.	Tamil Nadu	31	174855	174886
21.	UP (E)	12	102751	102763
22.	UP (W)	1	103698	103699
23.	Uttaranchal	2	13861	13863
24.	West Bengal	12	217154	217166
25.	Delhi	0	0	0
26.	Mumbai	0	50169	50169
Total		4160	3312954	3317114

Note: Maharashtra includes Goa, West Bengal includes Kolkata Phones and Tamil Nadu includes Chennai Phones.

[English]

**Air Service from Bhopal to Bhubaneshwar
and Raipur**

4196. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of
CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to
introduce Air Service from Bhopal to Bhubaneshwar and
Raipur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other State Capitals proposed to be connected
by air during 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD
YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present, Indian Airlines has no plans to airlink such State Capitals which have not yet been airlinked on the Indian Airlines/Alliance Air network.

Coverage Under EPF

4197. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the employees in large organisations have been brought under Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and Misc. Provisions Act, 1952;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of such employees which have not yet been brought under the Act, establishment-wise and State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to bring those employees under EPF scheme alongwith the action taken against the employers for such lapses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) Employees Provident Funds & Misc. Provisions Act, 1952 is applicable to 180 industries specified in Schedule I to the Act and in which twenty or more persons are employed.

Where any instance of non-compliance is detected, legal and penal action is taken as per the provisions of the Act.

Incidents of Air Misses

4198. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken certain steps to ramp up airport navigation, safety and security measures at Airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for installing satellite-based augmentation system for aircraft navigation and landing; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Development and upgradation of navigation equipments is a continuous process. Besides replacing old navigation equipments and inducting new navigation aids, wherever required, Airports Authority of India has planned for installing Satellite Navigation system.

All security measures as prescribed by the International Civil Aviation Organisation in Annex-17 to the Convention on Security, are strictly followed, The measures taken include:—

- (i) Frisking of passengers and checking of hand baggage before boarding; (ii) Ladder-point security check of passengers; (iii) Deployment of Sky Marshals on selected routes at random basis; (iv) Deployment of CISF at airports for security duties in a phased manner; (v) Anti-hijacking Act made stronger with new amendments; (vi) Deployment of Quick reaction Teams at selected airports.

Further, following safety measures have been taken at the airports:—

- (i) Constitution of Airfield Environment Management Committee for eradication of bird strike hazards; (ii) Periodic inspection of aerodromes and implementation measures; (iii) Installation of Minimum Safe Altitude Warning System in the aircraft; (iv) Installation of Monopulse Secondary Surveillance Radars (MSSRs); (v) Monitoring of Air Traffic Control Tapes and equipments by DGCA; (vi) proficiency check of Air Traffic Control Officers; (vii) Special operating precautions in poor weather conditions and (viii) Conducting of hot fire drill;

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Pending Cases In Labour Courts

4199. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pending labour disputes in various Labour Courts and High Courts in the country as on date separately, State-wise;

(b) whether the number of pending cases have been increasing continuously during the last decade;

(c) whether the posts of Judges/Presiding Officers are not being filled up;

(d) if so, the details thereof including the reasons therefor, State-wise; and

(e) the steps taken to dispose of pending cases at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (e) Information on the pendency of cases and vacancy position of Judges for State Labour Courts and High Courts is not maintained. However, the position about pendency with regard to various Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts in the country is given in the enclosed statement.

There has been a slight increase in the number of pending cases.

At present 15 posts out of a total of 17 posts of Presiding Officers are filled up.

The Ministry of Labour from time to time has brought to the notice of the Presiding Officers of the Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts the need to reduce pendency of cases. In a recent review meeting held in May, 2001 in the Ministry of Labour, the Presiding Officers were once again requested about the need to reduce the pendency of cases.

Statement

*The Number of Cases Pending in the Central Government Industrial Tribunal-Cum-Labour Courts
(As on 31-3-2001)*

Sl. No.	Name of the CGIT-cum-Labour Courts	No. of Cases pending	Remarks
1	2	3	4
1.	Mumbai No. 1	215	
2.	Mumbai No. 2	300	
3.	Dhanbad No. 1	1559	
4.	Dhanbad No. 2	1393	Upto 2/2000
5.	Asansol	417	
6.	Kolkata	200	Upto 10/2000

1	2	3	4
7.	Chandigarh	1786	Upto 1/2001
8.	New Delhi	1087	
9.	Kanpur	606	Upto 2/2001
10.	Jabalpur	1357	
11.	Bangalore	533	
12.	Jaipur	113	
13.	Nagpur	294	Upto 1/2001
14.	Lucknow	230	
15.	Chennai	579	
16.	Bhubaneswar	405	Upto 1/2001
17.	Hyderabad	6	
Total		11080	

[English]

Smart Cards

4200. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government have been drawn to the news item captioned "EPF body to issue smart cards soon", appearing in the 'Economic Times' New Delhi on June 29, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the plan of EPFO to network its organisation; and

(d) the amount earmarked by EPFO for modernisation of its organisation/schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) Government has seen the news item. Modernization programme proposed by Employees Provident Fund Organisation involves re-engineering of the existing work process, re-tooling of accounting system and setting up of a information technology/computer enabled system through networking of all offices of Employees Provident Fund Organisation.

It envisages providing all services to every member from any EPF location on a real-time basis. This programme is to enable the subscriber to access his account, balance and file his claim from any of the Offices of the EPFO as against the present system which limits him to only one office where he is registered and to reduce the time between the receipt of claim and issue of cheque to 2-3 days as against the present stipulated time of 30 days.

The first phase of the modernization programme involves setting up of pilot centres in six locations covering all four zones to be made operational in a time span of 24 months.

The annual cost of the modernisation project is to be met by Employees' Provident Fund Organisation out of its annual Budget estimate provision under the head 'Computerisation'.

Dark Mandals in Andhra Pradesh

4201. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are dark mandals in Andhra Pradesh due to exploitation of ground water;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being considered by the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) to prevent the areas becoming dark?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) As per information received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh, there are 15 dark mandals in terms of ground water exploitation in the State. A list of dark mandals is given in the *statement*.

(c) In order to prevent the decline in the levels of ground water, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken up recharging measures under Neeru-Meeru Programme since May, 2000. The first phase of this programme is completed. The State Government is also implementing various watershed development programmes.

The Central Ground Water Board has sanctioned 5 artificial recharge schemes of the State Government under its pilot Central Sector Scheme on artificial recharge of ground water. The Central Ground Water Authority has also organised mass awareness programmes in the districts of Nalgonda and Mehboobnagar about the need for protection and conservation of ground water.

Statement

List of Dark Mandals in Andhra Pradesh

Sl.No.	District	Dark Mandals
1.	Cuddapah	Proddatur Vempali
2.	Anantapur	Rolla Parigi Yadiki
3.	Chittoor	Chandragiri Kammampalli Somala Tirupathi
4.	Guntur	Thulluru
5.	Karimnagar	Metpalli
6.	Mehboobnagar	Midgil
7.	Medak	Dhoulatabad
8.	Rangareddy	Moinabad
9.	West Godavari	Undrajawaram
Total		15

Balakrishnan Nair Committee on CRZ

4202. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have accepted the recommendations of the Balakrishnan Nair Committee on Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these recommendations have been accepted and implemented; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor indicating the time by which these are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) The Central Government accepted certain recommendations contained in the Balakrishnan Nair Committee Report and carried out amendments to the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification,

1991. The recommendations accepted include manual drawal of ground water between 50-200 meters of the High Tide Line for drinking water purposes and domestic use, expansion of existing fish processing units and storage of petroleum products.

As per the other recommendations required further consideration, they were referred to the two Expert Committees set up by the Central Government to examine various issues pertaining to the implementation of Coastal Regulation Zone.

[Translation]

Multipurpose Counter Machines

4203. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Multipurpose Counter Machines installed in Post offices in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) the steps taken by the Union Government to install more such machines in the State during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) A statement is enclosed.

(b) During the current year Multipurpose Counter Machines would be installed in eight post offices in Uttar Pradesh Circle.

Statement

Post Offices where Multipurpose Counter Machines have been installed in Uttar Pradesh

Sl.No.	Name of Post Office
1	2
1.	Agra Head Post Office
2.	Agra Fort Sub Post Office
3.	Akbarpur Head Post Office
4.	Aliganj Sub Post Office, Lucknow
5.	Aligarh Head Post Office
6.	Allahabad Head Post Office
7.	Allahabad High Court

1	2
8.	Allahabad Kutchery Head Post Office
9.	Avas Vikas Colony Sub Post Office, Lucknow
10.	Azamgarh Head Post Office
11.	Bahraich Head Post Office
12.	Balia Head Post Office
13.	Balrampur Head Post Office
14.	Banda Head Post Office
15.	Bansi Head Post Office
16.	Barabanki Head Post Office
17.	Baraut Head Post Office
18.	Bareilly City Sub Post Office
19.	Bareilly Head Post Office
20.	Basti Head Post Office
21.	Bengali Tola Sub Post Office, Varanasi
22.	Bhadohi Sub Post Office
23.	Bijnor Head Post Office
24.	Bichpuri Sub Post Office, Agra
25.	C.B. Ganj Sub Post Office, Bareilly
26.	CDA (Pension) Sub Post Office, Allahabad
27.	Civil Lines Sub Post Office, Allahabad
28.	Deoria Head Post Office
29.	Etawah Head Post Office
30.	Faizabad Head Post Office
31.	Farrukhabad Sub Post Office
32.	Fatehpur Head Post Office
33.	Ghaziabad Head Post Office
34.	Ghazipur Head Post Office
35.	Gonda Head Post Office
36.	Gorakhpur Head Post Office
37.	Gorakhpur University Sub Post Office
38.	Hamirpur Head Post Office
39.	Hapur Sub Post Office

1	2
40.	Jalalpur Sub Post Office
41.	Jaunpur Head Post Office
42.	Jhansi Head Post Office
43.	Kanpur Cantt. Head Post Office
44.	Kanpur Head Post Office
45.	Khatauli Sub Post Office
46.	Kunda Sub Post Office, Pratapgarh
47.	Kunraghat Sub Post Office, Gorakhpur
48.	Lal Bagh Sub Post Office, Lucknow
49.	Lalganj Sub Post Office, Azamgarh
50.	Lucknow Chowk Head Post Office
51.	Lucknow General Post Office
52.	I.I.T. Kanpur Sub Post Office
53.	Mahanagar Sub Post Office, Lucknow
54.	Maharajganj Sub Post Office
55.	Mathura Head Post Office
56.	Meerut Cantt. Head Post Office
57.	Meerut City Sub Post Office
58.	Meerut Kutchery Sub Post Office
59.	Mirzapur Head Post Office
60.	Moradabad Head Post Office+B5
61.	Mughal Sarai Head Post Office
62.	Muzaffarnagar City
63.	Muzaffarnagar Head Post Office
64.	Naini Sub Post Office, Allahabad
65.	New Hyderabad Sub Post Office, Lucknow
66.	Nirala Nagar Sub Post Office, Lucknow
67.	Noida Complex Sub Post Office
68.	Orai Head Post Office
69.	Padrauna Head Post Office

1	2
70.	Phulpur Sub Post Office, Azamgarh
71.	Pratapgarh Head Post Office
72.	Raibareli Head Post Office
73.	Railway Colony Sub Post Office, Gorakhpur
74.	Rajendra Nagar Sub Post Office, Lucknow
75.	Rampur Head Post Office
76.	Rasra Head Post Office
77.	Saharanpur Head Post Office
78.	Sandila Head Post Office
79.	Sanjay Place Sub Post Office, Agra
80.	Sarvodya Nagar Sub Post Office, Kanpur
81.	Saidpur Sub Post Office, Ghazipur
82.	Sitapur Head Post Office
83.	Sultanpur Head Post Office
84.	Udyog Nagar Sub Post Office, Kanpur
85.	Unnao Head Post Office
86.	Varanasi Cantt. Head Post Office
87.	Varanasi Head Post Office
88.	Zamania Head Post Office

[English]

Valuation of AI

4204. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made the proper valuation of Air India;

(b) if so, the reserve price thereof;

(c) the various estimates made on its stake and the shares of other companies who are interested to manage this national carrier; and

(d) the details of the debt burden of Air India at present?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) The business valuation of Air India has not yet been done.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Air craft loan 1972.61 Crores

Working capital loan 1035.35 Crores.

Total loan 3007.96 Crores

**CORRECTION STATEMENT IN RESPECT
OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION
NO. 2115 FOR 12TH MARCH, 2001 ASKED
BY SHRI VIJAY GOEL REGARDING
MATCH FIXING SCANDAL**

In reply to part (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2115 for 12.3.2001 asked by Shri Vijay Goel, M.P. regarding Match Fixing Scandal, a small factual error has occurred inadvertently. The correct answer to part (b) may be read as under:—

(b) BCCI has imposed a life time ban on Azharuddin and Ajay Sharma and a five years ban on Ajay Jadeja, Manoj Prabhakar and Dr. Ali Irani. BCCI has exonerated Nayan Mongia.

The error was detected at a later stage. However, the delay in correcting the reply is regretted.

(PON. RADHAKRISHNAN) THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

New Delhi.

Dated: 7.8.01

**CORRECTION STATEMENT IN RESPECT
OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION
NO. 1284 FOR 30TH JULY, 2001 ASKED
BY SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ REGARDING
MATCH FIXING SCANDAL**

In reply to part (a) to (d) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1284 for 30.7.2001 asked by Shri G.S.

Basavaraj, M.P. regarding Match-Fixing Scandal, a small factual error has occurred inadvertently. The correct answer to part (a) to (d) may be read as under:

(a) to (d) In the 5th and 6th line of the reply the sentence "BCCI had finally enforced life ban on Mohd. Azharuddin and 5 years ban on Ajay Jadeja, Manoj Prabhakar and Ajay Sharma." may be read as "BCCI has imposed a life ban on Mohd. Azharuddin and Ajay Sharma and a 5 years ban on Ajay Jadeja and Manoj Prabhakar."

(PON. RADHAKRISHNAN) THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

New Delhi

Dated: 7.8.2001

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Environment (Protection) Amendment Rules, 2001 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 407(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st May, 2001 under section 26 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-4003/2001]

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:

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 687(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th July, 2001 authorising National Highways Authority of India for collection of fees from the users of stretch between Bhubaneswar-Cuttack-Jagatpur section of National Highway No. 5 in Orissa, issued under section 11 of the National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-4004/2001]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under section 8A of the National Highways Act, 1956:—

- (i) S.O. 382(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd May, 2001 notifying the levy of fees on mechanical vehicles for the use of bridges across river Koratalaiyar in Tamil Nadu State.
- (ii) S.O. 383(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd May, 2001 making certain amendments in the Notification No. 716(E) dated the 21st August, 1998.
- (iii) S.O. 384(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd May, 2001 making certain amendments in the Notification No. 717(E) dated the 21st August, 1998.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-4005/2001]

(3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Road Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1998-1999.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Road Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1998-1999, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-4006/2001]

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions)

between the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Mines for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-4007/2001]

12.02 hrs.

MOTION RE: TWENTY-FIFTH REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-fifth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 17th August, 2001."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-fifth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 17th August, 2001."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up the 'Zero Hour'. Shri Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav to raise his matter.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I request the hon. Members to tell whether I should go according to the list or not.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There should be some discipline in the 'Zero Hour' also. I am having the list here. I will go according to the list. Shri Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav to speak now.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea): Mr. Speaker Sir, today I rise to speak for the cause of labourers of the country. I wanted to have reply of my question from the hon. Minister of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, but he did not give the reply. Shri Kalpnath Rai of the Congress party was perhaps the first Union minister after independence who abolished the contract system prevailing in the Food Corporation of India and provided the facility of direct payment to the labourers. He had made a provision for directly benefiting the labourers. I have made repeated requests to the hon. Minister with regard to the Dhaand Depot of Haryana. Jatiya Saheb is present here. He had written many letters to me. The hon. Minister had repeatedly written to the Managing Director for abolishing contract system, and making direct payment to the labourers, but the M.D. always wrote in his reply that there was no scheme to provide the DPS so far, although there was a scheme to abolish the contract system under the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970. The Contractors and big industrialists, even after so many years of independence commit atrocities on the labourers. I want to know whether there is any Government in the country who would think of the welfare of labourers? Will the poor labour continue to go to jails in the same manner? Day before yesterday 46 labourers in the Dhaand Depot were put behind the bars. Contractors are oppressing and torturing them. Contractors had introduced this contract system for their own benefit. I request you to do something in this regard as this is an issue of national importance. Will the labourers face ruin like this? I, therefore, wish to know from Jatiya Saheb as to what plans do the Government propose for the rights of labourers and the DPS. Mr. Speaker Sir, all such labourers of country...

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a debate. Other Members have also given their names to speak.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Sir, I wish that you may give your ruling in this regard. Shri Jatiya is sitting here. DPS is the device which stops exploitation of labourers. I therefore request you to give a ruling on this issue. Afterall this issue pertains to the poor labourers of the country.

MR. SPEAKER: You may please take your seat now. You have raised the issue.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, labourers of the Dhaand Depot were arrested day before yesterday. I urge the Government that...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The same problem is faced everyday. Everyone gives notice for the Zero Hour and you have already taken three minutes.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Sir, it is my final request that the labourers working there for the last 20 years may be made permanent.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There are other Members also who want to raise important issues.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: I request that the migratory labourers working there for the last 20 years should not be removed but made permanent.

[English]

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government, through this 'Zero Hour' mention, to a very important problem affecting nearly eight lakh people in the Southern districts of Tamil Nadu. Sir, this is regarding the match-manufacturing industry. When the United Front Government was there, licences were given and they permitted import of machinery. Once the machineries are brought into this field, these eight lakh families, who depend only upon this tiny sector of hand-made matches, will be deprived of their livelihood because it is a dry area without rains and these people do not have any other means of livelihood. Therefore, we made a representation, with a big delegation representing trade unions of all political parties, to the hon. Prime Minister, and he was kind enough to see that since 1998, no licence or permission has been given to import any machinery from abroad and also to recognise the industry. But, Sir, utilising the loopholes in the liberalised policy, the machines are being dumped like Chinese toys, and advertisements are made, now-a-days, even to sell machines, in the public. Therefore, the entire area is very much agitated. Therefore, I would like to request the Government to totally ban import of machinery in any form and also to ban the match-manufacturing units where

they are using these machineries. So, it is a very grave problem affecting the future and the very survival of these people, particularly, these eight lakh families. Mostly women are working in these match-manufacturing units.

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN (Dindigul): On behalf of AIADMK, I also associate with what Shri Vaiko has said.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring, through you, to the notice of the Government...

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, you are raising something about the statement which appeared in the newspapers about the statement made by the hon. Prime Minister. Why can you not raise it when the hon. Prime Minister is in this House? I think, that is better as you can get reply also.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker Sir, if you give a standing ruling that no Member, from this side or that side, will ever refer any matter which appears in the newspaper, I will sit down.

MR. SPEAKER: No. When the Prime Minister is there, you can raise it and can immediately get the reply also.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, let me raise it and let the Prime Minister or the Government respond whenever he or the Government feels proper.

Mr. Speaker Sir, on the 18th August, the Prime Minister, in his official residence - 7, Race Course Road - had several functions. One of the functions was to release a book amidst the Chief of RSS, Shri Sudershan and few other important functionaries of VHP. Sir, I am not questioning anything in regard to holding a function at his house.

He is the Prime Minister and he has every right to invite friends and people whom he considers important. However, the important thing is that being the head of the NDA Government and knowing fully the agenda of the NDA — the Prime Minister told in this House that the agenda of the NDA is different from that of the BJP and the RSS — he chose not the BJP platform but his official residence to make a comment that some of the Christian missionaries, though a few of them do good

work, are engaged in 'conversion', and that RSS has a lot of things to be praised. I think, it is something very obnoxious.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I quote:

"Mr. Vajpayee's remarks cast aspersions on the long history of social service by Christians and has brought in a cloud of insecurity for the minorities, in general, and Christian missionaries, in particular."

The Prime Minister may applaud the RSS; it is his business. He found a lot of good things in the RSS. He felt pained that, "the RSS, when a few activists have been killed, never gets any mention in the country, and that only the Christians get a mention." How can the Prime Minister make such comments? ...(*Interruptions*) In today's *Hindustan Times*, the Head of the Council of Christian Missionaries made a remark that, "We are upset with the comment of the Prime Minister which will give strength to those who are about to destroy the Churches and the Missionaries."

MR. SPEAKER: Are you authenticating the statement appeared in the papers because you are referring to one of the highest institutions of the country? Do you know as to what he had said and what had appeared in the papers?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I quote...(*Interruptions*)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Where from are you quoting?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I am quoting from the *Hindustan Times*, the *Hindu*, the *Indian Express* and from all the national dailies of the country. Where else I can quote from? They can either term or declare all the dailies as anti-national.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I take full responsibility of authenticating as to what the Prime Minister stated and what was reported in the newspapers. The news item appeared not in one newspaper but in all national dailies. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): Sir, the hon. Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi had said that funds for the missionaries are coming from abroad. ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: It was reported and I quote:

"He pointed out that while the work of Christian missionaries in the North-East came in for much praise from the media, the recent killings of four Sangh activists by terrorists in Tripura had hardly received a mention."

He also said and I quote:

"There was a 'conversion motive' behind the welfare activities being carried out by some Christian missionaries in the country's backward areas and it was 'not proper'."

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, now I quote Mr. Vincent M. Concessao, who is the Chairman of the Northern Region Catholic Council. He said and I quote:

"The Prime Minister's remarks will only encourage communal and extremist elements..."

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude. I have allowed you to speak. Please conclude now. This is 'Zero Hour', and you can mention a matter in two minutes.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: It is a matter concerning secularism in India.

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand that this is not a debate.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: It is a matter concerning the minorities.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude now. Please understand that this is not a debate.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the Chairman of the Northern Region Catholic Council said and I quote:

"The Prime Minister's remarks will only encourage communal and extremist elements such as the Sangh

Parivar. Our anxiety is more because the statement was made at a function lauding the RSS."

The Prime Minister, therefore, has to give a categorical clarification inside the House either today or tomorrow, at whatever time he feels convenient.

The hidden agenda is now being operated through the Prime Minister directly.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, you in your wisdom called the hon. Member to make a mention. If the Opposition is not allowed even to raise a matter, how can the House function?

Secondly, this is not a matter of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee as an individual. He made a commitment on the floor of the House that NDA would not implement the agenda of BJP or RSS. He said that the agenda of NDA was different from the agenda of BJP and RSS. He assured the House, and through the House the country, that the agenda of NDA and the agenda of RSS were different from one another. That assurance is now being breached. From what he is alleged to have said, it appears that the real agenda of the Prime Minister is the RSS agenda. Let the Prime Minister come to the House and clarify the position.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we fully agree with what the hon. Prime Minister has said. Infact we congratulate him for having made such a statement. He not only said that conversion cannot be done, nor did he merely say that one cannot propagate one's religion. He appreciated the services provided by these people in the backward areas, but the people who are making conversions by luring the innocent people, are very wrong. ...(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was during the tenure of the Congress Government that anti-conversion Bills were passed in Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Arunachal Pradesh and the Chief Ministers of the Congress party were instrumental in this direction. ...(Interruptions) We support the view point of the hon. Prime Minister.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister is deliberately creating tension among the minorities by making such statements regularly.

...(Interruptions) The Prime Minister should come here and clarify the position. ...(Interruptions) Sir, when would the Prime Minister clarify the position?...(Interruptions) When will he respond to the issue?

MR. SPEAKER: Right in the beginning I said that the issue should be raised when the Prime Minister is present in the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you had raised the matter when he was present, you could have got a proper reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have made a statement against the hon. Prime Minister's remarks. I told you in the beginning itself that you could raise it when the Prime Minister was present in the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: How could I know when the Prime Minister would be present in the House?...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister is sitting here. He can kindly convey the matter to the Prime Minister...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Anything from the Government?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, he is the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and he cannot sit silently like this. We want him to assure the House that he would convey the feelings of the hon. Members to the Prime Minister. ...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, when a matter is raised in the House, it will naturally be conveyed to the Prime Minister. What is there in it to assure the House?...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we cannot cooperate if things go in this manner. ...(Interruptions) You have to protect the rights of the Members.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has said that this will be conveyed to the Prime Minister.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (Khagaria): Mr. Speaker Sir, the Dhaand Depot in Haryana has a capacity of 80 thousand tonnes ...(Interruptions) Labourers are being oppressed there, they are being put behind the bars. ...(Interruptions) Through you, I want to know from the Government as to what efforts are being made by the Food Corporation of India for the labourers...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am not going to allow any State matters to be raised here.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, State subjects are being discussed in this august House everyday and your good self is saying that we would not be allowed to do so...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The State Legislatures are there. They can discuss the subjects there.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, mine dalits have been killed in Bihar...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Yours is also a State subject.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in district Jahanabad of Bihar...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Prabhunath Singh ji, Shri Ramji Lal Suman's name is listed before your name. You will also be given a chance to speak, but please let him speak first. Please sit down. What are you doing? Don't create mess here.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the flights of the helicopters 'Chetak' and 'Cheetah' were stopped due to the absence of proper communication system in the Kargil war. These helicopters were entrusted with the work of collecting information from the sensitive areas near the line of control as also to keep a watch on the terrorist activities as also to control them. They could have been easily detected in the absence of a proper communication system and therefore their services were stopped.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has pulled up the Air Force Tribunal for not initiating the modern communication system for the Helicopters. The most important fact is that purchases of modern communication system worth Rs. 7 crore 15 lakh were made by the Air Force headquarters, but the same was not brought into use.

[Translation]

Time and again, discussion on terrorism has been held in the House. Our soldiers from rural areas are being killed. This matter is connected with the security of our country. The Government is neither taking effective action against the terrorists nor the modern communication system is being utilized properly as it should have been.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request the Union Government to ensure that action is taken against officers of Air Force who are responsible for not utilizing the modern communication system, procured for 7 crore 15 lakh rupees.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, people belonging to dalit community are being killed in Bihar. On 17th of this month at around 10 O'clock in the night, in Jahanabad...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh ji, where is your seat?

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, it is behind the pillar.

MR. SPEAKER: Then, why are you not in your seat? Why are you speaking from the front seat?

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, it is difficult to have a glimpse of yours from that seat. That is why I am speaking from the front seat.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not right. You should resume your seat and speak from there only.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, today only you have noticed me speaking from this seat.

MR. SPEAKER: Not only today, but every day you are doing the same. It is inappropriate.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, you please allot me this seat. I am a regular member of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: It is inappropriate. You should speak from your seat. I am not saying this particularly to you. Rather I am telling this to all the Members.

[English]

There are procedures which you have to follow in the House.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, dalits are being killed in Bihar continuously and on last 16th, 6 people belonging to Harijan community were killed and 6 were injured in Mataury village of Jahanabad constituency of Lok Sabha. Injured are being treated in hospital. Involvement of a Minister of State Government is being suspected in this regard. That is why, culprits have not been arrested so far.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a State subject. How you are allowing him?... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I would like to submit that it is very shameful that dalits are being killed in Bihar under the patronage of the State

Government...(Interruptions) I demand from the Government that in view of the seriousness of the issue, it should seek report from the State and then take the necessary action in this regard. As Smt. Sonia Gandhi is not present in the House, I would like to tell Shri Madhavrao Scindia, who is present here, that though they are playing politics in Bihar yet the people belonging to dalit community are quite disgruntled and perturbed...(Interruptions) I would like to urge upon the Members of the Congress Party to feel the agony of the dalit community of Bihar...(Interruptions) The Congress Party is a coalition partner in Bihar but the Government functioning there has failed to protect the dalit community. Dalits are being killed there regularly but the Congress Party is not responding to the situation...(Interruptions) I would like to request them to take the matter seriously.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is not need to comment upon it...(Interruptions) We all are aware of the situation prevailing in Bihar...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh, you have to address the Chair and not any individual hon. Member...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Dalits are being killed in Bihar. Upto what time the Central Government will not respond to the situation prevailing in Bihar. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please address the Chair only.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: The Central Government's Ministers are present here. I would like to request you to direct the Central Government to take necessary action in this regard. My submission is this much only...(Interruptions)

12.28 hrs.

At this stage Shri Arun Kumar and some other hon'ble Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

12.28 hrs.

At this stage Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and Shrimati Kanti Singh came and stood on the floor near the Table.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing. Please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: He has raised this matter. Please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: He is using the unparliamentary word. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record. Please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No. Please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Raghunath Jha, please understand that there are other hon. Members also who wish to raise other issues. Please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not disturb the House. Please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record..

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Switch off the T.V.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? You raised the matter and now you trooped into the well of the House. How the House will function like this? Is this the way? Please sit-down.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.00 p.m.

12.31 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Fourteen of the Clock.*

[English]

14.02 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at two minutes past
Fourteen of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

(I) Need to solve unemployment problem particularly in rural areas.

DR. N. VENKATASWAMY (Tirupati): Sir, agriculture is the main occupation of India which depends upon the vagaries of monsoons. It is an unorganised sector which is not able to put up a fight to redress its grievances effectively in the Government. It is not possible to provide employment to rural unemployed youth in the Government sector or in any other sector. Day-by-day unemployment is becoming a big problem and rural youth are being drawn towards naxalism very easily. Hence, the Government should think sincerely and seriously and find out a way. The Government also announced that one crore employment opportunities will be provided to the unemployed youth in general and rural youth in particular. I am very happy that agriculture is being considered on top-priority by providing 60 per cent of the total budget allocation for this sector. In spite of all, the number of rural unemployed youth is growing year by year and contributing a lot to the stream of unemployment situation in India. Therefore, it is suggested that to supply a bicycle and a power sprayer with duster to each youth who will work in the fields by spraying pesticides and earn Rs. 100 to Rs. 200 per day. A loan of Rs. 5000 should be given to each individual to procure the power sprayer. By this, we will be providing employment to around 20 lakhs of rural people in the first instance.

I, therefore, request the hon. Finance Minister to provide Rs. 500 crore in the revised budget for this programme with a slogan "One bicycle and power sprayer for each unemployed rural youth."

(II) Need to take steps to protect Murshidabad district in West Bengal from recurring floods.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Murshidabad district in West Bengal is situated

*Not recorded.

between the two river systems. One is Ajay-Mayaraski river system and the other is Ganga-Padma river system. Therefore, every year this district is destined to confront the onslaught from both the river systems as a result of which a large part of the district is destined to be inundated by flood and it has become a perennial problem. So far as district Murshidabad is concerned, erosion caused by Padma and Ganga has swallowed a large tract of the district. Last year, all the 26 blocks of this district got submerged by the unprecedented floods. Many plans are there which if implemented would reduce the intensity and duration of the flood. Since Independence "Kandi Master Plan" has been considered as one of such plans which may help to contain the frenzy of flood to a large extent. The cost of the plan was estimated to be Rs. 50 crore. Instead of investing huge money in an ambitious project which often does not yield the desired result, it will be prudent to implement the outstanding projects which appear too small but give high yield. "Kandi Master Plan" proposed by Man Sangh Committee should be implemented.

(iii) Need to direct NALCO to ensure timely supply of raw material to small scale industries in Orissa.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): The utensil units in the small and tiny scale sector in Orissa are facing a severe crisis at present. The reasons of their crisis are not far to seek. These small scale industries virtually depend on NALCO to get their requirement of aluminium ingots for manufacturing different accessories. But these SSIs do not get the raw material supplies from NALCO in time. Even after more than one month's lapse from the date of depositing money they do not get the raw materials. The inordinate delay is causing great hardship for these units as they fail to meet the market need following the irregularities in production due to short supply of raw materials from NALCO.

If the situation continues like this, these small scale units will have to close down their units. Hundreds of skilled and unskilled workers, most of whom come from the weaker sections of the society, will be thrown out of employment.

I urge upon the Government to direct NALCO to enhance raw material supply to the downstream and fabrication units in time and at the earliest.

(iv) Need to provide more railway facilities at Haldia railway station, West Bengal.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (Tamluk): Azad Express, an inter city service, with one AC Coach was introduced in 1999 between Salimar and Haldia with stipulation of two hour journey time. The present line from Panskura to Haldia is inadequate to tackle goods traffic and passengers traffic. In the Budget of 1998-99 and also in the Budget for the current financial year certain announcements were made which have not been implemented.

I shall request the Government to take the following measures:

1. Azad Express be operated from Howrah Station instead of Salimar.
2. AC Coach in Azad Express, an inter city service, be restored.
3. Journey hour be limited to two hours.
4. Manufacturing of parcel vans be resumed in order to facilitate transportation of betel leaves and flowers.
5. New line from Mechada to Rajagoda Station on Panskura-Haldia line and Nandakumar to Haldia Station be installed.
6. Development of Kolaghat, Mechada, Tamluk and Haldia Station as model station be expedited.
7. Stoppage of Coromondal Express, Gitanjali Express, Bombay Mail, Madras Mail, Bhubaneswar Rajdhani, Vivekananda Express, Ahmedabad Express and Falaknama Express at Mechada Station be accorded approval.
8. As per approval of budge, Haldia-Asansol Express via Howrah be introduced with immediate effect.

(v) Need to restore allocation of funds under Employment Assurance Scheme to Andhra Pradesh at the level of 1998-99.

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH (Nagar Kurnool): The Central Government had started Employment Assurance Scheme from 1993 with the objective of providing wage employment to the unskilled wage seekers who are the poorest among the poor.

[Dr. Manda Jagannath]

This scheme has been very effective in providing employment to the landless labourers especially during the lean season.

But the Central Government's allocation under Employment Assurance Scheme to Andhra Pradesh has been reduced from Rs. 167.42 crore during 1998-99 to Rs. 60.8 crore during 2000-2001. Keeping in view the needs of the poor, it is very necessary to restore funding the scheme at the earlier level.

I would request the Central Government to look into the matter and restore the allocation level for Andhra Pradesh at the 1998-99 level.

[Translation]

(vi) Need for early completion of construction work of Navodaya Vidyalaya in Auraiya district, Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI AKHILESH YADAV (Kannauj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the Navodaya Vidyalayas in the country are under administrative control of the Central Government. Construction of a Navodaya Vidyalaya in my constituency Kannauj, under district Auraiya, U.P. has been going on for the last several years. I as well as the people of the area are of the view that the pace of construction is so slow that construction work of above vidyalaya and other related jobs are not likely to be completed in next one or two years. Consequently, there is a great resentment among the students and the parents and there is no question of commencement of the studies.

Therefore, I demand that the construction of half constructed Navodaya Vidyalaya in district Auraiya is completed expeditiously and other necessary items may be provided at the earliest so that the classes can be started soon.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Are you raising it for the first time in the House?

SHRI AKHILESH YADAV: Yes, Sir.

(vii) Need for fencing along the Tripura-Bangladesh border to check the menace of terrorist outfits in the State.

DR. RANJIT KUMAR PANJA (Barasat): Tea industry in Tripura is the only organised sector, which provides large-scale employment and substantial revenue to the State exchequer. The State especially North Tripura tea plantations are currently ridden with insurgency and terrorism. Instances of abduction of managerial staff and employees are rampant. There have been innumerable cases of killings, arson, dacoity, insurgency and abductions which are continued threats in gardens like Golokpur, Kailsahan, Manu Valley, Rangrung, Mekhlifundh and Tachai tea estates. In the absence of adequate security forces the tea estate owners are finding it well nigh impossible to fight this insurgency and protect their property and personnel. There is total demoralisation and panic among the residents in the garden. Consequently, people are fleeing the gardens even to Bangladesh.

It is suggested that immediate steps are taken to draw fencing along the Tripura-Bangladesh border, strengthen the security by deployment of more Border Security Force/Army for intensive vigilance in the border and to establish more number of check-posts.

(viii) Need to formulate a National Scheme to dredge all major river-beds particularly in Orissa.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, Orissa is facing persistent floods in cyclic order which has brought havoc in the State. Though there are embankments to protect habitations, heavy floods cause breaches resulting in huge damages to life and property. Attempts have been made to check erosion of soil, specially in the catchment area but it has yielded little result. Every year, the river-beds of Orissa are being filled-up by silt and sand which compounds the misery by not carrying as much water as it is supposed to carry.

During flood, the situation becomes more grim because the river mouths also do not discharge adequate water to the sea because the mouths are also invariably closed.

Therefore, there is an urgent need to dredge the river-beds of Mahanadi, Brahmani, Baitarani, Subarnarekha and Rusikulya regularly. As Orissa Government is not in a position to dredge the river-beds, I urge upon the Union Government of India to come out with a National Scheme to dredge all major river-beds which cause flood havoc in the coastal States of the country.

(ix) Need to declare certain State roads in Bihar as National Highways.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH (Bikramganj): Sir, I had written to Union Surface Transport Ministry and to the Government of Bihar also for declaration of State Highways from Arah to Sasaram, Buxar to Sasaram, Buxar to Bikramganj, Dehri on Sone to Rohtas linking Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh as National Highways. I have come to know that Road Construction Department of the Government of Bihar had requested the Union Government and the Ministry of Surface Transport for upgradation of the said highways and to start the work on war footing. So far, no action has been taken by the Government for taking over these roads and declare them as National Highways. With the upgradation of these roads economic, social, cultural and transport development of these States will be expedited.

I, therefore, request the Union Government to declare these highways as National Highways at the earliest.

[English]

(x) Need to take up construction of new railway line between Jhargram and Purulia, West Bengal during the next financial year.

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purulia): The construction of new railway line between Jhargram to Purulia is a long-standing demand of the people of Purulia, Bankura and Midnapore districts of West Bengal. This line will run through the thickly tribal populated area. The survey work of this railway project has been completed in 1998.

I urge upon the Central Government to take up the Railway project in the next financial year.

[English]

14.18 hrs.

**STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE:
DISAPPROVAL OF INDIAN COUNCIL OF
WORLD AFFAIRS (SECOND) ORDINANCE
AND
INDIAN COUNCIL OF WORLD
AFFAIRS BILL**

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up item Nos. 7 and 8 together, namely, Statutory Resolution

regarding disapproval of Indian Council of World Affairs (Second) Ordinance, 2001 and Indian Council of World Affairs Bill.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House disapproves of the Indian Council of World Affairs (Second) Ordinance 2001 (No. 3 of 2001) promulgated by the President on 8 May 2001."

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI JAG MOHAN): On behalf of Shri Jaswant Singh, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to declare the Indian Council of World Affairs to be an institution of national importance and to provide for its incorporation and matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER: Motions moved:

"That this House disapproves of the Indian Council of World Affairs (Second) Ordinance 2001 (No. 3 of 2001) promulgated by the President on 8 May 2001."

"That the Bill to declare the Indian Council of World Affairs to be an institution of national importance and to provide for its incorporation and matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Sir, I am on a point of order. There are three points which I would like to submit to you in respect of my point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: What is the rule under which you are raising your point of order?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: It is raised under the Constitution, under the rules and under the conventions. I am raising this point of order according to the rule which is provided in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. I am saying that the Ordinances were wrongly promulgated. Secondly, the Bill was introduced, withdrawn and again submitted.

My third point of order is that this Bill cannot be considered by this House without it having been considered by the Standing Committee as per the rules.

MR. SPEAKER: Under what rule are you raising this point of order?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, my point of order is in three parts. One is that this Ordinance is wrongly promulgated. The second is that the Bill is introduced, withdrawn and again introduced. What is the fate of the Bill which has been withdrawn and again introduced? The third part of point of order is that the Bill of this nature has to go to the Standing Committee. The procedure requires that the Bill is introduced in this House. Then, first reading takes place and then it is referred to the Standing Committee. Then, it has to come back with the report of the Standing Committee.

If you want the rule, I can tell that. The rule is 331 E. It provides that the Bill which is introduced in the House shall be referred to the Standing Committee and when the Report comes back from the Standing Committee, it is considered. It is not always necessary to refer to a rule when a point of order is raised. The points of order are raised under the Constitution, under the rules and under the conventions. These conventions are not written in the rule book. The Constitution does not refer to the rules.

I am taking one point after the other. I am just reading from *Kaul and Shakder*, IV Edition, page 548. It says:

"The procedure of the promulgation of the Ordinances is inherently undemocratic. Whether an Ordinance is justifiable or not, the issue of a large number of Ordinances has psychologically, a bad effect. The people carry an impression that Government is carried on by Ordinances. The House carries a sense of being ignored, and the Central Secretariat perhaps get into a habit of slackness which necessitates Ordinances, and an impression is created that it is desired to commit the House to a particular legislation as the House has no alternative but to put its seal on matters that have been legislated upon the Ordinances. Such a state of things is not conducive to the development of the best parliamentary traditions."

Now, in this case, the Government has issued, not one, but three Ordinances. First the Ordinance was issued. It could not be turned into a law. Then, the second Ordinance was issued. It could also not be turned into a law. Then, the third Ordinance was issued. They, then introduced the Bill. The Bill was passed in the Rajya Sabha.

They withdrew that Bill. Again, they have now come before this House with a new Bill...(Interruptions) It was

passed in Lok Sabha. It is again more objectionable because of the following fact. The Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha. It was then withdrawn in the Rajya Sabha. Again, they have come forward with another Bill before this House. They are saying that the first Bill which was passed by the Lok Sabha was different from the Bill which they are now moving for consideration. The Lok Sabha had already passed the Bill. Excepting that the provisions contained in the Ordinance can be turned into a law, again the Government is asking that this new Bill should be considered by this House. Is this a correct practice which a democracy, a parliamentary system like ours should follow? Ordinances had been issued three times. The Bill had been passed by this House. It was then withdrawn by them in the other House.
...(Interruptions)

I am raising a point of order. I am objecting to this kind of interruption. My first point of order is this. If the Bill was passed by this House, excepting the provisions given in the Ordinance, can a second Bill of this nature be introduced and can it be considered in order to see that the Ordinance is made into a law? I would seek a ruling from the Chair on this point.

My second point is this. I will read Rule 331E (b). This Rule provides what kind of functions the Departmentally-Related Standing Committees would discharge. The first function is to consider the Budget proposals given by the Government and come back with a report. I will now read the relevant portion for the benefit of all of us who are here. I quote:

"(b) to examine such Bills pertaining to the concerned Ministries/Departments as are referred to the Committee by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha or the Speaker, as the case may be, and make a report thereon;"

I see the Law Minister is here in the House. Probably, he is going to stand up and plead on behalf of the Government. One cannot have objection to his pleading. But what is not known to the Law Minister or many of us in this House is that when this Rule was being considered, the question was discussed whether the discretion should be left with the Presiding Officer to refer such a Bill to the House or not. In that Committee, while framing the Rule, it was discussed and it was also decided that almost all the Bills which are introduced in the House after the first reading, should be referred to the Standing Committee, and only those Bills should not

be referred to the Standing Committees which are of technical nature. Supposing the dates have to be changed. It will not be necessary to refer that Bill to the Standing Committee. Supposing there are grammatical mistakes. It is not necessary to refer that Bill to the Standing Committee. This kind of provision was made in order to see that a Bill of this nature would be considered thoroughly. Of course, Ordinances and things of this nature are considered. Of course, the Finance Bill is introduced. It is not to be referred to the Standing Committee. That is why, discretion was left with the hon. Speaker of this House and with the hon. Chairman of the other House. So, it is the responsibility of the Presiding Officer to decide whether such a Bill should be referred to the Standing Committee or not. Therefore, a Bill which is of technical nature shall not be referred to the Standing Committee. But a Bill, which has some substance, should be referred to the Committee. There are many other provisions which are to be considered. In such a case, the Bill has to be referred to the Standing Committee.

If the records of this House are scrutinised, almost of this nature, as far as my information goes, at least up to 1996, it has been referred to the Standing Committee. The Members who are sitting in this House may not be aware of the discussion which had taken place in the Rules Committee. It was specifically decided that the Bills of technical nature shall not be referred to the Standing Committee but the Bills of other nature shall be referred.

Now, I am making a submission that the Government is finding it very difficult to come to a conclusion as to what kind of law should be passed with respect to this Council. So, they had to issue three Ordinances. Not only three Ordinances, but they had to introduce the Bill. The Bill was passed and they had to withdraw the Bill. These Standing Committees have been created only to give opportunity to the Members sitting on all sides - Members belonging to all parties - to put their heads together, consider as to what kind of law should be made. Why should this opportunity be denied to the Members who are sitting in this House? We are not saying that do not pass this Bill. You give an opportunity to the Members sitting on all sides to consider this. The question is that time is not available. Why time is not available? Time is available. It is not necessary that the Standing Committee should take a week or one month to consider this Bill.

The Bill can be referred to the Standing Committee and the Standing Committee can come back within one or two days saying that these provisions are acceptable, these provisions should be modified and these provisions should not be there in the law. Why should this opportunity not be given? Why should the Executive take the Members of the Legislature so lightly? Three Ordinances were being passed and one Bill was passed by this House. Now, they are again coming to this House and not allowing an opportunity to the Members to put their views together and come back to this House.

My submission is a very humble submission. It is with you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. You have to decide as to whether this is a Bill of a technical nature or not. If you think that this Bill is of a technical nature, please do not refer it to the Standing Committee. Now, if you think that the submission I am making on the Floor of this House is not in consonance with the discussions which had taken place in the Committee, you can refer to the proceedings of the Committee.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): The discussions of the
Committee cannot be referred in the House.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, I would come to this side also. Why are you in a hurry?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Shri Mahajan, this is a law-making provision. When the Committee on Subordinate Legislation are making a law, they have the powers, which are enjoyed by this House also, because the rules are made by the Rules Committee.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I am not on any point which you are saying. I am only saying whether the discussions that took place in the Rules Committee in 1996 can be referred to here. ...(Interruptions) Nobody knows about it. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: They are binding on you, Shri Mahajan. When you make a law and when you challenge. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: The rules are binding on me but not discussions.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Discussions are also binding. That is exactly what I am saying. Your Law Minister is here. When you make a Constitution and when you challenge the provisions of the Constitution, you refer to the discussions in the Constituent Assembly. When you make a law and when you challenge the law in the High Court or the Supreme Court, you refer to the discussions in the House in order to find out the real intentions of the law-makers. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Where are the records of the Rules Committee?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I will submit it. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): They can only be an aid to an interpretation when there is an ambiguity in the law.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: That is right. That is exactly the point. You mean to say that the rules are not the law. I will take my seat, you please enlighten me on this point. This is not ambiguity. When there is 'may', you read it 'shall'. In many cases, when there is 'may', you read it 'shall'. What does this rule say? You please very carefully read it. It says:

"to examine such Bills pertaining to the concerned Ministries/Departments as are referred to the Committee by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha..."

You have no distinction. You have no authority to say that it should be or should not be referred to the Standing Committee. It is only the Presiding Officer who has to use his discretion. I am making a humble submission that this discretion has to be used to facilitate the discussion rather than obstruct the discussion. What is the proposal given by the Members sitting on the Opposition benches? You offer an opportunity to the Members to come, discuss and come back. You can come back tomorrow; you can come back day-after-tomorrow; you can come back in four days time. This is the submission we are making. My submission is that opportunity should be given to the Members to discuss it properly in this case because three Ordinances have been issued in this case in which a law was passed and withdrawn. In this case, two Bills have been produced and the same should be discussed.

SHRI JAG MOHAN: Firstly, the Resolution, which has been moved by the hon. Members, says 'disapproval of the Ordinance'. They themselves are calling it an Ordinance and not a Bill.

Secondly, three Ordinances had to be issued because this august House passed the I.C.W.A. Bill but the Rajya Sabha was repeatedly adjourned. The law is that if the Ordinance is not passed within six weeks of the assembly of the Parliament, it lapses. So, it had to be reissued. This is rather a technical requirement. We have explained it in the Statement of Objects and Reasons.

Thirdly, we went through Rajya Sabha and sought its permission. The Rajya Sabha made its recommendation to the Lok Sabha. The Lok Sabha accepted that recommendation. Then, on that basis, I was given permission to move the Bill and in my moving the Bill, we said that this is the Ordinance and this is the broad-based composition and the number is increased because they themselves want that the number should be increased. We explained it in the Memorandum that this is the slight change made. Now, this Ordinance is there. If you do not pass it within a short time, it will lapse. On the merit of this, whatever observations they have to make, they can make it. There is nothing in it. We will discuss it and finalise it today.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: If you do not pass the Bill, you issue Ordinances one after the other...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Three submissions have been made by Shri Shivraj Patil. Firstly, the Ordinances, by the very nature, are undemocratic. Article 123 of the Constitution very clearly permits Ordinances. It says that when the House is not in Session, when there is a matter of such urgency that requires an enactment, an Ordinance may be issued. Then, there is a further procedure that Ordinance is required to be approved within a particular period of time or on expiry of six weeks from the date of laying the Ordinance in Parliament. When it is laid there, it ceases to operate. There have been several precedents. Take for example, the Ordinance on Livestock and the Ordinance on FCI. These are all Ordinances which were not of technical nature but which have substantive points in it, which have been approved by the hon. House after discussion. These are not Ordinances which were necessarily referred to the Standing Committee. In this very Session, they have been

referred to the Standing Committee. This very Bill when it was passed on earlier occasions, was not referred to the Standing Committee. Rule 331E is not a provision of the rules which makes mandatory that every time there is a Bill or an Ordinance, particularly an Ordinance, it should be referred to a Standing Committee in the context of an Ordinance. There is also an element of urgency because an Ordinance has to be approved and then made into a Bill within six weeks. Therefore, on account of that urgency, an ordinance is normally not referred to the Standing Committee. That has been the past practice that this House has been following.

In fact, during the argument, only last week when the Lok Pal Bill was introduced in the House, the hon. Deputy Leader of the Opposition got up and said: It is a very important Bill, please pass it in this Session, without referring it to the Standing Committee. So, this cannot be an argument which applies in one case and does not apply in some cases.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): One sentence which you said was wrong. He said that please pass it in this House but he did not say - without referring it to the Standing Committee. *...(Interruptions)* Do not mislead the House. *...(Interruptions)* Standing Committees meet during Parliament Session also...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let him speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Both the Houses of Parliament have to approve it within two weeks. Therefore, the time constraint is also one of the factors why it may not be referred to the Standing Committee.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have been giving time to the Members to raise issues which may or may not be pertinent to the subjects before us. Now, what is the argument of the Government? The argument of the Government is non-performance. They do not issue the Ordinances and get them approved in the House. They bring the Bill before the House, get it passed and withdraw it and again they expect all other Members to cooperate. When we are here to cooperate in a proper manner, they are not doing it. They are trying to steam-roll it. If the law is steam-rolled in this fashion and even the time of one or two days is not given, well, they should not expect the cooperation where they would be in a difficult situation.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order. You can hear me also and then give your ruling.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Under what rule?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister cannot dictate to the Members of the Opposition.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I am not dictating. You are dictating.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, you are the Guardian of the House, not the Parliamentary Affairs Minister. He cannot dictate us till he assumes the office of the Speaker. He cannot dictate us from his Chair.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not take it seriously.

On the first point of order raised by Shri Shivraj V. Patil, I think, discretion has been given to the Presiding Officer. So, I shall apply my mind and come to the House. Till that time, I am reserving my ruling on this issue and I will decide the matter later.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we will take up item no. 9 Shri Nitish Kumar.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: On his behalf, somebody else can move the Bill.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, is this the way the House should be treated by the Government everyday?...*(Interruptions)* The concerned Minister is not present in the House. *...(Interruptions)* How can the House be treated like this? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, how can the House be treated in this fashion?...*(Interruptions)* This is Parliament. The Government cannot treat the House in this fashion.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH (Bikramganj): He has made a mockery of the House. A fun of the House is being made. Ministers name is called out whereas the Minister is not present...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, you have to protect the honour of the House. The Treasury Benches have been treating the House in this way for the last so many Sessions now. There is a limit to it. ...(Interruptions) Is this the way they treat Parliament?... (Interruptions) Sir, this is not the job of the Spokesman of the Party...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Do not become so much flatterer, it is a question of dignity of the House. None of the Minister is present here.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): In fact two hours were allotted for it and the Minister was supposed to come after two hours only...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): None of the Ministers is marking his presence the House. The House is not being taken seriously...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri O. Rajagopal has come now. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I may be permitted to speak on the Statutory Resolution that I have moved. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri O. Rajagopal.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I have moved the Statutory resolution. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, I am always telling you to use earphones. The problem is that you are not using the earphones. That is why there is the problem.

...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, his Resolution of disapproval is not to go to the Standing Committee. What is this?... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri O. Rajagopal.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, has he given the notice to take your permission?

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, I have given the permission. He has given the letter also.

[English]

14.46 hrs.

INDIAN RAILWAYS COMPANIES (REPEAL) BILL

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to repeal the Indian Railway Companies Act 1895, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to repeal the Indian Railway Companies Act 1895, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say nothing special about Indian Railways (Repeal) Bill introduced by hon'ble Minister. This Bill has been brought to repeal the existing law, so there is not much problem in it. I support this Indian Railways (Repeal) Bill.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister has brought forward the present Bill to repeal, the old Act which has become redundant. Therefore, this Bill has been brought to repeal the old law. No new legislation is sought to be enacted by it, it

has merely been brought to repeal the old law. Hence, the Government is not serious and the Cabinet Minister, Shri Nitish ji is not present in the House. On his behalf the Bill has been introduced by the Minister of State for Railways.

This year, discussion on Railway Budget was not held. I wish that, on this occasion we should have some discussion whereas the Government want this Bill to be passed without any debate...*(Interruptions)* The Government feel that after passing in the Parliament, if any law is published in the Gazette, the people come to know about it, but I feel otherwise. It leads to ignorance of law. People do not get complete information about the laws enacted. Their only source of information is the Parliament. So, whenever there is a discussion about any Bill in the Parliament, it gets wide publicity throughout the world through media, and then people get complete information about it and not by just publishing it in the gazette. The attitude of the Government to get it passed without any sort of discussion is undemocratic and against the spirit of Parliamentary system. Since Cabinet Minister is not present, the Minister of State has moved the Bill in place of Cabinet Minister. State Ministers are kept solely with this purpose that if Cabinet Minister is absent, he may look after the things.

I would like to say something about the Railways. Even these days, railway accident often take place be it in Bihar or Jammu.

Therefore, through this Bill there is a need to hold discussion on railway operation, since Railways is the largest undertaking in our country and very old laws made during the period when Railways was under companies Act, are applicable to railways. But it was too much and that is why the Government have brought this Bill to repeal those old laws. Now, my submission is that coolies are most neglected lot in railways. People from very poor background work as coolies who carry the luggage of passengers. Two type of people travel by trains...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Are you running a coolies union?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Prabhunath Singh ji, it is not right. You are disturbing time and again. Please take your seat. Shri Raghuvansh ji, please conclude now.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: For the passengers who deem it against their dignity to carry their luggage or secondly who are unable to do so, coolies rush up to them and lift their luggage. Coolies rush to them and uphold their dignity. Demands of coolies have here pending since quite sometime. They have been demanding fourth class compartment and provisions for medical aid. Contract labour has been engaged for carriage of parcels, so carriage of parcels is not entrusted to coolies, it is done through contractors. The Government have been neglecting coolies, therefore, I urge upon the Government to make efforts for upliftment of this down-trodden section of society. Time and again I have been raising this issue but the Government are not paying any attention towards it...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH (Machilipatnam): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. I support this Bill. While supporting this Bill, I would like to bring forward some of the important recommendations made by several Committees like Kunzru, Wanchoo, Sikri and Justice Khanna Committees regarding the accidents and safety measures to be taken by the Railway authorities.

There have been a number of recommendations made by Justice Khanna Committee. That Committee recommended an allotment of Rs. 3,000 crore for repairs to rail bridges and tracks and those repairs should be taken up on a war-footing basis.

The Committee also pointout that 34,000 railway wagons, 1,322 coaches and 1,560 signals in various parts of the country required urgent repairs and modernisation.

Another recommendation made by the same Committee was that as per the estimates on railway bridges in the year 1999, nearly 51,340 weee constructed more than hundred years back. Out of these bridges, 334 bridges were totally damaged. Moreover, the funds allotted for track improvements in 1997-2002 have not been fully released though there are increasing demands for extension of broad gauge every year.

Justice Khanna Committee also pointed out that the steel used for rail *pattas* supplied by Bhilai Steel Plant was not of standard quality and the rail accident that took place in Punjab in 1998 was due to low quality rail *pattas*.

[Shri A. Brahmanaiah]

In-between 1997-2000, out of 2,000 rail accidents, nearly 1,200 accidents took place only due to the negligence of railway employees.

In addition to this, Justice Khanna had suggested some other important recommendations that training camps should be organised to train rail drivers and that Yoga might be introduced to reduce the mental stress.

In this connection, I want to bring some of the important problems of my parliamentary constituency, that is, Machilipatnam.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Brahmanaiah, this is not a debate on Railways. This is only a Repeal Bill. You can raise your constituency problems when we discuss Railways.

SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Sir, the repairs works between Gudiwada and Machilipatnam track are very slow.

MR. SPEAKER: No, please. This is not the time to raise your constituency problems.

SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Thank you Sir.

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN (Dindigul): Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I wish to make a few points on these two Repeal Bills. Acts that have become redundant should be repealed because they are of no use and only create confusion. However, due caution needs to be exercised while repealing the Bill. In future, there should not arise a situation wherein even a sub-section of the repealing Act is felt necessary. I say so because the Railway Companies Substitution of Parties in Civil Proceedings Act is repealed because it is felt that article 300 would take care of the situation hitherto dealt with by the Act being repealed. I would request the hon. Minister to explain this.

In fact, article 300 itself needs to be amended. This article 300, by reference, takes us back to British Raj and protects "Sovereign" power from prosecution under certain circumstances. Though Supreme Court Judgements have curtailed this sovereign power to a great extent, the fact remains that article 300 needs amendment. It is an article which is applied together with the Supreme Court Judgements. I wonder, then, why an Act should be repealed relying on an article of the Constitution which itself is already curtailed and needs to be amended. I do not know whether the hon. Minister wants 'sovereign protection' to Railway companies as was available during British rule. I hope he would explain the position.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Sir, this relates to the Indian Railway Companies Act, 1895. This forms part of the package of Bills which have become dysfunctional laws and the Commission appointed in 1998 has identified 166 Central Acts which have become redundant.

As part of it, this Bill also has been identified as one which has now become redundant. The Indian Railways Companies Act 1895 had provided for paying interest on its paid-up share capital out of capital during construction. Since, now a similar provision exists in Section 208 of the Companies Act of 1956 for payment of this interest out of capital, the repeal of this Act will not affect, in any way. Therefore, it has become necessary to repeal the Indian Railway Companies Act, 1895. That is the reason why this Bill has been brought.

Therefore, I propose that this Bill may be passed.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to repeal the Indian Railway Companies Act, 1895 as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

15.00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER: The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

15.01 hrs.

RAILWAYS COMPANIES (SUBSTITUTION OF PARTIES IN CIVIL PROCEEDINGS) REPEAL BILL

MR. SPEAKER: We shall now take up item no. 10—
Railway Companies (Substitution of Parties in Civil Proceedings) Repeal Bill.

Shri O. Rajagopal.

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

"That the Bill to repeal the Railway Companies (Substitution of Parties in Civil Proceedings) Act, 1946, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to repeal the Railway Companies (Substitution of Parties in Civil Proceedings) Act, 1946, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH (Machilipatnam): Sir, I support the Bill and I want to bring some other issues which relate to...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have to speak on this Bill.

SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Please allow me to speak. Otherwise, I shall sit down.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on Railway Companies (substitution of parties in civil proceedings) Repeal Bill. In the Government of India Act, 1935, there was provision of Governor General which was substituted by the Dominion. Thereafter in Article 300 of our Constitution the Dominion was substituted by the Central Government. Now the old law has no relevance as Article 300 of the constitution is existing. Our constitution was framed and

enacted in 1950 but after 51 years, the present Repeal Bill has been introduced in the House. Now they have realised that this Act has no relevance and hence it should be repealed. There are 2500 such legislations with the Central Government...(Interruptions) During our regime, the Jain Commission was set up which in its report recommended that 1324 such laws should be repealed. Whether the bill which is being introduced is efficient or inefficient. In 1998, it was declared that this Act has no relevance. Presently the Centre have 2500 such Acts. The Centre should repeal 1324 such Acts. In spite of that you have brought two Bills. Not only this rather they said that they will connect Vaishali to Buddhists circuit through rail route. Vaishali is the birth place of Lord Buddha, Lord Mahabir and the republic. Just now the hon'ble Member was saying that the biggest Buddha 'Stupa' has been found in this area in Kesaria. The hon'ble Minister has time and again assured...(Interruptions) The hon'ble Minister has assured that Buddhist circuit will be connected by the rail route passing through Hazipur, Sugaoni, Vaishali via Kesaria...(Interruptions). The survey in this regard was conducted. Shri Paswan had laid the foundation stone for the project. What is the reason for the delay in the implementation of the project and why the Government is adamant for not doing anything in this regard? It is a historical tourist place of international importance and it is essential to connect these places through the rail route for the development of tourist industry in this region. The place, where 2500 years ago Lichchhavi rulers of this region had introduced democracy for the first time in the world should be connected through the rail route. I do not understand why the hon'ble Minister of Railway is lax in implementing the project.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to submit that the Bill in question should be repealed but simultaneously arrangement should be made for laying new rail lines in this region.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Raghuvansh Babu, are you supporting the Bill or opposing it?

[English]

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Sir, this Bill deals with the substitution of Governor-General in Council in certain civil proceedings. After the acquisition by the Government of certain Railways and consequent assumption of responsibility for their contractual obligations while

[Shri O. Rajagopal]

succeeding to all those rights, the Government of India Act, 1935 has provided the substitution of Dominion of India in place of Governor-General in Council in all the contracts, legal proceedings, including suits, appeals, etc. The Constitution of India further vide article 300(2)(a) specifically provides that if any legal proceedings are pending to which the Dominion of India is a party, the Union of India shall be deemed to be substituted for the Dominion in those proceedings. After the said substitution, the Railway Companies (Substitution of Parties in Civil Proceedings Act), 1946 becomes redundant automatically. Therefore, this Repeal Bill has been brought forward. I seek the approval of the House to uphold the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to repeal the Railway Companies (Substitution of Parties in Civil Proceedings) Act, 1946, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title
were added to the Bill.*

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

15.08 hrs.

SUGARCANE CESS (VALIDATION) REPEAL BILL

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up Item No. 11.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): Sir, Item No. 19 could also be taken up together now.

MR. SPEAKER: No, as per the List of Business, Item No. 11 is to be taken up.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to repeal the Sugarcane Cess (Validation) Act, 1961 as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There are no Members to speak on this Bill. I shall straightaway put the motion to the House.

The question is:

"That the Bill to repeal the Sugarcane Cess (Validation) Act, 1961, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title
were added to the Bill.*

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

15.10 hrs.

WAREHOUSING CORPORATIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up item No. 12 — Warehousing Corporations (Amendment) Bill. The time allotted for this Bill is two hours.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Warehousing Corporations Act, 1962, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Warehousing Corporations Act, 1962, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA (Jammu): Mr. Speaker, Sir, FCI was set up under Act 1962 and 34 warehouses were constructed in different parts of the country. It was felt necessary to set up it in order to safeguard the interests of the farmers and fix the price of their produce as per the cost and they should be given support prices for their products.

15.12 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

It was set up to protect the farmers from the middle men and the market forces. Thus FCI continued to function as guardian. Its second objective was to conserve the surplus foodgrains produced by the farmers in the national interest and to ensure its quality and make it available to the people at the time of the requirement all over the country. Similarly, sufficient quantity of foodgrains should be stored as buffer stock so that foodgrains should be made available to the people at the time of crisis in the national interest. Thus FCI was set up with the comprehensive objectives. However with the passage of time we witnessed the defeat of its objectives and suffered losses on all accounts. The farmers also did not get proper support price. The grains were not procured in different parts of the country some times due to lack of funds and sometimes due to non availability of warehouses and as a result of this the farmers were compelled to sell their produces to the middlemen at lower price. The farmers suffered loss on account of this. Thus it was due to the fault of the Government that instead of being benefited, the farmers had to suffer loss. The second damage was witnessed at quality front. Our bureaucracy and Government officials continued to procure foodgrains without taking into account the guidelines regarding the quality control.

The second bigger damage was that all the procured foodgrains were could not be properly distributed on account of our defective distribution system. Though 90 per cent of the stored foodgrains were distributed but 10 per cent remained in warehouses and with the passage of time it got rotten, thus the country had to face the economic loss. Similarly our buffer stock which should have to be preserved for the crisis period of the country was also misappropriated because of the corruptions. Better quality foodgrains of the buffer stocks were sold to the market and low quality grains were distributed to the people. This practice was being opposed. Above all nearly fifteen thousand crore rupees were spend on the storage of the foodgrains. A loss of Rs. 500 crore incurred on transportation of the procured grains. Similarly there were nearly two lakh employees for distribution and storage of foodgrains and Rs. 850 crore were given to the employees as salary. It was on account of this that instead of being benefited from the procurement and storage of grains, the country had to suffer loss on account of this.

[Vaidya Vishnu Datt Sharma]

Presently, the situation is such that for the last few years, FCI has caused damage to the society and the country. Fortunately the administration of FCI is presently under the control of the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies, so keeping in view all these things I request the Minister to take corrective measures to make arrangement for the preservation of food grains in the interest of the country. We do not have sufficient number of godowns to store all the agricultural products of the country. The result is that the procured foodgrains remain in open. It could not be protected from cold, heat and rainfall and as a result of this grains get rotten. New method of storage should be adopted to protect the grains. Instead of constructing bigger godowns for storage of grains, smaller storage houses should be constructed at different places with the participation of the farmers and the people of 10, 20, 50 villages together should be involved in the collection of foodgrains and its decentralised storage so that agricultural products may be protected from rats and rainfall. Thus village committee should be set up and the responsibility of the warehouses should be endorsed to them. The Government should provide them incentive for this and village people may also collect money to construct smaller warehouses for storage.

Thus economic burden of the Government will also be shared by the people and once the responsibility of the warehouses is transferred to the people they will be able to protect the agricultural produces more efficiently, so my suggestion is that smaller size warehouses should be constructed. The hon'ble Minister has taken several steps, he has set up committees in every province where there are food corporation, involving local Member of Parliament and some distinguished person to ensure appropriate storage and distribution of the food grains. I feel it would be a revolutionary step and would save the grains from getting decayed and also facilitate distribution. Keeping all this in view, they have taken this step.

I feel there is a need to tone up distribution system. Large number of people have been recruited for carrying out this task consequently the Government have to spend a lot on their salary. During recent years, perhaps the Government have given Rs. 24 thousand seven hundred and odd as subsidy for this purpose. Huge amount is spent on storage and distribution by FCI which need to be saved. The Union Government have to spend large amount on subsidy. This amount should be saved and distribution system should be toned up. With a view to

streamline the distribution system, hon'ble Minister has directed FCI that wherever we have surplus stock, it should be given to the people, living below poverty line and some stock be distributed to the poor people free of cost under Antodya Yojana. But, my submission is that with a view to ensure that the stock released by the Government for distribution is not diverted back to stores, a list should be maintained with each depot with the names of people belonging to BPL category and also the number of people under Antodya Yojana including the datewise details of distribution of ration to the people of both these categories. I feel, if proper records are kept, it would facilitate proper distribution of ration to the poor people. Deaths because of hunger have been reported from some of the States but if this procedure is adopted then we would not have such sort of complaints. This type of arrangement may be made and the burden of storage of surplus stock may be lessened. Our performance has declined whereas we have recruited large number of staff and labours and taking into account total loading, unloading of wagon of foodgrain from the stores and the number of labours employed for this purpose an individual hardly loads/unloads only ten bags of grains per day. Our average comes so poor. It indicates poor standard of our performance and our unwillingness to work which results in a loss to the nation and increases the burden unnecessarily. They are paid salaries without doing any job. Therefore, I submit that this economic burden on the Government should be lessened.

With these words, I understand, the performance of FCI and warehousing corporation will improve.

Keeping these all in view, the Government should take such steps so that inefficiency and corruption can be done away with and economic loss can be avoided. Also, the situation whereby grains get decayed in the stores but the poor people die of hunger can be saved. This bill is a step towards ensuring proper and timely distribution of ration to the people living below poverty line. While supporting this Bill I thank hon'ble Minister for having brought a Bill with a long term perspective.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister, Shri Shanta Kumar, has moved the Warehousing Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 2001 with an aim of amending the Warehousing Corporations Act, 1962.

Since the birth of our civilisation, storage has become an integral part of our commercial and agricultural activities. People used to keep in store the agricultural produce so that they could deal with any adverse situation, any climatic distortion or any geological upheavals. At the advent of the Industrial Revolution, the entire scenario, as far as storage is concerned, had undergone a sea change. Keeping this in view, in 1928, the Royal Commission of Agriculture first conceived warehousing in India. In 1949, the Rural Banking Inquiry Committee has agreed of expanding rural banking. In 1954, the Rural Credit Survey Committee had proposed warehousing.

In India, the Central Warehousing Corporation was set up in 1957 under the Agricultural Produce Development and Warehousing Corporations Act, 1956. In this Bill, again, it is going to be amended. The Central Warehousing Corporation is an agent of the Government for the purposes of sale, storage, purchase, distribution of agricultural produce, manure, fertilisers, seeds, agricultural implements and notified commodities. The Government of India has engaged three agencies, namely, FCI, CWC and SWC in view of warehousing and building storage etc. It is a well-known fact that now, under the impact of liberalisation and globalisation, the trade activity in the entire country has been increased. So, the CWC with its old, dilapidated structure cannot compete with the burgeoning trade and commercial activities. Therefore, it needs a few more adrenals to stimulate its activities.

Sir, CWC has been categorised as a service industry. It is well-known that in the present Indian economy, the service industry not only plays a significant role but also is a major contributor to our GDP. CWC plays an important role in the chain of marketing. It serves not only as a time and place utility but also adds place value to the goods. Therefore, it would not be an exaggeration to say that the Central Warehousing Corporation needs a face-lift to confront the emerging need of storing and transportation facilities that are mostly held by the cartels in private sector.

Sir, the CWC now holds 456 warehouses in India with a capacity of 75.69 lakh MTs. The custom bonded warehouses numbering is 108 with a capacity of 7.40 lakh MTs. The CFS and ICDS, both combined together, has 26 with a capacity of 6.34 lakh MTs and temperature controlled warehouses are only four. But the fact is that all the warehouses combined together are not able to utilise its capacity to its optimum level. The utilisation of

its storage capacity is only 62 lakhs MT. It is to be noted that in most of the prominent cities, like Ahmedabad, Guwahati and Jaipur, the capacity is under-utilised.

Sir, the income ratio of the CWC has declined sharply from Rs. 84.95 crore in 1996-97 to Rs. 56.28 crore in the year 2001. I do not know the reasons as to why there has been a decline in the income of the warehouses. India is suffering from a woefully low and inadequate storage facilities. The hon. Minister is well aware that now foodgrains worth crores of rupees are rotting in the godowns of the FCI. It is regrettable to note that an equivalent amount of total foodgrains of Australia and New Zealand, combined together, is wasted in India.

Sir, therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the target fixed in the Ninth Plan, and the percentage achieved. Moreover, I would also like to know the target that has been fixed in the Tenth Five Year Plan.

Sir, the FCI owned godown has a capacity of 54.45 lakh MTs. The capacity of the warehouses hired by FCI has a capacity of 14.76 lakh tonnes and the total capacity in FCI is 291.11 lakh MTs.

CWC-owned 55.53 lakh metric tonnes; hired 24.12 lakh metric tonnes; and the total is 79.65 lakh metric tonnes. SWC-owned 111.3 lakh metric tonnes, hired 27.34 lakh metric tonnes; and the total is 138.73 lakh metric tonnes.

With the instrument of this amendment the Government would enable CWC to put its nominee on the board of SWC because CWC holds 50 per cent of the equity capital of SWC. But, the Minister should be aware that nowadays the entire storing has been containerised and automated. The most lucrative and profitable segment of CWC was custom-bonded warehouses. A great deal of custom-bonded warehouses have been eaten up by the private sector. The CWC, which had a predominant position once is no longer a monopoly. The days of monopolies are gone. CWC has to face stiff competition in the present scenario. May I suggest the Government that whenever a nominee is put on the Board of SWC, a member from the bank, from customs, from depositors should be inducted so that the Board's affairs can be professionalised.

[Shri Adhir Chowdhary]

My State West Bengal is located in a geographically strategic place. West Bengal is surrounded by Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal. Both seaport and airport are available in my State. West Bengal can easily be converted into a hub of warehousing activity because Nepal and Bhutan are landlocked countries and the major part of their cargo is transported through West Bengal. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to lay special emphasis on the State of West Bengal considering the strategic importance of that State.

Central Warehousing Corporation has quite often got entangled in various kinds of financial bungs.

Sir, very often, it is getting prominence due to corruption prevailing there. The contractors and the bidders are looting this concern in connivance with the higher functionaries of the CWC. That is why even after being classified as the *mini ratna*, the CWC has lost its past glory.

Sir, I do not object to the amendments to the Bill. I want this Corporation to flourish. In this regard, the hon. Minister may go with the joint venture even abroad also. But before going there, he should take cognizance of what is happening in this country.

Sir, a warehouse can help a lot to the farmers of rural India. The farmers can deposit their stocks in it. The farmers, especially the individual farmers, do not have any access to the market. They do not have bargaining position. So, the CWC being an agent of owners of the stock can sell their produce to the market and the farmer can be benefited from it by earning more profits. The poor farmers can take loan from the banks by pledging stock.

So, the Central Warehousing Corporation with its 16 associated Warehousing Corporations can play a very vital role specially in the rural economy of our country.

Sir, the Central Warehousing Corporation plays an important role in the chain of marketing. I would again request the hon. Minister that in order to make it profitable, he should build a chain of cold storages so that the poor farmers could keep their perishable materials including fruits, vegetables and flowers into the godowns and also be able to earn more profits.

Sir, substantially, I do not find any argument to oppose this Bill tooth and nail. The CWC can play an important role. It has to be materialised. It has to be implemented. It has to be made for the benefit of the poor farmers in India.

With these few words and suggestions, I conclude.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali):
Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Bill amending the Warehousing Corporations Act of 1962 moved by the hon. Minister.

The Warehousing Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 2001 is facilitating the Central Warehousing Corporations to diversify and widen its activities further to strengthen the service sector, particularly the agriculture sector, where marketing, storage and handling have become weak points over several decades. The Central Warehousing Corporations Act of 1962 has provided leverage for contributing to the State Warehousing Corporations and also to promote the activities of State Warehousing Corporations, and jointly provide the services to the agriculture sector.

Primarily, it was the Agriculture Produce Development and Warehousing Corporations Act of 1956 and later on, it was made as the Central Warehousing Corporations Act of 1962. The original philosophy of that Act and twin objectives, that is, to provide scientific storage for agricultural produce and also to provide market finances. Mostly, whatever finances we have been thinking about in agriculture sector traditionally, they have been only to provide production credit from the financial institutions, and provision of market finances was more or less neglected. At that point of time, instead of making the farmer to go in for distress sales, a mechanism had been worked out and developed by which he could be given an opportunity to store his produce, that too in scientific structures, and then to obtain a loan from financial institutions by pledging the warehousing receipts. These warehouses have come up at three different stages, namely, at the primary level, the secondary level and the tertiary level. It was just to facilitate the export at the ports or even to store the imports from various countries. Normally the primary warehousing sector, which is mostly at the primary marketing centres, more room has to be given only for the producers. Gradually, if you see the statistics — I do

not know whether the latest analysis is available with the Ministry or not — you would find that even at the primary stage, most of the traders have been utilised. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, I am the only speaker from my Party.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have only six minutes to your credit. You have consumed four minutes so far and left with two minutes only. It is only a caution bell.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: If the time for my Party is only six minutes, then I have to simply say that I support this Bill and sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot help it. It is decided by the BAC and I am only enforcing the decision taken at the BAC meeting. That is all.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Anyway, I will take a few minutes and then conclude.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, please.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: This particular aspect has to be taken into consideration, that is, whether the primary producer is utilising this or not.

Secondly, Sir, most of the financial institutions are causing abnormal delays in giving the finances. A tremendous amount of coordination is required between the Central Warehousing Corporation and the Financial Corporation. This type of coordination is to be developed further. Most of the private agencies have also come into the warehousing sector. If we just look at the details that are provided here, there are two types of warehouses which they have been handling; Owned Capacity and the Hired Capacity. In the Owned Capacity godowns the utilisation is 87 per cent and the utilisation part in the Hired Capacity godowns is only 77.28 or 78 per cent. So, there is a tremendous gap between the two. Even in the Hired Capacity Godowns, there is a necessity to improve the utilisation capacity so that the overall handling charges go down.

Sir, there are a number of complaints. For want of time, I will just be concluding. A number of complaints are being seen in the media that the bidders often have been alleging irregularities in the tendering process for appointment of agents for handling and transporting of the produce of the Central Warehousing Corporation. Sir,

this is one major area which needs to be toned up. Better services are to be rendered to the people engaged in the agricultural sector. Unless this service sector is further improved, the very purpose for which this warehousing corporation was started will be defeated. On behalf of my Party, I support all the proposed amendments to this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL (Phulpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with regard to Warehousing Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2001, I would like to tell hon'ble Minister that large quantity of grains stored in FCI's godowns is getting rotten. Everyday, it is reported in newspapers that thousands of tonnes of wheat and rice is getting damaged at railway stations, in godowns of FCI and at several places in open sky. Large quantity of grains procured by FCI is not stored safely. Even Hon'ble Minister has made a statement to this effect. Many scientist are working with the Government of India and FCI but they don't know the technique of proper storage of foodgrains. When these scientists are not able to store the grains safely and they are planning to construct store in foreign countries, I would like to ask them how they would be able to keep the grains safely there. Warehouses, cold storages of State Governments are not functioning properly. Not a single cold storage of Uttar Pradesh has been successful. All are running in loss. Entire stock of potatoes is getting rotten. Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, Chairman of Standing Committee has stated that thousands of tonnes is getting rotten. When you are not able to keep the grains safely, you can imagine, what shall be the condition in States?

These days, farmers in the villages fills the grains in the bags and keeps them in fodder whereby it stays safe. I would like to caution the Minister that when wheat and rice in Government godowns is not safe, how grains in farmers store would stay safe? 54 years have passed since India became independent. I would like to ask what type of facilities have been provided to the farmers by the Government right from independence till today. Even after becoming an M.P. I keep my grains in fodder. The farmers in the villages can be asked as to how they keep the grains safely?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government procures only 25 per cent wheat from the farmers the rest 70-75% they keep safely in fodder. Just now, it has been stated that the Government are contemplating to construct warehousing for wheat, but the Government should send officers to the Gram Panchayats and make arrangement for keeping the grains safely. In this regard, efforts should be made to educate the farmers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today the grains are getting rotten in godowns of FCI. There should be permission to make the officials found responsible for it to bring them to book. I have come to know that less quantity is found in the godowns of FCI. It should be brought to the notice of the House as to who is responsible for pilfering wheat from these godowns and selling outside. Since the godowns are under the control of Central Government hence action should be taken against such people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am greatly thankful to you since you gave me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (Varanasi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have risen to support the Warehousing Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2001.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is fortunate that Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has entrusted this department to an able person. This Government is trying to rectify the mistakes committed during last fifty years.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has introduced this amendment with a view to improve the servicing of agricultural sector. In this age of liberalisation and globalisation, amendment of a Bill enacted in 1962 was necessary. I have went through the Bill in detail and have tried to grasp its essence.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, up till now the exported produce of the farmers were kept in foreign godowns, which are very expensive to hire. The produce, whether of Government's farmers or of traders, are kept in foreign godowns. Under the provisions of this Act, Government will build its own warehouses abroad with a view to store exported goods by our farmers, traders and the Government.

16.00 hrs.

Its hiring would be cheaper and would promote business and exports here. To prevent lack of resources becoming an obstruction to such endeavour, Government have decided to do it through joint ventures, which is provided for in the Bill. It will secure the interests of farmers.

The earlier members rightly said that the storage capacity in our country is so little that we have to keep our grains in the open. Administration should increase the capacity. With a view to alleviate the problem of unemployment, hon. Prime Minister announced on 15th August a food for work scheme. A journalist came to me today and said that Prime Minister has mentioned five kgs of grain. The price of 5 kg grain is Rs. 20—it means that they would get 5 kgs of grain or Rs. 20. I want to tell the House that it is not true. If the price of five kgs. of grains is Rs. 20, then the labourers would be paid additional amount so that the total amount comes to the level of minimum wages in the concerned State. It is not that the workers would get only five kg of grains. Thus administration should stop this wrong message being given to the country.

Hon. Minister should be congratulated the way he tried to streamline the functioning of F.C.I. Advisory Committees were set up and Members of Parliament were made its Chairpersons in each State. Very recently he has doubled the allocation of grain for below poverty line families. But the most important of all his acts is that of setting up advisory Committees in all the States and making Members of Parliament their Chairpersons. The Committees have been given some powers and will be given more. Hon. Minister should also be congratulated for putting in place a mechanism of monitoring for putting in place a mechanism of monitoring the whole distributing and storage system. There are more problems facing us. The storage capacity in the country is lower than required. Farmers should be appreciated for having a bumper crop. At the time of partition, country could not produce enough grains to feed its population of 33 crores. Grains had to be imported and people like me, who is now a Member of Parliament, had to line up in queue to get grains. Now farmers of this country are producing enough to feed one billion population. We have so much grain that our godowns are filled and we have to keep them in the open. I submit to the hon. Minister that proper arrangements should be made for their handling and

storage. Union Government and this Department should be given more powers in the management of godowns under State Governments. The matter of having control over grains supplied by the Union Government to State Government is raised many times through the House. How do you check when a State Government fails to lift its quota or to distribute it? I again thank hon. Minister for regulation of appointment of Chairperson and officials to the corporation and also that of the Members in the advisory Committees, besides efforts to improve the management of godowns. Finally I conclude by once again supporting the Bill.

[English]

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, this Bill concentrates mainly on having branches abroad and also on giving more powers to the State Warehousing Corporations and relinquishing certain powers of the Central Authority. But it worries us very much to see the poor management of the Corporations. When it is poorly managed, how can the State Corporations be given more powers which will be worsening the management situation further more?

I have been told that even the Chairman of the Central Warehousing Corporations is not appointed. The FCI Chairman is its acting Chairman. In the same way, the post of Managing Director is vacant, the post of Director (Personnel) is vacant and the post of Director (Technical) is vacant. Every important post is lying vacant. The third and fourth level officers are appointed as acting officers in those posts. In this situation, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to a letter by Shri J.V. Bendre, Personnel Manager to the Commissioner (Temples)-cum-Deputy Commissioner, Kangra District. This letter is dated 10th July, 2001. I have been told that this is the constituency of the hon. Minister. This letter conveys that Rs. 15 lakhs is given, by way of a cheque, from the funds of the Central Warehousing Corporation for a project relating to the construction of *Sulab Suvidha Kendra* at Chamundi Devi Temple. An amount of Rs. 34.55 lakhs is promised to be paid. If it is true, then why don't they give some money to my constituency which is poor and backward? There are many people suffering there due to blindness. There are handicapped persons and mentally-retarded persons. We can utilise Rs. 34.55 lakhs for the welfare of poor people. How and under what authority has the Central Warehousing Corporation given this money? This is not the only case. I have got a bunch

of complaints. There are about Rs. 14 crore which have been wasted in the State Warehousing Corporations and the Central Warehousing Corporations. A lot of complaints have been made, but no complaint has been looked into and no criminal action has been taken against the Regional Managers. The Regional Manager who has been complained of, who has misappropriated Rs. 14 core, has been promoted to a better place to get more money. If this is the situation, how can the Bill give more powers to the State Warehousing Corporations? It says that the Board of Directors shall consist of five members from the Central Warehousing Corporation and five members from the State Warehousing Corporations. They can be removed even without the permission or without the previous approval of the Central Warehousing Corporation. If such is the case, then how will there be good management? The new wording given here is "under intimation to". You can remove them and intimate it to the Board of the Central Warehousing Corporation.

16.10 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*]

If the Board itself work like this, when there are so many complaints at the Central level, how will the State Warehousing Corporations function? The same kind of amendment will be applicable for the removal of Directors also. Earlier, for acquiring and building godowns, previous approval was needed. But now it has been removed. All that they have to do is just to give an intimation. The words 'with the previous approval' have been replaced by the words 'under intimation to'. This delegation of power or relinquishing of power is too much, especially when the Corporations's management is not effective. I feel that this kind of bringing in amendments on *ad hoc* basis to give more powers to the State Corporations which are already swallowing money, will not serve any purpose. If you give them more powers, then there will not be any warehouses, there will be only buildings. I have got with me many complaints and allegations against the Corporations. I will just read only one portion of them. In one of the allegations, it is said:

"It was detected by them that the original imported stocks worth Rs. 14 crore was replaced by obsolete materials in these pockets/cartons/crates, pertain to about 17 bonds."

[Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan]

When they are replacing the entire material by obsolete materials, how can they run well? Powers are given for the appointment of officers. What is the purpose of having officers, when they are not disciplined and when they are not controlled properly by regulations? Will not the poor people, who are dependent on these warehouses, who think that their materials would be kept safe and that they can use them at proper time suffer? I would request the hon. Minister to have a second thought about it. I would also request the Minister that there should be strict supervision.

I hope the hon. Minister will also promise that funds will be provided to our constituencies, just like an amount of Rs. 34.55 lakhs was provided for the Minister's constituency.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, 4 amendments are proposed by the Government in central warehousing Corporations, 1962. Out of these 4 amendments, two amendments are being brought to strengthen the warehousing and third and fourth amendments are being brought to strengthen the State Government and State warehousing corporation respectively. Amendment one States that now onwards godown will be constructed in other countries also for storage. Shri Shankar Prasad Jaiswal has left the House. He used to come with saffron 'gamchha' on other days but today he was not having it. He was telling that a great job is being implemented and was thankful to the Government.

Only the farmer knows what are the problems of farmers in India? Only he knows the problem of storage of foodgrains or other agricultural products. Traders can not understand his problem. "Only the wearer knows where shoe pinches." Now by enacting the law to make storage arrangements in other countries, they are trying to solve the problem of storage. They are giving logic that the agricultural produces when exported to other countries require proper maintenance. However, farmer is being cheated. The foodgrains produced by farmers are procured by FCI. We all are aware of the condition of FCI. There is no space for the storage of foodgrains in FCI and if it kept outside, it gets rotten. The study of the report reveals that the foodgrains worth Rs. 185 crores is not fit even for animal consumption. Now a new problem of disposing off this rotten foodgrain has emerged

before the Government. Central warehousing Corporation was constituted with the view to provide storage facility for agricultural goods in the areas where FCI godowns do not have adequate capacity to this effect. Later a provision was made to store other goods also alongwith agricultural produces. Government has admitted that it is unable to set up coldstorages, that is why provision would be made to open private cold storages. Loans will be granted to the farmers for this purpose. However, the problem is becoming serious and no solution is being evolved.

Sometimes, a bumper crop of potato is produced in our country. Government states that at least 50% of potato should be stored in cold storages. Otherwise, potato crop can be rotten and farmer will be ruined. About 20% crop of Potato, Onion and other fruits and vegetables get rotten in the absence of storage facility. The present Government is not in favour of farmers rather it favours traders. CWC does not provide adequate storage facility. The Government is of the view that by opening godowns in other countries, CWC will earn more income. They are more considerate on this issue but they are not doing anything to solve the problem of storage. Cold storages are not being constructed and farmers are distressed. When hue and cry was raised over this issue, Government constituted a Committee. With the view to get suggestion on the issue of providing cold storage facility to the farmers for their produce. That Committee recommended in its report that farmers should make their own arrangements to open cold storages for the purpose of which 25% subsidy should be provided to them. In this way they are passing their responsibility on others. Every year farmers face huge losses in the absence of cold storages. Storage facilities have not been provided in the areas where potato, onion, fruits and vegetables are grown.

They are saying that godowns will be constructed in foreign countries and officers of central warehousing corporation will be appointed in State Warehousing Corporations. They also want to confer some more powers to State Government e.g. earlier State Government had to take prior approval from the central warehousing but now only informing the CWC will be sufficient.

Similarly, state warehousing Corporation had to seek prior approval from the central warehousing corporation

but now some relaxation is being given in this regard. State Warehousing Corporations will no longer be required to take prior approval from them. Only informing the CWC in this regard would be sufficient...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wind up now.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I think all are involved in this unwisely act. I feel very sorry when members support and congratulate the Government but nobody pays attention to evolve an solution to the problems of farmers and the country. The proposal was that central warehousing corporation will open coldstorages but why no cold storage has been opened so far. Potato crop is rotting in the absence of cold storages. Government should make arrangements to reopen the old cold storages which are lying closed. CWC is a Government institution and Government should pay attention towards it. Cold storages should be opened in the areas where storage facility is not available. The problem in our country should be solved first and then only we should turn towards other countries. Government is enacting law for the storage of foodgrains in foreign countries without solving problem of storage in our own country. Government is trying to get applause by enacting this law but what will happen to the indigenous agricultural produce and how it will be exported. Farmer produces foodgrains after lots of hard work and investment. However, he does not have the facility to store the foodgrains. It seems irrational to say that the warehouses opened in foreign countries would be more viable for the Government in comparison to those opened in the country. Why the Government is not attentive to the problems of farmer?

I would like to submit to the hon'ble Members that they may support the Government when it is on the verge of fall or is becoming a minority Government as they belong to the ruling party. However, they should also extend their support if the problem of farmers is being raised. They may cast their vote in favour of the Government at the time of voting...(Interruptions) Farmers are in a pitiable condition, they are ruined. It has been stated that the Production of foodgrains has been reduced by one crore 10 lakh tonnes in comparison to that, during the last year. We would like to know the reasons behind it. Due to lack of storage capacity, adequate. Procurement is not taking place. Farmers are not getting minimum support price for their produce due to which they are distressed. If the farmers do not get reasonable support

price for their crop and proper storage facility, they will be ruined and suffer loss. Therefore, I would like to quote:- "ab lon nasani, ab na nasahon". Whatever happened may be overlooked but now Government should evolve a solution for the problems of farmers and provide them proper storage facility. Then only the Government should extend its commercial activities in other countries, we would have no objection to it. But it seems irrational that Government is planning to enact a law for the storage of foodgrains in foreign countries without solving the problems in our own country. It is not in favour of farmers rather it is pro-traders. Therefore, Government should first solve the problem of storage of foodgrains produced by farmers it should also apprise us of the steps being taken in this regard. Only then we will support the Government on the bill otherwise we will oppose it at every level.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I agree with the intentions of this amending Bill. But when we go through the Bill, we will have to bear in mind certain important aspects of the Bill. Our aim is to make the Bill more flexible and also more beneficial to the farmers or, in other words, we are making an attempt to take the benefits of liberalisation to the small farmers. The benefits of liberalisation and globalisation are not reaching the poor people of India. We have the experience of the functioning of the depots of the Food Corporation of India. That is a glaring example. The depots of the Food Corporation of India are located throughout India, foodgrains are stored there in abundance, but what is the real situation in the country today?

16.26 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

Sir, people have gone to the Supreme Court and filed a Public Interest Litigation stating that starvation deaths are taking place in some of the States in India. The Supreme Court heard the matter elaborately and they gave a direction to the Central Government to see that the Public Distribution System is strengthened in those States where starvation deaths have taken place.

So, in a land of plenty, we have the bitter lesson of poverty and starvation. Everyday, when we open our television set, we see that people are dying due to

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

starvation in many States. At the same time, we have plenty of foodgrains in our godowns, but they are being wasted. Even foreign countries are reluctant to take our foodgrains. When our foodgrains were exported to Iraq, they refused to take them because they were substandard in quality. That was our bitter experience. So, when we amend this Bill, we should keep all these things in mind. Now, the territorial jurisdiction of the Warehousing Corporation is being extended through this Bill. Previously, it was having its jurisdiction only within India. Now, it will have international jurisdiction. It can even enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with foreign companies as well and they are also empowered to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with subsidiary companies, which are registered under a State statute or a Central statute. So, ample powers are being given to the Warehousing Corporation to enter into business transaction with anybody. The only condition is that it must be done under intimation to the Central Government. Previously, prior sanction of the Central Government was essential. Now, prior sanction is not required, but only under intimation to the Central Government, the Corporation is empowered to enter into business transaction or a Memorandum of Understanding with even subsidiary companies.

So, what will be the poor farmer's condition now? In India, the most important problem being faced by our farmers is rotting of perishable food articles. When we have mango season, more than 50 per cent of mangoes get rotten due to non-availability of proper storage facilities and similar is the case with oranges and apples. So, if we could prevent this catastrophe, definitely it will result in huge profits to the poor farmers who are producing these perishable items.

Sir, when we think of extending the jurisdiction of the Warehousing Corporation, we should bear in mind that there are lakhs of poor farmers in India, who want direct help from the Warehousing Corporation. I think, the hon. Minister is dealing with both the Food Corporation of India as well as the Warehousing Corporation. We have the bitter experience of the Food Corporation of India before us. I would request the Minister to see that the same mistake is not repeated in the functioning of the Warehousing Corporation. So, I think, as an abundant caution, the Government will take all the preventive steps required to help the farmers in storing the perishable goods that they produce.

That will be a boon to him. So, when you think of extending the jurisdiction of the Warehousing Corporation of India, I request the hon. Minister to always keep in mind the difficulties faced by lakhs of poor farmers throughout the country. With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Bill is very small, however the debate on this Bill has assumed so vast proportions that many a irrelevant things here have also been said. I have never witnessed such kind of debate. This amendment Bill provides for extending the jurisdiction of Warehousing Corporation outside the country. Right now, the CWC also not have the right to open its warehouses outside India. The Government intends to provide us the permission to open warehouses abroad. A very comprehensive debate has taken place over this Bill as regards to FCI. Raghuvanshi was speaking on the subject matter initially. However later on he deviated from it and his speech turned political...(Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government seeks to give CWC the permission to open warehouses abroad through this Bill. In this regard I want to say that under economic liberalisation policy CWC has lost its monopoly in regard to warehousing. The profit earned by CWC was approximately to the tune of Rs. 84 crore in 1996-97 which was reduced to Rs. 41.50 crore in 1998-99. It has increased marginally to 58 crores in 2000-2001. CWC has been facing tremendous competition from other undertakings and private organizations. When CWC has been finding it difficult to compete in its own country, will it be able to compete abroad is very apt query. Hence I don't want to discuss it further.

Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the places which have been identified abroad wherein CWC warehouses would be profitable. I would further like to know whether this is the right time for the CWC to open its warehouses at international level keeping in view the irregularities which have taken place in it at higher level. Irregularities had taken place before 1996-97 also. The investigation by C.B.I. is still going on against the Managing Director of CWC. The investigation into various financial irregularities is still going on. There are several such incidents. Hence I leave it here only.

I would only like to submit that the permission may be given to CWC by passing this Bill. However I am apprehensive that CWC might turn into a loss incurring corporation after having being permitted to open its warehouses when this Bill is passed. It is due to this apprehension that I have spoken on this Bill. With these words I conclude.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on my own behalf and on behalf of my party 'Shiva Sena' I rise to support, the warehousing Corporation (Amendment Bill) brought by hon. Minister Shri Shanta Kumar. This is a small Bill which seeks to extend the jurisdiction of CWC outside India *i.e.* obtain the permission to open the warehouses outside the country. This is a matter of pride for us that the Government of India extends its trade jurisdiction. However, it is to be kept in mind that this business may not turn loss incurring.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that before thinking for opening warehouses abroad, one must pay attention towards the storage conditions in the country. Though it is not related to subject, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that as I hail from a small region, I would like to suggest that there should be atleast one warehouse at district level and this provision should be the part of the policy.

With this appeal to set up at least one warehouse at district level to protect the agriculture produce like vegetables, fruits, wheat, rice etc. from the rain and other natural calamities, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Sir, while supporting the Bill, I hereby place a few suggestions, observations and a few cautions to the hon. Minister.

I still remember that the Chairman of Standing Committee on Food, Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, held a Press Conference after submitting the report stating that the production in the country was huge. But for lack of infrastructure, we recommended that these food products thrown into the ocean. In a country like India where poor people are fighting for their survival, and deaths are occurring due to starvation, we have to do

this. But still we have become worried, when a report is submitted, on the floor of the Parliament that due to lack of infrastructural set up, due to lack of required number of cold storages, due to lack of infrastructure for warehouses, we have to face such types of problems.

There was also a proposal from the Government of Iraq to sell oil to us in exchange of foodgrains. This is in an opportunity when we can possibly inquire from the Government of India or from the hon. Minister whether such types of proposals, which are very much at the negotiating stage, between the two countries are being considered or not.

Sir, I remember that a few years back, in the State of West Bengal, large quantities of potatoes were produced but the farmers had to make distress sale and they had to sell potatoes at the rate of one rupee per kilogram because there was infrastructure and enough number of cold storages were not available. A positive decision is to be adopted by the Government of India and it should announce cold storage as a positive industry. Otherwise, the produce which are being produced by the farmers would be totally destroyed due to lack of infrastructure and for not having succeeded to keep them at the proper shed.

Clause 2(a) of the Bill says: "In clause (a), after the words "in India", the words "or abroad" shall be inserted." We feel that by this we are opening the total market to the outsiders. Where we are lacking in infrastructure, where we are lacking in proper cold storage, where the functioning of the Food Corporation of India is not above question—as Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav has said and I fully share his sentiments and anxieties—is to be positively and categorically clarified.

We always look into it positively that the peasants or the poor farmers are not being compelled to proceed for distress sale of their produce and see how we can protect their produce. Even we have seen in the newspapers that for want of such facilities, they have committed suicide also.

Though this is a very small Bill in nature, which has been introduced here, its area of discussion can take a huge shape. So, Sir, I believe that the Government should be cautious enough and throw a light as to how the

[Shri Sudhīp Bandyopadhyay]

interest of the farmers and also the common peasants are protected, and insertion of the words "or abroad" after the words "in India" in clause 2(a) would not hamper the interests of the country anymore. Otherwise, I support this Bill.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I extend my heartiest thanks to all the Members who participated in the discussion. We do not and can not function anywhere outside India. The world is changing very fast and has shrunk a lot to become a global village. All kinds of restrictions have been removed and various multinational companies have been coming to India. In such a scenario, we should also try to extend our limits. It is the need of the hour that our undertakings and companies also reach the international arena and start competing other organisations? The coming age in the age of open competition and it has no place for the incapable and inefficient organisations. Ministry of Commerce has directed the Warehousing Corporation to open warehouses in Panama and Brazil. Nepal had invited for a global bid. We also participated and have been shortlisted. Due scope abroad is increasing. This Amendment Bill has been brought with a view to extend the jurisdiction of the Corporation outside the country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, second thing is that the corporation can not enter into a joint venture. Now every thing is changing. The hon. Members might be aware that the Government of India has formulated a National Storage Policy, through which private and public sector will be concerned. The Government wants to create a storage capacity of 30 lakh tonnes of foodgrains. Hence the Corporation is being given the permission to make efforts to create this capacity in joint venture.

Thirdly, the 50 percent funds for the Warehousing Corporation in each State is provided by the Centre. Similarly half of its Members are also nominated by the Centre. Central Warehousing Corporation don't have the right to nominate its own Members. However, this restriction is being removed through this amendment. When the CWC contributes 50 percent of the funds it should also have right to nominate the Members.

Finally, under the existing provisions, under Section 22 and 24 it is obligatory for the CWC's in various States

to seek the prior permission of the Central Government to appoint its Chairman and the Managing Director. However, this restriction is being removed through this amendment. They will be requested to give information only for the sake of decentralisation.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Radhakrishnanji has raised this matter that the Supreme Court has directed the union Government to make arrangement for opening up ration shops in the States. I would like to apprise the House that no such directives have been given to the Government of India.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was mentioned here that the foodgrains is being dumped into the sea. I would like to apprise the House that presently we have a capacity to store 512 lakh tonnes foodgrains while we have stored foodgrains upto 616 lakh tonnes. It is wrong to say that the entire stock of foodgrains is getting rotten. Rotten foodgrain or which is 2-3 years old is separated from the better stock. As far the food category foodgrain is concerned, we have decided to distribute free of cost in the drought affected areas. A lot of quantity has already been lifted and rest is in the process of being lifted.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in response to the statement that it has proven less profitable, I would like to say that initially the benefit was Rs. 84 crores, which decreased gradually. However the reason for it was that owing to the new policy of liberalisation and globalisation, its monopoly was lost due to the entry of private sector in the field. However the corporation has once again started learning profits and it is expected to earn a profit to the tune of Rs. 73 crore during this year. I want to say that it is a mini ration corporation and is doing excellent work. Its capacity utilisation is approximately 90 percent.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are the four points we wish to pursue and would like to submit the House to ensure the passage of these amendments.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Warehousing Corporations Act, 1962, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 6 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 6 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR: Sir, I beg to move.

"That the Bill be passed."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

16.51 hrs.

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

Re: question of Reference of Indian Council of world affairs bill to Standing Committee

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, Shri Shivraj V. Patil had raised three points while rising on a point of order when the Indian Council of World Affairs Bill, 2001 was taken up for consideration by the House.

1. He had said that the Ordinance-making power was undemocratic. While I agree that the Government should resort to the Ordinance-making power as sparingly as possible, situations cannot be ruled out where the Government may need to promulgate Ordinances.
2. Shri Patil had said, "Can a Bill, which has been withdrawn, be re-introduced?" The withdrawal was

necessitated in the present case. There have been three Ordinances on the subject. The first Ordinance-replacing Bill, as we are all aware, was passed in the Lok Sabha but could not be passed in the Rajya Sabha. Consequently, the first Ordinance lapsed. In order to give continuing effect to the provisions of the first Ordinance, the second and the third Ordinances were promulgated. When the Bill to replace the third Ordinance was introduced, the introduction of the Bill necessitated the withdrawal of the earlier Bill with the same title to avoid confusion.

3. He said that under rule 331E(1) (b), almost all Bills were to be referred by the Presiding Officer to the Standing Committees. I agree that almost all Bills need to be referred to the Standing Committees after introduction. There are however two exceptions. First, Bills of technical nature, to which Shri Patil himself made a reference, need not be referred to the Standing Committees. Secondly, Bills seeking to replace Ordinances are not normally referred to the Departmentally-Related Standing Committees since these Bills have to be enacted before the expiration of six weeks from the re-assembling of Parliament in terms of article 123 of the Constitution.

As the present Bill before the House is almost similar to a Bill already passed by this House and since this Bill needs to be enacted by 3rd September, 2001, I am not inclined to refer it to the Standing Committee.

[English]

16.53 hrs.

REPEALING AND AMENDING BILL

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up item No. 13 — 'Repealing and Amending Bill, 2001'.

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to repeal certain enactments and to amend certain other enactments, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

[Shri Arun Jaitley]

I also beg to move that the Bill be passed.

This is a legislation seeking to repeal 357 different legislations that have been occupying the Statute Books. The exercise is repeatedly done in order to find out which are the obsolete and redundant statutes that are still on the Statute Books though they still may not be required for several circumstances on the Statute Books. This compilation of 357 Bills comprises of two different kinds of legislations. The first is a large number of amendment laws. Once an amendment law is passed seeking to amend a parent legislation, the amendment gets incorporated and becomes a part of the parent legislation. Once it is a part of the parent legislation, the amendment law itself is not required on the Statute Book. Section 6A of the General Clauses Act requires that 'if repeal does not, in any way, affect the parent legislation...' This is an exercise the Government regularly conducts in order to find out that these legislations are no longer required on the statute books.

The second is a category of a number of legislations which had a life which was limited by virtue of the legislation itself. The legislation was for a limited period of time. That period of time is over. The legislation has lapsed. It no longer has the force of law. But unless it is specifically repealed it does not come out of the statute book itself. There are 357 laws to this effect.

We also conduct an exercise from time to time with regard to certain errors on account of typographical errors or other reasons which may have come as part of certain legislations. There are two different laws which are contained in the second Schedule—one relates to the Indian Succession Act and the other relates to the Code of Criminal Procedure. Certain errors have crept in those Schedules and during the implementation of those legislations it so transpired that these errors were noticed and are being sought to be corrected by amending the Second Schedule.

Sir, the Departmentally related Standing Committee has already gone into this, on each of the legislations which are to be either repealed or amended and has supported the proposal for repeal or amendment of these legislations.

I propose to this hon. House that this Bill as placed before the hon. House be passed.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to repeal certain enactments and to amend certain other enactments, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, please bear with me for some time. The Bill seeks, at one stroke, to repeal — wholly or partly — as many as 367 different legislative enactments. The hon. Minister has enlightened us and given us the reasons for the repeal saying that these are obsolete Acts. Now, the House will remember that there was a Commission on Review of Administrative Laws, popularly known as Jain Commission. This Commission recommended repeal of 315 amending Acts. None of the Acts included in the present Bill has been recommended by this Review of Administrative Laws Commission or the Jain Commission.

On the one hand we have the Jain Commission's report which does not include or does not tell us that these 367 laws need to be repealed, and on the other hand the Government has come forward with a Bill to amend 367 Acts. Not a single Act here has been recommended for repeal by the Jain Commission. Therefore, one is faced with this particular situation. I think this House should be enlightened about this situation as to why the Jain Commission did not consider it necessary to include any of these Acts in its report for repeal.

I may also mention that there are laws that are struck down by the courts but are not included in the Bill. There are so many laws struck down by the courts. Now, they are redundant. They cannot be implemented. The Standing Committee, on this Bill, in its report has pointed out this particular fact. One would like to know as to why the laws that have been struck down by the courts are not in this particular Bill for the purpose of repeal. One would also like to be enlightened as to how many such laws are there which are struck down by the courts and still not repealed and why the present Bill does not include them.

17.00 hrs.

Sir, I have a suggestion to make. The hon. Minister has pointed out that this is a routine exercise, this Bill is brought pursuant to a routine exercise to scavenge, to cleanse the Statute Book of obsolete laws. For example, there are amending Acts which are already incorporated in the parent Acts and then, they need to be wholly repealed. Secondly, there are Acts which are of temporary

nature. They may get renewed, but then finally, they lapse. After their lapse, they have to be removed. Thirdly, there are Acts for particular purpose only and with the fulfilment of that particular purpose, the Act outlives its purpose. Now, scavenging has to be done.

I make the suggestion to the Government to have a enactment which may take care of such situations by itself, to have an enactment which may provide that an amending Act which gets incorporated in the parent Act, then gets automatically repealed. This House need not consider, need not go through the entire exercise of repealing such amending Acts which get incorporated in the parent Acts, lose their separate identity and are not required forthwith. A permanent measure, a permanent Bill can be passed and we can have a permanent enactment to say that under at least these three categories which I have a permanent enactment to say that under at least these three categories which I have mentioned, the scavenging is done pursuant to the permanent measure. Sir, I therefore suggest that some permanent legislation may be taken up to take care of legislative scavenging, without coming to the House and without this elaborate procedure.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, various questions are involved. You have just given a ruling with respect to an earlier Bill on points of order raised by hon. Member Shri Shivraj Patil, but here, in this case also, there are so many questions that come up, though they may not be raised in the form of a point of order. However, every student of parliamentary democracy must apply his mind to this particular situation. The situation has been highlighted by the Standing Committee in its Report on the Bill. The question is whether such a repealing Bill needs or does not need Cabinet's approval. The Legislative Department is of the opinion that it does not need Cabinet's approval. Perhaps what is called the Department of Legal affairs seems to think that it does require the sanction of the Cabinet. The Standing Committee has highlighted this particular point because the Department of Legal Affairs, to whom the Legislative Department had sent this Bill for comments, had advised that they concur in the draft note for the Cabinet. Sir, the Legislative Department says that the Cabinet's nod is not wanted; the Department of Legal Affairs says that the Cabinet's nod is wanted for this particular Bill.

The Standing Committee says that it was not clear on the subject. Then, where are we? How do we proceed? On the Cabinet's approval, there seems to be a lot of differences.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, I have hardly commenced and there are so many other important points with respect to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: Only 30 minutes have been allocated for this Bill.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I am sorry to say that the hon. Minister while piloting the Bill has definitely omitted to reply to any of the points raised by the Standing Committee in its Report. In bold letters, the Standing Committee has referred to various important points and has stressed that when the hon. Minister pilots the Bill, the matter must be clarified and, yet, no clarification seems to have come. There is no clear thinking on the part of the Government and one would like that this situation should get resolved.

Sir, the Standing Committee in its Seventy-sixth Report on the Bill raised certain queries that there were Bills which were never implemented. Now, they are being repealed. Why were they not implemented was the question asked. The Legislative Department simply shrugged or washed their hands off by saying that it was for the respective Ministry to explain and not the Legislative Department. Then the Standing Committee has pointed out that that was not proper. The Standing Committee was not convinced. The Standing Committee wants the Minister to take care of this point while piloting the Bill, and there has been no reference whatsoever to these aspects. One wonders whether the Government ever takes note of the strong sentiments and the observations expressed by the Standing Committees. The Standing Committee pointed out that the provisions, which were never implemented, are now being sought to be repealed and the matter must be explained by the Minister while piloting the Bill rather than washing his hands off by saying that the matter goes to the Ministry concerned.

I may refer to item No. 42 in the First Schedule and that is with respect to 'Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991'. It repeals not the whole Act, but section 8. We all know that because of this Act, the religious character of a place of worship existing on 15th August, 1947 is protected and shall continue to be so. Then, section 6(1) and (2) provide that, "Whoever commits this offence or attempts to commit this offence or moves in the direction of committing this offence is punishable."

[Shri G.M. Banatwalla]

Section 8 which is being repealed today because it is incorporated in the parent Act says that, "A person who is convicted of this offence is disqualified even for being elected to the Assembly or to the Parliament." It is such an important thing, but we find that in all these years no action whatsoever has ever been taken on the implementation of the Bill. There are several instances of an attempt to convert one religious place into a religious place of another denomination. I will not exploit this occasion to give you all those things.

Sir, I would like to know as to what is being done in order to see that such provisions are duly implemented and those who try to commit this offence or move in the direction of committing this offence are convicted. It is because they are not prosecuted, it is because they are not convicted, section 8 that is being repealed now, because it has already been incorporated in the Act, does not come into operation at all — and the persons who, day in and day out flout the provisions of the law continue without any punishment. So, this is an important point to which the Government must not tell us as the Standing Committee has been told that the responsibility for the repeal, the responsibility for clarification lies with the Home Ministry.

Sir, in deference to your restlessness, I would make my last point.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Banatwalla, you have taken 16 minutes.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, I am not only raising substantial points but also making concrete suggestions.

Sir, other pieces of amending Acts that are being repealed today concern the infamous TADA. So many TADA amending Acts are being repealed. The Government may repeal them. I am not taking objection to that. All I would like to say is that in spite of the fact that the parent TADA got lapsed in May, 1995 but a large number of legal proceedings under the Act are still continuing. Now, why was this principal Act allowed to be lapsed? It was allowed to be lapsed because there was a large-scale misuse and abuse of the Act resulting into limitless sufferings of a large number of people. It is because of the abuse of the Act that the Act was sought to be repealed. Therefore, with the repeal of the Act, these legal proceedings ought to have gone. I can understand the application of sub-Section 4 of section 1.

It is because of this, the legal proceedings are continuing. But there is a need for the Government to come forward with a Bill in order to say that with the expiry of the Act, the legal proceedings under the Act shall also collapse because there have been allegations of misuse and abuse of the Act. If anyone is considered guilty, then he could be tried under the ordinary law of land. The Government can proceed against them under the ordinary law of land rather than holding people under this undemocratic, infamous and atrocious Act.

Sir, I hope, that these matters would receive consideration of the Government. The legal proceedings under the TADA have been continuing for so many years and there seems to be no end to this. Therefore, I would like to submit that let these legal proceedings under the TADA also come to an end. If anyone is considered guilty, then he can be proceeded against under the ordinary laws of the land.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make it clear that the hon. Minister of Law has tried to keep the House in dark in regard to the legislation he has introduced in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja): What do you say. You have begun with such words...*(Interruptions)* He is using such language despite the presence of hon. Mr. Chairman...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The mention which has been made by hon. Member Banatwalla. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (Varanasi): He can even teach to the Presiding Officers...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: It means that beginning should be made by pronouncing alphabets...*(Interruptions)* As has been mentioned by hon. Member Banatwallaji that the Jaini Commission was constituted in 1998. The Commission was of the view that there are 25,000 laws in the country and 700-800 laws are exclusive to each State and the centre has 2500 laws of which 1324 laws need to be repealed. Mr. Speaker, Sir, recently two railway laws were repealed and another law 'sugarcane cess repeal legislation has

been repealed separately. Similarly two laws belonging to one department and another law of some other department has also been repealed. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to which departments these 397 laws are related. He is at once asking for the passage of the legislation seeking the repeal of several laws. On one hand he is asking for repealing the laws, on the other he has brought forward the amendment draft for three to four laws. Presently, it requires the presence of the persons concerned with that Department, the law related to which is proposed to be amended. I would urge upon the hon. Minister to clear this confusion as to why he has brought legislation seeking to repeal as well as amend the existing laws at one go. Not one but three laws have been repealed. One law related to Food and the other time of railway have been brought separately. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to why this should be repealed. He is saying in regard to the other 397 laws that there should be repealed at one go. I would explain as to why I have said that the hon. Minister is deceiving the House. *...(Interruptions)* There is a mention of a law essential Commodity special Provision Act related to black marketing at page No. 6. I would like to know as to why this law is being repealed? *...(Interruptions)* I will apprise the house about all the laws. There are 397 laws belonging to several departments. These laws were brought to the House for their repeal and a debate in the House took place. Similarly there is Indian Succession Act, 1985 and the penal code at page No. 2 which has been brought for amendment. An amendment is also proposed in Section 377. However both the repeal and the amendment has been sought with the same legislation. This include several of those laws also which have not been recommended to be repealed even by the commission. Has the commission recommended for the repeal of all these laws which you have brought for repealing. You have repealed the 87 provision of the Essential Commodities Act related to the black marketing and profiteering, however no mention of its pros and cons has been made. You are suggesting for the repeal of all the laws singlehandedly. You must make it clear before the a House else it will prove to be very dangerous. You must also make it clear as to how many among these 1324 laws needs to be repealed. You appear in the House with brief. You had appeared on behalf of the Finance Minister on that day without full details, you have appeared with your case today. You appear in the House only with brief. We want the Law Minister should clarify the situation.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Mr. Speaker, Sir, two-three questions have been raised in the course of the debate by the hon. Members. One of the issues is that the Government had appointed a Committee headed by Shri P.C. Jain which had recommended the repeal of about 1,324 laws, to be precise. That exercise is in relation to substantive laws which have become redundant or obsolete. That is a process that the Government is undertaking. A large number of those legislations have been repealed and some are in the process of being repealed. Comments of the Administrative Department and in certain cases, comments of the State Governments in regard to those laws are taken. After an opinion is formed by the Government that these laws have actually become redundant, one by one, each of those laws is being brought before this hon. House.

This exercise is completely independent. The hon. Members who spoke are right that from the exercise which was undertaken by the P.C. Jain Committee, there is an exercise which the Legislative Department does periodically. This exercise has taken place 11 times in the past; the last being in 1988 where the Legislative Department has undertaken a review of all laws, and whatever are redundant on account of statutory provisions, are sought to be repealed. And, if during that course, some errors have crept in to some laws which are intended to be continued on account of procedural reasons, then those minor errors are sought to be corrected.

In fact, the first repeal and amending Act, which is a regular feature was brought before the then Dominion Legislature in 1949, and then later during 1950, 1952, 1953, 1957, 1960, 1974, 1978 and 1988. The precedent and practice which have been followed on each case have also been followed in this case. This is brought by the Legislative Department and on each of these cases, a repealing and amendment Act wherein a process of scavenges takes place and a process of correction of any minor lapse which has taken place in the process, also takes place.

That is why this is an exercise which is completely independent. The last such exercise was done in 1988 and for the last 13 years, this exercise has not been undertaken.

[Shri Arun Jaitley]

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh asked: "Why are you bringing these under one head?" This has been the consistent practice on all occasions that this repeal takes place on account of operations of the provisions of Section 6A of the General Clauses Act. The Essential Commodities Act is not being repealed.

[Translation]

That Act is not being repealed, it will continue to exist against blackmarketing. The amendment as the Act has become a part of the old Act and the Amendment Act is a duplication and has been continuing in law books. There is no need for that.

[English]

The principle Act is incorporated in it. It is a part of the principle Act. It remains there. It is only the amending Act which has now become redundant because of Section 6A. It is these sets of legislations which are sought to be repealed.

As far as the second question as to what do we do about Acts which are struck down by courts is concerned, well, that is an independent exercise, independent of this repealing and amendment Act which goes on. The Legislature then steps in, either it accepts the verdict of the court; the struck down legislation goes out of the Statute Book or if an alternative is proposed, then the alternative in that event is accepted.

As far as the detail of enforcement of these 357 laws is concerned, I have a complete list with me along with the reasons. If any hon. Member wants to share this list — it was given to the Standing Committee also — it is available with me even today.

Now, with regard to certain specific provisions, two illustrations were given here. Take, Section 8 of the Places of Worship Act, 1991. It is only the amending Act which is sought to be repealed. The principle Section 8 remains there. As long as section 8 is a part of the principle Act, it is for the law enforcement agencies who are to enforce that Act.

Sir, there was also a point made with regard to the TADA that TADA was a time-bound legislation which lapsed on account of expiry of that time but it continues in the Statute Book. We are only taking it off the Statute Book in this particular case. On the question of what will

happen to the prosecutions filed under TADA, they are going to be governed by the provisions of TADA, and also the provisions of the General Clauses Act.

It provides that all acts undertaken or all cases which are brought in under a particular legislation, prior to the date of lapse of the Act, will continue. They do not get lapsed by virtue of the Act being repealed. That is a separate legislation, which has nothing to do with this particular legislation.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, the other day the hon. Home Minister was told by the hon. Members of his own Party that during the curfew situation, had there been any Act like TADA in its hand, it could have dealt with the situation properly. Now, you are conceding that there is no relevance of this Act any more and you can handle it properly!

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: No, Sir. I am not conceding that. I am not conceding that for a moment and he has no reason to understand it that way. All that I am saying is that TADA was an Act which was brought in for a period of time, and since that period lapsed, for technical reasons it has to go out of the Statute Book. Whether it is required again or some other law is required again, it is independent of the scope of the discussion that we have today, completely.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: It is not so simple because it was allowed to be lapsed because of widespread complaints of large-scale misuse of the Act. That is the point that he must address and he should be realistic.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: We must address ourselves when the debate of any law of that kind comes up. Today we are only on a limited question that the Act having lapsed, should it occupy the Statute Book or should it be scavenged out of the Statute Book. This is a scavenging exercise, which is done as I rightly pointed out; and I propose to the august House that the Bill, as moved, be approved by the august House.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to repeal certain enactments and to amend certain other enactments, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.

The First Schedule was added to the Bill.

The Second Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill be passed."

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Thank you, Sir. I just want to make only two points. One point is that a large number of Bills are tried to be repealed or tried to be removed from the Statute Book. If we are considering 357 Bills to be removed from the Statute Book, it is a very big number. The hon. Minister has rightly said that they are of a technical nature and they need not be gone into in detail; we all accept that point. But if the Government is coming before this House to remove these Bills from the Statute Book, it should not come before the House in this manner. This kind of omnibus legislation does not help. This is the first point that I wanted to make.

Moreover, probably the Government was in a hurry to see that his Bill is passed within 30-35 minutes. We are dealing with 357 amendments at least, if not the entire Bill. Now in 35 minutes, 357 Bills are to be considered by the House. When we make a law, we create an obligation and we create rights and duties. Sometimes, the rights are given to the individuals; if such Bills are removed from the Statute book, those rights are nullified. Sometimes duties are imposed on the Government and if one such Bill goes out of the Statute book, the Government is not duty-bound. So, this kind of legislation should not be considered in 30-35 minutes' time.

These are the only two submissions that I wanted to make.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: I quite appreciate the suggestion that Shri Shivraj Patil has made. May I just clarify one thing? Each legislation is separately introduced in the House; each deals with a specific subject.

The repeal of each legislation, which deals with a specific subject, is also being separately brought into the House. This hon. House also has a precedent where the repeal is on account of a technical requirement of law. We are not taking away the right created by law. That we do in the kind of separate repeal legislation we are passing. These are those laws which have already, by virtue of amendment, become part of a parent legislation. The amending legislation is unnecessarily occupying the statute book. Therefore, the technical requirement of law itself requires that this having become a part of the principal Act, the amending Act itself goes. That is the reason that I have cited, that there are eleven precedents in this House where this has been collectively brought into the House in this manner. I shall, however, keep your suggestions in mind as far as the future events are concerned.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

17.31 hrs.

HALF AN HOUR DISCUSSION

Dereservation in the Small Scale Sector

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA (Chandrapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you on behalf of the workers in small scale industries for giving me an opportunity to speak on such an important subject during Zero Hour. The 40 per cent of the total production in the country is contributed by small scale sector industries. All this production is of high quality. SSI units have achieved the target of 34 to 35 per cent exports. This sector provides employment to 1.75 crores people in the country.

17.32 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

Small scale industry is an important sector. Some industries in small scale sector were reserved under the provisions of WTO regime in the name of globalisation and liberalisation, but now it is being dereserved. Thousands of industrial units under Industrial Development Corporation have been closing down in various States of the country over the years resulting in the loss of employment opportunities to the workers. Hon. Minister replied to my question on 8th of August. He told during his reply that 14 out of 15 units have been dereserved. He also gave clarification in this matter. Though due to time constraint, the hon. Minister could not reply in detail, we thanked him for replying. Today also I would like to thank her. Hon. Minister of Finance, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Minister of Textiles and the Minister of small scale industries were the Members of the Committee of the group of Ministers constituted under the Chairmanship of hon. Minister of Home Affairs, Shri L.K. Advani. During the discussion, the hon. Madam Minister had opposed the proposal of dereservation of 14 industries. Lakhs of workers in the country have been rendered jobless due to closure of thousands of industries in various States. This decision is against national interest. However the collective opinion of four other Minister prevailed upon the viewpoint of madam Minister who was against the dereservation of these industries. Consequently the 14 industries were dereserved which include garment, textile and leather industries. The multinational companies want to exercise their control over these industries and have hatched such a big conspiracy in this country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that if we do not protect and control the small scale industries well in time, these industries will vanish in future. I hail from Maharashtra where lakhs of labourers are working in these industries. These industries produce export oriented material on a large scale. Therefore, Central Government should take hard decision in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in 1991 when Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the leader of opposition and used to sit in opposition benches, a delegation under his leadership met the then Minister of Finance alongwith Shri Advani and an official of SSI's association. At that time Shri Vajpayee ji had stated him in clear terms. Manmohan

Singh that due to economic policy of the Government, lakhs of units in the country are not in a position to compete and are being closed down. However, when he became the Prime Minister, he backed out from his words. Today, all the small scale industries of the country which come under reserve category and being de-reserved through the group of ministers a sub-committee of the cabinet.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, all the Khadi industries working under KVIC have national importance because 'khadi' has been the national issue at the time of our struggle for independence. A foreign company was appointed as consultant to revive the Khadi industries. Through you, I would like to know from the Minister whether that Committee has submitted its report, if so, the amount proposed to be given by the Central Government to revive the Khadi industries alongwith the number of people for whom employment opportunities will be generated through it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Government has decided to de-reserve 642 items under Open General Licence Scheme. Today, any person can import the goods freely. Under O.G.L., manufacturing goods are being imported from China, Taiwan, Philipines etc. On a large scale and are being sold at a cheaper rates. It is affecting our small scale units. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister about the steps being taken by the Government to save the SSIs and to keep a check on the illegal imports from China, Taiwan and other countries through Nepal border or to enhance the duty on the commodities being imported under O.G.L. For the survival of small scale industries in the country, we have to keep in mind that how small scale entrepreneurs who get manufacturing loan from the banks and other financial institutions at 16-18% of interest rate would be able to compete with the MNCs which are getting it at an interest rate of 5-6%. What facilities are being proposed for them? Whether the Government propose to hike the limit of Rs. 25 lakh fixed for upgradation or modernisation?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Government had constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri S.P. Gupta. Whether that Committee has submitted its report? If so, the recommendation of the Committee to make small scale industries viable. Similarly SSIs association placed their views before the Government. A request was made to Hon'ble Prime Minister also that more facilities should be provided to small scale industries and an appropriate

atmosphere for the market should be created before de-reserving these industries so that these industries could compete with MNCs. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the number of industries which are kept reserved so far.

Hon'ble Finance Minister has mentioned in his speech that 100% dereservation of the commodities of small scale industries is going to be implemented in future. However, it will adversely affect our small scale industries. The Government should help them if it really intends to save them.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, now I would like to State about ancillization. Mr. Minister, whether the Central Government has formulated any scheme to protect and promote the ancillary units of big industries? Whether any law is being enacted under which State industries would be bound to purchase the equipments from the ancillary units existing in that State only? I hope that all the hon'ble Member whether belonging to any party or group would be unanimous to save the small scale industries of our country which has strengthened during the last 50 years. I hope that the hon'ble Minister will take some concrete decision in this regard and promote the small scale industries.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the subject under discussion is very serious. I would like to ask only one question regarding the protection of small scale industries. I would like to know whether the Government has formulated any policy as per which commodities manufactured in small scale industries would not be permitted to be manufactured in big industries and these commodities should be kept separate from the big industries. Today small scale industries need protection.

The second part of my question is that the loans granted to Small Scale Industries are not released in time which affect them to compete with MNCs. Therefore, timely payment of loans and other facilities should be granted to these industries and a basic structure should be formulated so that they could stand in competition with the MNCs. Some States have formulate such a plan? Otherwise, various multinational companies have entered in competition and have started manufacturing small commodities like niddle, soap and food items due to which our Small Scale Industries are on the verge of closure or have been closed because they are unable to compete

with them. In such circumstances, whether the Government propose to formulate an integrated plan for the protection of these industries so that these industries which play an important role in the economic progress of our country could continue to do so.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra): The issue of protection of small scale industries has been brought in the House under half and hour discussion. Sir, one phase of the discussion reveals that small scale industries in the country are becoming sick day by day. However, if we see the figures, it seems it, is contradictory. The figures are official and have been collected on the basis of the survey. Since 1990 to 1999, the progress made by small scale industries is commendable and the way progress is taking place in this sector. Small scale industries are playing a pivotal role in the productivity of the country. Attention of the Government should be drawn towards the shortcoming of this sector but at the same time this sector should not be considered as a sick sector. Therefore, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister that under the prevailing prices, the total output is 527 thousand crores which means that the productivity of small scale industries amount to Rs. 527 thousand crore.

In our country 49 thousand crore rupees are spent on their exports. This figure itself shows the importance being given to these small industries in big countries like India. I do not wish to discuss about the comparative growth rate, but this can be a subject of analysis that the N.P.A. in entire India and the Industrial Sector..(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please ask the question.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: I am telling you about the background.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please see the rule, don't tell the background.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: I am reacting to the question after describing the background only. I have two-three questions and it would be enough if reply of even one part is given.

Whether the hon. Minister would tell that whether many of the concerned Ministries are associated with these industries? Whether the S.S.I. is solely responsible

[Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy]

to strengthen it or to increase the credit facilities for it? Whether only the hon. Minister's department is responsible for this or these small scale industries are dependent upon the other various departments in the country, whether they play any role in this regard? Whether we have any provisions for such banks or financial institutions which genuinely wish to come forward to encourage such small scale industries so that we may also be able to understand their credit rating *vis-a-vis* their functioning? I also wish to have clarification regarding the fact that whether there is any need and if there is any need then after the WTO, whereas competition is increasing day by day, at every level, then what steps do the Government propose to take to encourage small producers, or small industrialists so as to maintain and strengthen the spirit of competition.

[English]

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Vishakhapatnam): Sir, I would like to ask a pointed question to the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please ask one question only on account of special permission given to you, though the normal rules do not permit it.

[English]

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: The situation will aggravate with dereservation of small scale industries because carpets and toys are manufactured as a cottage industry and home industry in certain places like Eluru and Etikoppata of Andhra Pradesh. It is so everywhere in the country. Employment situation will get aggravated. As it is, we are facing unemployment problem. How will the hon. Minister ensure employment with this dereservation of small scale industries?

[Translation]

SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE (Chimur): Whether the Government would give short term loan on low rate of interest to the small industries.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): Sir, I think, basically all the questions have already been taken care of by the hon. Member, Shri Puglia because in his opening remarks, he has covered every single piece of ground which he wanted to, as far as small scale industry is concerned.

I am actually very pleased that a discussion of this nature is taking place because it is concerning a very important sector. Everyone is concerned with this across the board. The issue that has sparked this off is actually that of dereservation. But before I touch upon that point, I would just want to make one point. There is misinformation that is doing the round that the small scale industry is in extremely bad situation and in its last throes, and that it would not last long. I think this is a very dismal way of looking at things because if you look at the figures referred to by Shri Rudy, the hon. Member, it is very clear that the sector is very vibrant and reinventive. When everytime it finds itself in a particular kind of a situation, it reinvents itself due to its size and is able to continue with whatever business it needs today.

I would like to say here that when this issue of dereservation started taking place, we looked at the figures of 1997 and those of the last year. The number of items were 15, and 14 had been dereserved. Over a period of time, we have 799 such items which still remain reserved today.

We have commissioned an independent study to look at the impact of the dereservation of those 15 items that happened in 1997. We found that there was no negative impact of dereservation of those particular items. I would just like to look at the brighter side of the things. We do not do any of these things without actually taking into consideration the views of the stake holders. And it is only after the discussion with the stake holders, we went ahead with the dereservation of those items.

Hon. Member, Shri Puglia, asked not only about dereservation of these 14 items but also spoke about imports from China and the effect that imports from China has had upon this particular sector. I would like to say that we have opened up the economy as a result of

various agreements that have come under the aegis of WTO. Therefore, there is going to be some kind of an impact. This is not something that we can run away from. We have to take into account the fact that we would be facing a tough task and that we would be exposed to certain amount of competition. But there would be infusion of capital and technology. There is going to be an opportunity to expand. Therefore, we can reap the benefits of economies of scale. At the same time, certain protections are available to take away the negative impact of liberalisation. We will be able to enhance the applied rates to the bound level. There are something called anti-dumping duties. There are safeguard measures if any injury is caused by sudden and massive surge of imports. There is a protection to human, animal, and plant health. There is a question of security of nation. You can impose the same standards applicable to domestic industry and QRs can be re-applied if we find that we have some problems.

As far as discontinuation of reservation policy is concerned, the reservation policy is compatible with the WTO and it is an instrument of support to the small industry. This will continue but we will be reviewing the items on the list. It is not that for the first time these items have been dereserved. We did all this with the full consultation of the stake holders. As far as China is concerned, I need to tell you that Indian export to China grew by 46 per cent whereas imports from China grew by only 20 per cent. These are figures which are easily available. Out of the 95 cases since 1992, anti-dumping investigations are on in 44 cases against China. Recently, duty has been imposed on sports shoes and dry cell batteries that come from China. Toys have actually been dropped for lack of evidence. So, the situation is not as bad as everyone makes it out to be. Small industries have a special place and we intend to be supportive to them because our Ministry is really a facilitative Ministry. Our job is not to be in the business for doing business. We are trying our very best to put in supportive measures and those measures were announced by the hon. Prime Minister on 30th July.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Nitish Sengupta, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Small industries have a special place. There is a niche market for them which nobody else can fill. Small industries would always be relevant because of the fact that they are small enough

to be able to move along as far as possible. There is a niche market which they are going to fill. Nobody is going to take that away from them. They can also, as I said, take into account the economics of scale.

I would just like to quickly mention the kind of support that we have been able to give very recently. The Gupta Committee made very good recommendations. I would be happy to give a copy of the Gupta Committee Report to the hon. Members so that they can have a look at it. Very good recommendations came out of it. Two important lines have been taken. One is about the money that we are putting in towards the upgradation of technology.

The order one is the Credit Guarantee Scheme which we have put into being because we feel that the most important thing today for the small scale industry is to have credit support. Now, I think, with the coming into being of the Credit Guarantee Trust, this is going to be taken into account as well as the upgradation of technology towards which we have set aside a considerable amount of money.

There are major ongoing schemes. As I said, the Credit Guarantee Scheme itself is for the individual SSIs. It gives the collateral free composite loan up to Rs. 25 lakh. Then, there is a Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme for Technology Upgradation where a capital subsidy of 12 per cent is given on loans taken for technology upgradation. This again is for individual SSIs. Then, we have the ISO-9000 Certification Reimbursement Scheme. It is a reimbursement scheme. Cost of obtaining ISO-9000 Certification are reimbursed to the extent of 75 percent or Rs. 75,000 whichever is lower for the individual SSIs.

Then, we have the UPTECH Scheme which is a very useful Scheme. This promotes technology upgradation and also allows for putting up common facility centres for SSI units of one industry. The Scheme is basically for a cluster of similar SSI units.

Then, we have the Purchase and Price Preference Policy. Under the Single Point Registration Scheme of NSIC, 358 items are reserved for exclusive purchase from SSI by the Central Government.

Then, there is the PMRY Scheme. Loan up to Rs. 2 lakh with a subsidy of 7.5 per cent is given. Then,

[Shrimati Vasundhara Raje]

there are Testing Centres for which we give an assistance of 50 per cent or Rs. 50 lakh whichever is less. These are available for associations. Then, there is the Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme. An assistance of 40 per cent or Rs. 2 crore is given, whichever is less, for setting up of industrial estates for the SSI units. For the North-East, the assistance is 80 per cent or Rs. 4 crore. Then, there are Mini Tool Rooms. An assistance of 90 per cent or Rs. 9 crore is given, whichever is less, for setting up of Mini Tool Rooms. For upgradation of existing Tool Rooms, an assistance of 75 per cent or Rs. 7.5 crore is given. I think the assistance that is being provided is considerable.

This Ministry itself has come into being only two years ago. The package was announced only last year. I think that we do need to fairly actually give that kind of time to be able to see how the support systems are going to work.

About the Dr. S.P. Gupta Report, I would submit that I shall be handing it over to you at a later time so that you can have a look at it.

Basically, you have also spoken about Khadi. Actually, you covered everything. This is a very large and wide subject. I would be able to extensively discuss it with you. But I think in the interest of time, perhaps, I am trying to shorten this. About Khadi, I submit that you particularly asked me why did I go for a foreign consultant. I can understand the reason for having this consultant. Without being apologetic about it, I would like you to know that it is an Indian subsidiary of Arthur Anderson itself. It is being manned entirely by an Indian Group at this moment. But, apart from that, it has done consultancy for very prestigious institutions like the RBI, the petroleum companies, for the SEBs and for various banks. I think it has done very well for them.

What we really required was not actually to tell us about people knew about Khadi sector. But what we looked at was actually programmes regarding investment and improvement of the actual body when you go into the new millennium. That is what we are looking at. We are not looking at it to see any kind of improvement for the Khadi sector itself because there are lots of bodies within the country which know about this sector and which are giving us very vital inputs. It is a very important sector. We are very much concerned about it. The Government is doing its very best to be able to put as much effort towards the growth of this sector as possible.

Together Khadi and Village Industries, these industries are producing about Rs. 5000 crore worth of goods. I think it is an amazing amount. With a little bit of push and support from the Government itself, we will be able to do much more.

Dr. Pandeya asked a question which was very much similar to that of Shri Pugalia's. I think at the end of the day, I will repeat that they will have to face up to competition. They will have to improve quality because the WTO and the liberalisation regime is not something that is concerning just India but it goes across the globe. I think, therefore, this is something that everybody has to put up with. We will have to be able to pull up our socks to take care of technology and do whatever we can to see that the sector is strengthened so that it can go ahead and face the new millennium.

18.00 hrs.

Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy came up with very good ideas. It is not that my Ministry alone that takes care of it. My Ministry really is a nodal agency. We try to facilitate all this and try to make it easier for the small-scale sector. The Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Information Technology, the MNES and a lot of other Ministries converge upon this sector. It is important that we have a look at the suggestion that was made by the hon. Member. As far as the convergence, banks and the incentives are concerned, it is a very good idea. We will certainly look at it. *...(Interruptions)*

As far as WTO and the packages are concerned, I have just mentioned to you that yes, there is a protection that is available but we have to work within certain parameters. We are doing that. We have to put into place, things like War Room in the Commerce Ministry. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: We are actually monitoring the impact of the QRs. Out of 300 items which we are monitoring, 67 items are of interest to SSI.

As far as anti-dumping is concerned, India is a country which is taking the least amount of time to initiate anti-dumping activities, cases and investigations. It is the second biggest user of anti-dumping investigations after South Africa.

I mentioned to you a number of cases that have been registered. We are also trying our level best to sensitise the small-scale sector across the country. As far as the WTO is concerned, we have held 28 seminars across the country, talked to the associations and tried to involve them in getting the people understand what this is all about. Similar is the case with regard to the Intellectual Property Rights. At the end of the day, this is a very close activity between the individual entrepreneur, industries, associations, the State Governments and the Central government. I think, here, there are really no parties involved. It is something that confronts all of us. We are interacting at close quarters with all these people to try and build a substantial base for the improvement of this sector in the country.

I do not have a magic wand. I do not think that the Government has a magic wand and nobody has to be able to say that things are going to improve radically overnight. This is an amazing sector. There are people who have closed down their units. There are new start-ups. I just want to give a small figure.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: According to the RBI figures, last year, perhaps, there were over three lakh sick industries but at the same time, we have figures which tell us that under the PMRY, new start-ups of almost two lakh industries across the country are taking place every year. So, actually there are no figures as such which are Centrally-maintained about this. The figures which come from the State Government and associations are put together at the moment in the form of census/sample surveys which would give us a basic idea of as to where the sickness lie and as to what are the sectors that need to be supported. We will be more supportive of them in times to come.

Frankly, I think it is a major effort, and it is an effort that cannot be made just by the Government alone. I look forward to the support of all Members. I am open to suggestions. I would be happy to turn and talk with Members if there is anything that needs to be looked into and taken care of.

I can only thank all of you — Shri Naresh Puglia, Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya, Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudi and Shri M.V.V.S Murthy - for having taken such a keen interest in the affairs of the small-scale industry. I also

thank Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi who has made his contribution. I would only be too happy to say that if there is anybody who needs to know or wants to contribute or wants to talk about and discuss the sector, I shall be happy to do it. Thank you very much.

[English]

18.05 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Saffronisation of Education—Contd.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House will take up item no. 21. Shri P.H. Pandiyan — not present.

Shri S.S. Palanimanickam.

*SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur): Hon. Chairman Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on behalf of my party Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. I am now participating in this discussion under rule 193 taken up at the behest of my colleagues belonging to the left front and Congress Benches, expressing their apprehensions about this Government's alleged move to convert our education system to a saffronised one.

As for education, our country holds 115th position among 165 countries of the world. The illiterate masses of our India form about 38% of the population. We spend just 3.8% of our GDP towards education. The developed countries allocate more than 9 to 10% of their GDP for education aiming at progress linked to it. In our country we also witness a pathetic situation where about 40% of the primary schools function without roofed structures. In many High Schools and Higher Secondary Schools the basic amenities are lacking. Not even a single toilet is there in some girls' schools even in schools where more than thousand girls are studying. This disgraceful plight continues even today. In many of our States all over the country we find the perennial problem of staff shortage especially in many of the Government schools. There are many primary schools without even a black board. Drinking water problem is there in almost every educational institution. All the Governments that were there all these years have been trying to attend to these problems. Our Government too must continue its efforts

*English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Shri S.S. Palanimanickam]

to provide basic amenities while ensuring basic infrastructure. Instead of addressing to these fundamental needs, every successive Government tries to make a mark by way of harping on course content and curriculum announcing educational policies.

What kind of education is given to our children in our education system today? What kind of students are shaped and produced by these institutions? There is much to be desired both in the system and the structure especially in the imparting and evaluating methods. A student who resorts to copying is penalised. But at the same time a student who has merely mugged up and reproduced like a parrot whatever he had memorised is richly rewarded. We appreciate them giving away prizes.

Only in India we find more number of suicides committed by students when they fail in exams. Our education must prepare our younger generation to face challenges boldly. It must prepare them for life and handle various situations. It must enable them to live life with a cultivated mind. We have failed in this and it is reflected in these suicidal deaths.

Time and again National Educational Policies are evolved. Attempts are made to design a common and uniform educational curriculum and content. In my opinion national education policy is an attempt to suppress the proud rich cultural traditions of various national races. Various language based cultural traditions are made to clash with a notional one called a national culture. The strength of our nation and nationhood lies in the independent growth of all national races.

Kothari Commission which was constituted in 1964 elicited the views of great educationists, experts and renowned professors around the country for about 2 years. It came out with a laudable document, a blue print for the academic excellence and a viable education system to be implemented in the country.

Secularism, Socialism and Democracy were the three guiding principles of the Kothari Commission's Report. It suggested viable means and methods to improve the standard of education in the country. But unfortunately the report was put in the cold storage. I would like to reiterate that it is relevant even today.

Late Smt. Indira Gandhi had a socialistic fervour. But still she shelved that report. It is still a question as to why she put in the back burner that report though she was professing secularism, socialism and democratic principles.

What were the plans envisaged in that Report?

- (i) universalisation of education ensuring education to all
- (ii) education based on cultural traditions and scientific temper
- (iii) bringing together various social groups and communities with a spirit of unity to usher in a new social order
- (iv) imparting education through mother tongue
- (v) cultivating a noble, humane and humanitarian outlook based on the ideals of French revolution, Karl Marx and European Renaissance combined with our rich cultural traditions without any compromise.

These were the aims and objectives of that report. We may add scientific temper to it considering the needs of the day. That report which is relevant even today was not acted upon. In 1986, a new education policy was evolved. Navodaya Scheme was contemplated. New Centres of learning were started in several parts of the country with a liberal and huge allocation funds. Those institutions with better facilities and infrastructure served a particular section of the society. Because of its lop sided approach it met with criticisms too. Some States including Tamil Nadu could not implement that Navodaya Scheme. As a result, in 1992 a new education policy was framed. That too was not far removed from Macaulay's system of education.

Today, in the light of the evolving new education policy of this Government, a circular has been sent to all the Universities by UGC at the instance of the HRD Ministry of this Government. The circular wants the Universities to start new courses in several new fields. Universities are directed to conceive and devise new courses relevant to modern day needs. It also encourages the Universities to start fresh courses in astrology and the study of a particular religion's rituals and rites.

In order to uproot the deep rooted misbeliefs and superstitious belief from our society, great leaders and

reformers like Thanthai EVR Periyar, great scholar Perignar Anna, our able leader who brought us to the fore Kalaingar, spread the spirit of reformism and rationalism. Shri Narayan Guru in Kerala and Raja Ram Mohan Roy in West Bengal were the great men who dedicated their lives for uprooting superstitions and discriminations in the society. Today we are pained to see and left with an apprehension that the reform zeal cultivated by them would get wiped out. I would like to point out that scientists of the world have advanced several arguments that astrology is not based on scientific facts. It is yet to be proved whether astrology can be recognised as a science at all. As such it is based on certain hypothesis and some superstitious beliefs. What is it based on? It varies. How is my horoscope determined? It is based on the time of one's birth. What is happening today in child births? Many of the mothers, I may kindly be excused, do not have natural deliveries. They consult astrologers, fix an auspicious time and get admitted in hospitals and nursing homes. They prefer to deliver babies at a prefixed time resorting to caesarean method. Surgical deliveries are resorted to in connivance with astrologers. Whether they can accomplish what they want is still a question. The basic question as to which almanac can be followed and which school of astrology is absolutely correct is yet to be proved beyond doubt. Superstition must not be mixed with scientific temper.

A study which has not been accepted as a science by scientists' community is sought to be introduced in a country which has 38% of its population as illiterate masses. Lack of education has deprived this vast number of people the capability to distinguish between faith and superstition. This comes into conflict with their day to day life. This results in ignorant and innocent people being cheated and exploited as gullible masses. In the name of religion and shastras, public are taken for a ride, cheated and exploited.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. Please come to the main point.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: Sir, I rarely participate in discussion. I am coming to it. I am concluding.

How people are cheated and exploited due to superstitious beliefs is well known. Almost everyday newspapers carry such stories about people being duped, cheated and exploited. But still the number of people cheated and exploited is also on the increase. The

Government is supposed to address to the basic problems and needs. But there is a vain attempt by this Government venturing into misplaced priorities. There are private institutions and centres to propagate astrology and study of religious rituals and rites. So far they have not been included in the Government aided institutions and are not part of our curriculum and are not taught as educational courses in our universities. Have they all perished just because they were not part of our public education system?

I am a student of philosophy. It is only when I was doing my MA degree course that I got a kind of maturity to understand the contents of philosophy.

If religious views are sought to be imparted to youth at this impressionable age and if the teachers and students remain a mismatch, then there could be negative results contrary to the desired ones. That must be borne in mind. If there is a defect either in the teacher or in the student, religious study may give rise to a conflicting situation. That may not help to bring out a youth who could contribute to the development of the country. Our Government must concentrate only on evolving plans and schemes for social development.

We should not put the clock back and take the future generation back to the Middle Ages. We must march ahead and concentrate on to progress and development. We must not do anything that will wipe out the spirit of enquiry and rational outlook inculcated by great thinkers of this country down the centuries. We must not do anything that will undermine the self-analytical skill and self-respect of individuals. We must avoid harping on contentious issues and questionable pursuits. We all know that superstitious beliefs and even astrology were challenged by the rational thinkers of this country. All the efforts of great thinkers must not go in vain and the clock should not be put back taking us back to the Middle Ages.

Hence I urge upon the Government to initiate measures to withdraw the controversial circular issued to all the Universities of the country. On behalf of DMK I appeal to the Government to take back the circular. With this, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (Varanasi): Sir, hon. Members on the other side have stood up and are clapping, please stop them. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Jaiswal ji, please do not speak while sitting. I am conducting the House, please don't conduct it yourself.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman Sir, the hon. Members are discussing the issue of 'Saffronisation of Education' raised under rule 193 by a prominent parliamentarian of the country, Shri Somnath Chatterjee. We have already listened to the statements made by very learned people like the leader of opposition hon. Shrimati Sonai Gandhi and Shri Manishankar, I also wish to express my views in this regard. Saffronisation of education i.e. bringing communalism in education is being done since 1998. A conference of all the Education Ministers of the country was held in 1998. A note was presented by some organisation of RSS named Vidya Bharti wherein it was mentioned that the protection and reservation provided to the minorities and linguistic minorities under article 29 and 30 of the constitution may be amended and the word 'minorities' may be substituted by the word 'citizens'. So it is all a conspiracy that by amending the constitution the help, co-operation, protection, language, education of the minorities and linguistic minorities may be snatched away from them. This is the highest extent to which one can saffronise education. Pandemonium occurred in the House over this issue which was opposed by the Education Ministers of the majority of the States. Recently, the Education Ministers of nine States have passed a resolution here in Delhi that if the communal elements being introduced in the name of moral education in the new curriculum, are not withdrawn, they would definitely oppose to it.

Sir, the centre and the states, both are aware of the fact that the subject 'Education' has been included in the 'Concurrent List'. I raise a question as to why were the State Governments not consulted before taking any step. Why were the opinions of State Governments not sought while making an amendment in the NCERT curriculum at the instances of RSS people or others? What are the reasons behind this?

When 'education' has been included in the concurrent list then why were the State Governments not consulted in this matter. Many hon. Members have said that they feel pride in the saffronisation. Malhotra Saheb and Shri

Goel were saying this. But I do not think the Government would ever give such a statement as I have listened to the statement of the hon. leader of BJP that they are against saffronisation of education, this should not take place. No one has the courage to support this openly. Shri Palanimanickam of the DMK and other supporters of the TDP were saying the same thing. It is very clear that in this discussion on Saffronisation of education, no one has the courage to say openly that he would saffronise the education.

Everything is being discussed in the House, be it Panchatantra, Hitopadesh, Sanskrit language, Geeta, Vedas or Puran. There is a very interesting story in Panchatantra according to which, a very old vulture named Jaradgaw' used to live on a huge tree and many other kinds of birds also used to live on that tree. One day a big cat named 'Dirghakaran' came to that tree and said that I am observing fast of ekadashi and have become vegetarian, I have left eating flesh and have become purely vegetarian. The innocent birds allowed him to live there. But he started eating the eggs and small offsprings of the birds when they were out. Birds thought that only this old vulture eats our eggs etc., and so they attacked that old vulture. But when the truth was revealed a few days later, the big cat was caught. Similarly, in our Government, our hon. Prime Minister symbolises the old vulture and all these communal people are big cats. In order to run their respective governments, and be involved in the Government, they are saying that they have suspended their communal agenda for the time being, so in a way they have become 'vegetarian' and are observing the fast of ekadashi. All their allies felt that since these communal people have said that they have now suspended the communal agenda their allies are supporting them to remain in power. Citing the example of Panchatantra Katha, I would say that the Government is like that big tree and the vulture 'Jaradagaw' as we all know, is also under the same situation, whereas the big cat 'Dirghakaran' is the communal element and these communal people, for the time being, are saying that they would not bring communalism. This country is facing grave danger. Attack on secularism is a danger for the country. Why are they interested in bringing it when all Ministers of Education are opposing it.

Mr. Speaker, sir, around 128 scientists, mathematicians and scholars have stated recently.

[English]

'Stop this fraud on our children'. That is the demand made by more than 100 leading scientists, mathematicians, physicists, teachers and educationists in a statement protesting against the attempts by the present Central Government to introduce vedic mathematics and vedic astrology in the Indian education system.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please finish your statement.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I have brought the writings of scholars like Prof. Jaspal, Dr. Nalinakar and S.G. Dani. But there is no time left. There are statements of many scientists on "Vedic Astrology" and "Myth and Reality on Vedic Mathematics".

Great Scholar Shankaracharya had written a book in 1965. It was published posthumously. It mentions about Vedic Mathematics. Another Scholar Aggarwalji had also written a book named "Sulabh Sutra". And he had clearly mentioned therein that there is no such thing as 'Vedic' or 'Mathematics'. All hon. Members very well know the meaning of Astrology. The history of India describes that Prithviraj Chauhan, during the war, had said that Ghor has come, but the opportunity time for attack has not yet come. After 10 days, thorns were spread out all over the battle field, which compelled the elephants to retreat as the thorns pierced into their feet and as a result, Prithviraj Chauhan was defeated in the battle. This is in the annals of history. The hon. Minister is a learned person...(Interruptions) The great poet Tulsidasji says:—

Guru Vashisht ati yug agav, richi-ruchi lagan dhare,

Sita haran-maran dashrath ke vipati pe vipati Pare,

Dayanidhi teri Gati lakhi na Padhe".

People can have faith in Astrology, but Vedic Mathematics and Astrology are studies in superstition. Today, the people believe in languages like sanskrit. Sanskrit is supposed to be the language of Devas (Gods) and is mother of all languages, i.e. all languages in India originate from sanskrit. But it cannot be forcefully imposed, it should be treated as an optional subject. Every citizen of the country has the right to study, but no one can be compelled to study a particular religion...(Interruptions) Under the influence of a news item people all over the

country, offered milk to lord Ganapati. It is mentioned in Geeta that a disciple like Arjuna could not understand the sermons delivered by Lord Krishna. And then Lord Krishna emerged in his colossal form. When Arjuna did not get satisfied with this also, then Shri Krishna said—

"Sarvadhanman Parityajya Mamekam Shamam Vraja

Aham Twa Sarvapapebhyo Mokshayishyami Mashuchah".

It was after these sermons of Lord Krishna that Arjuna surrendered. It is enunciated in Geeta:—

"Yada yada hi dharmasya, glanir bhavati bhartah,

Abhyutthanam Dharmasya Tadatmanam Srejamyaham."

Meaning thereby, 'whenever anarchy is there on earth, I emerge on earth as a human being. Now please tell me whether God is not aware of the anarchy and turmoil on earth? We are waiting for the time when someone would emerge as an incarnation of God...(Interruptions) I am telling you about the 'Shloka' (couplet) of Geeta. And so we are awaiting for the incarnation of God as the God can also see the worse conditions here. But where is he?

Saraswati Vandana was proposed to be introduced in Uttar Pradesh. Some people may have faith in it. Being a secular country everyone has the right to perform anything, be it Saraswati Vandana, or Durga Pooja, or worship of Sai Baba, or any super natural power, or a tree, rock etc., but education should not have the reflection of any religion. Such a thought can not be endorsed officially. In our religion, Goddess Saraswati is the Goddess of education, Laxmi is the Goddess of wealth and Durga is the Goddess of power and might. In the present times, Goddess Saraswati is worshipped in even the schools, but it is a sad state of affairs that India is one of the most illiterate countries of the world.

The poor people of India worshipping Goddess Saraswati or Goddess Laxmi for wealth, are today worshipping Goddess Durga or Bajrang Bali, who are symbols of power and might, but then why does India get weakened at the time of war. And therefore, it is my request to the Government...(Interruptions) I do not believe in the four philosophies. I wonder what would happen in the country with such superstitions...(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Raghuvansh Babu, please sit down. Your statement is not going on record of the proceedings.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now Dr. Beatrix D' Souza. Raghuvansh Babu, your statement is not being recorded. Please sit down.

[English]

DR. (SHRIMATI) BEATRIX D'SOUZA (Nominated): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I reject the title of today's discussion—'Saffronisation of Education'.

We are heirs to the knowledge of the world, to the knowledge of ancient Greece, of China, of Rome and of Europe. We are certainly heirs to the knowledge of the Vedas. It is not the preserve of any political persuasion of any particular colour. Education is a serious subject and it should be looked at objectively.

I have been a college professor for 32 years and I have experience in formulating curricula. I would like to address this subject as a college professor and an educationist. It has been said that education remains, after what we have learnt has been forgotten. Education is not just an accumulation of facts; education is a process that imbues the mind with a scientific temper. In fact, this question of scientific temper was considered so important by our founding fathers that they included it in the Constitution. The word 'scientific temper' is included in the Constitution.

A Scientific temper encourages a person to ask questions and to search for truth. It is in this spirit that I would like to question the hon. Minister and to ask questions. Chapter I of the NCERT curriculum says that the curriculum must stand on three pillars. One is relevance, the second is equity and the third is excellence.

We have to ask ourselves: 'Are the subjects in the curriculum relevant?' I do not know what equity means: does it mean that all subjects are considered equal or does it mean that in a pluralistic society all religions are treated equal? Thirdly, have the subjects an inherent excellence?

So, for example, are subjects like Vedic mathematics or for that matter astrology, relevant and are they inherently excellent? An important concern in the

curriculum study in chapter one is — strengthening national identity, preserving cultural heritage; integrating indigenous knowledge and chapter two emphasises value education rooted in Indian tradition. another aim is to cultivate a sense of patriotism and nationalism.

On the surface, these are excellent objectives. The question asked is this. Are we preparing a curriculum for education or for culture? Are we attempting an educational reform or are we attempting a cultural revolution At the school level, a spiritual quotient has been introduced in value education. Linking values to religion is dangerous. I have read a book on secularism by hon. Minister Shri Arun Shourie where he says that because we are ignorant of each other's religion, ignorance leads to misunderstanding and misunderstanding leads to conflict. Certainly, we need to have a comparative study of different religions which is very important. Here, I will say that value education in the curriculum is not linked to any particular religion. It is linked to all religions. But what I want to ask as a teacher is this. Has any pedagogy or teaching method been evolved to teach these religions, or values? How can any one teacher all the religions without any bias or prejudice? I am asking you this as a teacher. In the past, values have been taught as ethics. Ethics come from all the religions.

In Christian schools the Christian students learn Catechism and Apologetics and other students learn moral science. I do not think that there is anything wrong in this method. I am in favour of teaching all religions. But, I really do not know as to how we are going to teach all religions.

The National Open School wants to include Bharatiya culture and heritage in its syllabus. the curriculum also mentions something called culture-specific pedagogy. The question to be asked is this. Which culture or which pedagogy? Leading scientists have criticised the concept of encouraging indigenous knowledge. Will the introduction of vedic mathematics help our students study modern mathematics? Modern mathematics is an exact science expressed by highly sophisticated language or symbols. Vedic mathematics is more akin to what I may call mathematical mysticism which started with Pythagorus' saying that "all things are numbers." The combination of maths and theology characterises the ancient philosophy of Greece and also of Christian theologies like St. Augustine and Thomas Aquinas. I believe vedic mathematics is, therefore, more suitable as an independent study of research but not at the school level.

Another question is of vedic astrology — whether it should be included as a science or Arts subject or whether it should be included at all. I believe it is now in the arts course. I would like to ask one question. Will a study of vedic astrology imbue a student with a scientific frame of mind? Secondly, very few practising astrologers bother to update themselves with current knowledge in planetary research of maths and other methods. They rely on vedic methods making predictions based on dates from ancient times.

More importantly, as a teacher, I would like to know about the organisation of a syllabus. A three-year degree course at the B.A. level has 1,800 hours of classroom study. Does astrology have that much of established and organised knowledge? At the M.A. level you have to have another syllabus. Will you be able to teach astrology at B.A. level and at M.A. level? Who will teach the subject at the initial stages? That is an important point.

A lecturer in a college has to have a M.A. or M.Sc. as well as pass an examination. Are you going to relax all the rules in order to have these astrology teachers?

[*Translation*]

18.40 hrs.

[*DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH in the Chair*]

[*English*]

If you relax the rules, you are doing injustice to many Ph.D. lecturers who cannot find jobs. I have no objection to astrology if it is limited to pure research. I find no objection to including it in a curriculum also. What I would object to is the funding of such esoteric studies. For example, environmental studies are starved of funds by the UGC.

Saying it is all in the *Vedas* is similar to Pentecostal Christians saying that everything is in the *Bible*. The clash between the religion and science is not new. It has always been there. In the 19th Century, in the Age of Reason, Darwin's Theory of Evolution was condemned by the Church as creative science. Mullahs in certain Islamic countries are trying to base their technology on their traditional knowledge that the Jinns are great source of energy. I will not talk much about this subject.

Ironically, the most glorious period of India was not the Hindu period but the Buddhist period from 600 B.C. to 800 A.D. There were great kings like Ashok, a Harsha, Kanishka and there were great poets and philosophers and scientists like Kautilya, Aryabhatta, Kalidasa etc.

Civilisations have fallen when the flow of human thought was curbed in the name of religion. The Pope's religious tyranny saw the fall of learning in Europe. India should not suffer the same fate.

In conclusion, I would like to quote the hon. Prime Minister from his inaugural address to the Conference of Education Ministers. The Prime Minister said:

"Our schools must also impart value education. They must let every student have an understanding and respect for all faiths in India and pride in our national culture. There must be no place for religious bigotry and intolerance. We should keep in mind our diversity of religion, language and ethnicity."

So, as far the Prime Minister is concerned, I think, he agrees with all of us.

Sir, education is a tool for attaining and effectively managing pluralism in a society. Pluralism has to be accepted and not just tolerated.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA (Alipurduars): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I extend my thanks to you for having given me an opportunity to speak on a matter of great importance.

Sir, education is an inseparable part of our life and we wish that it may not only be extended to towns, but also to rural areas, where harassed and oppressed poor people of our country live. Today, there is a need to bring reforms in education, but it is being observed that the present NDA Government's national policy is anti-people. Saffronisation of education is being done on the pretext of changing the curriculum. I strongly oppose this. I wish that education may reach in every nook and corner of the country but this does not mean that the RSS family dominating the Union Government, may decide as to which education policy is to be implemented in India. The Government is not thinking of making a higher standard of education or increasing the number of schools,

[Shri Joachim Baxla]

colleges etc. instead they are giving impetus to communal elements. The present system of education is trying to put a blow on the secular character of our country, which I utterly disapprove of.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I extend my thanks to Shri Somnath Chatterjee who moved this proposal in the House for discussion. I oppose the present policy of including Astrology in the National Educational Policy because I want that our method of education should be scientific in approach. The Government should not drag this great secular country on adverse lines of communal disharmony.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I extend my thanks to those allied parties which constitute the NDA Government and which have opposed the National Education Policy of the Government. I wish to know that when the subject 'education' has been included in the Concurrent List then whether the Government consulted State Governments' Ministers of education or whether it decided to saffronise the education at the instance of the NCERT.

[Translation]

I would like to know from the Government whether any meeting was held with the advisory Committee and whether the Education Minister of the States were taken into confidence?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the education being imparted in the country through schools, colleges and universities is based on scientific approach. If at all there is any deficiency, in order to bring improvement therein and to modernise it we should update our present syllabus according to the requirements of the present time. I favour imparting education based on scientific approach in the country. The present Government which is under the pressure of 'Sangh Parivar' is ignoring these facts and the national education policy which the present Government is trying to implement is not good for the country and it cannot be favoured. I oppose this.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the alliance parties of the NDA Government are opposing the new education policy of the Government. I feel the Government should review its decision and withdraw its education policy. Through you I urge upon the Government as to why it is not increasing the number of schools in the country and the rate of stipend, being provided to the students? The type of

education, the present Government is going to give, will not help the country besides there will be a wastage of huge amount of money. That is why I oppose strongly, the national education policy, which is being implemented in the country, through which the Government is trying to saffronise education and impose its hidden agenda.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Chairman, the discussion which is going on the motion given on 16 August, under rule 193 by the senior Members and leaders of this House on the subject of saffronisation of education. If you see broadly the leaders of all the parties have focussed their discussion on certain points. For example saffronisation of education, politicising of education and inclusion of Astrology and Vedic Mathematics in the syllabus. Discussions were centred on secular image of the country but some hon'ble Members have diverted this discussion as a subject of religion and tried to give it a colour of religion. I want to mention this aspect because our friend and the leader of Shiv Sena, Shri Anant Gangaram Geete in utter emotion has gone to this extent asking whether our constitution is secular in character? He has raised such a question on this matter.

I felt very distressed when I saw that a question has been raised regarding the secular character of our Constitution and whether this has been mentioned in the Preamble of our Constitution or not. The people have politicised this issue. They have questioned the secular character of the Constitution itself. We and our party are committed, devoted and dedicated to the principals of secularism. No power of any kind in the world can divert us from these principles. We are giving support on a special agenda of NDA. If any controversial issue is considered the Government should have taken its allies into confidence before taking any such decision.

I am telling this because on the issue of introduction of a new syllabus by a group of NDA the learned Minister can say to us that this is the work of Ministry, this matter is in the Concurrent List but till yesterday education was in state list. Today, there was a discussion during zero hours to include sports matter in the Concurrent List, then only we can progress. education is a matter of Concurrent List. That is why we have to ask the State Government. I feel that it would not be a good thing or a healthy tradition to make changes in the national Education Policy or to give a new direction to the syllabus before taking into faith the State Governments and constituent groups of NDA. Well, this is a coalition Government we all are the constituent groups of it but

we cannot mortgage our principles in order to be a part of the Government. Dr. Joshi is a scholar, we have read the same subject as he has. We have also read physics and chemistry. We have come to this House after completing our graduation and after that some have done honours in Botany or some have taken Biology. Joshiji has read physics in details. Dr. Saheb is a Professor in Physics. There are two aspects in Physics—good conductor and bad conductor. Iron rod is a good conductor of heat. If we heat one end of the iron rod its other end also gets heated automatically. Caste and Religion are good conductor. Whenever anything happens over these issues and roots spreads in any part of the country, they will spread throughout the country. That is why the concept of good conductor, *i.e.* caste and religion must not be included in the university syllabus. This is a bad conductor. The example of bad conductor are unemployment, poverty, starvation because even if any demonstration is done in any part of the country on these issues they are not to be taken up so soon in other parts of the country. These are such issues which take its own time to pick but on the other hand the issue of caste and religion are very sensitive issues and its consequences spread like forest fire. That is why if the issues which are of sensitive nature are included in our education policy, there is every possibility of having agitations through the country. Education should be job oriented. It is my humble request to Shri Joshiji that if he applies fully his power and position and makes our education job oriented it would be an achievement for the NDA Government. He should apply his mind in making our education job oriented but not in diverting the direction of education and this is my intention which I want to make it very clear.

Many people have said that education has been politicised. What is politics? Politics is short term religion and long term religion is politics. Politics is to condemn evil and fight against evil and religion is to do good and praise wisdom. Religion and politics is a debatable issue. Today the evil of politics is that the politicians hesitate to speak out truth just because of the thrust for the votes. The consequences of this is that there is a lack of harmony among Hindus and Muslims due to which there can not be a persistent communal harmony in the country.

This the reason why we and the representative of 100 crore people are unable to speak out freely, frankly and with an open mind in this august House. However,

generous Hindus may be but they feel Rama and Krishna are superior than Mohammed Saheb. Similarly is the case with Muslims also.

[Translation]

My submission is that so far as religion is concerned so much discrimination should not be made. It is tolerable if it is minor, but these days there is lot of discrimination which leads to failure of coordination. Our ancestor, Mahatma Gandhi has said, *Ishwar Allaha tero naam, Sabko sanmati de bhagwan.* Thousands of years have elapsed, right from Sant Kabir, they have preached us same thing. Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotraji is not here, I would like to tell him that Vedas and Shastras are source of blind faith and we are not going to gain anything now if we switch over to them. We are in 2001, and if we go 2000 years back, we would be in a void. History has many periods and history of 2000 years back will be difficult to be traced.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: If we stop in the year 2005, we will be calling mother as 'mother' only.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: His style is Jadhav, that is why he is saying so. Someone else cannot say so. He needs some time to understand the history. There are several categories in Jadhav also. Any how, let it be like this, but he should maintain his identity in his style. Therefore, I would like to say that our sant tradition is thousand years old wherein Sant Kabir has said that Mohammad or Mahadev is same. The religion does not teach us hatred. But if we divert the education in a different direction then it would be a historical blunder. Therefore, I would like to ask who polluted our education, culture and our history as well and for the last thousands of years who dominated education, culture, history, politics in this country and had control over property. Jadhav Saheb I would like to tell you that a handful of people had the control over education, politics, culture and property in this country for the last thousands of years. A handful of people are dominating these fields. Try to find out, as to who has spoilt education, politics, culture of our country and controlled the property. Such things should be found out today. History cannot be changed. We talk of new milestones in science and technology and we are praising ourselves that we have made spectacular advancement in science and technology. I would like to ask, if we add Vedic Maths in the curriculum, will we be able to progress further in the field of science? You talk

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

about science and technology will stressing upon unscientific things lead to advancement in science? I would like to remind that the tussle between hard core activist and moderate followers of Hinduism has been going on for the last five thousand years and its end is not right. Social structure of this country is like a ladder and I am not a capable person to break that ladder, but I would like to urge learned Professor, and hon'ble Minister Shri Joshiji not to involve himself in on going dispute between hardcore Hindus and the moderates since you had been a moderate and are a part and parcel of the Government, crores of people are watching Joshiji, he should not act in that way and include such topics in curriculum...*(Interruptions)*

I am concluding only. Since lot of discussion were being held in Ramayan and Mahabharat and lesser mortals like us only know this much about Ramayana that Lord Rama travelled from north of Sri Lanka. He did task of unifying India from the north to south and did nothing which could destabilise India. Lord Krishna started fighting from east and reached upto Dwarika in the west while fighting with Jarasangh and Kans. Lord Krishna made efforts to unify north India with West India but certain people are trying to destabilise India in the name of Lord Krishna, which is not good. We should not see the distorted aspect of history. Lord Ram always worked for a broader India and never to destabilise it. Hazrat Mohammed too was much perturbed. Our colleague from minority Shri Rashid Alvi is present here, he knows that Mohd. Saheb had to make a journey from Mecca to Madina seeking justice, social equality and sympathy for the poor people.

19.00 hrs.

Each great Prophet including Lord Krishna had to leave his motherland. Now, there is great hue and cry to save Mathura, whereas Lord Krishna left Mathura and stayed in Dwarika. People of his own class opposed him. Who was Kans, Jarasangh? We find mention of thousands of such narrow minded people in our history.

I would not talk of any angel I would like to say only this much that we should try to peep into our 700 years old history. Once Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, who was a great thinker of this country and a Member of Parliament during 1962 said that if I get an opportunity, I would like to teach every boy or a girl in the school as to what stood for Hindu or Muslim and who were Rajiya,

Shershah, Jaisi and that Gajani and Babur were aggressors. If such feeling is generated our country would become strong.

Our country has been following Lord Macauley's pattern of education. This education policy is creating ill-educated people in place of educating them. If the Government desire to improve this system of education, it needs to be totally overhanded, then we will have no objection. Most of the members will not agree with. Macauley's system of education, but I would like to say that this old system of education adopted during British era is producing only value-less educated elite. It makes a person self-centred and social and national interest take back seat. It is because of this that economic inequality, social inequality, poverty unemployments degradation of political values, devaluation of democratic research institutes and anarchy has become order of the day and corruption is rampant everywhere. Funds are not invested for development works. It is because this system of education is root cause of this problem. Therefore, if the Government whose heartedly endeavour to bring a drastic change in Macauley's system of education, we would support it.

The House had a discussion on NCERT. Whenever we visit the Court, we find an astrologer with a parrot sitting at the entrance of Court. The parrot picks a page at random and its owner asks the parrot to read out the lifeline of the person who may have approached him. If astrology is taught in the universities a teacher would replace the parrot. It is not going to solve unemployment problem. I am not able to understand why the Government are contemplating inclusion of astrology in curriculum. My submission is that it should not included in the curriculum. I feel, the Government are trying to divert the curriculum. My submission is that it should not be included in the curriculum. I feel, the Government are trying to divert the curriculum. Though, I would not like to say more about Dr. Joshi ji, but I smell a rat in it. If it is within Joshiji's control, he would surely avoid it, but I find an international conspiracy behind it. I can authoritatively say that, whenever one wants to subservient any country, first educational system of that country is played with. Therefore, Macauley's educational policy is of subservience. Though 54 years have elapsed since India became independent yet we still have the same mentality. The country should not be compelled to follow same policy anymore. It should be averted, since this slavery would be more dangerous than the slavery of Britishers.

Shri Raghuvansh Babu made a mention of scientists. You may look around, who are those among those 128 scientists. He has mentioned the name of Prof. Yashpal, former Chairman of UGC; Astronomist Jayant Vishnu from Pune, Mathematician SG Dani of TIFR, Mumbai, Statistician Aladi Sita Ram from Bangalore, Prof. In Mathematics, J.K. Verma of I.I.T., Prof. Rahul Rai of Indian Institute of Statistics, Delhi and Shri NS Raghathan, Chairman of National Board for Higher Education.

The use of Vedic Maths come in prominence after Former Shastri of Puri late Jagat Guru Swami Shri Bharati Krishan Teerth ji wrote a titled 'Vedic Mathematics' in 1965. In this book same principles of basic Algebra were stated to be useful for calculation but in preface to this book Dr. A.S. Aggarwal had stated that the terminology used in this book have no relevance in Indian context. In 1983, Indian National Science Academy published a book "Sutra" wherein fundamental principles were explained. These principles have no relevance to Vedas, hence the term Vedic Mathematics is totally a misnomer. In teaching of Mathematics fundamental concept of Mathematics is necessary and a system of calculation is taught whereas so called Vedic Mathematics is totally unsuitable for this type of education. The scientists have said that ancient formulas of Mathematics are nowhere in the world taught in schools along with the Modern Maths. Therefore, inclusion of Vedic Mathematics in curriculum by a Government agency is not only a fraud with the children but a conspiracy as well.

[English]

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Thank you, Sir.

This discussion has been initiated by my senior honourable and distinguished colleague, Shri Somnath Chatterjee. The title of the discussion is 'Safronisation' of Education; but in my opinion, it should be 'communalisation' of education.

I fully agree with the arguments that have been advanced by our distinguished colleague, Shri Somnath Chatterjee. I will only add a few lines, due to constraint of time.

In a pluralistic society of composite culture like that of our country, educational policy has no other alternative

to secular, democratic and scientific character. When religion is mixed with politics, the path to disintegration of the country is paved. Communalisation of education will throw our country to the medieval period.

Anybody desires to study *veda* can do so, but the curricula of education should be based on reality and it should be useful for life. Education has a vital role to play in building of a nation. Poisonous indoctrination from the childhood would ruin the students and in the long run pose a serious threat to secularism of our country.

I demand that the document 'National Curriculum from Work' for school education is withdrawn and no other document is released till a national consensus is reached. The introduction of new course by UGC in higher education in the name of 'traditional knowledge' was aimed at fostering revivalism and destroying the scientific and academic character of higher education.

A galaxy of educationists, scientists, historians and people from different walks of life are opposing this and they are disapproving the policy of 'safronisation' of education, adopted by the present Government. I am very glad to say that hon. Members like Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, Shri Palanimanickam and other Members of the TDP, the partners of the NDA Government have strongly opposed this; and they have expressed their dissatisfaction and discontentment about the policy of the Government or the policy of the HRD Ministry.

Different universities of our country — due to lack of funds — are not able to provide modern laboratories, equip laboratories with modern books, etc. for the students. But the UGC, at the behest of the HRD Ministry, has already given instruction that those universities which will introduce *Vedic Astrology* would be given Rs. 14 lakh for one Professor, two Lecturers and other staff.

Universities are lagging behind due to lack of fund. Due to lack of fund they cannot provide the modern laboratories. UGC is providing Rs. 14 lakh to those universities which are going to introduce *vedic astrology*. This *vedic astrology* is neither a science nor an art. I would request the HRD Ministry not to throw away our country into the medieval period, instead we should go ahead. I am sorry to say that Shri Malhotra is quite ignorant of the history of the freedom struggle of India. And, if he knows it, he has perhaps concealed the facts about the history of our freedom struggle. I do not know

[Shri Ajoy Chakraborty]

whether he is present in this House now or not. He has cast aspersions on the Communist Party of India with regard to 1942 Movement. Let me remind them, as well as his followers, that Shrimati Aruna Asaf Ali, who was the leader of 1942 Movement from Bombay to Tamluk, was a Member of the Communist Party of India. We are very proud of her. So, I urge upon the Ministry as well as the Members of this august House to keep vigilance on the movement of the present Government. The present Government is dragging behind our country and is throwing us back to the medieval period. We should put an end to this conspiracy and fight unitedly against the proposed saffron and communal education policy of this Government. I agree with the arguments of Shri Somnath Chatterjee. As far as my Party is concerned, we totally oppose this communal education policy of the HRD Ministry.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): Sir, I request that this discussion may be concluded today itself because I have to proceed for China tomorrow in the afternoon. You regulate the proceeding of the House in such manner so that this discussion is concluded today itself. If the hon. Members do not have any objection, this may be concluded early so that its reply could be given. I am proceeding for Chian tomorrow after the question hour. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): You should also take the curriculum of NCERT with you and show it here.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: The discussion is on that subject. I request that if all issues have come forward, all Members have expressed their views, it would be better to conclude the discussion today itself. If the discussion is deferred for tomorrow, I will not be present there tomorrow.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Let's sit today itself.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: How long we will sit. There are already eight-nine Members to speak.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): The time for all the parties has been decided.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): From my Party side, let me submit, Sir that two more speakers have left. I was given to understand that they will speak for a few minutes. Members from other Parties, who have given their names, may also be called. I think the list will be over very shortly and thereafter the hon. Minister can reply.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: I find on the list eight to nine more Members who wish to speak.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Since you are leaving tomorrow for China, there is no problem. We will have enough time to hear you and you may also listen to the Members...*(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: For the last three days I have been hearing the hon. Members.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Time allotted to different Parties is already over...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: If you consider the total time taken, more time was consumed by interruptions.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): Sir, you may exclude even the Congress Party but let every NDA partner speak.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (Cuttack): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the topic for discussion which has been raised by the eminent parliamentarian, Shri Somnath Chatterjee is "Saffronisation of Education". I would be dealing with these two words 'saffronisation' and another word which has been coined with that is 'education'. This word has been spoken about by my elder sister who spoke just now. She has taken objection to the word 'saffronisation' in her initial remarks. I think that was not heard in the opposite section.

As regards to education, there is a bit of history behind it. The education which we have discussed on 16th and are discussing again today, is the education which is being imparted in this part of the world for the last 150 years. It is of Thomas Macaulay and Charles

Wood's invention. Mostly all of us, other than Swamiji or maybe some other persons, have received this education in villages unlike Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar who had been taught in a very upgraded public school. We have all been taught in villages. From my childhood, I have known that those schools were English schools. The high schools are higher English schools. The middle schools are middle English schools. The curriculum is English curriculum. The subjects physics, chemistry, history, etc. all are English curriculum.

What was India before 150 years? What was it before 1857? What was the education system in this country before 1857 or even in the 17th century? Were we all in the dark ages? Was there not any curriculum prevalent in this country? We are not discussing that today. We are not interested to know what education system was there in this country for more than 2000 years. But we have been discussing how to go along with the education system which is prevalent for the last 150 years or whether we are going to make certain changes in that.

I would like to remind my friends that as far as I know, at least in my State, how systematically our traditional oriental education system was chopped off. We have a number of schools which are called, Traditional Oriental Learning (TOL). I am sure similar schools are there in Bengal also. I do not know what is the situation in North India or South India. But this is prevalent in some parts of Bihar, Bengal and also Orissa. They are called the Traditional Oriental Learning (TOL) schools. When the Britishers — the Empire State — tried to give their type of education and when they wanted to build up their system of education, our traditional oriental learning got a beating. English schools got all patronage, from the State and also from the society. This has been noted earlier by many scholars in different books and also in different literatures. Till today after 54 years of independence, the same situation continuous and to my misfortune many of us support it here too.

Slowly, everyone who got educated in this English system or we can say in this European system, started thinking that our traditional oriental learning is something which should be rejected and which should not be taken care of. They started thinking that anyone who goes to TOL, must be having a *choti* or he must be wearing a *lungoti* and there is nothing more to learn. They also

started thinking that he goes to TOL only to learn Sanskrit Hitapodesh or Grammer or for astrology so that he can only predict. But I would like to remind you one thing. It is from an interesting book.

As lot of things have been said in that book. I may quote from a book written by Dr. S. Gopal. ...(*Interruptions*) He is one of the eminent historians of our country, son of our former President and son of a very eminent philosopher of our country, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan. I would quote a paragraph from page 143 of his book, 'Radhakrishnan — A biography'. It relates to a prediction. This prediction is relating to Dr. Radhakrishnan. This was in 1934, that is, before an independent State was formed, before our country was free. It was just after the salt *satyagraha* when the whole Congress Movement and Civil Disobedience Movement were in shatters and most of our leaders were in jail. It says:

"Sometime during these years, when Radhakrishnan was spending the summers in Europe, he met 'Cheiro', the best known palmist of his day. 'Cheiro' studied Radhakrishnan's palms and forecast that he would reach the top, be the Head of a State, but would, before his death, lose his mind. Both these prophecies seemed at the time so widely off the mark that they became a family joke."

I am not saying that we should go in for predictions. I am not saying that we should only believe in predictions. I am not saying that whatever is predicted by parrot or by anyone else comes true but there is a science to it which we perhaps do not know. We cannot say that it is wrong just because we are ignorant of some knowledge, we are ignorant of some chemistry of some science. We cannot say that it is wrong because we do not understand that. The persons who know that, at least our people who know it can develop that knowledge to science. If some attempt is being made, what is wrong in it? We, in India, are passing through a phase of development where certain values need to be promoted and others, curbed, to a substantial extent. The values are the outcome of our interaction with the West. Even after the British left in 1947, that impact continues to be felt. If we become more responsive to these influences which are growing in strength, then things will start improving. Our great need today is better understanding and appreciation of other people, their civilisations, specially their ethical and spiritual achievements.

[Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab]

When we talk of education, I am reminded about, which most of us must have read, the two Wars. One war was fought when Alexander came in an expedition — the War with Puru. Relating to that War, a question was raised. I do not know whether that has struck others or not. But a question was raised. When the War was being fought, what was the reaction of the common people? were they silent spectators?

If they were silent spectators, then what rejuvenated the Indian society to fight back against the Greeks? How Chandragupta Maurya could carve out an empire? why are history books silent on that? I come from a State called Orissa. All of us know that there were two great emperors in those days. One was Ashoka and the other was Akbar. Two great emperors. Orissa is witness to two great wars. When I was in primary school, a question used to nag me. The same question must have cropped up in Shri Prasanna Acharaya's mind also. Shri Kharabela Swain must have also felt the same way. Jawaharlal Nehru claims that Ashoka was a great king. Many historians claim that he was a great king. He did so many things. The nation progressed. He eschewed violence after the Kalinga War. After embracing non-violence and after embracing *Buddhism*, did Magadh or did Ashoka allow Kalinga to be a free country? If not why? This question has not been answered in the history books. Similarly, during Akbar's reign, Mukund Dev II the last Gajapati King of Utkal frantically asked for help to fight against the Afghan rulers of Bengal. But Mughul Army did not reach Orissa's battle front despite repeated assurances. But just within three years, Mughul Army plundered both Bengal and Orissa. The same thing was repeated with Rani Karnavati. These are historical facts, but we do not find mention of this in the history books because we are secular. Is it the reason? The study of history once done in isolation, which has been going on for the last so many years in contemporary yardsticks of evaluation—influenced by the combine of dynamic geopolitics, scientific advancement and media explosion which generates welcome winds of irreverence—becomes a wasted effort. History is reduced to a boring and avoidable pressure on the young mind.

My daughter is a school student. She posed a question which I was referring to about Alexander's war with Puru. He asked me another question. This is the question she asked. When Chittorgarh Fort was encircled by Alauddin Khilji's Army for many weeks, why was there not an uprising against the intruder? if these questions

are addressed in the history books, can it be called *safronisation*? We take pride in the ancient India, that India which attracted students from not only South-East but also from Central-Asia, Far-East and Middle-East. Why is it said that Vasco-da-gama discovered India? Is anything mentioned in the text books about our own maritime activities? Has anything been said about Rajaraja Chola who conquered Bay of Bengal? Has anything been said about our maritime activities with other countries, like Arab countries, like Rome? If these things are mentioned now in school text books, after proper research, then what is wrong in it?

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara): All these are mentioned in the history books. He has not read it. There are so many books on these subjects. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: My humble submission is that our students fail to comprehend it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, please take your seat. Now, Shri C. Sreenivasan to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: The point is that Christianity reached India about 2000 years ago. But this is not mentioned in our school text books. Christianity reached India before it reached Europe, before Europe was enlightened. Yet they say our land was discovered, our sea route was discovered, we were discovered. If this is mentioned in our text books, our students will take pride in this...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now your speech is over. You please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whatever you are saying is not going on record. You please. take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your speech is over now. It will not go on record now. Shri C. Sreenivsan, you continue your speech.

[English]

*SHRI C. SREENIVASAN (Dindigul): Hon'ble Chairman Sir, I would like to thank the mover of this motion, my esteemed colleague and the leader of the CPI(M) Party in Parliament Shri Somnath Chatterjee condemning the Government for making efforts to communalise education. I thank the Chair for giving me an opportunity to speak on behalf of my party, All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and to participate in this discussion under rule 193 initiated by Shri Somnath Chatterjee who advanced so many arguments while criticising this Government on its reprehensible efforts to saffronise education.

Hon. Leader of the Opposition Shrimati Sonia Gandhi while stressing the need to provide education to all and universalise it emphasised the need to ensure equal opportunity to all in education.

India is a land of many languages, cultures and religions. When the question of a common language has not been solved as yet, how can we evolve a common education policy for the country? Cultural ethos of several regions must not be ignored.

I for one strongly feel that only the respective State Governments can protect the languages and culture of respective regions. They alone can better contribute to their progress and development while safeguarding the regional aspirations.

When our Constitution was framed, the founding fathers of Constitution felt the need to have 'Education' in the States list. Later on education was brought under concurrent list. And now we find a Government at the Centre trying to meddle with the affairs of education which will have wider ramifications.

I apprehend that there is an attempt to distort history. Under the guise of a National Perspective, a curriculum and restructuring the syllabus has been devised and it is nothing but an attempt to put the clock back. It will take the future generation to the past meandering through medieval ages. That would develop a mindset unsuited for this modern scientific era.

While seeking to introduce a study of all religions a deliberate attempt is made to go in for a lopsided approach. In the name of promoting faith and knowledge, superstitions are exhorted. Contrary to scientific temper, study of astrology is sought to be promoted.

I would like to condemn it as a diabolical design and I am pained at the efforts of the Union HRD Ministry in this regard.

The Centre has a bounden duty to ensure an all round growth of all that touches the people of this country. The basic needs must be met. Instead, the Centre is venturing into the misleading goal of uniform education, study of religion at wrong hands and introduction of unwarranted course curriculum.

Devising curriculum and designing course-content and drawing syllabus must be left with State Governments and impartial educationists.

There was a debate during the discussion about Sanskrit which in my opinion is unwarranted. It was projected as though Sanskrit is the only classical language that belongs to this country. We must know that Tamil is as ancient and as classical a language of this land. Tamil as one among the classical and ancient languages of the world has its own fund of knowledge and wealth of vast exclusive literature. Tamil must also be accorded equal importance. Instead of finding ways to promote equally all the classical languages of the land while giving due recognition to Tamil, Centre is needlessly meddling with the education system.

There are so many perceptions about education and its frame work. Ideal education must include physical education that provide right spirit and vocational education that could provide skills for earning livelihood. Any attempt to streamline and restructure education must be borne by these basic aspects.

In Tamil Nadu, in the recently submitted Budget, the Government led by our revolutionary leader Dr. Jayalalitha has spelt out the need to promote physical education in the curriculum. Several incentive schemes have been announced. Enhanced level athletic performance at the olympic standards is sought to be amply rewarded. It has been appreciated and welcomed all over the country.

*English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Shri C. Sreenivasan]

I would suggest that Centre may emulate the right approaches made by our leader Puratchi Thalaivi in richly rewarding the gold medal prospects, silver and bronze medal prospective aspirants. Rs. 1 crore for winning gold medal, Rs. 50 lakh for a silver medal, Rs. 25 lakh for a bronze medal have been announced. The Union Government must come forward to attend to the essential need of linking physical education and vocational instructions. Only then India can march forward as a healthy nation.

Many who participated in this discussion, including the alliance partners of this NDA Government criticised and levelled charges against this Government. More particularly when Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav of United Janata Dal spoke, he said that politicians never speak truth and there is truth in that.

Take for instance the bold stance of a member who belongs to DMK making valiant points glorifying Thanthai Periyar. He opposed the introduction of astrology courses that went against the principles of Periyar who fought against superstitions with a reform zeal. There is a proverb in Tamil which says that preachings are seldom followed by the preachers. Those who exhort Periyar's teachings wear shawls and rings in the specified colours prescribed by the astrologers. They believe in luck also. They change their stance from place to place. ...*(Interruptions)*

As was rightly pointed out by Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, some politicians never practice what they claim to be as their principles and precepts.

Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi is an educated man and was in teaching profession. A scholar like him must ensure objectivity in imparting education. Going by the spirit of the founding fathers of our Constitution, education must find its place only in the State list. State Governments must have free hand in evolving their educational policy. State Governments must have the right to evolve and devise syllabus suited to the aspirations of the people of their respective regions. State Governments themselves must decide course content best suited for the academic success of their younger generation.

I urge upon the Union Government to keep its hands off the education system. I request the Hon' HRD Minister to ensure Centre's non-intervention in the vexing and contentious issues like this.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE (Jadavpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am usually brief. I shall be more so now. I can see the constraint of time. This is a very important subject but I am afraid that they emotionally carried away. Both sides are missing the inner importance of this subject. This is important not because we are criticising a particular face of this Government's Educational Policy but this debate has a much deeper significance. The moot question underlying this is about academic independence.

I believe that the academic world should be left to the educationists and the academicians. Now, the question is whether the State should at all interfere. Is it their business to interfere in it? Should the State have any power to put any constraint on the issues of education?

I have been in the education world all my life till 1996. I for one would not like any colour — saffron or otherwise — on our education. I come from the State of West Bengal. I am very happy that Shri Somnath Chatterjee has introduced this subject. But, at the same time, I am somewhat intrigued that he introduced it because in my State of West Bengal, Shri Somnath Chatterjee's party has painted education in the flaming colour of scarlet. We have suffered for that. Because we have suffered for that scarlet colour, I am also apprehensive of saffronisation. Even if what the Minister for Human Resource Development has in mind is something very harmless, I must confess that I am afraid because we have suffered so much because of this over colour in my own State. I do not know if Shri Chatterjee has any right to criticise the saffronisation policy after what they did in my State.

I have seen it in my own experience. I have seen it in the Ramakrishna Mission Schools where independence is not allowed. I have been involved deeply in an educational institute that is 'Brahmo' in nature. the 'Brahmo' colleges have suffered and are still suffering under their rule in West Bengal.

Anyway, today's point is what should we do now. Now, we have been talking about value-based education. I was in the HRD Committee that gave this report on value-based education. Our Chairman was Shri Chavan. We did devote a great deal of time on that. We went from one State to another looking for institutions that practised value-based education. When we gave the report and when we talked about value-based education,

we meant not religion but the spiritual heritage of India should be kept in mind. That was our intention. It has nothing to do with any particular religion because value is necessary in life. We saw how young people were losing that value in their own lives. So, we laid great emphasis on value-based education. But it was the multi-coloured spiritual heritage of India. At the same time, we must keep in mind the scientific progress that is going on. I am sure, Shri Joshi, who is himself a scientific person, will keep that also in mind.

I have heard a lot of criticism about astrology being in the curriculum. I will not go into it. Everybody has spoken about it. I would only like to say that let us tell our youngsters to rely on their talent and on their hard work rather than on what the stars will have in store for them. That would be much better if we did that.

Of course, Sanskrit is a great language. I have learnt Sanskrit myself. I am still a student of Sanskrit. It is a great language. I also saw as a teacher that people who had grounding in Sanskrit, wrote well Hindi, Bengali and also other languages. Sanskrit was always there. It should be there. But I was a bit surprised when suddenly this topic came out that there should be teaching of spoken Sanskrit. I really do not think that is necessary. That will be a total waste of time. Anybody wishing to have a classical learning should learn Sanskrit. But spoken Sanskrit is absolutely not necessary.

19.45 hrs.

[SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU *in the Chair*]

Now, I would like to appeal to Dr. Joshi that since there has been a lot of misgivings about this — as I said, it may be quite harmless, whatever they are trying to do excepting for some concrete criticism, which have come up — and as I myself am telling him that I have suffered because of one particular colour, I do not want to suffer for another colour also in education.

I would like him to remember the multi-lingual, multi-cultural and multi-religious nature of our country. If he feels, he should give a second throughout to this and ask all his other Members also to have a second thought because unnecessarily apprehensions should not be there. In order to do away with that, I would ask him to have a second thought on some of the aspects of the curriculum, which he is about to introduce.

But I would like to ask this Parliament and this Government to give us an assurance that education would be left to educationists. Governments will come and Governments will go. In the Centre we will have different colours of Government at different times; in the different States already we have different Governments of different views. Now, keeping that in mind, I would request him to give us an assurance from this Parliament and from this Government that the academic world can retain its freedom. That is what is necessary if we want to go in search of truth.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I only wish to record, as she has taken my name, that she has brought in something about my State, I strongly repudiate that...(*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): Sir, what Shrimati Bose has said is absolutely true. Though, we are not supporting this system, whatever Shri Chatterjee has said is not correct too. ...(*Interruptions*)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, why should he object to this, if something is happening in West Bengal...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I was not objecting, I had only made a submission that I repudiate the allegation...(*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, whatever Shrimati Krishna Bose has said about my State is correct. If her statement is not correct, I will ask her to withdraw, but if the statement is correct then Shri Somnath Chatterjee should withdraw from this House. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seats.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, for ages saffron has been used to represent spirituality. But today, we see the *Sangh Parivar* with saffron flag in hand and professedly holy-men attired in saffron playing dangerous games of communal politics and targeting education in the process.

Today, there is a systematic plan to inject the virus of communal ideology in our education. There is a determined endeavour to influence and mould the young impressionable minds the RSS way. A deadly blow is being inflicted on the country's cultural heritage and timeless pluralistic traditions.

[Shri Ramesh Kumar Bansal]

Sir, among the first acts of Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, as Minister of Human Resource Development, was to disband the National Steering Committee which comprised of some of the leading historians and other academicians to oversee the work of textbook evaluation by the National Council of Educational Research and Training to identify and eliminate communally biased material from the textbooks in some of the States. This Committee was disbanded because it was considered to be an affront to the schools run by RSS.

Sir, today the UGC, under Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, or permit me to say under Acharya Murli Manohar Joshi, believes that the study of time can be best done through Vedic Astrology.

To know the age of the earth or the universe itself, textbooks of *vedic* astrology provide the best answer. Billions of rupees spent on satellite programmes was a sheer waste as earthquakes can be predicted and weather forecast made more accurately through *vedic* astrology than the scientific means. Today, whatever he may say, astronomy is debunked for astrology. I do not know whether tomorrow we would be told that cow-dung which we use in the rural areas for a coating on the floors and the walls, can deflect atomic radiation. I do not know whether the Minister, who has a Doctorate in Physics will tell us that.

Sir, in the ICHR, a severe lethal blow has been inflicted on a work of good academic research titled 'Towards Freedom' and the Minister's repudiation of this in the past had failed to convince the people in the country.

There has also been an onslaught on the Indian historic review and certain other publications. Manifest in these acts is a move to push through and re-assert the pre-eminence of the RSS ideology and agenda, and to project as freedom fighters those who were basking in comfort when the freedom fighters were suffering at the hands of the imperial rulers.

Sir, day before yesterday, at the Prime Minister's residence, none other than the Prime Minister himself equated Shri Lakshman Rao Inamdar with Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, saying that while Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had defended the INA heroes, Shri Lakshman Rao Inamdar had appeared as a lawyer for the people who were involved in the murder of Mahatma Gandhi.

Sir, so fired by his zeal and intolerance is our hon. Minister that even his own appointee can become a *persona non grata* if the views expressed by him or actions of his are not to the liking of the hon. Minister. That is the case of Prof. M.L. Sondhi. Prof. M.L. Sondhi chose to hold an academic seminar on Indo-Pak relations at a time when a hype was being built about the visit of General Musharraf. But that was not to the liking of the Government and he was considered as a renegade and was shown the door. Sir, Prof. M.L. Sondhi is said to have written a letter to the NDA Convenor, Shri George Fernandes urging him to stop daylight exploitation of our educational system. He says further that it is time that people in India live in a democracy which is truly one and not cheated in the name of saffronisation. These are the words of Prof. Sondhi. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, how many minutes have I taken?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Jaipal Reddy has expressed his wish.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, I am not the Chief Whip. I would not express a wish. My Chief Whip will decide that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I am trying to be extremely precise. If you want, I will just sit down.

Sir, I live at Feroz Shah Road. In the morning walk when I go there, on the complex of ICCR, I find a new board proclaiming 'Shyama Prakash Mukherjee Information Gateway'. We learn that there is a move to start a new research institute in Manali in the name of Deen Dayal Upadhyay. Sir, the credibility of premier institutions both educational and cultural in the country has suffered a severe blow because of certain acts of the hon. Minister and the Government, which faithfully represents the RSS ideology. I would not like to go in details because of the time constraint which you have indicated to me. But I would like to mention that even Museums which have been showcasing the Indian culture are sought to be redone today to show that Harappan culture was essentially an Aryan civilisation, to proffer the argument that Aryans are indigenous people and did not come from elsewhere.

Sir, it is dangerous to draw up the conclusion which the BJP draws from the size of majority that Hinduism represents in our polity. For Veer Savarkar a Hindu may be a person who regards this land as his father land and his holy land. But this theory does not represent the liberal view of India. Unfortunately, the allies of the BJP fail to notice this insidious trend.

Every common man today accepts that anyone who is an Indian, to whichever religion he belongs, whichever faith he professes, is as good an Indian as anybody else and, nobody has the right to arrogate patriotism and try to pass judgements on others. With respect, I would like to say that the *Hindutva* of BJP has no respect for Hinduism. It is a political movement to misguide the people. In national interest, I would urge the hon. Minister and the Government to please develop a fine sense of history. Do not let the past impinge on your present to torment you. Otherwise, history will be obliged to equate you with Taliban who bombarded the whole heritage site of Buddha Statues in Afghanistan without any compunction. I would urge the hon. Minister that on his forehead he should not wear the slime of history but the *tilak* of national unity and integrity, the *tilak* of India's vast plurality, its diversity, its multi-lingual and multi-cultural ethos.

Today, the BJP is charged with the responsibility of running the affairs of a State as vast as India which is of Sub-Continental proportion but its leadership refuses to shake off its biases and prejudices of a sectarian party. It takes pride in demolishing the secular and democratic traditions and institutions.

Efforts to doctor textbooks in various States where BJP happened to come to power for some time, failed. Efforts to entice the Government servants to the RSS fold in Gujarat rebounded. Any effort to tinker with the age-old liberal thought and belief of India will be frustrated by the people. I do not know whether the BJP would really like to appreciate that or understand that or change its ideology. But certainly I urge their allies in the Government, who are fobbed by the BJP today by saying, to realise this, that they are putting on the backburner issues concerning abrogation of article 370, etc. But they really fail to notice the insidious trends that are being

thrust on the education by the BJP. I would only request the NDA people to at least realise that, in the national interest.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea): Mr. Chairman, Sir, discussion on saffronisation of education is being made for last few days. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude within five minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: What would I speak within five minutes.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted to you is only five minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: There is communism on one side, secularism on the second, Hinduism on the third and socialism in the middle. This is a very amazing question for me that where should we live among them, what should we speak and for what should we put forth our request. I congratulate our learned leader Somnath dada, who has brought this discussion here and for presenting this discussion here. Every issue, that is a set back on the society or that hurts the people, should be brought in the House and there is a need for every Member to present his views and bring a discussion and he has done so. But so far as saffronisation, communism and secularism are concerned, I believe that discussion is continued to be made in this House for years on a number of policy matters and many issues.

20.00 hrs.

But people say that it is politicisation. Religion and 'Mazhab', religion and opium this is a very long discussion, this cannot be concluded by a short discussion. I understand that had there been a discussion on the

[Shri Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav]

commercialisation to education, there would definitely be the radical changes. But whatever questions are being raised on culture, on religion, on spiritualism, their meanings are very amazing. Discussion is also made on education of communism and education of socialism. Whatever slogans our communist friends have given, they have largely discharged the materialistic traditions in them beyond the spirit of communism and socialism. Whenever anybody tried to harm the history or tried to change it, a strong wave of change has occurred which remained uncontrolled by everybody. Even today, if any attempt is made by any particular person or power to harm the history, then again a strong wave of change will occur and that would not be controlled. But our friends, who talk about communism and socialism, do the job of harming the history and they have done this in our country and also in foreign countries. In their own State, whether it is Subhash Chandra Bose, Rabindranath Tagore or whether there is a question of Rama-Krishna, our sister was mentioning just now that how the history and the culture have been harmed there in the name of communism. A discussion was being made here about Mahatma Gandhi. From where did Mahatma Gandhi get education, he was itself a lawyer, he wanted to take the education upto which level, which slogan did he give, these are many issues. So far as education and religion are concerned, I would say to our learned Minister Joshiji that education should be the education of neo-humanism. It should be the education of equality, it should be the education that takes us towards the perfection. The meaning of perfection is infinity and infinity means entry of welfare in the human life. The man who has attained the perfection has become infinite. Therefore, education takes us towards infinity. Education cannot be curbed, it cannot be harmed. It is a matter of a very long discussion.

So far as spiritual education or social welfare is concerned, the meaning of spiritualism should not be derived from the religion or 'Mazhab'. Its meaning is very vast. The meaning of spiritualism is to take the spirit towards the path of progress. It is the biggest welfare. A long discussion can be made on it. But with regard to the question of education, today education of Tata-Birla, Goyanka is also existing in the country. We want such education in the country by which history could be created, which can neither be turned nor twisted and no one could mention that another history is being created. So

far as secularism in education is concerned, there are people having a secular faith. Whether they are our friends sitting in NDA and raising debate, they have also made an objection. I do not know they would make their objection upto which extent and would go to which limit. So far as my personal question is concerned, whenever the spirit of humanism is harmed, whenever any religion or 'Mazhab' or any person would be harmed, the people like me would not going to tolerate it quietly.

We would oppose it, we would not give ground in opposing it under every circumstance but so far as change in education is concerned, there should definitely be radical changes. If we talk about Buddha today, if we talk about Krishna, then a long discussion can be made on it. If we go and see in those places where the completeness of Lord Buddha is pervaded in real terms, we would find that how the system of education commenced there with the spirit of Buddha. If we visit England, Japan or Thailand, we would find that how the Buddhist education is taken in which form...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prof. A.K. Premajam to speak now.
...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: I would conclude after mentioning two or three points.
...*(Interruptions)* spiritual education and general knowledge should proceed according to the nature and when they would proceed according to the nature but if there would be any harm on spiritualism, any harm on religion, then we are not ready to accept it. I believe that definitely.
...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav, please follow the direction of the Chair. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav, please take your seat. You will get time on next occasion. I have already called Prof. A.K. Premajam to speak. You have already taken ten minutes.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: I would conclude in one minute only. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Prof. A.K. Premajam.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: So far as Sanskrit and Astrology are concerned, these two issues have been raised here. Sanskrit is such a language, that it has usage in all languages whether it is Kannada, Oriya, Maithili, Bhojpuri, Nagpuri or Bangla or Telugu. There is no language which do not have its origin from Sanskrit. We are not here to oppose the Sanskrit...*(Interruptions)*. We want that Snaskrit should be the national language. I believe that it is not proper to impose any issue forcibly in the country. Now so far Vande Matram is concerned, some of our friends have mentioned that the things which are being worshipped by us...*(Interruptions)*. Now Saraswati obeisance is the internal worship, but we have converted Saraswati in the shape of a statue. ...*(Interruptions)*. A long discussion can be made on Saraswati also...*(Interruptions)* I would conclude after mentioning a point right now ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Prof. A.K. Premajam. Shri Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav, I do not allow you. You should obey the directive. I will not allow even a single word to go on record. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav, your behaviour is not proper. Everybody is following the directive. Nothing will go on record except the speech of Prof. A.K. Premajam.

...*(Interruptions)**

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is with deep concern and distress that I participate in this discussion on 'safronisation' of education initiated by hon. Shri Somnath Chatterjee on 16th of this month under Rule 193.

Of the many ways in which the BJP-led NDA Government have been trying to communalise all areas of activities, the most distressing is the topic which we are discussing at present. It is a very serious topic and we cannot take it very light-heartedly. For constraint of time I will be very brief.

This 'safron' agenda has been there for quite a long time. But it has only been a hidden agenda. The national curriculum framework for school education was released by the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi on 14th November, 2000.

Actually, the BJP-led Government had made an affront on this country. It is a fraud on the future generations of India. In the Kothari Commission Report, the first sentence is that the future of our country is made in classrooms. As such, this new curriculum meant for the entire nation is an affront and a fraud. We have to go backward by three years. In the Twelfth Lok Sabha, when the BJP Government was formed, within six months of its inception, it had made a clandestine effort to introduce this agenda at school level and also at college level. I am giving this information because it is against this background that we have to view what has been going on in the regime of the BJP-led Government. In the Education Ministers' Conference during October 22-24, 1998, there was an attempt made. It was done in a very clandestine manner, but it was foiled very successfully by the Education Ministers who had come here and also the partners of the then BJP-led NDA Government. The Telugu Desam Party and the Akali Dal had very strongly protested against that move.

Ever since that time, the Ministry of Human Resource Development, under the leadership of an eminent scientist for that matter, has been trying to put forward this agenda in one way or the other. Now, it has come to the forefront. It is no longer a secret agenda. With this agenda in force, actually almost all the important academic and cultural institutions in this country like UGC, NCERT, ICHR, ICSSR and IGNCA are actually filled with men who have become 'his master's voice'. We have

* Not recorded.

[Prof. A.K. Premajam]

bureaucrats here. What are Hari Gautams, Rajputs and Kaws doing? Instead of giving advice based on scientific temper, they have actually bowed down and have become mere 'his master's voice.' This is what they are doing. They are writing articles in Government journals and various national dailies. Actually, they are giving exposition not to their official duty but to what is actually demanded by the people who propagate this saffron agenda. In the Conference of Education Ministers, they wanted. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Just two minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already taken two minutes.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: For want of time, I will point out only a few important things. They wanted to introduce a curriculum which...*(Interruptions)* They should introduce essentials of Indian culture and this should form 10 to 25 per cent of the syllabus. This is actually the programme of *Vidya Bharati Akhil Bharatiya Sansthan and Shishnu Mandir*. This is not a programme of the Government of India. It is actually a programme, a document, a paper which has been prepared by Chitalangaiha, an RSS-front man which had been tried to be forced on the country, on the educational sphere of the country. What do they want to do? They want to make Sanskrit compulsory. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is an agreement. She was given two minutes. I have already given her five minutes. If everybody agrees to sit till 10 p.m., I do not have any objection.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Now, they are going to introduce value education and also *Jyotish Vigyan*. All these things have already been discussed and I am not going into details.

I want to say one thing about history. Prof. Malhotra, while participating in the discussion, had said certain things about history. He said, it is Communist or Marxist history. Actually, what he referred to as Marxist history is not Marxist history; it is actually scientific history based on scientific methodology. Of course, we have become exponents of that history and we are proud of that. They wanted to inculcate their agenda by pushing the history backward and saying that the Aryan Civilisation and Indus

Valley culture are one and the same thing. Indus Valley culture is based on archaeological evidence and even Carbon-14 test had been used for determining their features.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Sir, I will conclude by saying just one sentence. I want the Government to withdraw this curriculum framework.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this discussion they are saying that saffronisation is being done. In my opinion it is not saffronisation but politicisation of the Communist Party. When they do not have faith in God, how come they will accept our tricolour.

Sir, many years' ago when I was in school they had organised a demonstration in Delhi. They were raising a slogan "Maang Raha Hai Hindustan Lal Kile Par Lal Nishan". Since there was no Red Revolution, therefore, they are sad today. They want to change the history. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: With your help, we will do it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Please do not disturb me...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): We are not disturbing you.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Sir, is it wrong to make aware about Indian culture and history? We have been taught that we have won our independence because of the courage and bravery of Rana Pratap, Chhatrapati, Shivaji, Guru Govind Singh, Ranjit Singh. They have their own history and if we will not follow their history who else will be? They are afraid of that if we teach nationalism their communism will come to an end. He

has been named after God. His father was the member of Hindu Maha Sabha for two term. Swamy Vivekanandji belonged to Bengal. What did he say in Chicago where all the spiritual leaders of the world came with their holy books to propagate their religion.

Sir, Swami Vivekanandji said he had carried his holy book Mahabharata with him and put it at the top of other holy books brought by spiritual leaders as he reached there a little bit later. He placed his holy book Mahabharata on it. As he went to his seat he came to know that his holy book has been deliberately placed at the bottom. He was very intelligent and wise and a person who could react immediately. He stood up and went before the audience...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: He will conclude within one minute.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: When he pulled his holy book Mahabharata all the other holy books fell down. Then he said the Mahabharata is the holy book of Hindus. When this was pulled all other holy books fell down shows that if we take the Hindu religion out from all the religion then there will be no religion at all. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, let him say in which Conference Swamiji did it. I have also read about his life. He should say in which Conference he did it.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Is it not true? I will show you the book. The book is with me. I have read in book.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rawale, please address the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: You can say so as your madam is the President of your Party. We also respect her *..*..*(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, we take strong objection to this. It should not go on record...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rawale, please address the Chair. Please do not provoke them. You should speak on the subject.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: They are out to ruin the country...(Interruptions) What is this?

[Translation]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): You do not know...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: They have destroyed millions and thousands of our temples...(Interruptions) We will be happy if you enlighten us. You please tell us...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not argue with them. Please address the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Is he aware of the facts?

[Translation]

Communal flare is incited as and when you require it.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: We have such a tradition...(Interruptions)

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, they know nothing about it...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

They talk about their new constitution...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Let the truth come out...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

When Moghals came here they destroyed the Hindu temples...(Interruptions) Let her say that she has Indian citizenship, does she not have the citizenship of Italy also? If I will be proved wrong. I will apologise for this from the House...(Interruptions)

[English]

Let the truth come out...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, all personal references to the Leader of the Opposition should be deleted...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: This is not personal...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

It is a history that they have destroyed our temples...(Interruptions) and all the students should know about it. Both Hindus and Muslims have made sacrifice for Bande Matram-which means I bow my head before you. But today Mullas and Maulavis are spreading venom against Vande Matram...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: See what did he say?...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rawale, I have given you chance on your personal request. Please do not provoke them. You come to the subject.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: There is a sense of sacrifice, courage and bravery in Vande-Matram. If any religion come in its way...(Interruptions) The Mullas and Maulvis are preaching in Madrasas that it is against their religion to honour the tricolour on 15th August and 26th January and these Madararas are getting aids from Central Governments and State Government. They all talk about appeasement of muslims. ...(Interruptions) They want to change the history with the politics of votes. I want to speak on Indian mythology which had helped in progress of the world but due to lack of time I cannot do so.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will take only two minutes. I am an independent and believe in secularism.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Mahale, next time you will get a chance. You speak on every subject.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

20.23 hrs.

At this stage Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale came and stood near the well of the House.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not proper.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: I am secular.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Everybody is secular.

[Translation]

20.23 hrs.

At this stage Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale went to his seat.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, while apologising from you and this House, I would like to say something. It is the duty of the representative of the people to expose the reality. The concept of charity in Indian culture not only augment working, physical strength and patience but also leads him towards self-respect. In the present circumstances 80% of our tribal population is illiterate and they are destined to find some one to lead them.

One should always maintain one's self respect. The people of RSS have opened schools for tribal children. They undertook the work of education properly but they have named it Banvasi Kalyan. I am an aged man and a resident of India. I have my own self-respect. Rana Pratap did not took shelter under Akbars feet. He had maintained his self respect. During exile of Rama Tribal people helped him. Hanumanji also helped Rama. In Maharashtra, saint of Gyaneshwar translated 'Geeta' in Marathi and spread the knowledge among the people. I do not oppose sanskrit but it should not be forced on the people. The Communist Party has shoulders off its responsibility. Shri Somnath Chatterji of this party presented this discussion before the House. Supporting this, I have to say that this Government is tarnishing the education in the name of saffronisation. With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, a very important subject is being discussed in this House for past three days. I thank all those respected members who expressed their views on this subject. You have provided me the opportunity to present the facts regarding this issue before the House and the countrymen.

Sir, I think that much of the controversy is caused either by the people's ignorance of facts or due to the intentional concealment of facts of the subject. First, I would tell you about the genesis of this issue. It was clearly mentioned in the education policy of 1986 and in its amended version of 1992 that a review of the implementation of this policy should be undertaken after every five years. Neither a review was undertaken till

1997, nor an attempt was made to incorporate the progress made in the world during that period in the light of the changes in the thinking of the educationists the world over due to new experiences. In fact, the work was initiated much before this Government came into power but the work was not finished. I would like to say that the begining was made in 1997 when there was a Government supported by them. A beginning was made at that time for making an estimate, for taking up a project which would made a review of these books. Fund was also allotted for that purpose.

A Committee was also constituted but it did nothing. Allotment of fund was made twice. A Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. Arjun Dev was constituted but it did no work. It means that it is contrary to facts that the present Government started this work as soon as it assumed office. It is within the frame-work of the above mentioned education policy, which was modified by the Centre. But, it is a fact that it has been started at a fast pace since we came to power. A Committee was constituted in September, 1999 for executing that work on a comprehensive and faster pace. That Committee started its work. It drafted a paper and that paper was discussed at National Institute of Education, The Central Institute of Educational Technology, The Regional Institute of Education at Ajmer, Bhopal, Bhubaneshwar and Mysore, Demonstration Schools Attached to them and Pt. Sunder Lal Sharma Central Institute of Vocational Education, Bhopal. Their opinions were sought on that very issue. It is being alleged that the issue was brought all of a sudden and was given a backdoor entry, it must be clarified. It is being published in newspapers. We have been sending circulars and State Governments have been informed. So, it is wrong to say that it is being inducted from back door and it is also wrong to say that no consultation was made. Then, all the departments have been asked to hold their internal meetings to discuss this paper and to have consultations on their advices. These are nodal institutions in their respective areas and are working in the fields of education for many years.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, afterwards, that work continued till October, 1999. Then, Prof. Yashpal, Prof. M. Mukhopadhyay, Prof. J.N. Kapoor, Dr. Arvind Kumar, Dr. Anirudha Rajan, Dr. Sugat Mitra, Dr. Ravindra Kumar,

[Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi]

Prof. Yogendra Singh, Dr. Mrs. Kapila Vatsyayan discussed this issue in the meeting which was held later on. These persons are scholars and eminent in the fields of Arts, Culture, Science and Humanity. None of them belong to BJP or RSS. They represent not only one field. Can anyone say that they are from BJP?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Did they agree?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Please listen. Do not intervene like this...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: You are trying to mislead the House...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Shall I accept your views when you know nothing about it? Do not say so. After that, consultation was made. Please listen to me. The document was prepared after selecting the important items. Then, the text books of NCERT were checked for finding out shortcomings in them. A review and an analysis was made for selecting those suggestions which can be implemented. After drafting this document, a meeting was held in January, 2000, and the same was sent to all the Union Ministers, Education Ministers of the States and all those officers at the Centre and in the States who were concerned with education. It was also sent to the leaders of political parties, the Members of Parliament, educationists, teachers, educators, University departments, Research Institutes, Voluntary Organizations, eminent scholars, social activists and like.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, then we wrote letters to all of them. I would like to read out its content. A document was sent to the Union Ministers on 17th January, 2000. On this issue, the opinion of the Chief Ministers of all the States was sought on 31st December, 2000.

Then, we sent this document to 67 political leaders. It was sent to Shri Somnath Chatterjee and the Leader of the Opposition, Mrs. Sonaia Gandhi. I can read out the names of all those persons. It was sent to Bommai Saheb, Shri Arjun Singh, Shri Madhav Rao Scindia. All

of them are former Union Education Ministers. It was also sent to each and every political leader of the country. I would like to quote from that letter.

[English]

"I take this opportunity to impress upon the need for considering this document in your Party fora and among legislators who may like to help and guide the respective State Governments in implementing the curricula framework in a desirable manner for the betterment of the States in general and for improving the quality of education."

[Translation]

I do not know whether any political leader discussed this issue in his political frame or not. Even if any discussion was held, then what have been the outcome...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: It was an outright rejection-through several Conferences and through several Conventions- by all eminent educationists...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: What are you saying...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Had you called an All Party's Meeting...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please listen to him first and if you have any doubt, I will give you a chance.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Please listen to me, the procedure is that...*(Interruptions)* It is not so when the curriculum is prepared...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is reading out whatever he has written. Please wait for some time.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Every Chief Minister, every Education Minister is a member of General Body of NCERT and this document was read out and discussed before all of them. Chief Minister came and some of them sent their Secretaries to attend the meeting. All the minutes are lying with me...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: It was an outright rejection.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Nobody rejected it...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Several times it was rejected by eminent educationists...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you do like this, how can he reply?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: You may reject, you are at liberty to do that but we had requested that...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: 'Mr. Minister, you may please address the Chair. Otherwise, this will continue.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: The document was placed before each Education Minister and was read out, their opinion was sought about it and we have their feedback. The Minister have given their suggestions and some of them said that they will discuss it in their respective States. We do not know what happened after the discussions. Some of them said that they will apprise us about it later on but nobody has told anything so far. We did not disclose it to the media. We had sent it to them for discussion and to elicit their opinion. We had hoped that a dialogue, a debate was going on and we wanted to know their opinion. But, suddenly there was an endeavour to politicise the whole issue and to present it in such a distorted form as if this Government or this document of the Ministry is being changed. I had said then, and I say it today also as I had said in that meeting and I repeat that if anything in this document goes against the policy and Action Plan of 1986-1992, then you may

kindly point out to us that such and such sentence, matter or paragraph is against the accepted policy. It is not a policy document. They must first understand that it is a curriculum framework. There is a policy of 1986 and another policy of 1992. We are working in accordance with that policy only. We have been saying it repeatedly and today I reiterate that they may inform us if it contains anything against the policies of 1986 and 1992. We will definitely pay attention to that and wherever anything found against it, we will delete that. But they must tell me. They are shouting that 'Shamat' has published it...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): He is allergic to 'Sahmat', I know that; and he has no answer. 'Sahmat' has quoted from different documents and I read some of them...(Interruptions) What is it that he is saying? I know he has no answer because 'Sahmat' is exposing him...(Interruptions) 'Sahmat' has quoted from many documents for facility of reference. I read out some from that. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Bansal, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair. If you address the hon. Members, then they will argue like this.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: I am saying that six to eight months have passed since these documents were sent to you and more than a year have passed since the time when they were sent to the Chief Ministers and Education Ministers.

They had a plenty of time. While considering it, they could have told us that these points, are going against the policy of 1986. Even today nothing is being told till now. They can point out in the NCERT document. What is happening in the Madrasa, in the Vishwa Shiksha Bharati, in the Churches is a different issue on which a debate can be held separately later on. But today's debate is focused on what we have written in the NCERT

[Dr. Murl Manohar Joshi]

documents. If there is something objectionable in it, tell us, if it is against the document of 1986, or if it is against 1982...(Interruptions)

[English]

I am not yielding...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can speak after the Minister's reply.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: He is trying to by-pass the essence of the motion. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Dasmunsi, please hear him first.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI (Diamond Harbour): He is not replying to the points raised by the Members...(Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: I will tell you everything...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please hear him first. If you have any doubt, you can seek clarifications after the reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Reddy, let him first complete the reply. I will allow you also.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY (Narasaraopet): The Minister has mentioned the 1992 Review of the Education Policy. It does not contain 'safronistion'. I was the Chairman. The Minister is saying that he has not deviated from that...(Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: You may show me the deviation...(Interruptions)

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: I was the Chairman and I know it pretty well...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the Minister complete the reply.

...(Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: I seek your protection...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not the proper way. The Minister is giving reply.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: The motion is regarding safronisation of education. The Minister is saying that he will only confine to...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has not yet completed the reply.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: These are the points...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please hear him first. This is not the proper way.

...(Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: I seek your protection, Sir. I am not yielding...(Interruptions) I have not deviated...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please hear him first. He has not completed his reply. This is not the proper way. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: The Minister has asked, where is the deviation and he is showing it. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will give you a chance later.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: Page 36 of the NCERT Document talks about the Value Education and I would like to quote it. It says:

"Value education and education about religions would not form a separate subject of study or examination at any stage. These would be so judiciously integrated with all the subjects of study in the scholastic areas and all the activities and programmes in the co-scholastic areas that the objectives thereof would be directly and indirectly achieved in the classrooms."

This was not there either in 1986 or 1992 document. Religious practice is being allowed in the classrooms. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may first hear the reply of the Minister.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): The same words are there in the report of Shri Chaudhary... (Interruptions)

[English]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: You may read the 1986 document and show me where I have deviated... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the Minister's reply.

...(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: I have not disturbed anybody while they were speaking... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not proper. The Minister is giving the reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: With all humility, I may repeat, show me the deviation... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: The Minister has asked, where is the deviation... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has not completed the reply. Please wait and see.

...(Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: I am only saying that you may bring the documents of both 1986 and 1992, and also place my document of 2001 and then show me the deviation or any opposition. I agree that there may be many paragraphs which may not be there.

But this is a Curriculum Framework and that is a Policy Document.

This is a document on National Curriculum Framework. It is not a policy document. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Sir, this is an important issue... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is an important issue. Please allow the Minister to reply. Then, I will give you a chance.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Reddy, I will give you a chance later. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, I am not yielding... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the Minister's reply.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will give you a chance later. Please obey the direction of the Chair.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, I am not yielding. I have not disturbed any Member. I listened attentively to everyone and have taken notice of what they said. I am giving serial-wise explanation to what you have said. The hon'ble Leader of Opposition said that I did this without seeking the opinion of anybody. Hon'ble Munshiji says that I am deviating from the issue. I would like to tell him that I am answering only to the question which has been raised. I am giving him the answer to those questions what I have noted down. Please, listen to me. You did not interrupt the hon. Member who had raised the questions. While you are interrupting me when I am answering to the raised issues. I would like to say that this is not a policy document, it is a curriculum and every State is free to frame its own syllabus. Every Board

* Not recorded.

* Not recorded.

[Dr. Murlī Manohar Joshi]

is free to frame its own syllabus. It is just a framework, a broad outline of what should be included within its scope and you should teach that we have sent it to all and it has been sent many times. We are ready to hold talks on it once again. They should study it seriously and let us know if there is anything contained in it which goes against the education policy of 1986....*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Chairman, Sir, 13 organisations had organised seminars on it which include Bharat Scouts and Guide, Bhopal, the Regional Institute of Education, Mysore, the Regional Institute of Bhubaneswar, the Regional Institute of Bhopal, DME, NCERT, REI, Ajmer, National Academy of Science....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

20.48 hrs.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You have not consulted the Central Advisory Board of Education.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: I am coming to that point only. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Central Advisory Board was there in 1994. Thereafter, it was not constituted in 1995, 1996 and not even in 1997. Most of the Members of the Central Advisory Board are the State Education Minister who have been sent this curriculum. It was placed before the General Council of the NCERT, it was sent to the experts and also to the bureaucrats related to education....*(Interruptions)*. The Central Advisory Board of Education does not exist today. It was not reconstituted after 1994. It would be reconstituted, if it is felt necessary, but it has not been constituted in 1995, in 1996 and in 1997 after 1994....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, is it a Question-Answer Session?

....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: In the BAC meeting, you ask for discussions in the House on important subjects. But you are not listening anything from the Government.

....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: When the Minister replies, why do you not listen?

....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Is it a proper way of asking the clarification?

....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: But Sir, it is also not the proper way to make a reply....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If you want to ask the clarifications, you can ask them after the Minister's reply. But you cannot ask them now. You have spoken, but you are not allowing the Government to reply.

....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are speaking in the debate but you are not allowing the Minister to reply. What is this?

....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please be seated. What is wrong with you?

....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: A new type of trend is being developed now.

....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: A small experience of my parliamentary life is that hon. Members should have patience for clarification and replies to their questions raised in the House. If even after the reply or clarification of the Minister, there is something more to be clarified, only then they should raise their voices*(Interruptions)* I never interrupted the speech of any hon. Member....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Members of your party interrupted ...(*Interruptions*)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Whatever the hon. Members said, be they from ruling parties or opposition parties, I am not responsible for that. An hon. Member is sitting here with me, who was also with me in Parliament in 1977. Anyone can cite even a single incident when I interrupted the speech of any Member or Minister during my long Parliamentary life. I did never interrupt anyone's speech. So please listen me. This is a very important issue...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Minister, will you yield for half-a-minute?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Yes.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, all sections of the House have expressed their views and the hon. Minister has heard them very patiently. Except some hon. friends from the BJP and one hon. Member from the BJD, everybody has expressed great reservations. I am not using any other terms. In this circumstance, the hon. Minister should very seriously consider and not try to enforce it against the wishes of almost all sections of the House, hold a proper conference and discussions in this matter. You may call the Ministers and everybody. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: A meeting was held with the Education Minister of all the States to prepare frame work of the curriculum...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Why do you not call a meeting of the Education Ministers of different States? Sir, he is not calling the State Education Ministers...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except the Minister's reply.

...(*Interruptions*)*

* Not recorded.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, none of the Education Ministers of the Congress-ruled States has accepted this curriculum and agreed to this understanding, whatever he may say...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: No Minister of Congress led Government even expressed the views against this document...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Khammam): But we are saying so...(*Interruptions*)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: You do not politicise the issue. It is being said that it was pushed in stealthy and surreptitiously and something hidden in was imposed, but it is not so. I am telling you that this is the first time when this curriculum or document has been circulated on such wide scale. If earlier anyone has done so then I request you to furnish me details regarding that. I am read the name who have been sent this document...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Just now, you have said that it was written in the letter...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

I want to know your views on how to implement this.

MR. SPEAKER: No, this is not a healthy tradition. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: When we write a letter to any State Government or Chief Minister officially, then we expect that they would send their official replies...(*Interruptions*) But none has done so. Some of the Chief Ministers who were present in the meeting, have given their comments. I have their comments ...(*Interruptions*). I have received the comments of the Ministers from Tripura and Kamataka. I have received the comments from Chauhan Saheb also. So you cannot say that it has been rejected by them. No one have rejected it. We have sent it to all the NCERT officials in each and every State...(*Interruptions*). I give you an example. The State Government of Nagaland circulated

this document by printing it on its own. The Chief Minister and Education Minister of Nagaland said...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You may go to China with a divided House...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Please listen to me. You tried to divide India and here you are doing the same to divide the House, but you are not going to succeed in this design.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am making this submission very humbly. Babu Somnathji would remember that his party had seconded the proposal of division of India. I just want to remind you...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: If you have faith in democracy, then you should call a meeting of Education Minister...(Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: You listen to me. I have full faith in democracy and I have strictly followed democratic process in this regard. Even today I say that you give me in writing that a particular sentence on this page is against the education policy of 1986 or against the report of the Standing Committee. I want to tell you...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: There are certain things...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, what are you doing?

[English]

What is this? The hon. Minister is not yielding.

...(Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: I am yielding for Shri Jaipal Reddy.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to why he has not chosen to call a meeting of the Education Ministers. Why is he trying to deal with them through correspondence and separately, and why is he not trying to deal with them organisationally and collectively?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: I have replied to it, however I will again clarify.

All the Education Ministers are the members of the NCERT General Body. A meeting was called. The document was placed before them. After that it was kept in the website. We wrote letters to all the Chief Ministers, to all the Union Ministers and to all the leaders of political parties and requested them to discuss it in their party fora. ...(Interruptions) I have not received any feedback from them. There is no official feedback from them till today.

[Translation]

After that if you call a meeting on your own and then say that we rejected it, it does not make any sense. I have written very clearly that you should discuss it and then communicate us your view points...(Interruptions)

[English]

You can not run this country like this.

[Translation]

If you point out something only then I shall call a meeting otherwise what for should I call a meeting.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: So you are not interested in discussing the issue in the House. You are only interested in calling the meeting.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: I myself have invited the discussion. I have repeatedly said that if you find anything wrong...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: You tell me one thing. My document is before you, before the nation. It has been circulated internationally. We have also put it on the website. I have also made a statement in this regard that if these documents contain anything against the education policy of 1986, then please point out, I

shall correct that. But no one has come forward. Privately, they all say that this document is very useful. One of our hon. Member said to my officer...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Premajam, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, please address the Chair. By that way, you can avoid this kind of confrontation.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Our hon. Member said that the document was perfectly but there was some...(Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): What happened in the Chief Ministers meeting that was called by you. Tell us about that...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please address the Chair.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: I will tell you that.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Whatever has been raised by Shri Jaipal Reddyji...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the proper way to seek clarifications.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: You have sent the letter but I want to know as to what happened in the meeting of Chief Ministers...(Interruptions)

[English]

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

...(Interruptions)*

21.00 hrs.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: This document also contains the minutes of the General Council's meeting of NCERT. I can read it out to you. That was a meeting of Education Minister and not of the Chief Ministers. You are saying that why I am saying so, I am saying that. I am just explaining the status of the debate

[English]

quote from the minutes of 37th Annual General Meeting of National Council of Educational Research and Training. It says:

"Speaking first, Shri Ram Laxhan Ram Raman, Education Minister, Bihar informed that after formation of Jharkhand State, some of the prominent institutions of erstwhile Bihar are now in this newly formed State. These *inter alia* include: Residential School in Netrahat; Indira Gandhi Residential School for Girls in Hazaribagh; and Sanik School in Tilaiya.

He further indicated that the work being done by the NCERT in the field of school education is praiseworthy and appreciated by the Government of Bihar.

As regards the education of different religions advocated in the National Curriculum Framework on pages 19-20, 35-36 and 117-118, the hon. State Minister pointed out that the children should be oriented towards nationalistic feelings and secular values need to be inculcated. The State Education Departments should be cautious while selecting secular teachings from literature.

Shrimati Anandi Patel, Education Minister, Gujarat, in her address highlighted the following: Character building be one of the aims of primary education..."

...(Interruptions)

Please listen to me. He came and spoke like this...(Interruptions)

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

...(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, please address the Chair.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Shri Anil Sarkar, Education Minister, Tripura made the following suggestions/observations:

"The Agenda Papers for the Annual General Meeting of the NCERT should be sent to the members at least 15 days in advance. The State Education Department was grateful for the assistance provided by the NCERT. The curriculum load need not be increased through Value Education Programmes. Eminent Personalities such as Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and the poet Nazrul Islam, who participated in the freedom movement, be highlighted in the school education curricula, particularly in the NCERT Textbooks.

NCERT kits are not being used appropriately and frequently due to shortage of safe custody place and almirahs etc;

Textbooks of NCERT are not easily available in time in the State."

It is the responsibility of the State. Further, Shri F. Malsawma, Education Minister, Mizoram, expressed the following views:

"Reflection in the NCF for showing equal respect to all religions appreciated."

Please listen to me...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: This is the rejection of your report...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rupchand Pal, this is too much. What is this? Senior Members are also doing like this.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: I further quote:

"Mizoram with 96 per cent literacy is now the most peaceful State in the North-Eastern Region.

NCERT textbooks for Secondary and Senior Secondary stages be made available to the students of Mizoram in time.

Vocational Education programme needs to be placed on sound footing by providing resource support and ensuring proper supervision, among other things.

The Children in Mizoram are eager to learn Hindi. Adequate Central assistance for promotion of Hindi by way of teacher's salary etc. may be provided.

The work done by the NCERT in the area of school education is praiseworthy. NCERT expert should visit the State more frequently for exchange of ideas and experiences and for providing guidance on various educational matters."

[Translation]

I shall tell you only what they said. How can I tell you what they never said. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: I further quote:

"Intervening in the discussions, Shri H. Vishwanatha, Education Minister, Karnataka lauded the contribution of NCERT in the field of pre-service and in-service teacher education, curriculum development, science education and indicated that textbook production is held in high esteem by the State of Karnataka."

This is all from the Minister of Karnataka...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, I seek your protection. Please ask him to reply to the point.

MR. SPEAKER: He is not yielding.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: He had asked a question about the decisions which was also attended by the Chief Ministers arrived at in the meeting of NCERT. The details of meeting are given in these minutes. If any Member wants to see them, I will get it to circulated. These minutes are sent to all Ministers...(Interruptions). I am reading it out but you are not allowing me to do so...(Interruptions).

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rupchand Pal, what is this continuous confrontation?

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Not even a Minister, present there, rejected this document. Some of them gave their suggestions. Some of them said....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What is this?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody bothers about the dignity and decorum of the House.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: How it can be possible to clarify my point?...(Interruptions) It means that you want to express your views only but do not want to listen to me. This is very strange...(Interruptions) This is being propagated that the Government want to bring some legislation in this regard. But when I want to give clarifications, nobody is ready to listen to it.(Interruptions) What is all this? It will not do...(Interruptions)

[English]

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

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Hon'ble Members have asked me to give reply to the question as to how this document has been prepared and accordingly, I am giving reply to it...(Interruptions) I have said nothing on my own. I am just giving reply to the question which the hon'ble Member has asked. The leader of the opposition said that the Government is bringing it without soliciting opinion...(Interruptions) I am telling about the opinion but

if you do not want to listen to it, it means that you have already presumed that the Minister or the Government has not solicited any opinion and no meeting has been held and it is being imposed. But it is not right...(Interruptions) In respect of education, I request you to rise above party line. We are doing the same thing and we have made efforts for it...(Interruptions) Let me explain completely...(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want your protection. I should be permitted to explain my point. I have listened to all attentively for 7-8 hours. This is very important matter on which allegations are being levelled and on this pretext, efforts are being made to divide the country. Not only this, efforts are also being made to create misunderstanding among the NDA partners. You are not ready to listen to me...(Interruptions) If you listen to me you will come to know the facts and find that so far no curriculum framework document has been prepared in such a democratic way in this country.(Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): NDA partners are giving statements against you...(Interruptions) Samata Party and TDP...(Interruptions)

[English]

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

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: I will explain all those things because some of the Members, especially, Members of Communist Party have started a propaganda that...(Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Shri D.P. Yadav has also spoken against the Government...(Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: It is so because you repeat the same thing again and again and then say that you are doing it. These have been the ways and means of the Communist Party and today also, they are doing the same thing...(Interruptions) I would like to submit to you that you should not go after these "Vish kanyas" otherwise you will be trapped...(Interruptions) I will tell all these things...(Interruptions) Please listen to what I say. We have...(Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

* Not recorded.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I have more number of companies than you have today.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: I repeatedly ask my Congress colleagues to go through national curriculum framework document of 1986 because the policy was formulated at the time when the late Rajiv Gandhiji was the Prime Minister of India and all of us supported it...(Interruptions) I say today also that we are following that policy. We have not changed that policy. Then how can you say so without going through the document?...(Interruptions) I want you to go through it first and then say anything. Do not go after them. This is their trademark...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Though the curriculum has not been changed but the track has been changed...(Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: We have just reviewed the curriculum and not changed it. In the policy there is a provision to review it, therefore, we have reviewed it accordingly. We have tried to implement those provisions which have not been implemented...(Interruptions) First of all, I would like to answer the questions which have been raised by the hon'ble Members. Then I will come to the issue of saffronisation which has been raised by my colleagues and explain the facts. Please listen to me.

It has been said that the Government want to bring some religious thing but it is not correct. It has also been said that it does not want to give religious education. But we said that we want to give education about religion. What is happening today? Someone contacted one of our Joint Secretary, Shri Mathew on telephone and said-"Happy Good Friday". One Government officer says "Happy Good Friday" to another officer on telephone. Will the people of India accept it? Is it not a proof that even officer does not have basic knowledge of about Christian religion. Shri Shahbuddin told that one day someone contacted an officer of NCERT and said-"Muharram Mubarak". Will you like to give such education in India where people do not know the meaning of Muharram and Good Friday? Shri Somnath Chatterjee has nothing to do with Muharram and Good Friday...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: What has your Secretary written?...*(Interruptions)* What is your response? You have raised this question.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: He has withdrawn that.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Why did he write?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Did you book him?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the Minister's reply?

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He is trying to teach everybody.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Please do not be excited.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Why should I not be excited?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Here it is clearly written:

"The social values aim at friendliness, cooperativeness, compassion, self-discipline, courage, love for social justice, etc."

These are the words from the report of the Standing Committee of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. They have recommended it and we have taken it *mutatis mutandis*.

Another significant chapter that merits urgent attention now is religion. That has been discussed in great detail by that Committee. We have taken from that. Although it is not the only source of essential values, yet it certainly is a major source of value generation. What is required today is not religious education but education about religions, their basics, the values inherent therein and also a comparative study of the philosophy of all religions.

* Not recorded.

[Translation]

Someone said that Charwak should also be taught. Charwak as well as philosophy of others will be taught. It was said that Marxism will not be taught. It will definitely be taught and it will also be told that it has failed. Both the facts will be taught. We do not want to keep one thing. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: We will tell that the RSS policy is dangerous for the country...*(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: In 1999, the Chavan Committee strongly urged about social cohesion and social and religious harmony.

The UNESCO Department for Inter-cultural Dialogue and Pluralism for a Culture of Peace pleads for a spiritual convergence and proposes to promote dialogue among different religions and spiritual traditions in a world where intra-and inter-religious conflicts have become the order of the day.

This is the UNESCO side and not me. This was in January, 2000 by the UNESCO Resolution. I was present in that meeting. I quote what they observed:

"It is from early childhood that children should be introduced to the discovery of otherness and to the values of tolerance, respect and confidence in the other that will bring about a change of behaviour and attitudes towards others."

We say again that all religions, therefore, have to be treated with equal respect. Sarva Dharma Sambhav. There has to be no discrimination on the ground of any religion.

[Translation]

For the first time we are trying to teach children through our curriculum the 'Sarva Dharma Sambhav'...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the Minister's reply.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Whatever we have done is before you all. This document is sent to all. Till now no one has told us that this is wrong. The Minister of Tripura has told that a lot of precaution needs to be taken in this regard. In the responses given by NCERT Director, all have said that full care be taken in this regard. I would like to say that I have given instructions in regard to the books to be written that until and unless they get clearance from all the religious persons and eminent personalities they should not be brought out because there should not be any thing in these books which may hurt the feelings of any person or cause misunderstanding among people. All religions are equal. Keeping this in mind...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: How can we believe that what you are telling is correct.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: The books that will be written would come before you...*(Interruptions)* We will take comments on those also...*(Interruptions)* This is the procedure...*(Interruptions)* First let me conclude. About Sanskrit it has been said as to why we are making it as a compulsory subject. I would like to say very humbly that it is not a compulsory subject at all. It is the decision of the Supreme Court that Sanskrit may be introduced as an elective subject. All the committees have repeatedly and strongly said this. I have not constituted Sanskrit Commission. There are already a number of institutions in this regard. We did not set up Ved Vidya Prathisthan, Sandipani Ved Prathisthan, Lal Bhadur Shastri Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, Sanskrit Commission. We must go through the recommendations of Sanskrit Commission and we must also go through the judgement of the Supreme Court. There was a writ before the Supreme Court which was dismissed. This is the decision of Justice Ansaria and Justice Kuldeep Singh. At the end of that decision it has been stated as under:—

[English]

"We therefore, conclude by saying that in view of the importance of Sanskrit for nurturing our cultural heritage because of which even of the official education policy has highlighted the need of study of Sanskrit. Making of Sanskrit alone as an elective subject, not conceding the status of Arabic or Persian, would not in any way militate against the basic tenets of secularism."

* Not recorded.

[Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi]

You can go through the whole judgement. This was in 1994...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Did they say spoke Sanskrit?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: The Supreme Court in its judgement has decided that secularism is one of the basic features of our Constitution and in this case they have given it in detail. If the hon. Speaker permits me, I can read what the arguments they have taken. There is a teaching of Sanskrit against secularism, the question arose...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We never said that. Sir, the hon. Minister is trying to put something in our mouth...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: You did not say this...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Then who has said this?

...(Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Our hon'ble friend Shri Manishankar Aiyar is at present not here. He had asked a question as to why we had not made Arabic and Persian languages as an elective subjects? Why have you made Sanskrit alone, where as Arabic and Persian languages were there in the Policy...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: No, Arabic and Persian have been removed and they have now been included in the list of foreign languages. Earlier they were called the Indian Classical languages...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: I have records. He asked this question....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, for the information of hon. Minister I would like to say that in

the University of Calcutta, in the modern Indian languages section Arabic and Persian have been studied...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody is addressing the Chair!

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: No one has denied. It is being taught in my University.

[English]

Not as a modern Indian languages...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The Department is known as modern Indian language. Shri Shyma Prakash Mukherjee was the Vice-Chancellor. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, you please address the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Arabic and Persian are being taught and will continue to be taught in my University and I am promoting them. I telling what I have done for them. Justice Krishna Aiyar has written a letter to the Prime Minister wherein he has raised a number of questions regarding the frame work of curriculum and the officers of NCERT have given replies to his questions and after that Justice Krishna Aiyar had written a letter to us, which is as follows:—

[English]

"Dear Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi,

I had signed a statement on, certain informative in the Educational Policy of the NCERT. It is not a policy as a matter of fact. It was addressed to the Prime Minister which eventually reached the NCERT. The officer, Prof. Rajput of the NCERT has sent me an explanatory statement regarding the objections pointed out in my statement. The

NCERT explanation taken at its face value satisfies me. I have no reason to suspect the NCERT explanation. So, I accept it and drop my criticism of the NCERT's stand. I hope, the position as put forward by the NCERT will be kept up in actual practice."

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: First time you are supporting Justice Krishna Aiyar.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): We are supporting him since emergency.

[English]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: We have been discussing, talking and detailing things with everybody.
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Whatever we have done for Arabic and Parsian, the same has not been done in the last 50 years.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Except the Minister's reply, nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the National Council for Promotion of Urdu language is the nodal agency for the scheme being run for Arabic and Parsian by our Ministry as in the case of Sanskrit. Under this scheme we are providing grants to the institutions and Madarasas, set up with the objective of teaching Arabic and persian. This assistance is to provide grants for teaching Arabic and Persian, for Library and reading rooms, for compiling Dictionaries of Arabic and Persian in Indian languages, providing scholarships, for Arabic and Persian languages, assistance to the Newspapers

and magazines published in Arabic and Persian languages and for financial assistance for research in classical languages. The details of grants provided under this scheme is as follows. In 1998-99 73 voluntary organisations were provided financial assistance, in 1999-2000 155 voluntary organisation and in 2000-2001 this number went on to 200. For Research Scholarships Rs. 5.17 lakhs, Rs. 15 lakhs and Rs. 19.50 lakhs were given in the years 1998-1999, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 respectively. Voluntary organisations have been given assistance in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Karnataka, Manipur, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. Andhra Pradesh had demanded 6 teachers which were provided 59 teachers in Assam, 9 in Manipur, 6 in Karnataka, 5 in Tamil Nadu and 8 teachers in Uttar Pradesh were demanded....(Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Have you provided assistance to any Madarsa? ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rashid Alvi, he is not yielding. How can you speak?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: After that, there is State-wise financial assistance for the part-time teaching of Arabic and Persian.

[Translation]

So we have provided 287 teachers. We have provided 155 to the voluntary Organisations and rupees 16 lakhs were spent on it.

I have already informed about the work done for the promotion of Urdu language but I want to inform you once again and I have even told you in the morning that we have earmarked rupees 12 crores for the year 2001-2002 for the council and earlier the amount provided for this purpose was not more than 1 crore rupee. Every year the amount is increasing. I have set up 100 computer centers for the children who want to learn computer designing in Urdu. 7000 children are learning in those centres. 1500-2000 children get jobs from this training. How can you say that I have not done anything. I tried my best to help the Urdu newspapers. For the first time we are providing 50% subsidy to the newspapers of Urdu

* Not recorded.

[Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi]

for taking the service of the UNI. Today also I had a meeting with the Urdu editors. They had made some recommendations. Government would consider those recommendations. There is no such language-Urdu, Arabic or Persian for which our Ministry has done nothing. Datas will tell you that inspite of the financial crisis we gave momentum to this work. We have not left any language. For learning these languages we have provided about 800 teachers for the Madarasas. If a science teacher is required for a Madarsa, we will give salary of a teacher. I have increased the salary of a teacher from Rs. 1500/- to Rs. 3000/-. How can you say that we are doing discrimination. We are doing justice with all the languages. Recently we have set up a Central University in Mizoram. An Urdu University has been set up in Hyderabad. There is no language for which we have not done anything, for which we have not taken any action to promote it. It is not proper to say that I am favouring one side. It has been asked that what has been done for Sanskrit, Urdu, Arabic and Persian languages?

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Urdu University was set up not during your regime.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: A resolution with regard to setting up of a Urdu University has already been passed but other arrangements including land are being made.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: It was inaugurated by Shri I.K. Gujaral.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Yes, it was a resolution but it could not be implemented. We are implementing it.

[Translation]

If we had a bad intention, if we had intention to do discrimination with the Urdu language, then one could say that although this Government had passed the resolution but the same was not implemented. We are implementing it by putting our all efforts. You can see

how we have formed its Executive body and what the people are doing? Yesterday a question was raised regarding Gujarat in which it was said that some unapproved books are being prescribed in Gujarat.

The reply given by the Secretary, Education, of Gujarat is with me and I want to read it out. The conversation between him and my Secretary is as follows:—

[English]

"Kindly refer to your telephonic conversation—

and letter No. so and so, dated March so and so from Deputy Educational Advisor regarding discussions in Parliamentary Standing Committee meeting on social studies textbooks of Standard IX and X published by Gujarat State Textbook Board. The matter was referred to the Textbook Board and it is reported that there has been no revision of social studies textbook for Standard IX and X since 1992."

These books were written in 1992. Who was there in the office? It was not me. In 1992, Congress Government was there. So, they were written earlier than that. Then they say,

"And the paragraphs which have been referred to in the discussion in Parliamentary Committee are in the textbooks for the last several years. The Textbook Board has, however, taken note of the observation and the suggestions made by the hon. Members, and have assured that suitable revisions would be made in the editions."

They have been made. They have said that from June 2001, the corrected versions will be available.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Who has said?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: This is from Gujarat.

[Translation]

You have set your mind on it with the target to attack the Government by all means over the issue...(Interruptions). You please listen to it peacefully and with patience. It is a very important issue. You please don't take it that way...(Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is mentioned in the text books being taught in Gujarat that three and a half lakh people have made sacrifices for the temple of Lord Rama...(*Interruptions*) what happened in 1992?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: What I am telling you is that it is not the text book of the Government of Gujarat, nor that of the NCERT or our Government. It is not recognised by the Government. What is being taught in the Madarsas is beyond the reach of the Government. It is beyond our jurisdiction. We can not say anything in this regard. What is being taught in the Churches, what is being taught in which private school, NCERT has nothing to do with it. We do not approve that. If any student comes to take the examination or comes to us for taking the certificate, he would have to take the examination in those subjects only which have been treated as approved courses by us. Every Government prescribes its own courses separately. For that purpose there exists a basic framework. We advise them to teach Information and Technology. Now it is up to the State Governments that they teach it from class V or class VIII. If we say that it would be included in the examination of class X, there should be computer learning. If mention has been made regarding teaching of information, communications or technology, then you take it up first. We have said that computer education should be such but education should be there in teaching and learning. The implementation of this was necessary and all that has been included in the frame work and curriculum. You please pay your attention towards it.

Mr. Speaker Sir, a mention has been made here regarding religions education.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, it is already 9-30 p.m. now. How much more time do you want?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, they have raised very important questions.

[*Translation*]

I would take half an hour. It is being said here that history is being changed. Not at all, Sir. No change is being made in the history. We have Prof. Yashpal's report with us in which it is said that load of curriculum on the children may be reduced. As such, one book has been

prepared by combining four subjects. Somebody had said here that history may be written like this or like that. I want to tell the House that only those things would be written which have been recognised by the history of course we have said that...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: You cannot replace truth with distortions. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: For 32 minutes, he has not spoken anything relevant. I do not think, he will speak anything relevant now also. ...(*Interruptions*)

21.33 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and some other hon. Members left the House.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, he is not responding to any important point raised by us.

[*Translation*]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: I want to tell you...(*Interruptions*) Mr. Speaker, Sir, but they are not ready to listen. If you permit me, I could tell them because now I am going to say such things which are likely to be painful for those people. What do they want, history should be taught in which manner?

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the persons commencing the discussion stage a walk out.

[*English*]

This is something very wrong. He has initiated the discussion and yet he does not have the patience to listen to the reply...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: He is not coming to the point. He is talking about history...(*Interruptions*) He is trying to replace truth with distortions. He is distorting history. That is our criticism...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rupchand Pal, you have been continuously disturbing the Minister for all the 32 minutes.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I am not disturbing him but he is not replying to the important questions...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You must have some patience.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want your protection. Which history should we teach...(Interruptions). Hon'ble Members, please listen to me patiently. I want to tell you what kind of history our friends from CPM want to teach. I have with me a book entitled 'The first Indian war of Independence, 1857-59' written by Marx and Angeles. It has an article. The publishers of this book are Progress Publishers, Moscow. What is written at page—26 thereof, you please have a look at it.

It has been published in New York Daily Tribune No. 3840 of 8th August, 1853 by Karl Marx on 22 July, 1853, he says—

[English]

"The Indian society has no history at all."

Let me talk. Do you agree with this? It says:

"Indian society has no history at all. What we call it history is but the history of the successive intruders who founded their empires on the passive basis of that unresisting and unchanging society. The question, therefore, is not whether the English had a right to conquer India; but whether we are to prefer India conquered by the Turks, by the Persians, by the Russians to the India conquered by the British..."

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, he is talking of Karl Marx...(Interruptions) He is not establishing his point. ... (Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, is this the perception of history which my Marxist friends would like to teach us?... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

Whether they would wish that this would be mentioned. I read it further...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Dr. Murl Manohar Joshi, you are trying to put everybody else in the wrong side. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Is it being taught in any University in India?... (Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, this is the perception of my Marxist friends. ... (Interruptions)

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

...(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, I need your protection.

MR. SPEAKER: That is why I am always telling you to address the Chair and not the Members.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, I am not addressing them.

MR. SPEAKER: You are clarifying their queries also. Please address the Chair.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, I am posing a question through you — whether this is the perception of history that my Marxists agree? Does the House agree to it? Should it be taught?... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

What is its perception?... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: This is not there. ... (Interruptions) You are placing your own version here... (Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, please conclude. Please address the Chair.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, should this be the history? I want to ask a question to my Marxist friends. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Dr. Joshi, you are trying to rake up false issues. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, this is the perception of history as written by Karl Marx. ...*(Interruptions)*

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

...*(Interruptions)**

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Do they agree to it? Does anybody agree to this perception?...*(Interruptions)* I am thankful to you. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the Bal Bharati books recommended by them are being taught. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsi, is this the way to behave in the House?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I want to know whether it is right or not.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, this is a very valid point.

MR. SPEAKER: I would request the hon. Members to please hear the hon. Minister first.

...*(Interruptions)*

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

...*(Interruptions)**

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: I have replied to that point that the Government has not approved it. I have said it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have participated in the debate and you are now disturbing the hon. Minister also.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, those books are not approved by the Government. Those books are not part of our curriculum. I have said it.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want your protection. One of the hon'ble Members has said just now that he wants to tell that Aryans did not come from outside, he wants to tell that Vedic civilization was very old here and want to tell the history, which is unauthorised according to that hon'ble member. I would not go at length. Romila Thapar has mentioned in the magazine 'Seminar' that...*(Interruptions)**

[English]

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

...*(Interruptions)**

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: I am quoting:

"There is virtually no evidence for any large scale invasion in the North-Western part of the sub-continent during the second millennium, BC."

[Translation]

This is what we have read in the history — books.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: No historian has agreed to your point. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: I am quoting from *THE SEMINAR*. It is by Romila Thapar who is a well-known historian according to my Marxist friends and who is an authority...*(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

* Not recorded.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: What is wrong with it?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: "There is nothing wrong. This is being taught in the school.

[Translation]

Regarding which we say that it should be amended.

[English]

Then, Shri Bhagwan Singh is another historian of the Leftists.

[Translation]

They have said that he has written a book.

[English]

The Vedic Harappans. It reads:

"This book is being written at a time when all the notions are yielding place to new insight. Two years earlier when I completed the first draft of this book, the haze was thick and solid. During the past two years, things have changed so rapidly as to serve the top to the bottom. If anyone is apologetic today, it is those who claim the Harrappan Civilisation to be non-Vedic. This welcome change has come as a result of analysis of substantial material derived from extensive field work in recent years at Mohanjodaro, Harrappa, Dholavira, Mehargarh, Iraq, Naushera and other sites including those in Iran, Central Asia and Afghanistan by scholars belonging to various disciplines hailing from various countries cross examining all data also enlightened."

...(Interruptions)

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

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Are we going to be taught history by the Minister?...(Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: I am not teaching. I am just trying to say that now there are two distinct views. The first view was that Aryans came as aggressor from outside. Now, in the light of new discoveries...

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: What are the new discoveries?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: I will tell you. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: This is your agenda. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: No, this is not my agenda. ...*(Interruptions)* Please wait. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you are replying to whatever points they are raising. Please conclude your speech.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Yes, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is not necessary to reply to all the points raised by them.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Please listen to what I am saying. ...*(Interruptions)* Should students not be told of the new findings?...*(Interruptions)* Should both the views not be placed before the students?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Whether the students should not be told that new findings have emerged? Whether the students should not be told about the old part of river Saraswati visible through Satellite imaging?

[English]

This book is titled *Ancient Cholistan by Archaeology and Architecture* written by Mohammad Rafiq Mughal who is a known author. ...*(Interruptions)* This book is written by Mohammad Rafiq. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: This is too much.

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: This is too much and what you are doing is also too much.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? There is a procedure which is to be followed in the House. If you want any important clarification, you can ask it after his reply.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, he should the poem *Bharat Tirtha* written by Shri Rabindranath Tagore. His whole reply will be confident and he will not be confused. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are asking the important matters to be discussed in the House and you are not hearing the reply of the Minister.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: How can I conclude. I was mentioning that newer and newer findings are coming forth...(Interruptions) Whether the new finding that have come through via satellite imaging should not be put before the students?...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: He should read the poem *Bharat Tirtha* of Tagore. He has not done that. That is his problem. ...(Interruptions)

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

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, he is not yielding. How can you say? He is not yielding.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Whether it should not be taught that a view, which is of a senior scholar, is describing that...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody talks about procedure in the House. He is not yielding. How can you raise this...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: I am not saying alone. I am also not saying that you agree with this or that. I am only saying that those two views, which have come forth, may be taught to the children.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You tell us which of the two views is considered correct by you?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: I would tell...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunshi, you are also disturbing the House always. You are a senior member...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: I believe that till the entire view is not clear with regard to any question, all the related views should come forward and I don't want to make any kind of favouritism in it...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There is some limit.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: All the views should come forward. The old course of flow of river Saraswati emerged from the satellite imaging. People made excavations all around it and they found evidences there which were more than those found in Harrappan civilization and they say that this is much older than Harrappan civilization and also related to Vedas. As such, this should also be brought before the children. I want to tell you this also...(Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, it is already 09.45 p.m. Please conclude.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, who is the international historian he is referring to?...(Interruptions)

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

...(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: I have referred to Mohd. Rafiq Moghul. I have referred to Romila Thapar, and I have also referred to Dr. Bhagwan Singh, another Leftist scholar. I have not quoted any scholar

[Translation]

to whom you can say that it is related to us or is of our opinion. That material with us too is quite voluminous, but I have put forth only those evidences which are internationally recommended...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Tell about Bal Bharti.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Bal Bharti do not belong to the Government. I have already told that it has nothing to do with the Government and it is not a part of our curriculum...(Interruptions)

[English]

I have said it.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Do you condemn it?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: I neither condemn nor appreciate it. There are many other such schools...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, they are continuously asking you questions, and you are continuously replying to them. What is this?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: He is continuously deviating.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Not at all.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are continuously disturbing the House, Shri Jaipal Reddy. What is this? There should be some limit to all this.

...(Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: I quote:

"It is still premature to talk in terms of absolute dates. The entire chronology of South Asia down to the Sixth Century BC is a web of pulses and minuses of hundreds of years. On purely chronological ground, we cannot even establish a definite correlation between the end of Indus Civilisation and Aryan Civilisation. But even if we could, what is the material evidence to substantiate the supposed invasion and methods?"

This is what Mr. Dale, a known international scholar, had said. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Read it at your home.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Not at home, I am just telling you.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am telling that one of our hon'ble Member's has said so many things in his speech. He said that I wanted to tell people that only few persons are familiar to the name of Aaryabhatta. He said many other things in his speech. But today he is not present in the House. He also raised queries about the education of my children and told about the higher education of his own children. Hon'ble Members, it is not the question of our children's education, it is a question of the education of 20 crore children of India. The language and words, he used in his speech, can be used by a person like him only. The medium of my education had been Hindi. So I can not use such type of words. I would have been happy, had he debated here with certain standards. The level of his debate was such as if he was participating in a debate held at convent high school. He never tried to rise from that level.

* Not recorded.

Now they are saying that I want to teach something very illogical to the children of India. I have so many references which tell the glorious history of India. I just want to quote here two or three references....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: He can read all these things at his home. There is a limit to all these things. We are not prepared to listen to all this bogus history....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Some of the Members had asked those questions and, that is why, he is giving the reply.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: We also know a little bit of history.

MR. SPEAKER: These questions were raised during the debate.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: We have not raised it.

MR. SPEAKER: You may not have raised it, but somebody else has raised it.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Nobody raised it.(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been said as to what you want to teach about India and how it would be beneficial to us, whether this was not known earlier, whether we were not acquainted to it, everyone knows it. I want to convey that our astronomy is impregnated with knowledge which we want to impart these children. Here is a paper,

[*English*]

by John, FRS, Edinburgh. This paper was published in 1790. He was the Royal Astronomer in England.

[*Translation*]

He has talked about the astronomical element of India and told this....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: It is there in all the text-books.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: This is not there in any text-book. The boys do not know it. When I have told it to many astronomers and teachers of astronomy, they themselves did not know it. Therefore, I am quoting it.

"The equation of the Sun centred in the obliquity of the ecliptic when compared with those of the present times seem to point to a period still more remote and to fix the origin of this astronomy in India 1,000 or 1200 years earlier, that is, 4,300 years before the Christian era..."

"The time necessary to have brought the art of calculating and observing to such perfection as they must have attained at the beginning of the *Kaliyugam* comes in support of the same conclusion."

It again says:

"It is through the medium of astronomy alone that the few rays from those distant objects can be converged in safety to the eye of a modern observer so as to afford him a life. Though it be scanty, yet is pure and unbroken and free from the false colouring of vanity and superstition."

[*Translation*]

It has been blamed that we are not doing for astronomy, but for astrology. My Ministry has spent 40 crore rupees for the cause of astronomy and has installed the best and highest optical telescope of world at Hanley in Laddakh....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: You do not teach astrology....(*Interruptions*)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: We have installed binoculars telescope at the cost of Rs. 300 crore. You have mentioned about astrology. Earlier various institutions had been teaching astrology. It is not so that we have started a new course. We have the list of those Universities where astrology is already being taught.

[Dr. Murlī Manohar Joshi]

Rajasthan, Vidyapeeth, Udaipur, Vikram University, Ujjain, Ch. Charan Singh University, Meerut; M.S. University, Baroda; Kavi Kulguru Kalidas Sanskrit University...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: It is not part of U.G.C. text books.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: These are Universities where astrology was being taught as U.G.C. courses.

[English]

They are U.G.C. courses.

[Translation]

Awadhesh Pratap University, Gurukul Kangri University, Haridwar, Kameshwar Singh Darbhanga Sanskrit University, Darbhanga, Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, Tirupati; Sampoomanand Sanskrit University; Varanasi; Shri Jagannath Sanskrit University, Puri; Shri Shankarasharya University of Sanskrit, Eranakulam...(Interruptions).

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Are they mainstream Universities?

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: All the Universities are established with the Act of Government. These Universities are not recently established, they had been set up long ago...(Interruptions). The courses which were taught earlier...(Interruptions). Please listen to me...(Interruptions).

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Calcutta University, Allahabad University and such other universities should be abolished.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: I am telling you just now. When U.G.C. informed about the courses, then 42 Universities applied for this course. These were shortlisted and ultimately 20 universities adopted it. If these Universities are not in mainstream, then tell me what are their status...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: When you offer money, everybody will come...(Interruptions). You are offering money, so people will come for money.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: The 45 courses, which have been provided, belong to different subjects of U.G.C. I can also provide the list of those courses also. This is only one of those subjects...(Interruptions)

[English]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, he is insulting the universities by saying.

[Translation]

If you offer money, University will automatically be established...(Interruptions).

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I feel hurt...(Interruptions)

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

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Ranchi University, Punjab University, Rabindra Bharti University, Saurashtra University, University of Mysore, Rajasthan University, BIT Merra, University of Jammu, Lucknow University, Agra University — these are among those Universities which had applied for it and these were shortlisted...(Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: What is the qualification required for studying astrology?...*(Interruptions)*
From which stage would the students be reading astrology?...*(Interruptions)* What are the courses?
...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: We shall sent these courses to you...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

I need notice for it...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Is it a part of the 1986 policy?...*(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: It is mostly.

[Translation]

We have no restrictions on Universities at all to decide their curriculam frameworks. Every thing about this happens only through U.G.C. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: That means until you took over, this was not a subject offered by U.G.C. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: All the courses, running in the Universities, have been approved by U.G.C. They should know that no degree can be awarded in any course unless it is approved by U.G.C. Now when you are saying about it repeatedly, I am telling you the names of those foreign Universities where astrology is taught.

[English]

Kepler College of Astrological Arts and Sciences, USA; Astrological Institute Inc; The American Federation of Astrologers; The Noel Tyl Master's Degree Certification Course in Astrology; Ann Sherman Correspondence Courses; The Astrology Practitioner Course; Personalised Astrology Lessons from ACS; Jeffrey Wolf Green's School for Evolutionary Astrology, Seattle, Washington; Carole Devine's Exploring Astrology; Glenn Perry's Astro Psychology Mentorship Program; Astrology Training Program by Emilie Kelso; Astrology, The Cosmic Pattern; The Carl Payne Tobey Correspondence Course; NW Institute of Vedic Sciences; Astrology of the Seers Correspondence Course; Institute of Vedic Astrology; ONLINE College of Astrology; The Faculty of Astrological Studies; The Mayo School of Astrology; Astrology Institute; American Institute of Vedic Studies; School of Astrology in Australia; English Huber School, Switzerland; Manhattan School of Astrology; University of Plymouth, UK; University of London, UK; University of Southampton, UK; and University of Manchester, U.K.

[Translation]

Nothing strange has been done. Astrology is already being taught in this country as well as in the world. A number of hon. Members have expressed surprise as if it has been imposed at all of sudden. I have no such intentions. These courses have been offered in addition to other courses which were running in the universities. This course is for B.A. degree and not for B.Sc. These courses are mostly done for B.A. degree in the world also. They have approved it as a course of Arts. It is totally baseless that we have done something new or we have any hidden agenda or we are biased towards language and religion. Launching astrology is the policy of our Government.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Whether astrology is a science?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: A degree of B.A. is being awarded for that course. This is what U.G.C. have approved...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jaipal Reddy, what happened to you today?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, Parliament of India has never witnessed such an obscurantist debate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the Minister.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Now what is this? I have not disturbed anyone, but truth is always bitter. So this is my request to you that...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you have taken more than one hour already. Please conclude now.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: I am not yielding. Despite that they are putting forth only one argument. Neither we nor U.G.C. have compelled anyone to study astrology. Astrology is not a subject till 10th standard. We have discussed this issue. There is a system between U.G.C. and Universities in regard to take a decision and this course is being implemented as per norms of U.G.C. Complete transparency has been maintained in this work. There is a committee of board and this decision has been taken by full commission that it should be equivalent to the B.A. degree. Chairman of U.G.C. is not sole responsible for that. We were asked whether astrology is

a science. We explained them that the resolution of U.G.C. in regard to astrology is to award B.A. degree and they are not teaching it as a science subject. There is no any other intention behind it. But if our opponents are making a political conspiracy on this issue and trying to defame our Government and creating a confusion all over the country. We will not allow it to happen...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the Minister.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: If anyone has doubt in this regard, then I shall like to repeat it. There is a statement of Prime Minister on this issue, N.D.A. and our Ministry has a very clear stand in this regard that the education in this country would be based on secular principles. Our motto is equal respect for all religions and this document advocates for the same.

22.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the
Clock on Tuesday, August 21, 2001/
Shravana 30, 1923 (Saka).*

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