

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Seventh Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, August 23, 2001/Bhadra 1, 1923 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 441.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You should not raise it during Question Hour. You can raise it in Zero Hour. This is Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: How you can raise it in Question Hour I will allow you in Zero Hour. It will be taken up in Zero Hour and not in Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Not now, this is Question Hour and you can raise it during Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

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

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing. Please raise it after Question Hour and not now. How many times I

should tell that. How this issue can be raised in Question Hour? Please do not raise it now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats what is it. What are you doing? Buta Singhji, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

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

...(Interruptions)

SARDAR BUTA SINGH (Jalore): Sir, I am only associating myself with these people...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

[Translation]

What are you doing. I have told you that it would be taken up during Zero Hour.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Sir, I will conclude in two minutes I have given a notice for an Adjournment Motion...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Akhilesh Singh, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You are doing it almost dally. Yesterday also you did not allow the business of the House to be conducted and today again you are disturbing the House. What are you doing? Will the House function in this manner? I am observing your behaviour in the House. You are disturbing the House. What are you doing? You should raise issue in the House under certain rules. There is a procedure to raise issue in the House.

...(Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

* Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is too much.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing these days? Whether the business of the House will be conducted in this manner?

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH (Bikramganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, how can I raise questions in such a situation...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Prabhunath Singhji, yesterday also you disturbed the House. What are you doing? If you want to raise any issue do so during Zero Hour. What are you doing? Please take your seat. How the business of the House will be conducted in this manner.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Yesterday also you disturbed the House during Question Hour and today again you are interrupting the proceedings. Why are you doing so? If there is any important issue do raise it during Zero Hour. Now please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 441 Shrimati Kanti Singh.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, how can I ask question...(Interruptions)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

11.06 hrs.

Non-Members in the Council of Ministers

*441. ⁺ SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH:
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government have made any study on the use of Articles 75 (5) and 164(4) of the Constitution which permit a non-Member in the Council of Ministers by the Centre and the State Governments respectively;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have issued any guidelines on the use of Article 164(4) for observation by the State Governments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Supreme Court of India in its judgment dated August, 17, 2001 in *S.R. Chaudhury vs State of Punjab and Ors.* has clearly indicated that no one can be reappointed under 164(4) without getting elected to the Legislature. The Court has observed that it was not the intention of the Founding Fathers of the Constitution that a person should continue to be a Minister without being duly elected, by repeated appointments, each time for a period of six consecutive months. Further, such an appointment would be unacceptable in any Parliamentary system of Government. Article 75(5) being *pari materia* with article 164(4) of the Constitution, the position would be the same in the case of article 75(5) of the Constitution.

* Not recorded.

(c) Ministry of Home Affairs has informed that no guidelines have been issued regarding the use of article 164(4).

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the reply given by hon'ble Minister, it has been stated that basic tenets of the founding fathers of the Constitution of India should not be disrespected. The framers of the Constitution worked very hard to frame the Constitution. Democracy entails that the Governor appointed so should be allowed to complete this tenure...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, you are not allowing the lady Member to raise her supplementary.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: On the one hand the Government has declared this year as a year of women empowerment and on the other the Government has removed a woman Governor appointed by them. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mandal, please go to your seat first.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: She has been a judge and she is very much aware of the provisions of the

Constitution. She was removed from her office when she did not act as per their wishes...(Interruptions) The Government is also planning to remove woman Chief Minister of a State in the year of women Empowerment...(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, what is this? I am not being allowed to speak...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We have already wasted ten minutes.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh, please go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Members from the Treasury Benches are also disturbing the House. This is too much.

[Translation]

You are more responsible for conducting business of the House.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I request the Treasury Benches to control their Members. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not good.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the NDA leaders have no control over their constituents. What can you do?... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shrimati Kanti Singh.

...(Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the supplementary of Shrimati Kanti Singh.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Everyday Rs. 8 lakh are spent for conducting business of the House...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except Supplementary of Shrimati Kanti Singh.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in such situations if any amendment is to be made in the Constitution of India. ...(Interruptions) Parliament can do so and Supreme Court...(Interruptions) has recently given a judgement and as hon'ble Minister has stated in its reply that framers of the Constitution did not intend that any person would be appointed Chief Minister consecutively for a period of six months without getting elected properly. ...(Interruptions) Any person, who is not an elected member of any of the House, can be appointed as Minister only for a period of six months. But there is no provision under the article 164(4) of the Constitution that one cannot be appointed as Minister again. He can become a Minister again if he resigns before completing the period of six months and get elected by the public. ...(Interruptions)

Whether Government have a proposal or are considering to bring such an amendment to the Constitution. If so, by what time it is going to be introduced in the House...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: This is more important than any other question...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Prabhunath Singh ji, please sit down. If you have any issue to raise, do it in Zero Hour. Please do not disturb the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mandal ji, please do not show newspaper like this.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Brahma Nand Mandal, please take your seat. Do not show the newspapers like this. This is against the rules.

...(Interruptions)

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

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a serious issue. This is an important question, so I request you to have discussion on it first. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Prabhunath Singh ji, you first tell me whether you know the rules or not. Any matter of urgency can be raised only in Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is Question Hour. You can raise the issue in Zero Hour. Prabhunath Singh ji, what are you doing?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: This is the tradition of Lok Sabha...(Interruptions) this tradition is followed daily...(Interruptions) The tradition has evolved in Lok Sabha...(Interruptions) Therefore, I request you to take up this matter first in the House...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question was that under Article 75 and Article 164...(Interruptions) any person...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh, I am asking you to please leave the House.

...(Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh, I am directing you to please leave the House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh, Please leave the House. Please go outside.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I would not tolerate this kind of behaviour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh, if you are interested in the Question Hour, you please leave the House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: You should discuss this matter first...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I can allow you in the 'Zero Hour'. Otherwise, you can leave the House. Please do not disturb the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If you really want to raise the issue, you can raise it in the 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: This is the real picture of the NDA coalition...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh, if you want to raise it in the 'Zero Hour', you can stay in the House. Otherwise, you can leave the House. I am not allowing you. Now, the Minister, please.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Prabhunath Singh ji, I am asking you to raise your important issue during Zero Hour. I will listen to you then, if you are not interested in the Question Hour.

[English]

You can leave the House, please.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am going out of the House on your orders. I am going out because you have evolved a formula to listen to their voice only and not ours.

11.18 hrs.

Shri Prabhunath Singh then left the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Sir, I am also leaving the House in protest.

11.18 1/2 hrs.

Shri Brahma Nand Mandal then left the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the original question was that whether any person, under Article 75 and 164 of the Constitution, can continue to be a Minister under either Union or State Government without becoming a member of the respective legislature. In this regard, hon. Supreme Court has said that a period of six months means a period of six months. It cannot be made more than that by breaking it mid way. With regard to this, Government have no proposal to amend the Constitution.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Sir, granting that there is no such proposal, whether it is possible that a Minister resigns in the event of his not becoming of a Member of

* Not recorded.

legislature before six months and thereafter is elected Minister or Chief Minister by his party or the people?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the interpretation of Constitution by the Supreme Court, the person concerned should be elected within six months and only then he should become a Minister. He should not come back without being elected.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Sir, Government is aware that many such cases are pending in Supreme Court, High Courts and district courts. Many cases are pending for five-ten years or more and are still to be decided. He has said that one should get elected within six months. I want to say that Ms. Jayalalitha has filed a petition to dispose her case within six months. Now what other option she has if her appeal is not disposed within six months. ...*(Interruptions)* Whether Government have considered a way to resolve the issue?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on such issues, there is a provision in Constitution only that person is permitted to remain a Minister who gets elected within six months of assuming charge, otherwise he has to step down as per the decision of Supreme Court...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue relates to article 75 (5) and 164 (4) of our Constitution. The question asked was that whether Government have conducted any study on the said articles and their practice. In its reply, Government just repeated the decision of Supreme Court given six to seven days back. It means that no study has been conducted but when the Governor of Tamil Nadu implemented it, then what is the justification of removing her on other grounds? They have conducted no study and have not considered it. They also executed their decision of removing the Governor. They are quoting the decision of Supreme Court, but why did they remove the Governor on that ground?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the two articles of the Constitution are quite clear. Any person could get its meaning just by reading it. A person could be in the Council of Ministers only for six months unless elected. Supreme Court has made it clear that a period of six months cannot be increased by any procedure. The removal of Governor of Tamil Nadu is in no way connected to the quoted provisions of the Constitution.

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: I would like to know from the Government whether it has accepted the verdict of the Supreme Court or if there is any plan,

[Translation]

to appeal against it to a full bench. If it results in any conflict involving Election Commission or of Election Commission debars a person.

[English]

What will happen if after six months that person has become a Minister?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: The question, which Shri Somaiya has asked, has two different parts. The (b) part is, whether the Government has any proposal to file any further proceeding against the judgement of the Supreme Court. The Government has no such proposal before it to take any proceeding against the judgement of the Supreme Court because we believe that this probably is the correct interpretation of the Constitutional provision.

The second question as to whether a debarred person can take the benefit of this provision or not, does not relate to the main Question. It relates to a question which is already pending before the Supreme Court and the Government will accept whatever verdict the Supreme Court gives in that matter.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government, through you, towards the fact that Supreme Court, has decided that a Minister cannot remain so unless elected within six months to either House, but conditions in different States of our country are different. Many States have both Vidhan Sabha and Vidhan Parishad whereas some States have only Vidhan Sabha and no Vidhan Parishad.

Whether it is being considered to do this to provide equal opportunity to all. Where there are Legislative Assemblies and Legislative Council and there is MLA or MLC, he may get an opportunity but where there is no Legislative Council and there is only Legislative Assemblies, there is only one option to get elected to hold an office. Whether the Government propose or

attempts are being made by the Government to bring appropriate legislation to remove this discrepancy?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, these two sections of Constitution dealing with the Centre State relation have rational constitutional and political base. If any person is not a Member of either of the House, he can hold the office of Minister, Prime Minister or Chief Minister for a limited period of time. He will have to get elected within six months and will have to become a Member of the House. In this regard, the Government approve of this provision. The States where there are no Legislative Council, have nothing to do with it. The Government do not have any proposal to amend this provision as yet.

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question was whether the Government propose to bring legislation to set up Legislative Assemblies in those States where there is no Legislative Council to remove the discrepancy as there are some States where there are only Legislative Assembly only?

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has replied to this question.

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: The Minister has not replied this question. It is a very important question. Many States are facing this situation.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: He has already answered it. Mr. Minister, do you want to say anything?

[*Translation*]

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have told that at this stage there is no proposal before the Government to amend the existing system relating to the Legislative Assemblies or Legislative Councils.

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the whole country is witnessing this discrepancies and it is strange that there is no proposal before the Government in this regard. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, the basic qualification for becoming a Minister is that he must be a citizen of India. For citizenship, there is no exception. Now, the Representation of the People Act imposes certain conditions. The Election Commission has also given a new interpretation that the conviction must be stayed. The Supreme Court has recently clarified the

distinction between a conviction and a sentence. Normally, the courts will not stay a conviction. Now, in the previous election, two cases came up. One was in Tamil Nadu where the nomination paper of a former Chief Minister was rejected on the principle that the qualification of the citizenship is curtailed whereas, in the State of Kerala, because he happened to be a Member of the Legislature, his nomination paper was accepted giving a differentiation between an MLA and a citizen.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, please understand that this question relates to non-Members in the Council of Ministers and not the Members of Assembly. You come to the point.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I am coming to that. The membership of the Legislature is the basic qualification, apart from being a citizen. For acquiring the membership, there are certain conditions and precedents imposed by the Representation of People Act. In giving the interpretation, two citizenship rights have come into existence. A Member of a Legislature can contest the election even if there is no stay on the conviction whereas, a normal citizen cannot contest on the pretext that there is no conviction or sentence. This is the situation. Can we have different interpretations? If he is a normal citizen, he is denied the right to contest, and if he is a Member of the Legislature, he is given the right to contest. Will the Government think about this peculiar situation? What is your proposal to amend Representation of the People Act? It is being given wrong interpretation by the Returning Officers as was done in Tamil Nadu and Kerala. This is a very important question. What is the qualification of the Indian citizen as per the provisions of the Representation of the People Act? What is the stand of the Government? Will the Government propose to bring a legislation or abide by the decision of the Supreme Court? Please explain the position.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, the answer is not complicated as the question makes it appear.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: It is not complicated but it is very simple. But the citizenship is different. The citizens cannot contest but the MLAs can contest the election. That is the peculiar situation.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: The citizenship under our law gives a bundle of rights. The right to contest the election under provisions of the Constitution and the Representation of the People Act is taken away in certain cases. The distinction which Shri Radhakrishnan makes is between the Tamil Nadu case and the Kerala case. The Tamil Nadu case came within the provisions of

Section 8 (3) of the Representation of the People Act where it says that if you are convicted, the conviction itself debars you from contesting an election. That is probably based on that question. I do not want to make any further comment on it because the issue is pending before the Supreme Court.

The Returning Officer in the case of Kerala bases his order not on Section 8 (3) but on Section 8 (4). That was the case which came under Section 8 (4) of the Representation of the People Act because Section 8 (4) is the provision which applies to sitting MPs and MLAs, and Section 8 (3) is the provision which applies to those who are not MPs and MLAs. That is the distinction which exists in law and therefore two different Returning Officers under two different categories gave two different verdicts. This is the law ever since the Representation of the People Act was framed.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, my question has not been answered. Can there be dual citizenship rights? That is my question...(Interruptions) Dual rights are there. My question is very simple. Can there be dual rights to citizens in India giving a peculiar right to the Members of the Legislature and the ordinary citizens of the country as regards contesting elections? You have not answered my question. You have cleverly evaded the answer.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The recent interpretation of the Supreme Court judgement is that a non-Member cannot continue to be in the Council of Ministers after six months unless he or she is elected. The word 'elected' is there. In case it so happens that a Member is nominated in any of the Houses and he or she becomes part and parcel of the Legislature as a Member, then whether he or she being a nominated Member can occupy an office in the Council of Ministers? This is my pertinent question. In view of that fact, will the Minister also consider my suggestion?

The hon. Prime Minister made clear emphatically about probity in public life, cleansing the system, both in the State and the Union Governments. Will the Minister consider to bring in appropriate legislation, to maintain an outstanding image of the Government in the State and the Centre, that no Member should be in the Council of Ministers if there is any grave offence or charge *prima facie* in the court and till the trial is not over, he or she

should not remain in the Council of Ministers of the State or Union Government. Will you consider these suggestions.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: There are two different points which Shri Dasmunsi has made. One is with regard to nominated Members. This itself is a debatable question. I do not want to give an opinion in the abstract because this question has not arisen. At the appropriate time, when the situation arises, this will have to be considered.

The second part of his question is whether, a person if he is charged-sheeted, should continue to be or should be entitled to or debarred from the Council of Ministers. This question, for the last few years, has been repeatedly debated. There were different views expressed. The moment a charge-sheet is filed, one view was expressed that a person should not be a member of the Council of Ministers. The other view which was expressed was that the moment the charge is framed by a court, the person should not be in the Council of Ministers. The Law Commission has made a recommendation. The Election Commission made certain suggestions. The Election Commission convened a meeting of all political parties and asked for their response as to whether a person who is charge-sheeted or the charge is framed, should be immediately debarred from contesting elections or holding office. This question arose and most political parties, including the political party to which Mr. Dasmunsi belongs, had opposed the suggestion of the Election Commission at that time.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I addressed the question to the Government and not to the party. The Government is trying to evade it. I understand the Government's handicap in this problem.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: We cannot amend the Constitution without Congress Party's support.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We will support it. Bring the proposal.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, a person is not allowed to contest the election because of the cases pending in a court of law. The case cannot be disposed of within six month's time. It is because of this that a person, in spite of the fact that that person got the majority support of the people in the State is not allowed to be in the

Council of Ministers or to lead the Government. Are we not attaching importance to the procedure rather than to the substance? By using the procedure, we are disallowing that person from contesting the election and thereby preventing her from getting into the Council of Ministers, and we are not attaching any importance to the substance. Is this correct? This Parliament which can understand this problem is not paying any attention to it. We are just saying that this is the law, hence it has to be done like this. Should we not find a solution to this problem? Should this Parliament, the highest body in this country, keep quiet and give replies to the question which are of procedural nature and not of substance?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: It is a very important question. I am very grateful to Shri Shivraj Patil for having raised this question. This is the question which this hon. House has to consider. When we consider this question, we will have to think beyond our own partisan views. We have had situations — and Patilji would bear the situations with me — where we were told that merely because charge-sheets are pending, a person should not occupy an Office. On this issue, the House was disrupted Session after Session.

Now, a question is being asked that when a person is convicted, merely because the case cannot be disposed of or the appeal cannot be disposed of, why are you denying that person the right to hold an Office? When we go into this question, we will have to rise beyond momentary situations and think of a larger perspective. The larger perspective, if I pose to you, is the choice between two issues. On one issue, there is a popular mandate and that popular mandate requires to be honoured. On the second issue, there is a question of probity in public life. On the question, whether at the national level or at the State level, that if there is a lack of confidence on account of certain moral or ethical issues because of pendency of serious questions, should such persons occupy those Offices, then I would suggest that we can discuss this issue in the House. If the hon. Chair allots time, we can discuss these two issues as to whether there is any apparent conflict between them or not, and if we are able to form a larger consensus, we can certainly form our views. But we cannot change our views Session after Session, one against the persons who are merely charge sheeted and another in favour of persons who are, in fact, specifically convicted.

Recommendations of the Expenditure Reforms Commission

*442. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Expenditure Reforms Commission has urged the Railways to reduce the tariff on transportation of coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to implement the recommendations regarding lowering the tariff on transportation of coal?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) Expenditure Reforms Commission has not made any reference to the Ministry of Railways.

(c) There is no proposal to reduce the tariff for transportation of Coal.

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: My quest is whether the Expenditure Reforms Commission has urged the Railways to reduce the tariff on transportation of coal or not. The hon. Minister has given the reply that as such there is no reference from the Commission. But it has appeared in the papers that the Commission has suggested that the Central Government take up the matter and look into as to how this tariff can be lowered. Even in the absence of any recommendation from the Commission, is there any proposal with the Government to involve the State Governments and the workforce of Coal India and other agencies to see that coal tariff is reduced?

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to the question, I have told that the Expenditure Reform Commission has not sent any such reference to the Ministry of Railways. However, as far the question of Expenditure Reforms Commission is concerned, they have referred to two-three things to the Ministry of Coal. Out of that, one item is related to the tariff in respect of coal. They have urged the Ministry of Coal to take up the

issue of surplus man power with the coal companies to retrench them. They have also asked the Ministry of Coal to pursue the matter of royalty with the State Government and the issue relating to tariff on coal with the Ministry of Railways. We have not directly received any reference, however, from time to time the Ministry of Coal has urged the Ministry of Railways to reduce the freight charges of coal. But the Railways has also some compulsions as it is not in position to reduce the freight charges of coal and in course of correspondence with the Ministry, the Ministry of Railways have time and again communicated the reasons for not reducing the freight charges of coal. Presently the situation is such that the coal constitute 47 per cent of the total transportation of goods by railway while 44 per cent of the total revenue received from the transportation of goods is achieved from the transportation of coal. If the freight rate are reduced even by one per cent, the railway will have to bear losses of Rs. 112 crore. So the railway is not in position to reduce the freight charges. As far the question of increase in the rate of coal is concerned, the freight rate of coal has not been increased as much as the rate of the coal.

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Do the Government realise that the freight charge of coal is too high and as a result of this, different States have to bear excess burden on account of high freight charges and the electricity has also become costly and the people have to pay more. Does the Government have any proposal to reduce the freight rates of coal to provide relief to the people?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have replied to this question. It is not possible for the Railways to reduce the freight rates of coal. As far the rate of the coal is concerned, the price of the coal of ECL has increased from 160 to 165 per cent during the last ten years while the freight rates of the coal has increased to only 104 per cent. The rate in Talecher has increased to 119 per cent while the freight rate has increased to only 104 per cent. Thus, we find that it is not alone due to the freight cost charged by the railway that the cost of coal has increased. There is no direct co-relation between the two.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It is a fact that coal is the bulk freight traffic of Indian Railways. Last year, the

earning from freight traffic of coal was about Rs. 11000 crore. It is more than the earning from the entire passenger traffic. It is also a fact that the freight rate of Indian Railways is the highest in the world. It is because of the high freight rate that the cost of power generation is also higher in our country. The freight rate of one tonne of coal from the Jharia coalfield to the Badarpur Power Station is almost equal to the price of one tonne of coal. ...*(Interruptions)* Of course, stone is also there in the coal.

The Expenditure Reforms Committee have not recommended for reduction; but they have recommended for rationalisation of freight traffic. They have asked the Ministry of Coal to take up with the Ministry of Railways the issue of rationalisation of freight traffic because of cost of production of coal is increasing day by day. Because of that some coal companies are incurring losses. In order to rationalise the freight traffic and also in order to increase the freight traffic, I would like to know whether the Ministry of Railways would consider reducing the freight cost. Last year there was a ten per cent discount allowed in respect of imported coal. This year that order has been withdrawn. Now the freight of both imported and indigenous coal is equal. In order to lessen the burden on the coal companies and also to increase the freight traffic, would you consider rationalisation and changing in the tapering of freight traffic?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am surprised to hear that Shri Basu Deb Acharia is advocating the recommendations of Expenditure Reforms Commission here.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I am not in fact advocating rather I am talking about the rationalisation of the freight rates. I am not supporting the recommendations.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the hon. Member is not supporting the recommendations of the Expenditure Reforms Commission then his entire question becomes redundant.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are three recommendations of Expenditure Reforms Commission. However, we have not received any reference. On the basis of information

received, I came to know that the first recommendation of the Commission is that the Ministry of Coal should take up the matter with the coal companies for retrenching the surplus manpower. Will you accept that?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: No, I have said about the rationalisation of the freight. Please let us know about that.

[*English*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Let me respond to your question.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The question is regarding freight and not regarding reducing the number of workers.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The second recommendation of the Commission is that the Ministry of Coal should take up the matter of royalty and levy with the State Government. Are you ready for this?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: No.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: When you are not ready for the two points, then why are you talking about the third. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the third point is about the rationalisation of the freight rate by the Railways..*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

He is not allowing me to respond, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Sometimes this is the problem with senior Members.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has talked about rationalisation. During the last 10 years the freight rate of coal has increased at 7.6 per cent, which is an average increase. The operational cost of Railways has increased to around 13 per cent, i.e. the input cost of Railways is increasing at 13 per cent per

annum, but the freight rate of coal is increasing merely at 7.6 per cent per annum. I would like to tell you the per tonne rates of goods that are transported by the Railways in bulk. The charges for diesel are Rs. 925.70 for iron steel Rs. 682.90, for cement it is Rs. 497.30 and for coal it is Rs. 454.40. If we see in this manner then we would find that the freight of coal is not too much. In fact, its increased freight rate is also not too much.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has raised the third point that the Railways have given concession to imported coal. I want to inform him that no such concession has been given to imported coal.

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that presently the Railways is an integral part of our society as well as of various industries. Despite this, whether the money earned by the Railways as freight has been on the increase or decrease? So, whether the money earned in 1999 was more than that earned in the year 2000 or less. Similarly, money earned in 2000 was more than that in 2001 or not. Meaning thereby, the progress made by the Railways in this field and alongwith this I would like to know that whether the Railways has made any new arrangements for freight of goods as also laying of new railway lines?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The earning of Railways is increasing every year. As I have said earlier, coal alone constitutes 47 per cent of the entire freight traffic and 44 per cent of the amount from freight traffic is earned from coal and that is why this income goes on increasing alongwith increase in the freight charges. So far as laying of new railway lines is concerned, it is a continuous process.

[*English*]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: I agree with our hon. Minister. But the point is, he must not forget that coal industry as such is going down day by day. As he rightly said, the import cost is going up, but their recovery from the sale is not commensurate. In view of this, he has to reconsider the coal freight.

Most of the thermal power projects were constructed in the country immediately after Independence on political consideration. Not a single one has been constructed on the pithead. All are there at a distance of three hundred to five hundred kilometres. There is a mismatch in the country between the hydel power and the thermal power. The world phenomenon is 60:40—hydel-60 and thermal-40. In our country it is just the opposite; 40:60. This is why the two wings of the Government — Railways and the Coal — have to jointly look into this. You have rightly said that it is 44 per cent of your traffic. But now there is a tendency of coal going by road in many areas. He is thereby losing the traffic. So, he has to make some marginal concession.

I am examining the subject in the form of Coal Nationalisation (Amendment) Bill and my report will come before this House very soon. We have gone around all the coal mines. We have spoken to all the unions. We have met all the merchant associations. We have examined the user organisations as per your instructions, Sir.

In view of this, I would request the hon. Minister not to have a closed mind. He, being a magnanimous Minister, should consider the suggestions which are coming. After examining the subject we will be giving him avenues whereby he can make some rationalisation which would be supported by, for a change, my friend Shri Basu Deb Acharia!

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Railways is merely a transporter, it only transports of the goods from one place to another. We are not competent to give reply with regard to the power scenario or the bad condition of coal companies. Being a transporter the Railways also have several difficulties. As I have told that if we reduce just one percent of the freight rate of Railways it would lead to a loss of 112 crore rupees. The Railways are already getting cross subsidised earning

from its freight business, this is being subsidised due to the passenger business and other coaching business' of the Railways, rather it is being cross subsidised. As per one single statistics, there is cross. Subsidy of four thousand crore rupees on the passenger business the hon. Member said that the Railways should ponder over this aspect. Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to request the House as also the hon. Member that Railways should also be taken into consideration...*(Interruptions)*. So far as the electricity charges are concerned, if we calculate the average of the entire country's rates of the State Electricity Board and see the average tariff of Kilowatt hour of its commercial rates, we would find that they charge Rs. 341.20 as commercial one. They charge Rs. 360.23 from the industries, and Rs. 420.76 from the Railways. They charge highest amount from the Railways. The Railways transport coal, but the total outstanding amount of railways against the State Electricity Boards and sub power stations stands at Rs. 1495.54 crore as on 30th June, 2001.

The Railways has to pay the highest amount viz. Cross subsidy on the one hand and electricity charges on the other. So, keeping the outstanding amount *vis-a-vis* cross subsidy in mind, if we decrease even one per cent, the Railways shall have to bear a loss of Rs. 112 crore. The Railways would totally run in loss with such an action. I feel that the hon. Members can understand such a precarious situation.

[English]

Rate of Recovery of Oil from Wells

*443. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSAN SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rate of recovery from most of the existing oil wells ranges between 25 percent and 28 percent while in most advanced countries it has reached a level of over 40 percent going upto 60 percent;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the recovery factor in oil fields without spoiling the health of the fields?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) Oil recovery factor of a field is the estimated percentage of oil that can be produced from the total oil volume present therein. The recovery factor is dependent amongst other things, upon intrinsic factors such as the geology of the reservoir and type of reservoir, the drive mechanism, the petro-physical properties and the characteristics of the oil as also other factors such as the production technologies used, the investment made and the applicable fiscal regime. The estimated average recovery factor of normal oil, for the fields in India is currently around 28%. The oil recovery factor for Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) fields ranges from 15% to 54%, for Oil India Ltd. (OIL) fields from 20% to 50% and for the joint venture/private sector fields from 11% to 55%. Internationally, there is an equally wide variation in the recovery factor from field to field ranging generally between 15% and 60%.

(c) The National Oil Companies (NOCs), ONGC and OIL, undertake Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) plans to optimize oil production in a scientific manner and thus increase the recovery factor. For Private/JV operated fields, the oil production takes place in terms of the Development Plan envisaged under the respective Production Sharing Contracts.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister, in his reply to my question, has stated that the oil pool of India is running into a loss of 16,000 crore rupees and our average production of oil is 28 per cent. 40 to 60 per cent of oil is produced in the foreign countries. Only the ONGC and the Oil India Limited Undertake the job of digging of wells and exploration of crude oil. There are various factors that lead to less production of oil. Some of them are natural factors, which have no remedy. The Oil India Limited has so far been digging wells. In the recent past, the Oil India Limited has made quotations for a tender in block No. A.F. O.N.N./2000/A in Tejpur, Assam Division. I would

like to ask the hon. Minister as to what were the reasons regarding digging and exploration due to which the tender of Oil India Limited was not considered and one of the companies of USA 'Hardy Exploration' was given the contract? Whether the Oil India Limited had made a higher bid or it does not undertake the job of digging of wells properly?

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a general question as to what is the amount of recovery and how it stands this much. Hon. Member has said that only the Oil India Limited undertakes the work of digging which is not true. ONGC also performs the same work and sometimes even more than the Oil India Limited. These two are Government undertakings and many private investments are also being introduced in this field. Infact, we are giving priority to the work of digging which will increase the production of oil in the country. The hon. Member has also said that the production of oil is more in foreign countries. Broadly speaking, it also depends upon the ground level of each country or prevalence of sand or stone etc. beneath the earth. So, we cannot compare it with others. The rejection of a bid of Oil India Ltd. has no bearing with this question. But I can tell this much that the bids asked under the NEMP were international bids. A Committee was constituted for its revaluation. The Committee after looking into all quotations, has entrusted the work to the company which has given best quotations.

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: I do not agree with your views. Oil India Ltd. has submitted that the quotations made in its tender were low, norms were very less, amount asked for, was also less, but inspite of all this, they were not given the contract and some American company was given the contract. Whether they have made an application in this regard or not? I want to ask that if the rates of their tender were low, then why they were not given the contract?

SHRI RAM NAIK: It is right that the Oil India Ltd. has made an application, but this is not true that its quotations were best and were acceptable. Infact the terms should be good, only then the tender is considered best. The terms of exploration off Oil India Ltd. were not perfect and that is why they were not considered..(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Tarit Baran Topdar, now you can ask a pointed supplementary.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is meant by "behtareen". That has to be explained. Otherwise, the answer is not clear.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK: The English translation of 'behtareen' is 'the best'.

[English]

When bids are invited here, one who gives the best terms, that is accepted. In other tenders where some goods are supplied, whichever tender is the lowest, that is accepted, but when bids are invited for exploration, the tender which offers the best terms is accepted.

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour is over.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question which is listed at S.No. 447 is very important. When I asked the Government whether they are going to constitute a National Judicial Commission, the Minister has replied that it is one of the points on the National Agenda for Governance. He has also stated in his reply that the matter has been referred to the Constitution Review Committee. This has nothing to do with the Constitution Review Committee. ...(Interruptions) The Minister has to answer my question properly. Otherwise, he should agree for a Half-an-Hour Discussion on this matter. ...(Interruptions)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Expensive Justice

*444. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether dalits, backwards and poor people are deprived of justice due to expensive and cumbersome legal system in the country;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide speedy and less expensive justice to these sections of people?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. In order to provide cheaper justice to the poor persons, provision of legal aid have been made under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. Under the provisions of Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, persons belonging to weaker sections of the society such as Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Women/Child, mentally ill and disabled persons, any person in custody and all other persons who are earning less than Rs. 25,000/- per annum, if the case is before a court other than the Supreme Court, and less than Rs. 50,000/- if the case is before the Supreme Court are entitled to receive free legal services. Under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, as amended, Legal Services Authorities have been constituted in States to achieve the on-going objectives of providing free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society, to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities and to organize Lok Adalats to secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice on a basis of equal opportunity. Progress and status of the schemes framed under the said Act are assessed from time to time. The Central Authority constituted under Section 3 of the said Act is taking steps to establish vibrant legal aid programmes such as promotion of legal literacy, setting up of legal aid clinics in universities and law colleges, training of para-legals, and holding of legal aid camps and Lok Adalats. The National Legal Services Authority is also formulating policies and schemes to achieve the aims and objects of the Act.

(c) Various steps have been taken by the Government for the speedy disposal of both civil and criminal cases. These include amendment of the Civil Procedure Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, increase in the number of posts of Judges/Judicial Officers, establishment of Special Courts/Tribunals, Computerization of courts and adoption of alternative modes of dispute resolution, such as, arbitration and conciliation. Lok Adalats have been given a statutory base as supplementary forum for resolution of disputes.

Amendment of procedural law, is a continuous process. Two Bills namely the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1994 and the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2000 have been introduced in Parliament and are pending before Parliament for consideration. The Government has recently appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Justice V.S. Malimath, to suggest measures for revamping the Criminal Justice System.

Government has sanctioned a scheme involving an amount of Rs. 502.90 crore for creation of 1734 Fast Track Courts for expeditious disposal of long pending sessions cases and cases involving under trials in jails, on priority. The scheme is in operation with effect from April, 2001.

A pilot project for the computerization and networking of all courts in the four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata & Chennai is being taken up in the year 2001-2002 to serve as a model for other courts in the country.

[English]

Stimulation Package for Mumbai High Oil Fields

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

(a) whether the geological laboratory of ONGC has successfully developed a stimulation package for the Mumbai High Oilfields;

(b) if so, whether this package will increase oil recoveries from the Mumbai High by two-fold;

(c) if so, whether any efforts have been made to test the claim of the ONGC laboratory;

(d) if so, the extent to which the ONGC finds the new stimulation package viable and credible; and

(e) the time by which the new recovery package is likely to be put in place?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a), (c), (d) and (e) Regional Geological Laboratory of Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) at Mumbai had carried out the detailed technical studies to provide support in deciding stimulation

package for one of the Mumbai High layers, A-1, which is one of the sub-layers of the L-III reservoir of Mumbai High. The recommendations have been implemented on a "pilot" basis for two wells and two more "pilots" will be undertaken post-monsoon 2001.

(b) Since the recommendations are not applicable to the whole of the Mumbai High field, the question of recoveries being doubled due to their application does not arise.

Utilisation of Vacant Railway Land

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

(a) whether the Railways have vast areas of land which is not used for any constructive purpose;

(b) if so, whether the Railways have any policy to allow NGOs and local Governments to use the vacant railway land for greening the area;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Railways have made any assessment regarding use of vacant railway land;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the other measures taken to protect the railway land from encroachment?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir. Railways have about 16,745 Hectare of land, which is vacant at present but which is required for future developmental projects.

(b) No, Sir. However, such requests are considered on merit on case to case basis.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Wherever feasible vacant railway land is put to short-term uses like afforestation, grow more food programmes, temporary licensing for purposes related to railway working etc.

(f) Other measures to protect vacant land include putting up of boundary walls and fencing, prompt removal of encroachments as soon as these are noticed to be coming up, and greater vigilance in this direction.

National Judicial Commission

*447. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to bring a legislation before Parliament to regulate appointments of Supreme Court and High Court judges and to provide for a National Judicial Commission for this purpose;

(b) if so, the main reasons necessitating the enactment of such a law; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) One of the items of the National Agenda for Governance is to set up a National Judicial Commission (NJC) to make recommendations for judicial appointments in the Supreme Court and the High Courts and draw up a Code of Ethics. The Government is committed to the idea of setting up the Commission to deal with these matters.

There is already a broad national consensus about the setting up of the National Judicial Commission. However, there are some matters which have to be discussed for arriving at a broad consensus, particularly, with regard to its composition. The National Commission set up to review the working of the Constitution is conducting a debate all over the country.

Handloom Development Scheme

*448. SHRIMATI SANGEETA
KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of each scheme implemented for the development of handloom sector/handloom weavers;

(b) the number of proposals received from various State Governments under each scheme and the funds allocated and released thereunder during 2000-01 and 2001-02, State-wise;

(c) the amount utilised by each State Government on such schemes during the said period;

(d) the number of weavers benefited and number of handloom units modernised under these schemes till date, State-wise;

(e) the details of views submitted by the State Governments for improvement in those schemes and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(f) the impact of these schemes in respect of overcoming the competition from the powerloom sector and meeting the international competition?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) The Government of India has been implemented the following schemes for the development and welfare of weavers in the handloom sector:

(i) Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing Scheme:

This scheme was introduced during the year 1996-97. The scheme aims at giving substantial impetus to the export of handloom fabrics, made-ups and other handloom items from the country. Under the scheme, assistance is provided for infrastructure development including engagement of designers for development of designs to suit the international market thereby enhancing the export of handloom apparels from the country. The allocation under the scheme was Rs. 400.00 lakh during the year 2000-01 and Rs. 500.00 lakh during the current financial year.

(ii) Mill Gate Price Scheme & Setting up of National Handloom Marketing Complexes

This scheme was introduced during the year 1992-93 in order to ensure adequate supply of all types of yarn to the weavers required for production of handloom items at prices prevailing at the Mill Gate, through the National Handloom Development Corporation.

A scheme for setting up of National Handloom Marketing Complexes was introduced during the year 1985-86. To resolve the problems of the weavers to find suitable place for marketing of their products under one roof, the Government has set up marketing complexes

throughout the country through National Handloom Development Corporation Ltd., Lucknow. These complexes enable greater market exposure to the handloom products from all States and therefore help the weavers in getting better sales and higher earnings. There was a combined budget provision of Rs. 1100.00 lakh for both the schemes for the year 2000-01 and for the current financial year, 2001-02, there is a budget provision of Rs. 700.00 lakh.

(iii) Marketing Through National Handloom Expos, District Level Events, Fairs, Melas etc.

In order to popularise the handloom products and promote their marketing within and outside the country, the Government of India in the year 1977-78 introduced a scheme of holding of National Handloom Expos and other publicity programmes. These events are organised to enable the Handloom weavers to learn market trends, design development, and the taste of the customer and to market their products. There was a budget provision of Rs. 550.00 lakh for the year 2000-01 and there is a budget provision of Rs. 545.00 lakh for the current financial year.

(iv) Decentralised Training of Weavers:

This scheme was introduced in the year 1986-87. The objective of the scheme is to bring about skill up-gradation of the skilled and semi-skilled category of handloom weavers for enhancing their earning capability of providing them training in design development and dyeing techniques, simultaneously ensuring development of marketable products. There was a budget allocation of Rs. 155.00 lakh for the year 2000-01 and Rs. 150.00 lakh has been allocated for the year 2001-02.

Apart from the above schemes which are aimed at improving the quality of life and sustainable livelihood of the weavers through improvements in the means of production, the Government of India has also been implementing the following schemes exclusively for the personal welfare of the weavers.

(i) Workshed-Cum-Housing Scheme:

This Scheme was introduced in 1985-86 with the objective of providing a dwelling unit and suitable work place for weavers so as to improve their productivity, quality of life and earnings. The assistance under the

Scheme is now Rs. 7000/- for Rural Worksheds, Rs. 10,000/- for Urban Worksheds, Rs. 18,000/- for Rural Workshed-cum-Houses and Rs. 20,000/- for Urban-Workshed-cum-Houses. The budget allocation for the year 2000-01 was Rs. 1500.00 lakh and for the current financial year, the budget provision is Rs. 1400.00 lakh under the scheme.

(ii) Thrift Fund Scheme:

This scheme was introduced in 1985-86, and it envisages creation of a type of provident fund with contribution from the weavers, to enable them to meet personal expenses. The weavers contribute 8% of the wages and the Central and State Governments contribute 4% each. The budget allocation for the year 2000-01 was Rs. 300.00 lakh and during the current financial year, there is a budget provision of Rs. 300.00 lakh under the scheme.

(iii) Health Package Scheme:

This scheme was introduced in 1992-93. The scheme extends financial assistance to weavers for the treatment of diseases like asthma, TB, inflammation of the respiratory system, cost of testing of eyes and spectacles, supply of drinking water, maternity benefits to women weavers, payment of additional compensation for adopting permanent family planning measures and infrastructure for primary health care, on a reimbursement basis. The budget allocation for the year 2000-01 was Rs. 300.00 lakh and during the current financial year, there is a budget provision of Rs. 250.00 lakh under the scheme.

(iv) Group Insurance Scheme:

This Scheme was introduced in the year 1992-93 in order to meet the socio-economic obligations of the weaver towards his family and to provide security against the uncertainty of his working capacity in old age. Under the scheme, a weaver is provided an insurance coverage of Rs. 10,000/- for an annual premium of Rs. 120/-. The premium is shared equally among the beneficiary, State and Central Governments. The budget provision during the year 2000-01 was Rs. 300.00 lakh and during the current financial year, there is budget provision of Rs. 150.00 lakh under the scheme.

(v) New Insurance Scheme for Handloom Weavers

This Scheme was introduced in the year 1997-98. The scheme provides coverage for various types of risk at a premium of Rs. 120/- per annum with contributions of Rs. 20/- by the weaver, Rs. 40/- by State Government and Rs. 60/- per annum by the Government of India. The budget provision during the year 2000-01 was Rs. 25.00 lakh. For the current financial year also, there is a budget provision of Rs 25.00 lakh under the scheme.

(vi) Deendayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana

With a view to improving the infrastructure facility for product diversification and quality upgradation as well as supporting the efforts of marketing, design, consultancy etc., a comprehensive scheme called Deendayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana has been introduced by the Government of India w.e.f. 1.4.2000. The scheme envisages product development, infrastructural support, institutional support, training to the weavers, supply of equipments and marketing support etc. both at macro and micro level in an integrated and co-ordinated manner for an overall development of the handloom sector and the weaver. The budget allocation under the scheme was Rs. 4000.00 lakh for the year 2000-01 and during the current financial year there is a budget provision of Rs. 7700.00 lakh under the scheme.

(viii) National Centre for Textile Design:

In order to promote traditional and contemporary designs so as to be responsive to the rapidly changing market demand, thereby providing adequate growth opportunity to the textile industry and in particular to the handloom sector, National Centre for Textile Designs has been set up during the year 2000-01, which provides on-line access to designs developed by the various Weavers Service Centres on payment basis. There is a budget allocation of Rs. 75.00 lakh during the current financial year 2001-02.

(b) to (d) Statement I showing the number of proposals received from State/UT Governments funds sanctioned/released by the Government of India, beneficiaries covered and funds utilized by them is enclosed. Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing Scheme, and Project Package Scheme (which was in operation up to 1999-2000) have a component of modernisation of looms. Number of projects sanctioned to various State and UT Governments under these schemes is placed at Statement-II.

(e) The State Governments, based on their experiences at the field level, have from time to time made suggestions for improvement in the implementation of these schemes. The suggestions made by various State Governments covering welfare and developmental schemes are as follows:

- (i) enhancement of Central assistance under the Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme;
- (ii) allowing partial withdrawal after 5 to 7 years and final withdrawal after 10 to 12 years under the Thrift Fund Scheme and also deposits under the scheme to be kept in a fixed deposit rather than savings account;
- (iii) the amalgamation of the Group Insurance Scheme and the New Insurance Scheme and to provide higher benefit in cases of natural death of the weaver;
- (iv) review of the scale of assistance under the marketing incentive component of Deendayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana; and
- (v) revision in the funding pattern of the Deendayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana especially in view of the financial crunch at the State level.

These suggestions have been examined and on that basis, several modifications have been suggested for the Xth Plan.

(f) The Government of India has been implementing the various schemes stated above, for the overall welfare and integrated development of weavers in the handloom sector. The success of these schemes can be gauged from the fact that the budget has been substantial over the years and weavers all over the country are covered. Many of these schemes have been running uninterruptedly since their inception and some of them are being implemented for over 15 years. These schemes have been crucial in giving vital infrastructural support like provision of margin money and credit, raw material etc., forward and backward linkages, marketing assistance, steady employment, social security and better working conditions which have strengthened the sector to enable it to meet the competition from the power-loom sector and internationally.

Statement I

Number of proposals received, amount sanctioned/released by Government of India, beneficiaries covered and funds utilised by State Governments under various Schemes

(Rs. in lakh)

S No	State	Schemes	No. of Proposals Received	2000-01				No. of Proposals Received	2001-02			
				Amount sanctioned	Amount Released as per	No. of beneficiaries covered	Funds Utilised as per UCs received by GOI		Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released	No. of beneficiaries covered	Funds Utilised as per UCs received by GOI
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme	2	239.18	119.59	1,490	N.A.**	—	—	—	—	—
		Group Insurance Scheme	1	24.00	24.00	60,000	N.A.	—	—	—	—	—
		Health Package Scheme	1	*** IInd Instt.	96.25	26,000	96.25	—	—	—	—	—
		Dev. of Exportable Products & their Marketing Scheme (DEPM)	1	10.00	5.00	100	N.A.	2	12.00	6.00	200	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme	2	180.00	129.23	900	61.00	1	—	—	—	—
		Health Package Scheme	1	IInd Instt.	50.35	11,600	N.A.	—	—	—	—	—
3.	Assam	Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		Health Package Scheme	1	55.85+ IInd Instt.	112.25	30,345	N.A.	—	—	—	—	—
		DEPM	2	IInd Instt.	12.85	210	N.A.	—	—	—	—	—
		Deendayal Hathargha Protasahan Yojana (DDHPY)	64	557.24	424.10	4,400	N.A.	—	—	—	—	—
4.	Bihar	New Insurance Scheme	1	0.36	0.36	608	N.A.	—	—	—	—	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	Health Package Scheme	1	3.20	1.60	4,225	N.A.	1	—	—	—	—
		DEPM	1	8.50	4.25	50	N.A.	1	IInd instt.	8.75	100	8.75
6.	Delhi	DEPM	1	IInd Instt.	5.00	14	N.A.	—	—	—	—	—
7.	Gujarat	Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme	1	460.00	230.00	2,500	N.A.	—	—	—	—	—
		Group Insurance Scheme	1	1.57	1.57	3,917	N.A.	—	—	—	—	—
		New Insurance Scheme	1	2.73	2.73	4,557	N.A.	—	—	—	—	—
		Health Package Scheme	1	55.11	55.11	7,698	N.A.	—	—	—	—	—
		DDHPY*	*	425.00	*212.50	2,500	N.A.	—	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8.	Haryana	DEPM	1	15.50	15.50	30	7.50	1	8.50	4.25	30	N.A.
9.	Himachal Pradesh	DEPM	6	17.00	49.71	1,254	N.A.	2	8.50	11.75	500	N.A.
			(1+ IInd intt.)					(1+II instt.)				
		DDHPY	37	13.87	6.89	250	N.A.	3	9.83	4.91	100	N.A.
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	Thrift Fund Scheme	1	0.79	0.79	314	N.A.	—	—	—	—	—
		New Insurance Scheme	—	—	—	—	—	1	0.33	0.33	551	N.A.
		DDHPY	7	57.32	44.54	600	N.A.	—	—	—	—	—
11.	Karnataka	Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme	3	IInd instt.	57.07	750	N.A.	2	IInd instt.	113.10	2,100	—
		Thrift Fund Scheme	1	30.00	30.00	9,004	N.A.	—	—	—	—	—
		DDHPY	1	—	—	—	—	—	125.47	125.47	—	—
12.	Kerala	Health Package Scheme	1	IInd instt.	37.22	3,000	N.A.	—	—	—	—	—
		DEPM	1	IInd instt.	8.89	100	N.A.	—	—	—	—	—
13.	Madhya Pradesh	Group Insurance Scheme	2	1.13	1.13	1,587	N.A.	1	0.04	0.04	116	N.A.
		Thrift Fund Scheme	1	1.03	1.03	304	N.A.	1	3.72	3.72	1,648	N.A.
		New Insurance Scheme	2	0.74	0.74	1,226	N.A.	2	0.71	0.71	1,181	N.A.
		DDHPY	6	37.77	32.71	185	N.A.	1	3.28	3.28	—	—
14.	Maharashtra	Workshed-cum-Housing	1	IInd instt.	8.42	184	N.A.	—	—	—	—	—
		Thrift Fund Scheme	1	4.78	4.78	21,230	4.78	—	—	—	—	—
15.	Manipur	Workshed-cum-Housing	1	316.00	188.75	3,100	N.A.	—	—	—	—	—
		Health Package Scheme	1	19.06+IInd instalment	32.53	5,611	N.A.	—	—	—	—	—
		DDHPY	77	288.01	143.51	3,662	N.A.	—	—	—	—	—
16.	Meghalaya	Workshed-cum-Housing	2	41.51	20.76	318	N.A.	—	—	—	—	—
		Health Package Scheme	1	4.67	2.34	714	N.A.	—	—	—	—	—
		DDHPY	1	12.00	6.00	100	N.A.	—	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
17.	Mizoram	Workshed-cum-Housing	1	20.50	10.25	250	N.A.	—	—	—	—	—
18.	Nagaland	Workshed-cum-Housing	2	115.92+	136.96	6,811	N.A.	—	—	—	—	—
				IInd instt.								
		Health Package Scheme	1	149.54	74.77	16,358	N.A.	—	—	—	—	—
		DEPM	2	16.50	12.25	450	4.00	—	—	—	—	—
		DDHPY	10	66.20	33.10	1,000	N.A.	—	—	—	—	—
19.	Orissa	Workshed-cum-Housing	2	90.00	45.00	1,000	N.A.	—	—	—	—	—
		New Insurance Scheme	1	18.00	18.00	30,000	N.A.	—	—	—	—	—
20.	Punjab	DEPM	1	8.50	4.25	150	N.A.	2	8.50	10.25	200	8.05
								(1+II instt.)				
21.	Rajasthan	New Insurance Scheme	1	2.56	2.56	4,270	N.A.	—	—	—	—	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	Workshed-cum-Housing	4	243.00	181.46	3,252	174.09	—	—	—	—	—
		Group Insurance Scheme	1	36.75	36.75	91,876	36.75	—	—	—	—	—
		Thrift Fund Scheme	1	282.16	282.16	91,684	N.A.	—	—	—	—	—
		Health Package Scheme	1	53.44	37.99	5,556	33.99	—	—	—	—	—
		DEPM	1	10.50	5.25	450	—	—	—	—	—	—
		DDHPY	1	677.06	677.06	?	N.A.	?	1158.72	1158.72	?	N.A.
23.	Tripura	Workshed-cum-Housing	1	IInd instt.	14.05	330	N.A.	—	—	—	—	—
		Thrift Fund Scheme	1	0.29	0.29	50	0.29	—	—	—	—	—
		Health Package Scheme	1	IInd instt.	29.83	7,550	N.A.	—	—	—	—	—
					(IInd instt.)							
		New Insurance Scheme	1	0.60	0.60	1,005	N.A.	—	—	—	—	—
		DDHPY	19	62.36	33.14	1,015	N.A.	—	—	—	—	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	DEPM	2	17.50	14.25	550	N.A.	—	—	—	—	—
		DDHPY	123	111.35	54.15	2,075	N.A.	—	—	—	—	—
25.	West Bengal	Workshed-cum-Housing	2	524.40	358.45	4,146+II	N.A.	—	—	—	—	—
						instt.						
		Group Insurance Scheme	1	2.47	2.47	7,620	2.47	—	—	—	—	—
		Health Package Scheme	1	14.70	7.35	375	5.86	—	—	—	—	—
		DEPM	3	33.33	16.25	336	—	—	—	—	—	—
		DDHPY	12	56.42	28.15	890	N.A.	—	—	—	—	—

* Project sanctioned as a special case for rehabilitation of Earth-quake victims.

** Not available

*** This is to indicate cases where sanctions have been made in the previous years but second instalment has been released only in 2000-01 or 2001-02.

Statement II

Sl.	State	Projects sanctioned under Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing Scheme	Projects sanctioned under Project Package Scheme
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6	540
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	18
3.	Assam	3	360
4.	Bihar	—	21
5.	Chhattisgarh	1	—
6.	Delhi	2	—
7.	Gujarat	1	23
8.	Haryana	3	8
9.	Himachal Pradesh	11	40
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	4	31
11.	Karnataka	—	58
12.	Kerala	2	215
13.	Madhya Pradesh	5	134
14.	Maharashtra	—	60
15.	Manipur	—	50
16.	Mizoram	1	1
17.	Nagaland	2	184
18.	Orissa	1	70
19.	Punjab	4	6
20.	Rajasthan	—	50
21.	Tamil Nadu	5	399
22.	Tripura	2	20
23.	Uttar Pradesh	9	428
24.	West Bengal	10	74

Purchase of Wagons

*449. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways propose to reduce the target of acquiring wagons during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for drastic cut in the purchase and its impact on the movement of foodgrains and other goods?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Assets of Oil Corporations

*450. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

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

(a) whether the Government have assessed the total assets of organisations like ONGC, Indian Oil Corporation Limited and GAIL till March, 2001;

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

(c) the profits earned by these organisations during 2000-2001;

(d) whether the working of these organisations can be termed as satisfactory in view of the total assets and net profits earned by these organisations; and

(e) if not, the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) According to the Companies Act, every Company is required to prepare a Balance Sheet in the prescribed format at the end of each financial year. The Balance Sheet, *inter-alia*, indicates all assets of the company.

The approximate net assets, subject to audit by Comptroller and Auditor General, of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) and Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) as on 31st March 2001 were as under:—

Name of the Public Sector Undertaking (PSU)	Net Assets (in Rs. crores) as on 31.3.2001
ONGC	35,057
IOCL	36,606
GAIL	8,191

(c) and (d) Details of profit after tax (PAT), subject to Audit by Comptroller & Auditor General, earned by ONGC, IOCL and GAIL are given below:—

Name of the PSUs	Profit After Tax (PAT) (in Rs. Crores)
ONGC	5,228.78
IOCL	2,720.33
GAIL	1,126.16

PAT earned by ONGC, IOCL and GAIL indicate that their performance is satisfactory.

(e) Does not arise in view of above.

National Law University

*451. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:
SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to establish a National Law University;

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

(c) whether the Government also propose to close down all evening law colleges;

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

(e) the universities which have agreed to close down their evening law colleges;

(f) the arrangements being made for the students already getting law education; and

(g) the other steps taken by the Government to improve the standard of law education in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) A proposal to establish a National Law University in National Capital Region (NCR) with its three National Centres in the Northern, Western and Eastern regions of the country on the pattern of the National Law School at Bangalore, with an enabling provision to create more such Centres, is under consideration of the Government. The matter has been taken up on the recommendation of the Special Subject Group on the Administrative and Legal Simplifications, constituted by the Prime Minister's Council on Trade and Industry.

(c) and (d) The Bar Council of India has amended Rules concerning three-year law course after graduation (i.e., Rule 2(1) in Part IV Section-B, Bar Council of India Rules) to provide that all law colleges which are exclusively running evening sessions shall switch over to 'Day' session during the academic year 2000-2001, failing which they will not be entitled to approval of affiliation by the Council. The main reason for this is to bring improvement in legal education which is possible only through full-time day colleges equipped with all necessary infrastructure and facilities. The details thereof are enclosed in statement.

(e) and (f) As informed by the Bar Council of India, many evening Colleges have been closed down by the Colleges themselves and students were transferred to day courses.

(g) After revising the LL.B. curriculum by introducing a number of new subjects keeping in view the changing needs of the society, the Bar Council is insisting on law teaching institutions to have qualified full-time teachers to impart Legal Education effectively and also on prescribing percentage of attendance by law students. The Bar Council has also stressed the need for separating law faculties from other faculties and establish them as independent law colleges, so that Legal Education can be properly imparted. The Bar Council is regularly inspecting the law colleges and also requires them to furnish annual returns for scrutiny. After scrutinising their

annual returns, the Bar Council informs the law colleges about deficiencies found and asks them to take appropriate steps to remove the same in a time-bound manner.

Statement

- (i) Evening law colleges cannot impart legal education as prescribed under the rules of the Bar Council of India in view of the revision of curriculum recently carried out by the Bar Council of India. The revised curriculum prescribes 21 compulsory subjects, three optional subjects and four papers in practical training making a total of 28 subjects in the LL.B. course. The evening colleges hardly function for two; to two and a half hour a day which is totally inadequate to impart legal education prescribed by the Bar Council of India under its rules.
- (ii) The evening law colleges are mostly manned by part time teachers who are practising lawyers. These colleges do not have sufficient number of qualified full-time teachers. Professional courses like LL.B. cannot be imparted through part-time teachers alone.
- (iii) Evening law Colleges are conducted in colleges which are imparting courses in other disciplines and independent buildings are not available to law colleges with adequate infrastructural facilities.
- (iv) Since the practical training has been revised and includes court visits and other aspects of practical training, evening colleges can not do justice to such training as envisaged by the Bar Council of India.
- (v) The majority of the students on the rolls of the evening colleges are employed persons who want to improve their qualifications for career advancement and want to enrol as advocate after retirement. Such students are not serious in their studies and this contribute to the lowering of standards of legal education. These are some of the reasons which prompted the Bar Council of India to ask the evening law colleges to convert themselves into full time day colleges.
- (vi) Attendance requirement are rarely adhered to in the evening law colleges as majority of the students are employed.

[English]

Operational Ratio

*452. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the operating ratio fixed for different zonal railways for 2000-2001;

(b) whether the zonal railways have achieved this operating ratio targets set for the said period;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether there is any worsening in the operating ratio due to shortfall in freight traffic and the earnings therefrom;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve the operating ratio for various zonal railways?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (g) The zone-wise operating ratio as fixed and achieved in 2000-01 is given below:—

Zonal Railways	As fixed in Revised Estimates	As achieved (Provisional)
Central	91.1	92.6
Eastern	119.8	121.4
Northern	91.3	90.1
North Eastern	155.0	156.6
Northeast Frontier	224.2	208.2
Southern	119.0	120.8
South Central	88.5	86.3
South Eastern	80.4	78.5
Western	86.5	88.7
Total	98.5	98.3

The Railways have been able to achieve the overall operating ratio despite some shortfall in freight traffic and freight earnings. The details of earnings fixed and achieved during 2000-01 are given below:

Earnings	Revised Estimate	Actuals (Provisional)
Passenger	10450	10515
Other Coaching	781	764
Freight	23486	23305
Sundry Other	800	703
Total	35517	35287

The Railways have been making vigorous efforts to improve the operating ratio by controlling expenditure and augmenting earnings. Some of the important measures being taken include:

- (i) Measures to control expenditure by improving staff productivity, assets utilisation, inventory management, fuel consumption, austerity in areas such as travel, publicity, hospitality etc.
- (ii) For improving earnings, aggressive marketing with improved freight services & commercial incentives.
- (iii) All efforts are being made to curb leakage of revenue and pilferages.

Import of Ships

*453. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ships imported alongwith second hand ships during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have chalked out any plan to promote the growth of the Indian Merchant fleet;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether his Ministry has urged the Ministry of Finance for lifting customs duty on import of ships; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) A total of 92 ships including second hand have been imported during the last three years.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Government have set a target of 9 million Gross Registered Tonnage (GRT) to be achieved by the end of 9th Plan. The steps taken by the Government for promotion and growth of Indian Merchant fleet are as under:

- (i) All categories of ships viz; crude tanker, product tanker, bulk carriers, etc. have been included in the free list for import after the amendments in the Exim Policy for 2001-2002, to facilitate acquisition at competitive price;
- (ii) Ships (including second hand ships) can now be imported freely without license as per guidelines issued by the Ministry of Shipping.
- (iii) Facility of Acquisition through Bare Boat Charter-cum-Demise (BBCD) method for all categories of ships;
- (iv) Shipping companies have been allowed to retain sale proceeds of their ships abroad and utilise them for fresh acquisition;
- (v) Shipping companies are now permitted to get their ships repaired in any shipyard without seeking prior approval of the Government;
- (vi) Quarterly Block Allocation scheme for repair of ships has been dispensed with;
- (vii) Reserve Bank of India releases foreign exchange for ship repair/dry docking and spares for imported capital goods, without any value limit;
- (viii) Indian Shipping Companies can Time Charter out ships without any restrictions;
- (ix) 100 per cent investment by NRIs in shipping with full repatriation benefits is permitted;
- (x) No permission is required for raising foreign exchange loans from abroad by mortgaging the vessel with the lender;
- (xi) Restoration of Section 33 AC (of Income Tax Act) benefits in its original form, thereby facilitating ploughing back of profits by Shipping Companies for new acquisition.

(xii) Enhancement of Depreciation rate from 20% to 25% for Ships.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The customs duty on import of ships proposed in the Finance Bill of 2001-02, has since been withdrawn in respect of major categories of ships.

[Translation]

Subsidy on Petroleum Products

*454. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to provide subsidy on LPG and kerosene from Budgetary grants;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have also decided to reduce its stake in oil companies and if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the loss likely to be suffered or profit likely to be earned by the Government following this decision;

(e) the reasons for reduction in foreign capital in petroleum sector;

(f) the details of foreign capital investment in this sector during the last three years; and

(g) the effective steps taken by the Government to increase foreign capital investment in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) As per the Government decisions of November 1997, subsidies on domestic LPG and Kerosene for public distribution system at 15% and 33.33% of import parity, respectively would be borne by the fiscal budget after dismantling of the administered pricing mechanism (APM). The modalities of administering subsidies have not been finalized as yet.

(c) The Government have decided to reduce their equity in selected oil companies to appropriate levels. The reasons for disinvestment include releasing of public resources locked up in Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) for re-deployment in other priority sectors; exposing the

PSUs to market discipline; reducing the public debt of Government; etc.

(d) The disinvestment of Government's share would be carried through by following a transparent and objective procedure.

(e) and (f) There has been considerable inflow of foreign capital in exploration and production of oil and gas. However, foreign investment in some of the joint venture projects in the refining sector have not materialized on account of shrinking refining margins and reduced profitability being experienced by the refining companies globally.

(g) The Government have permitted foreign direct investment (FDI) up to 100% in exploration and production, oil refining, imports and marketing of natural gas, etc.

[English]

Revival Package for NTC Mills

*455. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH:
SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the revival package for the NTC Group of mills has been delayed due to various constraints;

(b) if so, whether the Group of Ministers had already submitted the report in this regard;

(c) if so, the main recommendations made by the Group of Ministers;

(d) whether the Textile Research Association has been asked to finalise NTC mills that could be reviewed and those which have to be shut down; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. Eight NTC subsidiaries stand referred to BIFR under The Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act 1985.

There were several constraints like mobilisation of resources through sale of surplus lands involving concurrence of State Governments, arriving at agreement with secured creditors for unencumbering the assets etc., which delayed the finalisation of revival plan.

Government considered these at various levels including that of Group of Ministers and decided that maximum number of operationally viable mills may be revived and those, which are not revivable, may be closed after protecting workers' interest by giving attractive VRS to those affected. Government have already communicated this approach to Operating Agencies/BIFR and have also given 'in principle' commitment for certain financial sacrifices for revival of these companies.

(d) Textile Research Associations have studied techno-economic viability of the NTC mills and submitted Reports to Operating Agencies (OAs) of BIFR (IDBI & IFCI).

(e) OAs are in the process of preparing Draft Revival Schemes (DRSs) for submission before BIFR. On submission of DRSs, BIFR will take a final decision in the matter.

[Translation]

Transportation of Perishable Goods

*456. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision regarding speedy transportation of perishable goods at parcel rates by Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have prepared any separate list for perishable goods such as fruits and vegetables being transported at parcel rate;

(d) if so, whether banana has been included in the list of fruits;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government have received any representations from Members of Parliament regarding inclusion of banana in the list of perishable goods and transporting it by parcel rates; and

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

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

(b) Preference is given to the loading of perishable traffic over other parcels. In case of large volumes of perishable traffic, they are being cleared in "Special trains" by the Indian Railways. Punctuality of these trains is being monitored to prevent detentions enroute.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. However, banana is already included in the list of perishable goods such as fruits & vegetables and is charged at parcel rates.

[English]

Making State Power Units Commercially Viable

*457. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Move to make State Power units Viable" as reported in the 'Statesman' dated July 15, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have started compilation of detailed accounting data of all State power utilities to make each of them commercially viable for private investors;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the time by which the task of compilation of detailed accounting data is likely to be completed; and

(e) the details of other steps likely to be taken to make State power units viable?

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

(b) to (d) Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has asked the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) to carry out a review of the existing accounting systems of the State Electricity Boards. The terms of reference of the assignment are:

- (i) To review the existing format of annual account and suggest a new format keeping in view the best accounting practices and disclosure requirements in a dynamic context.
- (ii) To review the Electricity (Supply) Annual Accounts Rules 1985 and suggest, if needed, separate accounting Rules for SEBs and other entities involved in generation, transmission and distribution of electricity and their alignment with Accounting Standards evolved by ICAI.

The study is expected to be completed in two months.

- (e) Union Government have held a number of conferences with Chief Ministers/Power Ministers discuss to various issues of power sector including working of SEBs.

The Conference of Chief Ministers/Power Ministers held on 3.3.2001 recognised that the real problem of management and the challenge of power sector lies in the distribution sector and resolved that:

- (i) Energy audit at all 11 KV feeders must be made effective within the next 6 months and accountability fixed at the local level.
- (ii) An effective Management Information System for this purpose needs to be made operational.
- (iii) On the basis of the above, an effective programme needs to be launched for identifying and eliminating power thefts in the next 2 years.
- (iv) Full metering of all consumers had been targeted for completion by December 2001. Special efforts should be made to complete the programme.
- (v) The quality of power supplied especially in rural areas needs to be improved through the APDP and other programmes quickly.
- (vi) Commercial viability has to be achieved in distribution in 2-3 years through any or all of the following:

- Creating Profit centres with full accountability,
- Handing over of local distribution to Panchayats/Local Bodies/Franchisees/Users Associations, wherever necessary,
- Privatisation of distribution,

— Or any other means.

- (vii) Efforts by States, if necessary, at inviting private investment in the power sector need to be focused on the distribution sector.
- (viii) Current operations in distribution would need to reach break even in two years and achieve positive returns thereafter.

The Government of India is also signing MOUs on reforms with States whereby the States commit to achieve definite milestones to reduce T&D losses, eliminate theft, improved billing and collection, setting up of functional State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) etc. The Government of India offers financial support through the Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) and incentives in the form of additional allocation of power from unallocated share of central pool etc. So far 17 States have signed MOUs.

Reorganisation of C.I.W.T.C.

*458. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have drafted a package of reorganisation for the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the financial provisions made for this purpose;
- (d) whether the Government propose to open inland water transport sector to private sector; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government have approved a package for re-organisation of the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation (CIWTC) Ltd., Calcutta. The re-organisation plan includes the following:—

- (i) The Workforce is required to reach an optimum level of 1400 employees and an amount of Rs. 27.07 crore will be provided for implementing VRS in 3 years.
- (ii) Both Deep Sea Ship Repair (DSSR) and

Rajabagan Dockyard (RBD) Divisions will be closed. Essential staff of 45 employees is to be retained from DSSR for maintenance jobs. They would be considered as an integral part of River Services Division (RSD).

- (iii) In all budgetary support of Rs. 76.35 crore will be provided for implementing the rehabilitation package. However, CIWTC may be given total budgetary support of Rs. 116.22 crore and budgetary support released in excess of Rs. 76.35 crore, i.e., Rs. 39.67 crore will be refunded by CIWTC to the Government on realization of Sale of assets.
- (iv) CIWTC will enter into a back to back arrangement with road transport agencies and examine further the feasibility for such an arrangement with rail transport so as to facilitate user agencies like 'SAIL' and 'FCI' getting a 'one stop' service.
- (v) Govt. of India Loan (plan and non-plan) together with interest amount to Rs. 425.98 crore as on 31.3.2000 is to be written off.
- (vi) Roll back the retirement age from 60 to 58 years.
- (vii) Central Inland Water Transport Corporation (CIWTC) and Ministry of Shipping will enter into a MOU on the revenue and expenditure projection for the 4 year Re-organisation period which will be monitored by the Ministry.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Inland Water Transportation is now open to private sector. The Government have formulated a policy package for private sector participation in Inland water Transport Sector. The salient features of this policy are as follows:—

- Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) to enter into joint ventures with private sector.
- Equity participation upto a maximum of 40% by Govt. in BOT projects;
- Tax exemption as available in infrastructure sector is available for investments in this sector;
- Enhancement in depreciation rate for inland vessels at par with the rate applicable to ocean going vessels;
- Vessels Building Subsidy of 30% is available for ship owners for inland vessels built in Indian Shipyards; and

- Levying of minimum customs duty on imported equipment and machinery for the development of inland waterways is proposed.

Development Schemes for Jute Sector

*459. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sought the UNDP assistance for the development in the processing of Jute Products;

(b) if so, the details of projects under implementation with this assistance and the amount of UNDP assistance allocated and released to each State during each of the last three years and 2001-2002;

(c) whether the Government have introduced/propose to introduce some more effective schemes for the development of jute sector;

(d) if so, the financial provision made in this regard during the said period, State-wise and scheme-wise; and

(e) the details of achievements made by implementing these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has launched a programme titled "Fibre and Handicraft Programme, Country Cooperation Framework - I" (CCF-I) in 1999 with financial assistance from UNDP, under which jute is one of the components. Under this Programme following projects are being implemented with NCJD as the nodal agency:

- (1) Commercialisation of R&D efforts in jute sector;
- (2) Quality assurance for jute products;
- (3) Machinery development for jute products;
- (4) Human resource development for jute mills;
- (5) Development of better jute seeds;
- (6) Marketing of jute products in international markets;
- (7) Sustainable programme for NGOs engaged in jute related activities.

The year-wise allocation and release of UNDP funds under the CCF-I Jute Programme is given below:

(Rs. in lakhs)	
Year	UNDP assistance Released
1999-2000	124.00
2000-2001	130.00
2001-2002	32.00

State-wise allocation made with UNDP assistance under NGO scheme is at Statement I. The other CCF-I programme activities do not have a State based approach. As such no State-wise allocations have been made.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Government has introduced/

proposes to introduce a number of Schemes as under for development of jute sector:

- (i) A Jute Technology Mission (JTM) is proposed to be launched for an all round development of jute sector.
- (ii) A Technological Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUF) for technological upgradation of textile and jute industry is in operation.
- (iii) A Jute Entrepreneurs Assistance Scheme is under implementation by National Centre for Jute Diversification (NCJD) to provide interest free loans to the entrepreneurs to set up new ventures in jute.

(e) The cumulative scheme-wise achievements made under CCF-I Programme upto 30.7.2001 are given at Statement II.

Statement-I

Report on NGOs supported under CCF-I as on 03.08.2001

Total number of NGOs supported under CF-I	66
Total Grant sanctioned to NGOs	Rs. 91.12 lakhs
Total Grant disbursed to NGOs	Rs. 43.06 lakhs
Total number of beneficiaries involved	2440

Sl.No.	State	Beneficiaries	No.	Sanctioned Amount in Rs.	Nos.	Disbursed Amount in Rs.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	West Bengal	375	13	18,46,000	13	8,90,000
2.	Orissa	360	11	14,98,680	10	8,02,750
3.	Assam	400	9	12,68,600	9	6,40,225
4.	Andhra Pradesh	290	9	9,78,000	7	4,59,900
5.	Maharashtra	95	4	5,26,000	4	2,45,000
6.	Tamil Nadu	105	4	5,17,500	3	1,85,500
7.	Uttar Pradesh	175	3	5,36,000	3	1,97,450
8.	Rajasthan	50	2	4,00,000	1	85,000
9.	Gujarat	340	2	3,66,000	2	2,40,000
10.	Kerala	60	2	3,00,000	2	1,55,000
11.	Tripura	40	2	2,62,000	2	1,32,000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
12. Madhya Pradesh		50	2	2,17,000	2	1,07,000
13. Bihar		60	1	1,65,000	1	61,000
14. Karnataka		20	1	1,31,000	1	75,000
15. Mizoram		20	1	1,00,000	1	30,000
Total :		2440	66	91,11,780	61	43,05,825

Statement II*Achievements under the CCF-I Programme*

Name of the project	Achievements
1. Betterment of Farmers	600 kg of JRC - 321 seeds multiplied in 120 acres of lands. 60 MT fibres cultivated by 150 farmers. JRC-321 seeds ready for cultivation in 150 acres of land in 2001 also.
2. HRD Workers' Training	9 training centres set up. 8 training modules in 2 languages developed. Training manuals printed in 2 languages. 6300 workers & 29 Master trainer trained.
3. Assistance to NGOs	15 workshops organised 66 NGOs sanctioned (Rs. 91.12 lakhs). Total beneficiaries covered 2440.
4. Commercialisation	2 workshops organised 8 units financed under JEA Scheme.
5. Quality Assurance	1145 samples tested, 3 testing instruments developed, Norms for jute and blended yarn (short staple) formulated.
6. Machinery Development	Vendor selected for indigenous development of 3 machines.

Berth Constraint

(c) if so, the steps taken to improve the situation?

*460. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No, Sir.

(a) whether some ports in the country are facing berthing constraints;

(b) There is decline of traffic at Mumbai Port and Kolkata Dock System, but the decline is not because of any berthing constraints.

(b) if so, whether there has been a massive decline in cargo traffic in these ports as a result thereof; and

(c) Does not arise.

Mishaps of Ships/Vessels

4526. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian Ships/Vessels sank during the last three years and the causes of their sinking;

(b) the loss of human lives and the value of material and the ship separately in each case;

(c) whether all the ill-fated ships/vessels were fished out by the Indian Rescue Operation or by foreign expertise; and

(d) the details of ships/vessels allowed to rest in sea bed after the mishaps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No ocean going Indian ship, coastal as well as foreign going, registered under Merchant Shipping Act 1958 has sunk during the last 3 years. The detailed information relating to vessels is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) to (d) Information is being collected.

Modernisation of Textile Sector

4527. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the traditional loom in the Textile Industry is replaced by a modern equipment, renders 25 workers unemployed;

(b) if so, whether any assessment has been made by the Government to find out the impact of modernisation of the industry vis-a-vis the employment potential during the last three years till date; and

(c) if so, the findings of the study conducted particularly in regard to the investment made in the textile sector for modernisation, the growth of employment opportunities during the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) In the

decentralized sector, employment is estimated @ of 2.5 persons per loom (1.5 direct and 1.00 indirect). Normally, one weaver attends to two ordinary plane looms or six automatic shuttle looms or twelve shuttleless looms, and the employment in weaving preparatory is more than the employment on the looms. Hence the apprehension of unemployment on account of modernization of looms, is baseless and incorrect.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

[Translation]

Craft Bazars

4528. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Craft Bazars organised during each of the last three years and the names of the organising institutions, bazar-wise;

(b) whether only a few institutions were authorised to organise these craft bazars; and

(c) if so, the rules laid down to accord approval for organising the craft bazar and the points noticed after organising the craft bazars?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) The details of the craft Bazars organised during each of the last three years and the names of the organising institutions, bazar-wise, is as per the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However approval for organising a craft bazar is accorded by the Head of Department in favour of those organisations who qualify as lowest bidders in a tendering process followed by each of the six Regional Offices.

The points noticed after organising the craft bazars are the number of artisans participated, amount of sales generated and suggestions for making further improvements.

Statement

Sl.No.	Place	Name of the Institution
1998-1999		
1.	Jaipur	Haryana State Handloom Handicrafts Development Corporation, Chandigarh.
2.	Vishakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh Handicrafts Development Corporation, Hyderabad.
3.	Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh Export Corporation, Kanpur
4.	Panaji	Vidarbha Handicrafts Artisans Welfare Association, Nagpur.
1999-2000		
1.	Mumbai	Vidarbha handicrafts Artisans Welfare Association, Nagpur.
2.	Jalandhar	Haryana State Handloom Handicrafts Development Corporation, Chandigarh.
3.	Kolkata	West Bengal State Handicrafts Co-op Society, Kolkata.
4.	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh Export Corporation Ltd., Kanpur.
2000-2001		
1.	Kolkata	West Bengal Handicrafts Development Corporation, Kolkata.
2.	Chandigarh	Haryana State Handloom Handicrafts Development Corporation, Chandigarh.
3.	Indore	Madhya Pradesh Handicrafts Vikas Nigam, Bhopal.
4.	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh Export Corporation Kanpur.
5.	Bangalore	Karnataka State Handicrafts Development Corporation.
6.	Shillong	Meghalaya Apex Handloom Weavers & Handicrafts Co-op. Federation, Shillong.

*[English]***Setting up of Yarn Depots**

4529. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of yarn depots in the country at present, location-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to open more yarn depots in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof, location-wise and the time by which the said depots are likely to start functioning; and

(d) the steps taken to supply yarn to weavers at mill rate price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) At present, 87 yarn depots are operating in the country under Mill Gate Price Scheme. The location-wise details are given in the statement.

(b) and (c) Opening of more yarn depots in the various States including the State of Andhra Pradesh is considered when proposals are received from genuine handloom organizations duly recommended by the Director of Handlooms of the State concerned.

(d) National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) supplies yarn at Mill Gate Price within

the limits as prescribed in the Mill Gate Price Scheme, to handloom organizations all over the country, on demand, under the Scheme.

Statement

State-wise Details of Yarn Depots Under Mill Gate Price Scheme

Sl.No.	State	Places of Depot	Places of Depot
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Srikakulam Vijaynagaram Rajahmundry Palacole Machilipatnam Mangalagiri Chirala (2 Nos.) Puttur Cuddapah Kumool Karim Nagar Kothakota	Warangal Secunderabad Choutuppal Bhimavaram Velpur Angara K.J. Puram Hasanabad Koyallagudam Perala
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Doimukh	
3.	Assam	Sualkuchi	Karimgunj
4.	Bihar	Manpur	Bhagalpur
5.	Gujarat	Palanpur	Bhuj
6.	Karnataka	Ramdurga Banhatti Ranebennur	Gulbarga Ilkal
7.	Kerala	Kannur Thiruvananthapuram	Kozhikode
8.	Madhya Pradesh	Sarangpur Raipur Sausar	Mandsaur Durg
9.	Tamil Nadu	Kanchipuram Vellore Cuddalore Karur Jayankondam Trichy Dharmapuri Salem Tiruchiengode Erode Chennimalai	Gobi Coimbatore Gudiyatham Nagercoil Tirunelveli Arupukkottai Srivilliputhur Madurai Arakkonam
10.	Tripura	Agartala (2 Nos.)	

1	2	3	4
11. Uttar Pradesh	Gorakhpur Sitapur Moradabad Meerut Sujawalpur Barabanki Varanasi Santh Kabir Nagar	Aligarh Maunathbhangam Bijnore Tanda Jalalpur Etawah	
12. Rajasthan	Jaipur		
13. Nagaland	Dimapur (2 Nos.)	Kohima	

Catering Department Canteen at Nagpur

4530. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Catering Department Canteen of Central Railway at Nagpur is stationed above the main gutter line and having opening inside the canteen;

(b) if so, whether the passengers are forced to eat food prepared in unhygienic conditions;

(c) whether the Railway Board has received any complaint in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) The gutter line of station area passes under refreshment room also and two manholes are located there.

(b) The manholes are airtight and harmless to the occupants.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Insurance Claims of Farmers

4531. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether disbursement of insurance claims of the

farmers in the country including Maharashtra particularly in tribal and dalit dominated districts are due under the crop insurance scheme for the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of payments of insurance claims made during the Eighth Five Year Plan, year-wise;

(d) the details of outstanding amount of claims as on date, State-wise; and

(e) the time by which the entire outstanding amount of claims is likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Some claims of the States which have substantial population of tribes and dalits have been pending ranging from few weeks to one/two years on account of non-payment of the requisite share by the concerned State Governments. These States are Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Assam.

(c) Year-wise details of total claims paid during Eighth Five Year Plan under erstwhile Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) are given as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)	
Year	Claim Amount
1991-92	20130.39
1992-93	5095.50
1993-94	18860.56
1994-95	5801.46
1995-96	14896.47
Total	64784.38

(d) A statement indicating amount of claims outstanding under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) CCIS and Experimental Crop Insurance

Scheme (ECIS) is annexed.

(e) As soon as the State Governments' share is made available.

Statement

The Details of claims outstanding under NAIS, CCIS and ECIS

National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS)

Season	State/UT	Claim Amount (Rs. in lakhs)	Remarks
Rabi 1999-2000	Assam	0.50	Pending on account of non-payment of State's share
	Kerala	29.54	—do—
	Orissa	0.17	—do—
Kharif 2000	Andhra Pradesh	2601.78	—do—
	Assam	0.75	—do—
	Chhattisgarh	8174.58	—do—
	Kerala	242.88	—do—
	Madhya Pradesh	5551.32	—do—
	Meghalaya	0.14	—do—
	Orissa	10551.86	—do—

Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS)

Season	State/UT	Claim Amount (Rs. in lakhs)	Remarks
Rabi 1996-97	Tamil Nadu	0.03	Pending on account of non-payment of State's share
Rabi 1997-98	Tamil Nadu	0.26	—do—
Kharif 1998	Assam	1.48	—do—
	Tripura	0.04	—do—
Rabi 1998-99	Assam	1.15	—do—
	Tripura	0.01	—do—
Kharif 1999	Andhra Pradesh	570.30	—do—

Experimental Crop Insurance Scheme (ECIS)

Season	State/UT	Claim Amount (Rs. in lakhs)	Remarks
	Assam	43.03	Pending on account of non-payment of State's share

*[English]***Ticketless**

4532. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of ticketless travelling apprehended during the last one year till date, zone-wise;

(b) the amount of penalty recovered during the said period; and

(c) the measures taken to check such travellings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) The zone-wise details regarding the number of cases of ticketless travellers apprehended and the amount of penalty recovered during the period July, 2000 to June, 2001 are as under:—

Railway	No. of ticket less travellers apprehended (in lakhs)	Amount of penalty recovered (in crores)
Central	23.48	30.19
Eastern	16.73	15.36
Northern	37.68	43.80
North Eastern	11.16	13.44
Northeast Frontier	1.99	3.27
Southern	5.14	7.00
South Central	10.61	17.52
South Eastern	9.00	9.77
Western	19.67	25.22
Total	135.46	165.57

Regular and surprise checks are conducted frequently to check ticketless/irregular travel in association with Railway Magistrates and Police. In addition, the Zonal Railways also conduct special types of checks on specific dates and periods at various places and sections prone to ticketless travel.

Agricultural Irrigated/Unirrigated Land

4533. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI:
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total areas of agricultural irrigated land, non-irrigated land and waste land in the country as on date, State-wise;

(b) the Ninth Plan target fixed to complete irrigation in the non-irrigation zone and the extent to which it has been achieved so far; and

(c) the area of available waste land utilised for effective use of agriculture or for any other activities during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The statement indicating State-wise agricultural irrigated land, non-irrigated land and waste land in the country is annexed.

(b) The target of creation and utilization of irrigation potential during the Ninth Five Year Plan and their achievements are:—

(Area in Million hectares)		
Activities	9th Plan Target	Achievement up to 1999-2000
Creation of Irrigation Potential	17.05	5.17
Utilisation of Irrigation Potential	13.64	3.94

(c) For controlling of degraded lands, Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture is implementing Watershed Management Schemes namely,

- (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Agriculture,
- (ii) Soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded Lands in the catchments of River Valley Project & Flood Prone Rivers (RVP & FPR).
- (iii) Watershed Development Project for Control of Shifting Cultivation

(iv) Reclamation of Alkali Soil.

Under these Schemes all types of lands viz. agriculture, forest and waste lands are treated with suitable soil & water conservation measures. Under the above schemes 9.62 lakh ha., 9.86 lakh ha. & 8.06 lakh ha. areas have been treated during the years 1998-99, 1999-

2000 & 2000-2001 respectively including wastelands. The evaluation studies conducted by External Agencies have shown that these Watershed Management Schemes have helped in enhancing the cropped area and agricultural productivity besides providing supplementary irrigation in the watershed areas.

Statement*Statewise Agricultural Irrigated Land, Non-Irrigated Land and Wasteland*

(Area in thousand ha.)

Sl.No.	States	Agricultural Irrigated land	Non-irrigated land	Wasteland
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4395	6439	5175
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	36	149	1833
3.	Assam	572	2172	2002
4.	Bihar	3624	3713	2100
5.	Goa	23	116	61
6.	Gujarat	3042	6558	4302
7.	Haryana	2755	860	373
8.	Himachal Pradesh	105	453	3166
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	313	420	6544
10.	Karnataka	2325	8285	2084
11.	Kerala	357	1912	145
12.	Madhya Pradesh	6399	13395	6971
13.	Maharashtra	2567	15309	5349
14.	Manipur	65	75	1295
15.	Meghalaya	45	171	990
16.	Mizoram	7	102	407
17.	Nagaland	62	163	840
18.	Orissa	2090	3878	2134
19.	Punjab	3847	292	223
20.	Rajasthan	5588	11202	10564

1	2	3	4	5
21.	Sikkim	16	79	357
22.	Tamil Nadu	2892	2594	128
23.	Tripura	35	242	2301
24.	Uttar Pradesh	11999	5476	3877
25.	West Bengal	1911	3552	572
26.	A&N Island	0	38	28
27.	Chandigarh	2	0	0
28.	D&N Haveli	4	19	7
29.	Daman & Diu	1	3	4
30.	Delhi	44	3	14
31.	Lakshadweep	0	3	0
32.	Pondicherry	22	3	4
All India		55143	87676	63850

Railway Projects for Andhra Pradesh

4534. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during September 2000, Union Railway Minister promised to undertake number of big Railway Projects in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

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

(c) whether these projects have so far not been implemented;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir. However, on 25th September, 2000, the then Minister of Railways signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Multi-Modal

Suburban Commuter Transport System for Hyderabad and Secunderabad twin cities.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Development of Sericulture in Haryana

4535. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme of sericulture in Morni area of Panchkula district in Haryana is under consideration of the Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) No scheme for development of sericulture in Morni area of Panchkula Distt., Haryana is under consideration by Central Silk Board.

(b) Does not arise.

Power Supply to Maharashtra

4536. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL:
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether power supply to Maharashtra and Gujarat is not being made as per their demand; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to make power supply to the States as per their demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA):
(a) The Power Supply Position in Maharashtra and Gujarat during the period April, 2001-July 2001 was as under:—

Energy (MU)

State	Requirement	Availability	Shortage	%age
Maharashtra	25544	24197	1347	5.3
Gujarat	16688	14941	1747	10.5

Peak (MW)

State	Peak demand	Peak Met	Deficit	%age
Maharashtra	11463	10422	1041	9.1
Gujarat	7796	6598	1198	15.4

(b) The steps being taken to improve the power availability in the country including Maharashtra and Gujarat are:

(i) Renovation and Modernisation (R&M) and life extension of existing old and inefficient generating units. Special fund under the Accelerated Power Development Programme for undertaking R&M schemes is being provided to States.

(ii) Speedy implementation of Reforms & Restructuring in the Power Sector.

(iii) Early stabilization of newly commissioned units and overall increase in Plant Load Factor of thermal units.

(iv) Reduction in Transmission and Distribution losses.

(v) Promotion of measures for demand side management, energy efficiency and energy conservation.

(vi) Disbursement of loans by the Power Finance Corporation for improving operation and maintenance of thermal power station under Accelerated Generation programme.

(vii) Expeditious implementation of capacity addition programme to enable doubling of the present generation capacity by 2012.

(viii) Increasing the inter-state and inter-regional power transfer by construction of transmission links and finally formation of the National Grid.

[English]

Construction of New Ports and Cargo Berths

4537. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of New Ports taken up for development during Ninth Plan or taken up as spill over projects under Government Sector/Joint Sector/Private Sector along with their present status thereof;

(b) the Cargo handling by each existing major ports during the Ninth Plan indicating both investment and physical achievements;

(c) the number of cargo berths constructed in each existing ports during the Ninth Plan and the programme chalked out for Tenth Plan;

(d) whether the major ports are provided with container facilities during the Ninth Plan; and

(e) if so, the details of Ports without container facilities and the steps taken up for such provision-investment policy and the timeframe for completion of projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Construction of New Port at Ennore costing Rs. 1058.52 crores was the only new port development project taken up during the Ninth Plan by the Government of India. The port was commissioned on 1.2.2001 by Hon. Prime

Minister and it became commercially operational with effect from 22.6.2001. The capacity of the Port is 16MT per annum.

(b) (i) The cargo handled by each Major Port since commencement of Ninth Plan is as follows:

(In million tonnes)					
Port	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02 (Target)
Calcutta	7.95	9.16	10.31	7.15	8.00
Haldia	20.20	20.22	20.71	22.80	25.10
Paradip	13.30	13.11	13.64	19.90	19.90
Visakhapatnam	36.02	35.65	39.51	44.69	42.50
Chennai	35.53	35.20	37.44	41.22	36.00
Tuticorin	9.97	10.15	9.99	12.28	12.30
Cochin	12.33	12.66	12.80	13.12	13.20
New Mangalore	15.28	14.21	17.60	17.89	20.40
Mormugao	21.18	18.02	18.23	19.63	20.70
Mumbai	32.10	30.97	30.41	26.95	27.80
J.N. Port	8.90	11.72	14.98	18.58	20.70
Kandla	38.90	40.64	46.30	36.74	38.10
Ennore	—	—	—	—	6.00
Total	251.66	251.71	271.92	280.95	289.10

(ii) The year-wise plan expenditure/investment for each Major Port since commencement of Ninth Plan is as follows

(Rs. in crores)					
Name of the Port	Expenditure incurred				Plan outlay for
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
1	2	3	4	5	6
Kolkata	6.04	11.04	11.89	5.19	2.88
Haldia	22.07	50.32	70.20	43.96	14.30
R.R. Schemes	—	—	0.19	0.04	75.00
Total (Kolkata)	28.11	61.36	82.28	49.19	92.18
Paradip	117.62	199.73	235.96	132.52	91.50

1	2	3	4	5	6
Visakhapatnam	55.29	51.30	91.25	97.44	90.00
Chennai	123.10	225.86	302.10	194.78	147.26
Tuticorin	16.07	48.36	194.38	24.30	69.35
Cochin	10.04	19.93	22.76	16.38	61.24
New Mangalore	20.58	14.81	44.55	94.57	74.00
Mormugao	7.78	31.05	25.50	15.32	59.16
Mumbai	75.61	52.46	211.21	127.85	91.21
J.N. Port	106.75	21.16	50.51	30.82	81.30
Kandla	50.90	50.19	63.38	39.68	100.98
Ennore	—	—	—	—	2.00
Total:	611.85	776.21	1323.88	822.85	960.18

(c) The number of Cargo berths constructed in each of the existing Ports during the 9th Plan is as follows:

During first four years of Plan:

Name of the Port	POL	Coal (Thermal)	Break bulk	Conainer	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
Haldia	1	—	3	—	4
Paradip	—	—	1	—	1
Visakhapatnam	1	—	1	—	2
Tuticorin	—	—	1	1	2
J.N. Port	—	—	—	2	2
Kandla	3	—	2	—	5
Ennore	—	2	—	—	2
Total:	5	2	8	3	18

Expected by 31.3.2002:

Paradip	1	2	2	—	5
Visakhapatnam	—	—	1	—	1

1	2	3	4	5	6
Chennai	-	-	-	1	1
Tuticorin	-	-	-	1	1
New Mangalore	2	-	-	-	2
Cochin	-	-	1	-	1
J.N. Port	1	-	-	1	2
Total:	4	2	4	3	13

The programme for constructing New Berths during 10th Plan will be chalked out before finalisation of 10th Plan.

(d) During 9th Plan, container handling facilities/ additional container handling facilities have been provided at Jawahar Lal Nehru Port and Tuticorin Port by way of construction of berths and providing container handling equipments. Construction of container berths one each at Chennai, Tuticorin and J.N. Port are in progress and expected to be completed by 31.3.2002.

(e) New Mangalore, Mormugao, Paradip and Visakhapatnam Ports do not have full-fledged container handling facilities. There is no plan to provide container facilities at Mormugao and Paradip. New Mangalore and Visakhapatnam Ports are exploring the possibilities of providing container facilities through private sector participation.

Secretarial Assistance to Retired Supreme Court Judges

4538. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to give secretarial assistance to the retired Supreme Court Judges; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) The Government has vide Notification dated 25.5.2001 amended the Supreme Court Judges Rules, 1959 providing for payment of Rupees ten thousand per month to the retired Chief Justices of the

Supreme Court of India, during their life time, for defraying the services of a stenographer on contract basis.

The Chief Justice of India is the head of the Judiciary, one of the three wings of the Republic of India. Former Presidents of India and former Prime Ministers are also availing the benefits of secretarial staff. On the same analogy, secretarial assistance has been extended to the retired Chief Justices of India.

Conversion Into Broad-Gauge Railway Line in Tamil Nadu

4539. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the length of metre-gauge railway lines in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the length of metre gauge lines currently under conversion into broad-gauge lines;

(c) whether there is any target set to convert all the metre-gauge lines into broad-gauge lines;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) The total length of metre gauge rail line (route kilometres) in Tamil Nadu is 2145 kms. (latest available figure as on 31.3.2000).

(b) In Tamil Nadu, about 1288 kms of metre gauge lines are currently under conversion.

(c) No target has been set.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Identified metre gauge lines have been taken up for conversion on various considerations and as per availability of resources.

**Budget Allocation to National Power
Training Institute**

4540. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the budget allocation made for the National Power Training Institute during the last three years;

(b) whether there is an urgent need to provide full financial support to National Training Institute; and

(c) if so, the action taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The details of budget allocation to the National Power Training Institute (NPTI) during the last three years are as follows:—

(Figures in lakhs of Rupees)
Budget Estimates

Years	Plan	Non Plan	Total
1998-1999	902.00	350.00	1252.00
1999-2000	650.00	492.00	1142.00
2000-2001	250.00	435.00	685.00

(b) and (c) National Power Training Institute is a Registered Society functioning as an autonomous body under the Ministry of Power. Its expenditure is met through Government budgetary support in the form of Grants-in-Aid and internal resources generated by the Institute. The autonomous Institutions have been advised to ensure maximizing generation of their internal resources. The funding of NPTI was reviewed and an overall increase of 60% in its budget allocation with reference to 2000-2001 has been provided as shown below:

(Figures in lakhs of Rupees)
Budget Estimates

Years	Plan	Non Plan	Total
2000-2001	250.00	435.00	685.00
2001-2002	637.00	465.00	1102.00

China's Investment in TPP in Chhattisgarh

4541. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a leading public sector power company of China has offered to set up a 300 MW thermal Power plant in Chhattisgarh on a turn-key basis; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Chhattisgarh State Electricity Board (CSEB) have received a proposal from M/s. China National Machinery and Equipment Import & Export Corporation (CMEC) to set up a 2x210 MW Thermal Power Project at the site of the retired 100 MW Thermal Power Project of CSEB at Korba on a "Build & Transfer" basis by financing 95% of the cost project through the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) route. CMEC have sought confirmation of CSEB for signing of the MoU. CSEB have informed that the terms of agreement have not been finalised as yet. CMEC has projected that the first unit of the plant will be operational within 52 months from the date of signing of the MoU.

[Translation]

Promotion of Animal Husbandry Dairy Development

4542. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for providing refrigeration plants, cold storages and refrigerator fitted vehicles to the dairy sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) and (b) As per the information made available

by the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, there is no specific scheme for providing assistance to refrigeration plants, cold storages and refrigerator fitted vehicles to the Dairy sector. However, that Department is implementing a centrally sponsored plan scheme, namely, Integrated Dairy Development Project in Non-operation Flood, Hilly and Backward Areas. Under that scheme, there is a component for milk processing and marketing. Based on the proposals received from the State Governments, that scheme provides facilities for milk chilling plants, dairy plants and refrigerated vehicles.

Department of Food Processing Industries has a scheme for Development of Infrastructural Facilities which provides financial assistance for setting up of cold storages, refrigerated transportation system and refrigerated outlets for processed food including processed milk products.

[English]

Ethanol Blending Projects

4543. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched two Ethanol Blending Projects in the country in June, 2001;

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

(c) the future plants of the Government for opening of such more projects in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The projects are located at:

- (i) Bareilly/Aonla Depots in Bareilly District, Uttar Pradesh.
- (ii) Manmad/Parnewadi Depots in Nasik District, Maharashtra.
- (c) Does not arise.

Political Parties

4544. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY:
SHRI SUBODH ROY:

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

(a) whether the Law Commission has made a recommendation for regulating the formation, functioning and organization of political parties by law;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons advanced by the Commission in this regard; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir. The Law Commission of India in its 170th Report on Reform of the Electoral Laws has recommended insertion of new Part II A titled "Organisation of Political Parties and matters incidental thereto" in the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

(b) The Report has already been laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 27.10.1999.

(c) The Government has not taken any view in respect of the recommendations of the Law Commission.

Doubling of Vasai-Diva Rail Line

4545. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far regarding doubling of Vasai-Diva Rail line under Central Railway;

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

(c) whether the Government have decided to start Mumbai suburban trains on this rail line on completion of work; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) The section from Vasai to Bhiwandi has already been completed. The work on Bhivandi-Diva is in progress and likely to be completed during 2001-02.

(c) and (d) At present there is no proposal for EMU suburban services to start on this section, on completion of the doubling work.

[Translation]

Identity Card Found in Godown of Scrap Dealer

4546. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that voters identity cards were found in the godown of the scrap dealer in Gaziabad (Uttar Pradesh);

(b) if so, whether the number of voters identity cards found from the godown of the scrap dealers was much less than the actual number;

(c) whether the Government have conducted a high level inquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof;

(e) the action taken against the guilty persons so far; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (f) The Election Commission of India has informed that it received intimation/complaints through press reports and from a political party regarding allegation of electors' photo identity cards being detected in possession of scrap dealers in Gaziabad. The Commission got conducted an inquiry into the matter with the help of the Chief Electoral Officer, Uttar Pradesh and the District Magistrate, Ghaziabad whereby a total of 197 photo identity cards were recovered from the scrap dealer. The Commission has stated that the distribution of photo identity cards to the voters in Ghaziabad was entrusted to the Office of 'Nagar Nigam'. The distribution was not carried out properly and due to their carelessness these cards found their way to the scrap dealer for which departmental action has been initiated against the concerned officials.

Railway Projects

4547. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of rail projects/surveys received from Uttar Pradesh during each of the last three years till date;

(b) the action taken on each project and the reasons for not clearing the projects;

(c) the amount spent on each project and the allocation made for each project during the said period and the current year; and

(d) the time by which all these projects are likely to be completed?

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

(I) Introduction of Suburban Services in Lucknow:

Electrification of Circular Railway around Lucknow for running suburban services has been sanctioned in 2000-01. The allocation for 2000-01 and 2001-02 are Rs. 1 Crore and Rs. 8.3897 Crores respectively. The target date of completion of this work is March 2002.

(II) Rishikesh-Dehradun:

The survey for a new broad gauge rail line connecting Rishikesh with Doiwala (near Dehradun) has been conducted recently. As per survey report, the cost of construction of 19.26 km. rail line has been assessed as Rs. 81.78 crores with a negative rate of return. Due to constraint of resources and unremunerative nature of proposal, it has not been considered feasible to take up the project.

[English]

New Power Projects in Tamil Nadu

4548. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan to start new Power projects in the country particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the existing power projects with their performance during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have allowed generation of power in both Public and Private Sectors in the country;

(d) if so, the details of power projects in the country commissioned by the public and private sector with/without foreign assistance and the total expenditure incurred thereon by each States during the last three years; and

(e) the progress of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Power projects aggregating 21037.10 MW installed capacity are under construction in different States, details are given in statement I. Details of station-wise hydro and thermal plants along with their generation performance for the years 1998-99 to 2000-01 are at

statement II. Details of power plants under construction in Tamil Nadu and new power schemes for the CEA has given techno economic clearance are given as under:—

Name of Project	Capacity (MW)
A. Under Construction	
Pykara Ultimate (Hydro)	150
Neyveli TPS-I Exp. (Thermal)	420
Neyveli Zero TPS (Thermal)	250
Samayanallur DGPP (Thermal)	106
B. CEA cleared schemes	
North Madras TPS II (Thermal)	1050
Tuticorin TPP St. IV (Thermal)	525
North Madras (Thermal) TPP St. II	525
Cuddalore TPP (Thermal)	1320
Vembar CCGT (Thermal)	1873

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Power projects having a capacity of 11888.58 MW have been commissioned in the last three years in different States. The details along with project-wise total expenditure and whether the project involved foreign assistance are given in statement III.

Statement I*Power projects under construction in the country*

Name of project	State/Agency	Capacity (MW)	Date of TEC	Date of FC/sanction/ CCEA approval
1	2	3	4	5
Thermal				
Talcher St. II U-3 to 6	Orissa/NTPC	4x500	23.10.97	Jan. '99
Simhadri TPS U-1 & 2	AP/NTPC	2x500	Aug. 96	8.7.97
Neyveli TPS-I, U-1&2	T.N./NLC	2x210		Feb '96 (Expected Date of Commissioning) U-1 12/2001 U-2 6/2002

1	2	3	4	5
Pragati CCP PGT 1&2+ST	Delhi/DVB	2x104.6+ 121.8	10.2.2000	
Suratgarh TPS St. II U-3&4	Rajasthan/RR VUN Ltd.	2x250	9.7.1999	Set. '99
Suratgarh TPS St. III U-5	Rajasthan/RR VUN Ltd.	250	27.7.2001	
Akrimota Lignite	Gujarat/GMDCL	2x125	6.9.99	
Ratlam Diesel Power Project	Madhya Pradesh	118.632	10.2.98	
Rayalseema St. II TPP	A.P./APGENCO	2x210	3/2001	
Raichur TPP U-7	Karnataka/KPCL	210	31.1.2001	
Dabhol CCGT-II GT 1 to 4+ST 1&2	Mah./Dabhol Power Co.	1444	26.11.93	6.5.99
Ramagundam TPP U 1&2	A.P./BPL Power Projects	2x260	26.6.97	FC not achieved
Neyveli Zero TPS U-1	T.N./STCMS Elec. Co	250	19.8.94	3.11.99
Samayanallur DG 1 to 7	T.N./Balaji Power Corpn. Pvt. Ltd.	7x15.143	10.2.98	April, 2000
Jojobera TPS U-2	Jharkhand/Jamshedpur Power Co. Ltd.	120	Dec. 97	17.12.98
Peddapuram CCGT GT+ST	AP/BSES	142+78	*	FC not achieved
Tanirbavi CCGT	Karnataka/Tanirbavi Power Co.	220	*	14.9.2000
Bambooflat DG U-1 to 4	A&N/Suryachakra Power Corpn. Ltd.	4x5	*	1.8.2000 (Expected Date of Commissioning U-1 & 2 2/2002 U-3 & 4 3/2002
Leimakhong DGPP	Manipur/State Sector	6x6	16.10.97	
Rokhia GT Extn. Ph. II U-7	Tripura/State Sector	21	*	
Baramura GT	Tripura/State Sector	21	*	
LVS DG PP DG 1 & 2	AP/LVS Power Ltd.	2x18.4	*	8.5.2000

* TEC was not required to be issued because the cost of the projects were below the ceiling for which TEC of CEA required. Project cleared by respective State Government/ A&N Administration for implementation in Private Sector

1	2	3	4	5
Hydro				
Nathpa Jhakri	HP/NJPC	6x250	13.5.86	5.4.89
Dulhasti	J&K/NHPC	3x130	5/86	11/82 (Rev. 7/89)
Chamera St. II	HP/NHPC	3x100	7/98	18.5.99
Loktak D/S	Manipur/NHPC	3x30	26.2.99	30.12.99
Teesta St. V.	Sikkim/NHPC	3x170	26.2.99	11.2.2000
Dhauliganga	UP/NHPC	4x70	1/88	8.4.91, 7/2000
Tehri St. I	UP/THDC	4x250	8/88 (RE)	15.3.94
Koteshwar	UP/THDS	4x100	8/88	10.4.2000
Ranganadi	Ar. Pr./NEEPCO	3x135	12/84	4/87
Tuirial	Mizoram/NEEPCO	2x30	6/97	7.7.98
Kopili St. II	Assam/NEEPCO	25	Not reqd.	27.7.99
Indira Sagar	MP/NHDC	8x125	22.5.84	6.9.89
WYC	Haryana/State Sector	2x7.2	3/90	4.2.2000
Larji	HP/State Sector	3x42	14.1.2000	—
Upper Sindh II	J&K/State Sector	2x35	17.3.82	22.11.83
Upper Sindh II Extn.	J&K/State Sector	35	10.8.88	26.6.89
Sewa St. III	J&K/State Sector	3x3	10.8.88	NA
Shahpurkandi #	Punjab/State Sector	4x40+1x8	10.3.92	5.7.93
Lakhwar Vyasi \$	UP/State Sector	3x100+2x60	—	9.1.76
Maneri Bhali-II \$	UP/State Sector	4x76	21.2.00	27.1.81
Sardar Sarovar	Gujarat, MP & Mah./ State Sector	6x200+5x50	10.1.84	5.10.88
Bansagar Tons Ph. II & III	MP/State Sector	2x15+3x20	11.3.83	30.6.84
Bansagar Tons Ph. IV	MP/State Sector	2x10	14.8.91	31.7.92
Marhikheda	M.P./State Sector	60		
Ghatghar PSS	Mah./State Sector	2x125	18.2.87	11.8.92

1	2	3	4	5
Bhivpuri PSS#	Mah./State Sector	90	4.12.90	—
Srisaillam LBPH	AP/State Sector	6×150	5/86	1.9.86
Brindavan #	Karnataka/State Sector	2×6	6.12.89	10.4.90
Sharavathi TR	Karnataka/State Sector	4×60	10/83	6.5.87
Malankara	Kerala/State Sector	3×3.5	1/84	8/86
Kuttiyadi TR	Kerala/State Sector	3×1.25	Not reqd.	5/89
Pykara Ultimate	TN//State Sector	3×50	11/87	1.8.88
Kalpong	A&N/State Sector	3×1.75	15.7.98	-Unit 1 rolled on 27.6.2001 Unit 2&3 are expected in July, 2001
Chandil	Bihar/State Sector	2×4	22.10.86	14.4.87
North Koel \$	Bihar/State Sector	2×12	17.6.83	10.3.84
Potteru	Orissa/State Sector	6		
Potteru	Orissa/State Sector	2×3	11.3.83	20.7.84
Balimela Dam Toe PH	Orissa/State Sector	2×30	12/76	26.2.77
Rammam St. I #	WB//State Sector	3×12	10.12.91	17.3.93
Purulia PSS	WB/State Sector	4×225	31.7.92	9.2.94
Rolep - I#	Sikkim/State Sector	2×4.5	—	16.8.97
Karbi Langpi \$	Assam/State Sector	2×50	5/78	24.9.79
Dhansiri \$	Assam/State Sector	5×3×1.33	12/80	6.2.85
Likim Ro	Nagaland/State Sector	3×8	11.1.89	18.10.89
Baspa St. II \$	H.P./Private Sector	3×100	24.4.94	-Expected to be commissioned in 2003-04
Vishnu Prayag	UP/Private Sector	4×100	30.6.97	—
Srinagar \$	UP/Private Sector	4×82.5	14.6.00	—
Maheshwar	MP/Private Sector	10×40	30.12.96	6.4.2000
Boothathankettu \$	Kerala/Private Sector	16	Not applicable	Not applicable

Works of the project are yet to be taken up.

\$ Works of the project are held up.

Statement II

State/Station	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-01	
	Prog. (MU)	Achiev. (MU)	Prog. (MU)	Achiev. (MU)	Prog. (MU)	Achiev. (MU)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Central Sector						
Bhakra L&R	5000	6875	5060	5746	5030	4692
Ganguwal & Kotla	1000	1141	1050	1224	1110	1054
Dehar	3100	3762	3100	3049	3160	3162
Pong	1550	2328	1550	2048	1700	1516
Baira Siul	750	750	750	425	750	649
Salal-I & II	2800	3234	2925	3248	3200	2939
Tanakpur	420	480	425	408	450	435
Chamera	1700	2362	1900	2126	1995	2112
Uri	2400	2575	2600	1954	2575	1781
State Sector						
W.Y.C. (Haryana)	225	267	225	242	228	244
Giri Bata (H.P.)	250	282	240	204	240	205
Bassi (H.P.)	300	332	300	259	300	262
Binwa (H.P.)	33	35	40	42	30	34
Andhra (H.P.)	60	29	70	43	70	44
Sanjay (H.P.)	600	687	600	571	600	502
Gaj (H.P.)	45	0	45	36	51	49
Baner (H.P.)	50	45	50	27	43	39
Thirot (H.P.)	16	48	15	15	8	16
Ghanvi (H.P.)	—	—	5	0	87	14
Lower Jhelum (J&K)	550	475	550	398	550	343
Upper Sindh I & II (J&K)	100	84	100	87	120	115
Ganderbal (J&K)	40	26	40	36	50	16
Chenani I-III (J&K)	100	77	82	87	100	81
Mohra (J&K)	0	0	5	0	5	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Stakna (J&K)	0	0	0	0	0	3
Kargil (J&K)	16	0	10	0	14	0
Sewa III (J&K)	30	0	10	0	10	0
Mini/Micro (J&K)	40	0	15	0	0	0
R.P. Sagar (Rajasthan)	650	556	590	481	352	183
Jawahar Sagar (Rajasthan)	430	402	390	361	234	140
Mahi Bajaj I & II (Rajasthan)	350	323	350	144	280	36
Anoopgarh I & II (Rajasthan)	8	8	10	13	12	13
Suratgarh (Rajasthan)	2	2	3	3	5	1
Mangrol (Rajasthan)	10	7	9	1	7	3
Other Mini/Micro (Rajasthan)	—	—	4	0	0	0
UBDC I-VI (Punjab)	270	253	340	329	340	345
Shanan (Punjab)	520	636	540	506	550	489
Mukerian I-IV (Punjab)	1320	1530	1320	1547	1360	1222
A.P. Sahib I & II (Punjab)	920	1077	940	838	910	652
Thien Dam (Punjab)	250	0	560	0	550	433
Rihand (U.P.)	900	1054	900	931	980	1048
Obra (U.P.)	310	395	300	360	370	414
Matatilla (U.P.)	120	130	120	157	130	137
Ganga Canal (3PHs) (U.P.)	175	118	160	158	160	144
Khatima (U.P.)	220	171	220	160	200	166
Ram Ganga(U.P.)	250	344	360	391	300	473
Dhakrani (Y. St. I) (U.P.)	160	158	155	109	155	143
Dhalipur (Y.St. I) (U.P.)	240	284	240	212	240	220
Kulhal (Y. St. IV) (U.P.)	150	184	150	136	160	146
Chibro (Y. St. II) (U.P.)	900	1064	900	828	900	767
Chilla (U.P.)	700	822	725	717	725	519
Khodri (Y. St. II) (U.P.)	420	492	420	365	430	369
Maneri Bhali (U.P.)	400	467	400	418	400	409

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Khara (U.P.)	375	455	375	330	380	345
Sobla (U.P.)	0	0	0	0	28	1
Ukai (Gujarat)	840	925	840	827	780	420
Ukai LBC (Gujarat)	10	19	10	24	20	19
Kadana PSS (Gujarat)	560	405	780	188	500	0
Gandhi Sagar (M.P.)	420	540	450	345	425	103
Pench (M.P.)	525	561	525	562	550	283
Bargi (M.P.)	550	650	550	482	550	364
Bansagar Tons (M.P.)	350	431	350	570	425	743
Birsingpur (M.P.)	50	26	50	45	50	36
Hasdeo Bango (M.P.)	350	587	350	431	400	233
Rajghat (M.P.)		—	100	27	100	58
Koyna St. I & II (Mah.)	2750	2964	2298	2569	1360	1719
Koyna III (Mah.)	0	0	0	0	560	651
Koyna IV (Mah.)	—	—	570	302	1150	605
Koyna DPH (Mah.)	140	129	120	159	150	103
Vaitarna + Dam PH. (Mah.)	140	146	140	185	180	125
Tillari (Mah.)	150	78	130	113	140	112
Bhira Tail Race (Mah.)	100	75	80	89	100	65
Paithon (Mah.)	30	20	25	16	20	8
Pawna (Mah.)	20	18	15	11	15	8
Bhatsa (Mah.)	60	33	50	78	70	57
Bhandardhara - I&II (Mah.)	50	0	50	0	50	10
Khadakvasala-I&II (Mah.)	40	49	60	77	60	51
Veer (Mah.)	90	71	40	75	77	48
Bhatgar (Mah.)	—	—	40	15	0	0
Eldari (Mah.)	30	52	30	42	45	38

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Radhanagari (Mah.)	10	6	8	12	8	10
Kanher (Mah.)	10	16	5	10	15	5
Ujjani PSS (Mah.)	20	39	22	27	26	18
Surya (Mah.)	20	3	20	0	20	5
Manikdoh (Mah.)	5	5	5	8	5	5
Dhom (Mah.)	15	0	10	1	10	1
Dhimbe (Mah.)	10	0	20	0	60	0
Dudhganga (Mah.)	5	0	5	0	0	0
Karanjvan (Mah.)	30	0	30	17	20	12
Warná (Mah.)	970	489	980	1072	930	714
Bhira PSS (Mah.)	100	438	0	0	0	0
Bhivpuri (Mah.)	250	209	205	286	260	254
Khopoli (Mah.)	180	171	215	257	210	184
Machkund (A.P.)	730	538	770	739	750	659
T.B. Dam & Hampi (A.P.)	200	220	200	224	200	225
Upper Sileru I & II (A.P.)	450	324	450	443	400	438
Lower Sileru (A.P.)	1150	872	1150	1263	1150	1313
N.J. Sagar PSS (A.P.)	2550	2383	2600	2396	2830	1525
N.J. Sagar RBC & Ex. (A.P.)	180	254	200	205	230	43
N.J. Sagar LBC (A.P.)	100	106	100	84	120	17
Srisaïlam (A.P.)	3000	2617	3000	2975	3155	3036
Nizam Sagar (A.P.)	30	14	18	18	14	29
Pochampad (A.P.)	80	150	90	118	100	127
Donkarayi (A.P.)	80	74	80	120	98	141
Penna Ahobilam (A.P.)	10	34	13	31	15	66
Singur (A.P.)	20	0	32	31	30	88
Mini (A.P.)	—	—	9	21	0	12
Srisaïlam L.B. (A.P.)	0	0	0	0	80	0
Sharvavathy (Karnataka)	5000	5214	5200	5734	5200	5233

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Kalinadi (Karnataka)	2600	2239	2100	3075	2300	2568
Supa DPH (Karnataka)	380	365	350	486	377	425
Bhadra (3PHs) (Karnataka)	70	83	80	111	90	108
Lingnamakki (Karnataka)	250	265	250	293	250	275
Varahi (Karnataka)	900	1147	1000	1213	1000	1100
Ghatprabha (Karnataka)	120	121	120	125	116	86
Mallapur (Karnataka)	30	1	25	0	25	25
Mani DPH (Karnataka)	20	24	28	27	25	25
Kadra (Karnataka)	320	292	330	361	400	345
Kodasali (Karnataka)	275	104	291	267	450	305
Gerusoppa (Karnataka)	0	0	0	0	130	42
Jog (Karnataka)	130	159	136	74	136	0
Shivasamudram (Karnataka)	130	114	113	139	120	75
Shimsapura (Karnataka)	90	90	98	87	97	62
Munirabad (Karnataka)	110	98	95	98	97	100
Shivpur (Pvt.) (Karnataka)	60	75	88	61	95	105
Shahpur (Karnataka)	0	0	0	0	16	14
Idukki (Kerala)	2800	2822	2750	2741	2800	2296
Sabarigiri (Kerala)	1300	1757	1450	1509	1475	1338
Kutiadi (Kerala)	270	301	275	277	305	267
Sholayar (Kerala)	240	283	240	303	240	196
Sangulam (Kerala)	170	130	150	136	160	133
Nariamangalam (Kerala)	280	300	280	301	285	264
Pallivasal (Kerala)	240	175	220	176	200	166
Poringalkuthu (Kerala)	200	182	200	169	210	174
Panniar (Kerala)	170	201	170	163	170	169
Kallada (Kerala)	60	54	65	79	80	69
Idamalayar (Kerala)	380	424	380	375	410	329
Lower Periyar (Kerala)	500	667	600	577	625	545

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Pappara (3MW) (Kerala)	10	20	5	8	9	10
Kakkad (Kerala)	260	0	262	152	262	178
Poringalkuthu LB (Kerala)	30	0	38	67	40	543
Kuttiadi T.R. (Kerala)	—	—	10	0	10	0
Malankar (Kerala)	—	—	30	0	0	0
Kuttiadi Ext. (Kerala)	—	—	30	0	0	0
Madhupetty (Kerala)	—	—	5	0	0	3
Mini/Micro (Kerala)	10	0	10	0	0	0
Maniyar (Kerala)	30	45	28	33	35	31
Pykara (T.N.)	400	368	403	383	390	349
Moyar (T.N.)	150	140	151	151	151	148
Kundah I-V (T.N.)	1600	1437	1650	1325	1550	1701
Suruliyar (T.N.)	70	103	70	73	79	93
Aliyar (T.N.)	160	196	180	188	188	184
Mettur Dam & Tunnel (T.N.)	510	647	514	547	550	708
Lower Mettur I-IV (T.N.)	300	430	350	359	350	430
Periyar (T.N.)	470	586	500	421	500	487
Papansam (T.N.)	120	118	120	116	130	125
Sarkarpathy (T.N.)	160	118	161	130	162	157
Sholayar I & II (T.N.)	340	319	342	292	355	384
Kodayar I & II (T.N.)	200	205	201	222	210	312
Servalar (T.N.)	30	33	30	40	40	34
Kadamaparai PSS (T.N.)	100	187	140	143	160	187
Vagai Dam (T.N.)	90	71	20	18	0	21
Lower Bhawani (T.N.)	—	—	73	51	103	42
Sathnur (T.N.)	10	0	10	8	0	15
Parson Valley (T.N.)	0	0	0	0	56	64
Kosi (Bihar)	20	10	20	7	10	2
Subernarakha I & II (Bihar)	200	130	200	169	211	95

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
S.W. Link Canal (Bihar)	30	19	30	10	20	15
Sone East Canal (Bihar)	—	—	10	3	10	8
E.S. Canal (Bihar)	70	24	30	18	25	24
Maithon (DVC)	140	212	173	230	175	130
Panchet & Extn. (DVC)	200	96	184	188	208	141
Tailaiya (DVC)	10	11	13	23	17	11
Balimela (Orissa)	1000	806	983	1218	1070	1006
Hirakud I & II (Orissa)	1100	1220	1121	1104	1100	588
Rengali (Orissa)	875	949	850	912	873	721
Upper Kolab (Orissa)	875	436	700	796	725	517
Potteru (Orissa)	25	0	0	0	0	0
Upper Indravati (Orissa)	—	—	1356	513	1800	1780
Jaldhaka I & II (W.B.)	100	121	110	102	110	93
Massanjore (W.B.)	10	0	3	0	3	0
Raman II (W.B.)	180	228	190	244	195	234
Teesta Falls I & II (W.B.)	50	8	60	50	92	119
Lower Lagyap (Sikkim)	15	19	—	—	0	0
Myangchu (Sikkim)	15	5	45	11	45	21
Upper Rongnichu (Sikkim)	15	2	—	—	0	0
Rangit (Sikkim)	—	—	150	26	300	304
Kyrdenkulai (Meghalaya)	175	166	130	171	148	165
Umium St. I (Meghalaya)	80	101	95	109	102	123
Umium St. II (Meghalaya)	37	49	47	48	47	53
Umium St. IV (Meghalaya)	140	171	135	245	168	244
Umtru (Meghalaya)	58	57	61	61	55	73
Gumti (Tripura)	50	57	50	61	56	70
Tago (Ar. Pr.)	15	16	20	14	20	13
Khandong (NEEPCO)	275	234	222	173	222	231
Kopili (NEEPCO)	940	748	992	580	992	595

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Doyang (NEEPCO)	0	0	0	0	277	73
Loktak (NHPC)	450	531	450	506	450	551
Thermal						
Central Sector						
Badarpur (NTPC)	4300	4867	4300	5022	4600	5181
T. Cher Old (NTPC)	1800	2240	2000	2327	2100	2494
Singrauli (NTPC)	15000	15814	15000	16460	15308	16408
Rihand STP (NTPC)	7500	6815	6590	7605	7000	7020
Dadri (NTPC)	5900	6728	6050	7093	6700	6886
Korba STPS (NTPC)	155000	15903	15500	15780	15500	16254
Vindh STPS (NTPC)	8500	9810	11000	9897	13270	14191
R. Gundams (NTPC)	16000	15863	15120	16649	16000	16422
Farakka (NTPC)	5100	5470	4800	6792	6860	8238
K. Gaon STP (NTPC)	2670	3989	3000	4284	3440	4826
T. Cher STP (NTPC)	3190	4318	3646	5322	3600	5248
Uncha (NTPC)	2840	3023	4000	3631	5200	5375
Tanda (NTPC)	0	0	0	0	1050	1189
F. Bad CCGT (NTPC)	0	0	322	1066	2500	2290
Anta GT (NTPC)	2800	2926	2800	3189	2900	2881
Auriya GT (NTPC)	3900	4157	3900	5085	4150	4686
Dadri GT (NTPC)	4000	5098	4100	5126	4000	5643
Kawas GT (NTPC)	2700	4354	2276	4788	3700	4697
Gandhar GT (NTPC)	2500	2165	1400	2282	2060	2791
Kayamkulam (NTPC)	0	216	1500	1249	1590	1995
Neyveli-I (NLC)	3550	3772	8800	3747	13300	14677
Neyveli-II (NLC)	10150	9569	9550	9561	-	-
Chandrapura (DVC)	2000	1926	2000	1734	8222	7911
Durgapur (DVC)	1520	1517	1575	1533	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Bokaro (DVC)	2300	2599	2270	2293	—	—
Mejia (DVC)	900	1317	1500	2118	—	—
Maithon GT (DVC)	15	28	15	21	—	—
Kathalguri GT (NEEPCO)	950	746	1000	1098	1420	1656
Agartala GT (NEEPCO)	250	193	250	363	—	—
State Sector						
D.V.B.	2930	2064	2300	2533	2800	2800
J&K	65	6	50	0	50	5
HSEB/HPGC	3600	3487	3772	4858	4200	3551
RSEB	7560	6766	7750	8176	8850	9860
PSEB	12500	10897	12783	13837	14000	14458
UPSEB/UPRVUNL	21090	18753	21300	19096	19950	19582
GEB	27400	22847	23327	22129	22500	22898
GSECL	0	0	2400	2137	2700	2883
MSEB	43795	40839	42275	41530	43800	42188
MPEB	18400	18201	19000	20152	21900	20417
APSEB/APGENCO	20455	19758	20665	21500	21300	21928
AP Gas P C	630	1800	1800	2001	2070	1978
TNEB	19970	17261	17867	19076	19650	19682
Pondicherry	0	0	200	132	230	233
KPCL	6050	6058	8650	7764	9000	8904
KEB/VVNL Karna	670	624	720	708	770	658
KER. SEB	500	252	935	579	1240	789
BSEB	2200	2566	2700	2246	2000	2016
Tenughat V	1600	1474	1500	1169	1200	1333
Orissa P/OPGC	2500	2803	2000	3159	2900	3006
WBSEB	3260	3263	3275	3543	3600	3189
WB PDEVC	5800	6697	6100	6235	6360	7507
DPL	950	602	700	848	800	597

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
ASEB	1350	939	1040	920	1290	932
Tripura	340	287	330	251	325	242
Private Sector						
A.E. Co	3150	3173	3200	3397	3300	3365
Trombay	7100	7418	7000	7366	7000	8101
BSES Co.	3700	3277	3600	3778	3600	3576
C.E.S.C.	4800	4823	5000	5409	5990	5409
GIPCL	2230	2100	2160	1935	3370	2534
Paguthan GPEC	4000	2781	4860	3863	4280	2482
ESSAR IMP	4000	3184	2160	1268	1975	558
Jegurupadu/GVK	1800	1452	1600	1631	1625	1658
GodavariG/Spectrum	1500	1361	1500	1617	1615	1567
Kondapalli	0	0	850	0	2010	679
Bellary	0	0	700	0	0	13
Dabhol	0	258	5834	3996	5650	2465
B. Bridge D/GMR Vasavi	0	161	1225	1478	1350	1281
NALCO IMP	0	0	600	694	600	331
ICCL IMP	0	0	600	398	400	494
Cochin CCG	0	0	0	5	1100	154
Torangallu/Jindal	0	7	1200	180	1200	1170

Statement III*Capacity Addition during years 1998-99 to 2000-01*

(All figs. in MW)

	'98-99'	'99-00'	2000-01	Project commissioned with/without external assistance (Yes/No)	Expenditure (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3	4	5	6

State Sector**Northern Region**

Panipat TPS (Har)			210	No	763.66
Ranjit Sagar Dam (Pb)			600	No	3300.31

1	2	3	4	5	6
Bhatinda (Punjab)	210			No	1135.58
Suratgarh (Rajasthan)	250	250		No	2117.59
Ghanvi (H.P.)			22.5	No	119.75
Chennai III (J&K)			7.5	No	42.27
Upper Sindh-II (J.K.)		35		No	342.48
Sobla (U.P.)	6			No	14.49 (9/98)
Western Region					
Wanakbori (Gujarat)	210			No	632.48
Sanjay Gandhi Extn. (M.P.)	210	210		No	815.00
Khaperkheda TPS, Mah.			420	No	1248.00
Chandrapur (Mah.)				Yes	1074.03
Kadana (Guj.)	60			No	120.63
Bansagar Ton Ph III (M.P.)			20	No	797.41
Rajghat (M.P.)		45		No	120.28
Koyna - IV (Mah.)	250	750		Yes	1152.29
Warna (Maha.)	8			No	31.14
Dudhganga (Maha).		24		No	47.49
Southern Region & Island					
Srisaillam LBPH (A.P.)			150	Yes	2269.67
Sharavathy TR (Karn.)			60	Yes	381.05
Raichur (Karnataka)	210	210		No	1277.70
Barhampuram (Kerala)	20			No	301.20
Kuttiyadi Extn (Kerala)			50	No	230.92
Kozhikode (Kerala)		128		No	301.20
Karikal (Pondicherry)	22.9	9.6		No	131.29
Singur (A.P.)		15		No	37.75
Kalinadi-Kodasalli (Karnataka)	80	40		Yes	530.66
Kakkad (Kerala)		50		No	151.49

1	2	3	4	5	6
Poringal Kuttu (Kerala)	16			No	47.20
Kovikalappal CCGT, TN		107(GT+ST)		No	205.19
Sathnur Dam (T.N.)	7.5			No	28.69
Kunda-V Extn. (T.N.)		30		No	95.61
Parson's velley		30		No	95.61
Eastern Region					
Bakreshwar (W.B.)		210	420	Yes	2674.00
Upper Indravati (Orissa)		300	300	Yes	1074.24
Teesta Canal (W.B.)	15	22.5		Yes	531.64
North Eastern Region					
Overall State Sector	1675.4	2329.1			
Central Sector					
Unchahar, NTPC	210	210		Yes	1275.99
Kayamkulam, NTPC	230.6	119.4		Yes	1043.26
Vindhyachal, NTPC	500	500		Yes	2290.69
Faridabad, NTPC		286	144	Yes	816.62
Kathalguri, NEEPCO	30			Yes	1526.14
Doyang, NEEPCO			75	No	719.15
Agartala, NEEPCO	21			No	314.13
Rangit-III, NHPC		60		No	482.70
RAPP, NPC, U-3		220		No	2329.00*
Kaiga, NPC, U-2		220		No	2752.00**
Overall Central Sector	991.6	1615.4			
Private Sector					
Northern Region					
Magnum Power FO		25		No	42.48
(Hary.) (Liquid Fuel)					
Western Region					
Paguthan CCGT	250			No	2247.00
(Gujarat)					

*For RAPP U-3&4

**For Kaiga U-1&2

1	2	3	4	5	6
Surat Lignite (Gujarat)		250		No	1157.00
Dabhol-I (Maha.)	740			No	US\$ 1093 M
Mangrol Lignite (Guj.)		250		•	1206.00
Salgaocar CCGT		48		No	184.14
(Goa) (Liquid Fuel)					
Southern Region					
Kondapalli CCGT, AP		350 (GT+ST)		•	1010.261
Bellary DGPP, Karn.			25.2	•	116.53
Belgaum PP, Karn.			81.3	•	—
Torangallu (Karnataka)	130	130		No	1080.00
Kesargod DGPP, Ker.			21.93	•	—
Eloor (BSES) (Kerala)		135	39	No	538.00
(Liquid Fuel)					
Basin Bridge DG	200			No	US\$125.65 M+Rs.
(T.N.) (Liquid Fuel)					354.213 Cr.
Samalpatti, TN			7x15.094	•	—
PPN CCGT, TN			225	•	—
Eastern Region					
Budge Budge (W. Bengal)	250			Yes	2681.00
Jojobera TPS, Jharkhand			120	•	194.80
North Eastern Region					
Banaskandi (Assam)	5			No	80.10
Overall Private Sector	1575	588.00			
Cumulative achieved	4242	4532.5			

* Financing of Private Sector projects is according to the GOI norms of debt and equity ratio and according to approved financial package.

Maintenance of Monuments in Daman and Diu

4549. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the protected monuments in the Union Territory of Daman and Diu;

(b) the details of the funds allocated and released by the Indian Government for the protection and maintenance of each monument during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(c) the amount of funds utilized and spent on each monument during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The centrally protected monuments in the UNION territory of Daman & Diu are as under:

DAMAN

1. Fort walls Moti Daman
2. Fort walls Nani Daman
3. Church of Holy Jesus
4. Ruined Church
5. The Chapel of our Lady of Rosario

6. The Church of our Lady of Remedios
7. Miscellaneous Structures

DIU

1. Tower of Silence
2. Bangli
3. St. Paul's Church
4. Fort together with the building inside.
5. Old Mosque (Jami Masjid)

(b) and (c) The funds utilised on the maintenance and conservation of the protected monuments in DAMAN & DIU during the last three years and the allocation made for the current year is as per statement enclosed.

Statement

Expenditure during the last three years monument-wise, year-wise, for the Union Territory Daman and Diu.

DAMAN

Sl.No.	Name of Monument	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002 (Provision)
1.	Fort walls Moti Daman	22076	56380	57577	325000
2.	Fort walls Nani Daman	47583	43538	62955	—
3.	Church of Holy Jesus	49861	215645	28339	100000
4.	Ruined Church	160000	73171	143093	—
5.	The Chapel of our Lady of Rosario	378561	528925	452439	140000
6.	The Church of our Lady of Remedios	82321	51707	138243	12000
7.	Miscellaneous Structures	517108	59400	141168	30000

DIU

1.	Tower of Silence	—	4246	1161	—
2.	Bangli	—	—	—	200000
3.	St. Paul's Church	4100	158879	158366	—
4.	Fort together with the inside building	329460	833109	—	865000
5.	Old Mosque (Jami Masjid)	—	—	—	10000

ULSD at Petrol Pumps

4550. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government at present is required to make available Ultra Low Sulphur Diesel on all petrol

pumps of National Capital region for commercial vehicles only;

(b) if so, the order of the Supreme Court in this context;

(c) the action taken by the Government to protect the interests of poor agriculturist for making available this fuel at the same rates;

(d) whether the Government is bound to stop the sale and consumption of ordinary diesel (HSD) in NCR or both types of diesel be made available in NCR; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court directed this Ministry on 10.5.2000 to ensure that diesel with 0.05% maximum sulphur content is made available in National Capital Region (NCR) of Delhi by 30.6.2001. In compliance of the said directions, diesel with 0.05% maximum sulphur only is being supplied throughout the NCR of Delhi at all retail outlets from 30.6.2001.

(c) to (e) To enable introduction of Bharat Stage-II emission compliant vehicles in the National Capital Region (NCR), the Government had introduced the scheme of selling diesel with 0.05% maximum sulphur and 0.25% maximum sulphur in the NCR. However, the Supreme Court vide its order of 10.5.2000 directed that *w.e.f.* 1.7.2001, 0.05% maximum sulphur diesel be sold at all the retail outlets. Accordingly, supply of 0.25% maximum sulphur diesel was discontinued at the retail outlets located in the NCR *w.e.f.* 1.7.2001.

Central Silk Board

4551. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the functions of the Central Silk Board;

(b) whether the Bhagalpur (Bihar) Branch of Central Silk Board has launched any scheme for weavers since 1995;

(c) if so, the details of achievements and expenditure incurred during each of the last three years;

(d) whether the Bhagalpur branch of the Central Silk Board has purchased a sophisticated machinery for its laboratory to be used by the local silk weavers; and

(e) if so, the reasons for not functioning of its laboratory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) The

main functions assigned to Central Silk Board (CSB) under the act are as under:

1. Promoting the development of silk industry by such measures as it thinks fit;
2. Undertaking, assisting or encouraging scientific, technological and economic research;
3. Devising means for improved methods of mulberry cultivation, silkworm rearing, developing and distributing healthy silkworm seeds, reeling or, as the case may be, spinning of the silkworm cocoons & silk waste, improving the quality and production of raw silk, if necessary, by making it compulsory for all raw silk to be marketed only after the same has been tested and graded in properly equipped raw silk conditioning houses.
4. Improving the marketing of raw silk;
5. Collection of statistics relating to sericulture;
6. To advise the Central Government on all matters relating to the development of the raw silk industry, including the import and export of raw silk; and
7. To prepare and furnish such other reports relating to the silk industry as may be required by the Central Government from time to time.

(b) and (c) CSB has set-up an Eco Testing Laboratory and also a Demonstration Cum Technical Service Centre (DCTSC) in Bhagalpur.

The DCTSC addresses to the problems of local weavers of Bhagalpur and provides support to post cocoon sectors *i.e.* reeling, weaving, dyeing and printing areas depending on the type of technology support required in the specific zone and it organizes programmes to impart training through technology dissemination in such areas. The DCTSC has organized number of training programmes to educate the reelers cum weavers to change their work practices and adopt mechanization to improve productivity and returns. These programmes are aimed at helping to change the practice of thigh reeling of tasar yarn to mechanized reeling. Since 1994-95 till date 42 such training programmes have been conducted in which 287 reelers cum weavers groups have undergone training. Tasar

silk is now being predominantly produced on an improved Motorized Reeling cum Twisting machine. Intensive demonstrations for

popularizing this machine and using such yarn by the weavers carried out during last three years are given as below:—

Year	Motorized Reeling Cum Twisting Machine (Nos.)	Expd. (Rs.)	Spinning Machine (Nos.)	Expd. (Rs.)
1998-99	28	73500	6	18900
1999-00	2	147000	—	6750
2000-01	150	775033	8	10018

The expenditure incurred for the DCTSC and Eco Testing Laboratory during the last three years is as under:—

(Rs. in lakh)		
Year	Demonstration Cum Technical Service Centre	Eco Testing Laboratory
1	2	3
1998-99	9.32	15.17

1	2	3
1999-00	9.64	15.15
2000-01	10.65	16.85

(d) and (e) The Eco Testing Laboratory established in Bhagalpur is primarily to assess the presence of banned azo dyes used in exportable products and has sophisticated machinery. It is functioning and the activities being carried out are indicated below:

(Figures in nos.)

Tests conducted	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
Physical	75	99	93	36
Chemical	51	85	62	33
Eco-test	3	2	3	—
Total	129	186	158	69
Revenue earned (Rs.)	25490	43305	40315	5,520

Development of NCES

4552. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the outlay sanctioned for development of non-conventional energy sources in the country and specially in Maharashtra during 2001-2002;

(b) the details of new sources to be developed in Maharashtra during the current year district-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to offer some incentives/monetary benefits to individuals and

organizations in case they offer help in developing such energy sources in Maharashtra; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) A total of Rs. 339.25 crore has been allocated for development of non-conventional energy sources in the country including the State of Maharashtra for 2001-2002. The non-conventional energy

programmes are being implemented by the State Government Departments/State Nodal Agencies in various districts, depending on their needs and available potential. The annual targets of 10,000 biogas plants, 86,000 improved chulhas, 100 Solar Street Lighting Systems, 180 Solar Home Lighting Systems and 1500 Solar Lanterns have been fixed for the year 2001-02 for the State of Maharashtra. In addition, other programmes based on non-conventional energy sources such as wind, small hydro, biomass and solar are also being taken up depending upon techno-economic feasibility and availability of financial resources.

(c) and (d) The Ministry is already providing various fiscal, financial and promotional incentives such as central subsidy, 100% accelerated depreciation, concessional custom duty, excise duty/sales tax exemptions, soft term loans from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA), conducive policies for wheeling, buy-back, third party sale of renewable energy power etc. to attract private sector participation and to encourage individuals and organizations to use various renewable energy systems/devices. The details of financial incentives being provided by the Ministry are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Financial incentives provided under major non-conventional energy programmes

S.No.	Name of Programme	Details of subsidies
1	2	3
1.	Family type biogas plants	Rs. 1800 for general category Rs. 2300 per plant for special category of beneficiaries such as SC/ST & weaker sections Rs. 3500 for hilly and high focus areas Rs. 11,700 per plant for North East Region & Sikkim
	Community/Institutional/Night Soil based plant	Rs. 0.44 to Rs. 8.00 lakhs per plant
2.	Improved Chulha	
	• Durable fixed Chulha with chimney	Rs. 80 for general category Rs. 270 for North East Region and Sikkim
	• Portable Chulha	Rs. 50 per chulha for general category Rs. 75 for Islands, hilly and desert areas Rs. 135 for North East Region and Sikkim
	• High Altitude Chulha	Maximum upto Rs. 450 for North East Region and Sikkim and maximum upto Rs. 250 for other States
3.	Solar Photovoltaic Programme	
	• Solar Lanterns	Rs. 1300 per system for general category Rs. 3000 for North East Region and Sikkim
	• Solar home lighting systems and street lighting systems	Rs. 5500 per system for general category Rs. 10,000 per system for North East Region and Sikkim
	• Solar street lighting systems	Rs. 11000 per system for general category Rs. 20,000 for North East Region and Sikkim

1	2	3
	• Solar Photovoltaic Power Plants	Rs. 1.80 lakhs/kWp of PV array capacity for general category
		Rs. 3.50 lakh/kWp of PV array capacity for North East Region and Sikkim
4.	SPV Water Pumping Programme Capital subsidy	Rs. 110/Watt of SPV array with max. Rs. 2.50 lakhs/system.
	Interest subsidy	2.5% to 5% max. upto 90% system cost
5.	Water Pumping Wind Mills	Rs. 20,000 to 45,000 per system
6.	Small aero-generators and hybrid systems	Rs. 2.00 lakhs per kilo-watt or 50% of ex-works cost whichever is less
7.	Biomass Gasifier	30% to 60% for general States, 90% for North East Region and Sikkim, 10% of higher rate of subsidy for SC/ST and weaker sections.
8.	Small Hydro Programme Capital subsidy Upto 1 MW	Equipment cost +50% of civil cost upto Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 60,000 per MW
	Above 1 MW to 5 MW	Equipment cost +25% of civil cost upto Rs. 1.50 crores to Rs. 4.50 cores per MW
	Above 5 MW to 15 MW	Equipment cost +25% of civil cost upto Rs. 7.50 crores to Rs. 22.50 crores per project
	Interest subsidy	1.5% to 7.5%
9.	Wind Power	Upto 60% of equipment cost for demonstration projects
10.	SPV Power (grid connected)	Upto Rs. 2 crores/100 KW
11.	Biomass Power Capital subsidy	
	a. Maximum exportable Power 45 MW	
	60 bar and above	Rs. 35 lakh per MW of surplus power limited to Rs. 31.50 crores per project
	80 bar and above	Rs. 45 lakh per MW of surplus power limited to Rs. 40.50 crores per project
	b. Maximum exportable power 9 MW	
	60 bar and above	Rs. 35 lakh per MW of surplus power limited to Rs. 6.30 crores per project

1	2	3
	80 bar and above	Rs. 45 lakh per MW of surplus power limited to Rs. 8.10 crores per project
	Interest subsidy	1% to 3%
12.	Power from urban & Industrial Wastes	
	Capital subsidy	Upto 50% subject to maximum of Rs. 3 crores/MW for innovative demonstration projects.
	Interest subsidy	To reduce interest rate upto 7.5%

MW = Megawatt. KWp = Kilo watt peak. KW = Kilowatt. PV = Photovoltaic

Peruman Rail Tragedy

4553. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway has promised to build a suitable Martyr Tomb for the memory of the persons who were killed in the Peruman Rail Tragedy in 1988; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Railway to fulfil its promise to the people of Kerala?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Deposition of Excavated Material in Govt. Museum, Chennai

4554. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the excavated materials deposited in Chennai Circle office as well as in the Government Museum, Chennai;

(b) whether the excavated materials brought to light from Tamil Nadu by the British archaeologists/officials during the pre-Independence period are still very much in the possession of ASI; and

(c) if so, the details of the disposal of the cultural equipments like pottery, terracotta objects, Iron and copper artifacts, stone objects received from the excavated sites in Tamil Nadu during pre-independence period?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The excavated materials from Kanchipuram, District Chingelpet, Gingee, District South Arcot, Ukkirankottai, District Tirunelveli, Darasuram, District Thanjavur, Kaveripattinam, District Thanjavur, Auroville, District South Arcot, T. Kallaupatti, District Madurai, Kambermedu, District Thanjavur, Perur, District Coimbatore, and Mamallapuram, District Chengalpattu M.G.R. are preserved in the Chennai Circle Office of ASI and no excavated material is kept/displayed in the St. Fort George Museum of the ASI at Chennai.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation

4555. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:
SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI:
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:
SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the permanent managing director has not been appointed in the Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (I.R.C.T.C.);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the time by which a permanent managing director is likely to be appointed;

(d) whether some officers working in the corporation were chargesheeted in the erstwhile catering department, Railway Board;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the decisions taken by the officers working in the corporation so far have been reviewed;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the details of activities undertaken by the corporation so far and its prospective plans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir. The Managing Director has been appointed.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) IRCTC Ltd. has undertaken rail tourism packages, management of catering and onboard services, development of food plazas and other activities relating to rail travel distribution and marketing of passenger services.

Anomalies in National Textile Policy

4556. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Kapara Nite Mahaz Dhokha, Imandar Parashan Rahega Ve Bharast Chandi Kataga" appearing in New Delhi Edition of the 'Dainik Jagaran' dated April 27, 2001;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government to remove the anomalies created by this textile policy;

(d) whether the Government are contemplating to take any to ensure that honest traders do not face troubles and corrupt persons do not prosper; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news-item, *inter alia*, has not appreciated the steps of the Government for withdrawal of the Stenter-Chamber based Compounded levy system for independent processors and extension of Excise Duty Exemption Scheme to Small Scale readymade garment units.

(c) There is no anomaly in the National Textile Policy 2000. On the basis of several representations received, after the announcement of the Budget, the Stenter-Chamber based Compounded levy system for independent processors has been reintroduced with certain conditions w.e.f. 1.5.2001. The Independent processors having capital investment in plant & machinery upto Rs. 3.00 crore have been given the option to pay the excise duty on advalorem basis as given to other independent processors or to pay compounded levy on Stenter-Chamber basis. The Government has also extended Excise Duty Exemption Scheme to the small scale readymade garment units w.e.f. 1.5.2001.

(d) and (e) It has been the Government's endeavour that all sections of society including the trader get their due benefits out of the policies framed by it.

Famine Relief to Rajasthan

4557. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of foodgrains provided to Rajasthan under the Antyodaya Yojana and the estimated value thereof;

(b) whether the Government of Rajasthan has disbursed the foodgrains among the people of famine hit areas without any discrimination; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the mode of disbursement followed therein alongwith the cost of foodgrains charged, if any, from the famine affected people?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The Department of Food and Public Distribution has informed that 107 tonnes of rice and 9208 tonnes of wheat per month have been allocated to Rajasthan under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana.

(b) and (c) As per the scheme, the identification of Antyodaya families has to be done by the State Government from amongst the Below Poverty Line families within the State. Department of Food and Public Distribution has further informed that they have not received any report in the matter from the State Government.

[English]

Subsidy to Jute Mills

4558. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Government are committed to put a complete halt to direct/indirect subsidy being enjoyed by jute mills;

(b) if so, whether the Government have identified the areas in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have recently extended the provisions of JPM Act, 1987 to Jute Mill Owners who are enjoying indirect subsidy;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken to stop such subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) No subsidy is being paid by Government to the jute mills.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 (JPM Act) provides for the compulsory use of jute packaging material in the supply and distribution of certain commodities in the interests of production of raw jute and jute packaging material and of persons engaged in the production thereof and for matters connected therewith. The present level

of reservations under compulsory packaging are 90% for foodgrains and sugar, 15% for urea which is as per directions of High Court of Gujarat at Ahmedabad.

(f) Does not arise.

Insurance Scheme for Drought Prone Thar Desert

4559. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that most of the area of Thar desert is drought prone on an average seven years out of every ten years;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to formulate any comprehensive Insurance Scheme to meet the cost of relief measures undertaken almost every year in Rajasthan;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which this scheme is likely to be made operational for drought prone Thar desert of Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) covering all farmers, crops and risks has already been implemented in the country from Rabi 1999-2000 season. The scheme is voluntary in nature for the States/ Union Territories. At present, the scheme is being implemented by 18 States and 2 Union Territories. The State Government of Rajasthan has not opted in favour of the scheme, so far.

[Translation]

Reduction in Fertility of Soil

4560. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the fertility of the soil is diminishing by the indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers especially the urea;

(b) if so, the measures being taken by the Government to check the use of urea; and

(c) the details of the action plan formulated to promote the use of cow dung, 'sanai' and compost manures?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) The State Governments formulate fertilizer use recommendations according to the fertility status of the soils and requirement of crops so as to ensure that there is no indiscriminate use of fertilizers. Due to de-control of phosphatic and potassic fertilizers during 1992-93, the prices of these fertilizers had gone up with the resultant effect on their reduced consumption. This caused widening of NPK consumption ratio from 5.9:2.4:1 during 1991-92 to 9.5:3.2:1 during 1992-93. To encourage the balance in nutrient consumption, Government had implemented a scheme on Balanced & Integrated use of Fertilisers under which soil testing facilities were strengthened in the country so as to enable larger number of farmers to benefit from balanced fertilizer use according to soil test based recommendations. Preparation, promotion and use of compost was also encouraged through this scheme. Government also started implementing a scheme of ad hoc concession on phosphatic and potassic fertilizers. Due to such measures, the consumption ratio of NPK during 1999-2000 was 6.9:2.7:1 which shows a significant improvement in the balanced use of fertilizers compared to 1992-93. State Governments are advised to promote the use of cow dung, green manuring, vermi compost and biofertilisers etc. as organic source of plant nutrients.

Rake Point

4561. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has requested the Union Government to sanction full rake point at Reewa and Neemach; and

(b) if so, the time by which sanction is likely to be accorded in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Fly Ash from Thermal Plants

4562. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the estimates of available fly ash from the Thermal Plants in the country, State-wise;

(b) the annual quantity of fly ash added by the Thermal Plants in Maharashtra; and

(c) the details of action plan formulated for productive use of fly-ash using it as a resource for increasing agro-production or putting it to industrial use in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The availability of fly ash during the year 1999-2000 was approximately 79.402 million tonnes from 77 thermal plants across the Country. The State-wise details in this regard is given in the Statement.

(b) The annual quantity of fly ash added by the thermal plants in Maharashtra is about 10.741 million tonnes.

(c) Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) is promoting use of fly ash in production of cement substitute product, road construction, bricks, agriculture and mine-fill. The details of action plan formulated for productive use of fly ash using it as a resource for increasing agro-production or putting it to industrial use in Maharashtra have been sought from the MSEB.

Statement

State-wise details of fly ash production by thermal power plants across the country

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Pulverized Fly Ash Production(in million tonne per annum)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8.973
2.	Assam	0.029

1	2	3
3.	Bihar (including Jharkhand)	2.492*
4.	Chhattisgarh	4.943
5.	Delhi	1.668
6.	Gujarat	5.817**
7.	Haryana	1.161
8.	Karnataka	2.200
9.	Madhya Pradesh	7.622
10.	Maharashtra	10.741
11.	Orissa	3.309
12.	Punjab	3.596
13.	Rajasthan	1.391
14.	Tamil Nadu	6.508
15.	Uttar Pradesh	12.279***
16.	West Bengal	6.673
Total		79.402

* Does not include data in respect of Barauni TPS

** Does not include data in respect of Kutch TPS.

*** Does not include data in respect of Tanda TPS.

[Translation]

Recommendations of Expenditure Reforms Commission

4563. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Expenditure Reforms Commission has made any recommendations in its Sixth Report relating to Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said Commission has made any recommendation to abolish some posts in the Ministry; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC) have *inter-alia* recommended re-organisation of work within the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and consequential reduction in the staff strength after the petroleum sector is fully deregulated including abolition of the Administered Price Mechanism (APM) to take effect from 1st April, 2002. The Commission has also recommended to abolish twenty posts of the level of Section Officers and above and correspondingly reduction of subordinate level posts. However, an intensive review in the light of the workload in the post APM scenario, is necessary to firm up the Ministry's views, on these recommendations.

World Bank's Assistance to States for Agriculture

4564. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial assistance proposed to be provided by the World Bank to each State Government for the development of agriculture during 2000-2001;

(b) the major profit likely to accrue from it;

(c) whether the World Bank has put any condition in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) World Bank assistance was provided to the concerned Central/State departmental agencies for the implementation of various agriculture sector related projects during 2000-2001 on reimbursement basis, as per projectwise details given in the statement.

(b) Most of the agriculture sector related World Bank assisted projects primarily aim at agricultural development and improving the living standards of the local beneficiary population, rather than having any profit motive.

(c) and (d) These projects are prepared by the Project Authorities in consultation with the Government of India/ State Government and the World Bank & some mutually agreed action plan/points are decided.

Statement**Utilisation of World Bank assistance for various agriculture sector based Projects**

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	Project/States Covered	World Bank Credit/ disbursements during 2000-2001
1.	Bihar Plateau Development Project (No. 2439-IN)	58.106
2.	Agriculture Development Project - Rajasthan (No. 2433-IN)	31.011
3.	U.P. Sodic Land Reclamation Project Phase-I (No. 2510-IN)	10.747
4.	Assam Rural Infrastructure and Agricultural Services Project (No. 2733-IN)	109.453
5.	National Agricultural Technology Project (Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, Orissa, Maharashtra and Punjab) (IBRD 4296- IN/IDA 3048-IN)	151.306
6.	U.P. Diversified Agricultural Support Project (IBRD 4365-IN/IDA 3106-IN)	51.612
7.	U.P Sodic Land Reclamation Project Phase-II (No. 3152-IN)	83.566
8.	Integrated Watershed Dev. Project (Hills) Phase-II (Utaranchal Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab (IDA 3243-IN/IBRD 4492-IN)	72.459
9.	Shrimp & Fish Culture Project (Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal (No. 2329-IN)	4.530
10.	Agricultural Human Resource Development Project (Andhra Pradesh, Haryana and Tamil Nadu) (No. 2699-IN)	68.721

Assistance to Chhattisgarh for Relief from Drought

4565. SHRI TARACHAND SAHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have provided assistance in cash and kind as relief for drought led famine to Chhattisgarh during the current year;

(b) if so, the details of cash and kind separately; and

(c) whether the State Government has ensured proper utilization of this assistance?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) 4.07 lakh tonnes of foodgrains free of cost was allocated to the State under Food for Work Programme besides 0.97 lakh tonnes of foodgrains at Below Poverty Line (BPL) rates. Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 2001-02 amounting to Rs. 21.63 crore and total assistance of Rs. 58.94 crore from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) have been released to the State.

(c) Distribution of relief at the ground level is the responsibility of the State Government.

*[English]***Crude Pipeline for Bina Refinery**

4566. SHRI K. BALRAM KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat are delaying the clearance for the crude pipeline for the Bina Refinery being set up by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken to sort out the points of difference at an early date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Chief Conservator of Forests - Wildlife, Government of Gujarat had issued a letter dated 05.10.2000 restraining Bharat Oman Refineries Limited (BORL) from commencing/continuing/maintaining any work/activity in Marine National Park/Sanctuary near Vadinar in Jamnagar district of Gujarat until further orders. In this letter an interim judgement dated 14.02.2000 of the Supreme Court in Special Civil Application No. 202/95 has been quoted.

(c) The matter is being pursued with Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India and Government of Gujarat.

Proposal for Triangular Railway Station In Kerala

4567. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has sent a proposal for setting up of triangular railway station at Shoranur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) A representation from Shri K.E. Ismail, Minister of Revenue and Shri Kabeer Master, Minister for Health and Sports, Government of Kerala, demanding provision of a new triangular Railway station at Shoranur for facilitating stoppage of all trains from all directions, has been received.

(c) A study in this regard has been undertaken.

Regulatory Authority for Gas Pipelines

4568. DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI:
SHRI B.V.N. REDDY:
SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI:

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

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat proposes to set up a regulatory authority for gas pipelines;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government in regard to inter-State pipelines for carrying gas across the country; and

(c) the steps taken to apprise the Government of Gujarat about the Central authority in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of Gujarat has enacted the Gujarat Gas (Regulation of Transmission, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2001 on April 28, 2001 to establish Gujarat Gas Regulatory Authority to regulate laying of the gas pipelines in the State.

(b) and (c) The Government of India have expressed its opinion against the move of the Government of Gujarat. It is proposed to make a Presidential reference under Article 143 of the Constitution to the Supreme Court of India to advise on the consequential constitutional/legal implications in the matter. It is also proposed to bring in National Gas Regulatory Board through Central legislation to regulate natural gas/liquefied natural gas (LNG) matters.

Electrification of Villages Under NCES

4569. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages proposed to be electrified in the country under non-conventional energy sources during 2001-2002 State-wise;

(b) the amount earmarked for this purpose during the said period, State-wise;

(c) the details of the agencies that have been entrusted this task; and

(d) the time by which the electrification is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources proposes to implement a programme for the electrification of villages in remote and difficult areas which cannot be electrified through conventional grid extension. State Governments have been asked to send lists of such villages. It is proposed to initiate implementation of this programme in about 500 villages during 2001-2002. A provision of Rs. 20 crores for this purpose has been included in the budget of the Ministry for this year. State-wise allocation of targets and funds has not been done at this stage.

(c) The programme is to be implemented mainly by the renewable energy agencies and other organizations of the State Governments. Panchayats, Co-operatives, Corporate bodies and NGOs are also likely to be associated with this task.

(d) It is proposed that all the remote villages should be electrified by the end of the 11th plan i.e. March, 2002.

[Translation]

Catering Service in Hirakund Express

4570. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received complaints regarding catering services/pantry car of Hirakund Express; /

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Railways to check such complaints?

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

(b) and (c) One complaint has been received in this regard and a fine of Rs. 3000/- has been imposed on the licensee. Intensive monitoring is being done to prevent any recurrence of such irregularities.

[English]

Amendment in NCDC Act

4571. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) Act; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Bill for comprehensive amendments in the existing NCDC Act, 1962 is in the process of being finalised and will be introduced in the Parliament after completing due procedural formalities.

Doubling of Mysore-Bangalore Railway Line

4572. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI R.S. PATIL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for doubling Mysore-Bangalore Railway Line;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said line is likely to be doubled; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (d) The Patch doubling of Bangalore-Kengeri (12.45 km) and Kengeri-Ramanagaram (32.43 km) sections of Bangalore-Mysore line have been included in the Railway Budget. No target date has yet been fixed. The work would be progressed and completed in the coming years as per the operational priority and availability of resources.

Production of Cotton In A.P.

4573. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of cotton in Andhra Pradesh has been constantly decreasing and affecting the textile production targets in the State;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the production of cotton recorded during each of the last three years; and

(c) the remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH) (a) and (b) The production of cotton in Andhra Pradesh is showing an upward trend during 1997-98 to 1999-2000 as is indicated below:

(Million bales of 170 kgs. each)	
1997-98	1.32
1998-99	1.52
1999-2000	1.60

The availability of raw cotton during the above mentioned years was adequate to meet the requirement of domestic textile industry in the country including State of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) The Government has launched the Technology Mission on Cotton to improve the productivity and quality of cotton in the country including the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Drought Situation in Karnataka

4574. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sent a report to the Union Government pointing out the areas where rainfall is less including Bellary, Gulbarga and Raichur facing drought conditions as a result thereof;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has considered this report; and

(c) if so, the assistance being provided to the State Government in meeting the drought conditions?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An Inter-Ministerial Central Team visited the State from 31st July to 3rd August, 2001 for assessment of the situation.

(c) Entire Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 2001-2002 amounting to Rs. 58.72 crore has been released to the State. No decision for assistance from National Calamity Contingency Fund, if any, has yet been taken.

Pending Railway Projects

4575. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway projects submitted by various State Governments during 1999, 2000 and 2001, State-wise;

(b) the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(c) the present status of those projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Planning of Railways services or projects is made keeping a national perspective in view and taking an integrated view of traffic demands as well as of System requirements. Geographical boundaries of a State do not form a criterion for taking investment decisions. However, details of some of the proposals

received from Governments of States and Union Territories during 1999, 2000 and 2001, including action taken on

each of these projects and their present status are given below:

State	Proposal	Action Taken & Present Status
1	2	3
Madhya Pradesh	Bilaspur-Urkura: 3rd Line	Bilaspur-Dagori (25 Km) & Bhatapara-Nipania (15 Km) sections are targeted for completed during 2001-02. On Dagori-Nipania (8 Km) section, earthwork and bridgework are in progress.
	Akaltara-Champa: 3rd Line	Akaltara-Nalia (16 Km) section completed & commissioned. Work on Hasdeo Bridge on Nalia-Champa section is in progress.
	Urkura-Raipur-Sarona: Doubling	Work completed and commissioned. One residual work i.e. a foot over bridge at Raipur is also nearing completion.
	Ramganj Mandi-Bhopal: New Line	This work has been included in the Budget 2000-01. Final location survey has been taken up.
	Khandwa to Dahod: New Line	Views of the Government of Madhya Pradesh is being obtained to share the cost of the project.
	Jabalpur-Gondia including Balaghat-Katangji: Gauge Conversion	Work is in progress between Gondia and Balaghat. Construction of a major bridge on Bagh river has been taken up. Final Location Survey for Jabalpur-Balaghat has been completed. Land acquisition for detoured alignment near Jabalpur has also been processed. Work on the entire project is being processed and would be completed in the coming years as per the availability of resources.
Orissa	Talcher-Gopalpur: New Line	Survey is in progress.
	Talcher-Bimlagarh: New Line	Survey is in progress.
	Gopalpur-Raygada: New Line	No survey has been considered necessary for the present due to heavy throwforward of ongoing works.
Maharashtra	Beed-Parli Vaijnath-Ahmednagar: New Line	The new line from Ahmednagar to Beed is a sanctioned project. Land acquisition plans & papers for 15 km from Ahmednagar end have been submitted to the State Government. Work on this stretch would be progressed once the land becomes available.

1	2	3
	Baramati-Pandharpur: New Line	No survey has been considered necessary for the present due to heavy throwforward of ongoing works.
	Kalyan-Murabad via Malshejghat to Ahmednagar: New Line	Survey has been completed. However, due to unremunerative nature of the project and acute resource constraints being faced by the Railways, it has not been possible to consider this project at present.
	Panvel-Karjat: Doubling	The work of new line from Panvel to Karjat is in progress. Doubling is not considered necessary at this stage.
	Bandra-Kurla Rail Link	The survey has been completed. This is one of the projects under Mumbai Urban Transport Projects - II and will be considered at the appropriate time.
	Manmad-Malegaon-Dhule-Nardana-Shirpur & Indore: New Line	Surveys for Manmad-Dhule and Dhule-Nardana-Shirpur New Lines have been completed. Due to unremunerative nature of the proposal and heavy throw-forward of ongoing works, it has not been considered feasible to take up these projects. The survey for a new line from Shirpur to Mhow has been taken up. A Metre Gauge line already exists between Mhow and Indore.
Bihar	Narkatiyaganj-Bhitharwa Ashram: Gauge Conversion	No survey has been considered necessary for the present due to heavy throwforward of ongoing works.
	Kiul-Nawada: New Line	This is a part of Kiul-Gaya doubling survey. Survey has been completed. However, due to unremunerative nature of the project and acute resource constraints being faced by the Railways, it has not been possible to consider this project at present.
Punjab	Fazilka-Abohar: New Line	Work already included in the Budget. However, the work would be taken up after the requisite clearances have been obtained.
	Ludhiana-Amritsar: Electrification	Work is in progress and targeted for completion by March, 2004.
Manipur	Jiribam-Imphal: New Line	New survey included in the budget 2001-02.
Arunachal Pradesh	Halem-Itanagar: New Line	Survey has been taken up.

1	2	3
Sikkim	Rail Link to Sikkim	Survey has been taken up.
Andhra Pradesh	Multimodal Suburban Transportation System for Hyderabad and Secunderabad	The process of obtaining necessary approvals for the fixed infrastructure component of the Multi modal Suburban Transport Project costing Rs. 70 Crores has been initiated. The project will be further processed for inclusion in the Budget after the approvals have been accorded.
	Medchal - Secunderabad, Secunderabad - Shamshabad: Electrification	Proposal not approved.
	Sanatnagar - Vikarabad: Electrification	Proposal not approved.
Kerala	Ernakulam - Trivandrum: Electrification	Work is in progress and is targeted for completion by March, 2004.
	Shoranur-Ernakulam: Electrification	Work completed.
Gujarat	Construction of rail line between Alang-Bhavnagar-Tarapur	Survey for construction of new line between Bhavnagar and Tarapur is in progress.
		Construction of new line between Alang and Bhavnagar is not being considered at present.
	Gandhinagar-Moti Adraj-Kalol: New Line	This work is included in the Budget 2000-01. Final location survey has been completed. Preparation of plans and estimate is in progress. Process for land acquisition has been taken up.
	Jamnagar-Bedi Port-Rosipier: New Line	A BG line already exists between Jamnagar and Wind Mill station. Construction of rail line from Wind Mill station-Bedi Port-Rosipier is not considered necessary at this stage.
	Porbandar-Porbandar Port: New Line	Survey has been completed. However, due to unremunerative nature of the project and acute resource constraints being faced by the Railways, it has not been considered feasible to take up this project at present.
	Veraval-Somnath: New Line	Survey has been completed. The Project Report is being drawn up.
Karnataka	Mysore-Mangalore and Mysore-Tellicherry: New Line	Survey for construction of Mysore-Mangalore new line has been included in the budget 2001-2002.
		Survey has been completed for Tellicherry-Mysore. However, due to unremunerative nature of the project and acute resource constraints being faced by the Railways, it has not been considered feasible to take up this project at present.

1	2	3
	Madikeri-Channarayapatna via Holenarasipur, Arakalgod and Kushalnagar Channarayapatna via Konaur: New Line	Surveys for both these lines have been completed. The proposal could not be considered due to unremunerative nature and acute resource constraints.
	Kottayam-Punalur-Sabarimala: New Line	Survey for construction of new line from Kottayam to Punalur via Erumeli with branch line from Erumeli to Sabarimala has been completed and work of Kottayam-Erumeli new line & Erumeli-Sabarimala as a part of Angamali-Sabarimala new line project has already been included in the budget.
	Inter-modal Transport System for Bangalore	Sanction for carrying out detailed study to firm up the cost and revenue estimate of the project has been sanctioned. Government of Kamataka will get the study done with Railways sharing 1/3 of the cost of study.
Tamil Nadu	Extension of Mass Rapid Transit System (MRTS) Phase-II, presently under execution between Tirumayilai and Valachery upto St. Thomas Mount	State Government has got the survey done for the project. Survey Report has recently been received from the State Government and is being scrutinized.
	Avadi-Sriperambudur: New Delhi	Survey has been completed. The report is being scrutinized.
	Kanchipuram-Tindivanam: New Line	Survey completed. However, due to unremunerative nature of the project and acute resource constraints being faced by the railways, it has not been considered feasible to take up the project at present.
	Plani-Satyamangalam: New Line	No survey has been considered necessary for the present due to heavy throwforward of ongoing works.
	Direct link between Chennai Central and Chennai Egmore Stations	The proposal is neither financially justified nor it is expected to ameliorate the inconvenience to any sizable number of commuter.
Uttar Pradesh	Rishikesh-Dehradun: New Line	Survey has been completed. However, due to unremunerative nature of the project and acute resource constraints being faced by the Railways, it has not been considered feasible to take up the work at present.
	Circular Railway around Lucknow area-Electrification	Work is in progress and is targeted for completion by March, 2002.

1	2	3
West Bengal	Extension of Circular Railway to Majerhat. Its Doubling.	Work has been approved as a material modification to Kolkata Circular Rail Project and is under execution.
	Metro Link from Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Airport	Work has been approved as a material modification to Kolkata Circular Rail Project and is under execution.
	Metro Railway: Extension from Tolly Ganj to Garia	Work has been approved as a material modification to Dum-Dum-Tollygunj Metro Rail Project and is under execution.
	Metro Line between Dum Dum and Barrackpore	Survey has been taken up.
	Gunjaria-Gajol: New Line	Survey has been completed. work on Gajol-Itahar (31 km) part has been included in the Budget 2001-02 as material modification to Eklakhi-Balurghat new line project.
	Tarakeshwar-Arambagh-Bishnupur: New Line	The work has been included in the Budget. Final location survey from Tarakeshwar to Arambagh (26 km) has been completed and the same from Bishnupur end upto 17 km completed. Land acquisition papers for Reach 1(5 km) have been submitted to State Government. Work would be commenced once the land becomes available.
	Ranaghat-Gede & Ranaghat-Bangaon sections: Electrification	Electrification work completed
	Barasat-Hasnabad: Electrification	Work is in progress and is targeted for completion by Dec, 2001
	Krishnanagar-Lalgola: Electrification	Work is in progress and is targeted for completion by March, 2004.
	Katwa-Azimganj: Electrification	Proposal not approved.
	Andal-Sainthia: Electrification	Proposal not approved.

[Translation]

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Plantation of Medicinal Plants

4576. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the work executed in regard to development of the botanical gardens and plantation of the medicinal plants during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether this work is being executed as per the target fixed in this regard during the last three years; and

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) The details of targets and achievements in establishment of Herbal Gardens during the last three years under the Central Sector Scheme on Development of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants by the Implementing Agencies is given in the statement enclosed. There was some shortfall during the year 1998-99 while the targets have been exceeded during 1999-2000 and 2000-01.

Statement**Target and Achievements on Establishment of Herbal Gardens Under Central Sector Scheme on Development of Medicinal Plants**

(Area in hectare)

Sl.No.	Name of Agency	Establishment of Herbal Gardens					
		1998-99		1999-2000		2000-2001	
		Tar.	Ach.	Tar.	Ach.	Tar.	Ach.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	N.G. Ranga Agri. Univ., Hyderabad	3.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	2.0
2.	Assa. Agri. Univ., Jorhat	2.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
3.	Rajendra Agri. Univ., Pusa, Bihar	3.0	—	2.0	2.0	1.0	2.0
4.	Gujarat Agri. Univ., Anand, Gujarat	3.0	3.0	2.0	3.0	1.0	3.0
5.	Haryana Agri. Univ., Hissar, Haryana	3.0	3.3	3.0	3.3	3.0	1.0
6.	Y.S. Parmar Univ. of Horticulture & Forestry, Solan, H.P.	6.0	3.0	5.0	6.0	1.0	1.0
7.	Univ. of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore	4.0	3.0	5.0	3.0	1.0	3.0
8.	Kerala Agri. University, Trishur, Kerala	6.0	2.0	5.0	5.0	1.0	2.0
9.	Jawahar Lal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh	4.0	3.0	4.0	5.0	1.0	5.0
10.	Mahatma Phule Agri. University, Rahuri, Maharashtra	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	1.0	4.0
11.	Orissa Agri. University, Bhubaneshwar, Orissa	4.0	4.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0
12.	Punjab Agri. University, Ludhiana, Punjab	3.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0
13.	Rajasthan Agri. Univ., Bikaner	3.0	0.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0
14.	T.N. Agri. University, Combatore, Tamil Nadu	3.0	1.0	3.0	3.0	1.0	3.0
15.	A.N. Dev University of Agri. Science Tech. Faizabad, U.P.	3.0	3.0	2.0	3.0	1.0	1.0
16.	Vidhanchandra Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Nadia, W.B.	4.0	3.0	2.0	3.0	1.0	3.0
17.	R.R.L., Jorhat,	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	0.5	1.0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
18.	R.R.L., Bhubaneshwar	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
19.	R.R.L., Jammu	0.0	0.0	0.5	1.0	0.5	0.5
20.	N.R.C., Anand	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	—
21.	Birsa Agri. University, Ranchi	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	0.5	0.5
22.	G.B. Pant Instt. of Himalayan Environment, Almora, U.P.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total		58.0	37.3	50.0	52.8	20.0	36.5

[English]

Completion of On-going Projects

4577. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Solapur-Gadag gauge conversion project was approved in 1993-94 and the project has been delayed due to non-availability of funds;

(b) if so, the criteria for approval of projects by Railways and subsequent denial of funds by the same authorities;

(c) whether the Government intend to complete the on-going projects before taking up new projects; and

(d) if not, the time by which the on-going railway projects are likely to suffer due to non-availability of resource?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) The work of gauge conversion of Solapur-Gadag section was approved in 1993-94. However, the work is being executed in phases depending upon the availability of resources.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Completion of ongoing railway projects would depend upon availability of resources and their overall priority. There is a large shelf of ongoing gauge conversion projects which will take about 15 years for completion at the current level of funding.

Foreign Investment in Captive Power Plant

4578. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORARKE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International conglomerate Rolls Royce has evinced keen interest in captive power plants from 4 MW to 100 MW in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are likely to lay emphasis on making all district 11 KV feeders to be independent profit making centres by providing adequate incentives to employees for generation of extra revenue; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Details of the proposal of M/s. Rolls Royce regarding captive power plants in India are not available as captive power plants are primarily set up by industries for generating power for their own consumption. Under Section 44 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, permission for setting up captive power plants is accorded by the concerned State Electricity Boards.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Power is laying emphasis on metering of all 11 KV feeders so as to bring down the transmission and distribution losses and increase the revenue to the State Electricity Boards. The question of introducing any system of incentives to the employees can be decided only by the State Electricity Boards.

**Objections by Oil Companies on
Inter-State Gas Pipeline**

4579. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

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

(a) whether the National Oil Companies have expressed strong opposition to the new inter-State gas pipeline proposal floated by one private sector company as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated July 27, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the involvement of private sector in this particular field is going to have an adverse impact on massive investments made by PSUs for setting up refineries and gas import facilities; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Import of liquefied natural gas (LNG) is on Open General Licence (OGL) and there are various initiatives including private, which propose to import LNG to India for marketing.

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

Upgradation of Minor Ports

4580. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to upgrade minor ports in the country;

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

(c) in time by which these ports are likely to be upgraded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) As per the provisions of Indian Ports Act, 1908, the responsibility for development/upgradation of minor ports lies entirely with the State Government concerned, which have administrative control on such ports.

**Allocation of Ventilated Rakes to Transport
Mangoes**

4581. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether to cope up with the WTO regime, where multinational corporations have started entering the market in a big way, mango growers and exporters from southern States have urged the Railways to allocate ventilated rakes to transport mangoes without damage;

(b) if so, whether the Railways have accepted their demand;

(c) if so, the extent to which additional ventilated rakes have been allocated to these States including Andhra Pradesh;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the other steps proposed to boost exports of fruits without damage in Railway godowns by arranging for proper preservation like cold storages, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (d) No, Sir. A few societies of Andhra Pradesh had requested for VP rakes for transportation of mangoes to Delhi and Kolkata. During this mango season from April 2001 to June 2001, 43 rakes of mango special trains were run from Vizianagaram to Naya Azadpur (Delhi) and 2 special trains (NGM rakes)

from Vizianagaram to Kolkata. Similarly, 39 rakes of mango special trains were run from Nuzvid, Falaknuma and Vijayawada to Naya Azadpur (Delhi) as per the demands of the merchants. The demands were fully complied with.

(e) The transit time of mango rakes is monitored to avoid deterioration to the fruits due to inordinate delays. Railways do not provide preservation facilities like cold storage, etc.

Oil Associations Accuses Government

4582. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Oil Association Accuses Government of double standard" appearing in the 'Times of India' dated July 6, 2001;

(b) if so, the terms finalised for the award of work for exploration by private parties;

(c) whether any inconsistency has been noticed in the terms of quoted work programme of the first phase of exploration;

(d) whether the bids of some private companies were based on 1000 line k.m. data as against data available of only 100 k.m.;

(e) if so, the factual position in the matter; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to remove the anomalous position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Production Sharing Contract (PSC) in respect of the Exploration Block No. AS-ONN-2000/1 was signed on 17.07.2001 with the consortium (Contractor) comprising Reliance Industries Limited and Hardy Exploration & Production India Inc. The PSC provides for the minimum work programme to be carried out by the Contractor as well as the fiscal terms.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) The above Contractor had given a work programme consisting of reprocessing of 1020 line k.m. (LKM) of seismic data in phase I. Although, the old seismic data available within the block is about 120 LKM, there is no restriction on the Contractor to procure and reprocess such seismic data as is considered relevant for the work in the block. In case of failure by the Contractor to fulfil the minimum work programme, PSC provides for payment by the Contractor to the Government for the unfinished work programme.

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

Restriction on Marketing of Agricultural Produce

4583. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI:
SHRIMATI D.M. VIJAY KUMARI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether restrictions on marketing of agricultural produce act is an impediment to the development of a national market; and

(b) if so, the action taken to decontrol agricultural produce and remove the marketing restrictions thereon?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Government is promoting organized marketing of agricultural commodities in the country through a network of regulated markets. Most of the State Governments and Union Territories provide for development of agricultural produce markets under their respective Agricultural Produce Marketing Regulation Acts. There is no provision for setting up of a national market under the acts enacted by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

(b) An Expert Committee on Strengthening and Developing of Agricultural Marketing appointed by this Ministry, in its Report, has *inter-alia* recommended to examine existing legal framework governing the institution of Regulated Markets and removal of such restrictive provision which inhibit growth of a competitive market structure in the country.

An Inter-Ministerial Task Force has been constituted in the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation to examine the recommendations and suggest measures for the implementation of the recommendations of the Expert Committee. The State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have also been requested to examine the recommendations of the Expert Committee and provide their feedback to the Task Force on the implementation of the recommendations.

Seed Testing Labs

4584. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased state:

(a) whether the National Seed Corporation has any plan for setting up more seed testing laboratories in the country for the benefit of the farmers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir. National Seeds Corporation has no plan for setting up of more seed testing laboratories in the country.

(b) Question doesn't arise.

[*Translation*]

Promotion of Horticulture in the Country

4585. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any special budgetary allocation for promotion of horticulture in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any scheme relating to development of horticulture in backward areas is under consideration of the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) The details of budgetary allocations

made for the promotion of horticulture in the country during the last three years is as follows:

Year	Allocation (Rupees in crore)
1998-1999	297.60
1999-2000	253.60
2000-2001	191.25

(c) and (d) The horticulture development programmes are being implemented in all parts of the country including the backward areas. A Central Sector Scheme on Development of Horticulture in Tribal/Hilly Areas and Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in the North Eastern States including Sikkim are being implemented during the Ninth Plan with effect from the year 2000-01 and 2001-02 respectively.

[*English*]

Profit Earned by Railways

4586. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the profit and loss of railways against both passengers and freight revenue during the last two years zone-wise;

(b) whether any incentive is being given to the profit earning zones;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to streamline the loss making zones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Profit/Loss made by Zonal Railways for the last two years for which profit and loss accounts have been finalised viz. 1998-99 & 1999-2000 is given below:—

	(Rs. in crore)		
	1	2	3
Railway	1998-99	1999-2000	

1	2	3
Central	319.76	380.24
Eastern	-543.63	-669.54
Northern	373.66	807.50
North Eastern	-539.30	-615.82
Northeast Frontier	-618.93	-706.26
Southern	-429.08	-487.65
South Central	330.81	303.52
South Eastern	1079.93	1218.55
Western	766.75	679.09

(b) to (d) Profit made by Zonal Railways being dependant on the Traffic arising, geographical terrain and spread on which often little or no control is available with the Zonal Railways, these are therefore not termed the basis for granting incentives to the Zonal Railways. The steps taken by Railways to improve profitability include:

- (i) Measures to control expenditure by improving staff productivity, asset utilisation, inventory management, fuel consumption, austerity in areas such as travel, publicity, hospitality etc.
- (ii) For improving earnings, aggressive marketing with improved freight services and commercial incentives.
- (iii) All out efforts to curb leakage of revenues and pilferages

Pruning of Manpower

4587. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM:
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for pruning manpower in all categories;

(b) the number of staff since affected in each category by such orders; and

(c) whether the decisions regarding pruning of manpower was taken at General Managers conference held on June 23, 2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Railways have been adopting modern technology in various facts of railway working which leads to reduced requirement of manpower in certain activities and need for manpower in newer areas. Critical financial position through which Railways are passing, also make it imperative to contain staff costs. Thus a review of manpower is being done continuously keeping in view the operational requirements. Railways have taken initiatives to rightsize the organization by controlling fresh "intake" in various departments. The reduction in the strength of railway employees is through normal process of superannuation and attrition only. Care is taken to ensure that the existing workforce is not affected adversely.

(c) No General Managers' Conference was held on 23.06.2001.

Petroleum Finance Corporation

4588. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a petroleum Finance Corporation on the lines of Power Finance Corporation of which Oil Industry Development Board as the main promoter; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

J.P.M. Act

4589. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Textile Policy, 2000 gives more emphasis on the production of cost intensive products rather than the production of sacks by the 'Jute Technology Mission';

(b) whether the JPM Act will become redundant due to this; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) The National Textile Policy, 2000 envisages launching of a Technology Mission on Jute to increase productivity and diversify the use of this environment friendly fibre.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Delay in Project of NTPC

4590. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether NTPC's Rihand (10,000 MW) project is being delayed due to administrative decisions to split civil works from the order tender;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The bids for Main Plant Turnkey Package for Rihand Super Thermal Power Project (STPP) Stage-II (2x500 MW) in Uttar Pradesh were opened by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) on 17.10.2000. Out of 16 parties who purchased the bidding documents for the package, it is only the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) who submitted the bid for the package. The scope of work *inter-alia* included the Main Plant Civil and Structural works. During negotiations, BHEL did not reduce their prices for civil and Structural works. As the prices for similar and civil and structural works awarded in case of Talcher STPP Stage-II were found to be much lower than the prices quoted by BHEL, NTPC decided to delete the Main Plant Civil and Structural works from the scope

of BHEL. After completing the pre-award discussions, the award for main plant turnkey package has been placed on 14.8.2001. There has been no delay due to administrative decision to split the civil works.

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

(c) Rihand STPP Stage-II is expected to be commissioned as per schedule indicated below:—

Project	Unit No.	Commissioning Schedule - year
Rihand STPP	Unit-1	2005-06
Stage-II (2x500 MW)	Unit-2	2006-07

Purchase of Wagons

4591. DR. S. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the required demand of wagons during this year;

(b) the order placed so far for the new purchase of wagons; and

(c) the reasons for not stipulating the provisions made in the Budget?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Requirement of wagons is a need based activity which is dependent upon targeted freight traffic for the year and availability of funds. For the year 2001-02, a budgetary provision for acquisition of 23000 wagons in terms of four wheeler units (FWUs) has been made, out of which 17000 FWUs are to be acquired under Railways' own resources whereas remaining 6000 FWUs are to be acquired under Own Your Wagon Scheme (OYWS)/ Build-On-Lease-Transfer (BOLT) Scheme. At present there is no demand under OYWS/BOLT. Wagon industry has an outstanding workload of about 10000 FWUs as on 10.4.2001 including 2460 FWUs ordered under +30% option clause against 2000-01 contracts. Another 2000 FWUs has been ordered on Railway workshops. Further ordering out of 17000 FWUs for

the year is under consideration. There is no reduction in wagon procurement plan *vis-a-vis* budget provisions.

Setting up of Hoverport

4592. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hoverport for Indian Coast Guard is being set up to prevent poaching and smuggling;

(b) if so, the locations thereof; and

(c) whether civilians would be allowed to use the port for their Hovercraft?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. One Hover port is fully functional at Haldia, whereas the construction of two more Hover ports at Mandapam and Jakhau is in the planning stage.

(c) No, Sir.

[Translation]

Setting up of Power Grid

4593. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Power Grid in Chaivasa and Chakradharpur; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to set up a power grid at Chaivasa and Chakradharpur by the Union Government.

[English]

Clearance to Power Projects of Kerala

4594. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the clearance has been accorded for Kuriyar Kutty, Karappara and Pooyamkutty Power Projects in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The Detailed Project Report of Karapara - Kuriarkutty Multipurpose Hydroelectric Scheme (84 MW) was returned by the Central Water Commission to the State Government of Kerala in February 2001 due to major deficiencies with a request to comply with the comments and submit a single modified project report for Irrigation & Power components.

Puyankutty Hydroelectric Project was cleared by Central Electricity Authority in January 1984 at an estimated cost of Rs. 250 crore. The project was accorded investment approval by Planning Commission in August 1986 subject to clearance from forest angle. The environment clearance which was issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests in 1985 for this project subject to implementation of a number of conditions has lapsed as the work on the project has not commenced and therefore, will require fresh environment clearance. As regards forest clearance of the project, the matter is pending with the State Government in respect of the Social Cost Benefit Analysis.

Power Generation Stations

4595. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are enough power generating stations in Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the status of its utilization and

(c) the details of power generation and consumption in A&N Islands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) There are 34 diesel Generation Power Houses with a total installed capacity of 38.8 MW operating at different Islands/locations in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. In addition, 21 remote & isolated villages/areas have also been provided with Solar Power Plants. One Hydro Electric Power generating station of 3x1.75 MW capacity is under construction by NHPC

at Kalpong. A 20 MW IPP Generating station at Bambooflat is scheduled to be commissioned in 2002 to meet the power demand in south Andaman.

(b) All the power generating stations, both of conventional and non-conventional energy sources, are adequately utilized for meeting the present power requirement of the respective areas/islands.

(c) The year-wise generation & consumption of power in A&N Islands as a whole in the last five years is given below:

(Figures in Million Units (MUs))		
Year	Generation	Consumption
1996-97	89.77	70.53
1997-98	93.18	71.54
1998-99	103.56	79.61
1999-2000	112.72	86.92
2000-2001	118.00	91.00 (Prov.)

Tapping of Sources of Energy

4596. SHRI RAGHUNATHA JHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether country is importing a large quantity of crude oil and is also not tapping other sources of energy being available in plenty in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of other sources of energy tapped and the outcome thereof?

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

AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Country is importing large quantity of crude oil. Government is also tapping up other sources of energy like:—

- (i) Three pilot project have been initiated by the Government to examine operational, financial and environmental impact of blending of ethanol with petrol. Once the outcome of these pilot projects are encouraging, permission will be given for blending of 5% of ethanol with MS which will result in saving.
- (ii) Coal as a source of energy is being exploited for use by various sectors the main among them being Power Steel, Cement etc. The total production of coal during 2000-01 in the country was 309 million tonnes (Prov.) Coal bed Methane (CBM) is also planned to be exploited.
- (iii) The Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources is implementing wide ranging programmes to harness non-conventional energy sources such as solar, wind, small hydro and biomass for meeting the energy requirements for cooking, heating, lighting and electricity needs of the people in all States/UTs. That Ministry is also providing various fiscal, financial and promotional incentives such as central subsidy, 100% accelerated depreciation, concessional custom duty, excise duty/sales tax exemptions, soft term loans from India Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA), conducive policies for wheeling, buy-back third party sale of renewable energy power etc. to attract private sector participation and to encourage use of various renewable energy systems/devices throughout the country. The details of estimated potential of various non-conventional energy sources and achievements made as on 31-3-2001 is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Estimated Potential of Non-Conventional Energy Sources and Achievements made under various Non-Conventional Energy Programmes in the country as on 31.3.2001

Source/System		Approximate Potential	Achievement (As on 31.3.2001)
1	2	3	4
1.	Biogas Plants (No.)	120 lakh	32 lakh
2.	Improved Chulha (No.)	12 crore	338.11 lakh

1	2	3	4
3.	a. Biomass Power	19.500 MW	292.30 MW
	b. Biomass Gasifier		40.18 MW
4.	Solar Photovoltaic	20 MW/sq. km.	
	(i) Solar Street Lighting Systems	—	41403 Nos.
	(ii) Home Lighting Systems	—	152180 Nos.
	(iii) Solar Lanters	—	350531 Nos.
	(iv) SPV Power Plants	—	1132 kWp
5.	Solar Water Heating Systems	30 million sq.m Collector area	5,90,000 sq.m Collector area
6.	Solar Cookers	—	5,10,000 Nos.
7.	Solar PV Pumps	—	4148 Nos.
8.	Solar Photovoltaic Power	—	1.6 MW
9.	Wind Power	45,000 MW	1340 MW
10.	Small Hydro Power (upto 25 MW)	15,000 MW	1353.85 MW
11.	Wind Pumps	—	714 Nos.
12.	Hybrid Systems	—	91.5 KW
13.	Energy Recovery from wastes	1700 MW	16.2 MW
14.	Battery Operated Vehicles	—	240 Nos.

MW = Mega watt, kw = Kilo watt, kWp = Kilo watt peak, Sq. Km. = Square Kilometers, Sq. m. = Square meter

[Translation]

**Construction of Road Over Bridge
at Bamania in M.P.**

4597. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct road overbridge at level crossing near Bamania railway station in Jhabua district in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the time by which sanction for construction of road overbridge at the said level crossing is likely to be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE

IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O.
RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Winding up of Power Project

4598. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have wound up several power projects during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for winding up these projects, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The details of various power projects not

being pursued during the last two years alongwith the reasons are given below:—

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)	Remarks
1.	Naramanam CCGT	5.00	TNEB has decided to shelve the implementation of the project since it was found to be economically non-viable.
2.	Basin Bridge W. II	30.00	TNEB has decided to shelve the implementation of the project since it was found to be economically non-viable.
3.	Subarmati TPS	120	Govt. of Gujarat has deleted the project vide their communication of 22.9.2000 as promoter is no more interested in the project.
4.	Phoenix Power FO	175	This is a liquid fuel (Naphtha) based project. During the review meeting held on 4.6.2001 HPGCL has indicated that the scheme is likely to be dropped.
5.	Gouripore TPS	150	The company had not shown any seriousness or interest. The Govt. of West Bengal has revoked the authorization given to Gouripore Power Co. The scheme stands dropped till CEA hear again from Govt. of West Bengal.
6.	Sarapadi HEP	90	KPCL have suspended execution of project sanctioned by State Government on 10.5.1996 at a cost of Rs. 369.45 crore as the project has become economically unviable.

Extortion of Money from Passengers

4599. DR. BALIRAM:
KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that ticket collectors in connivance with GRP personnel are regularly extorting money from passengers in Mugalsarai railway station under Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the number of ticket collectors and ticket examiners against whom action has been taken by the Vigilance Department during the last three years; and

(c) the effective steps being taken by the Government to check such extortion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) No such complaint has been received.

(c) Regular checks are being conducted on ticket checking staff. During the last 3 years, 205 Train Ticket Examiners and Ticket Collectors of Eastern Railway have been taken up for various irregularities including corruption charges.

[*English*]

Construction of Railway Lines

4600. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of rail projects in Gujarat on which the construction could not be started after completion of their survey during the last three years and current year due to unremunerative nature alongwith the expenditure incurred thereon so far;

(b) the details of the on-going proposed surveys alongwith their present status and expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

(c) the time by which the surveys are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Details of the new line and gauge conversion projects where surveys have been completed in the last three years and works have not been taken up due to unremunerative nature of the proposals are as under:—

Project	Year	Expenditure incurred (in lakhs)
1	2	3
Porbandar to Porbandar Port new line	1998-99	0.90

1	2	3
Kodinar to Pipavav coastal new line	1998-99	2.0
Dahanu Road-Nashik Road new line	1999-2000	7.53
Bhuj-Naliya gauge conversion	1998-99	3.15

(b) Details of ongoing surveys are given in statement enclosed. These surveys are in various stages of progress.

(c) The ongoing surveys are expected to be completed in a period of next 2 to 3 years.

Statement

S.No.	Railway/ Plan Head	Name of the Project	Expenditure likely to be incurred (in lakh)
1	2	3	4
Central			
1.	New Line	Jalna-Khamgaon	10.46
2.	New Line	Bad-Bhainsa	0.66
3.	New Line	Shirpur-Mhow	12.49
4.	New Line	Jabalpur to Panna via Damoh	16.26
5.	New Line	Bhind-Orai-Harpalpur	13.94
6.	New Line	Roteagaon-Punthamba	5.40
7.	New Line	Chinchwad and Roha	6.36
8.	New Line	Solapur-Tuljapur-Osmanabad	1.80
9.	New Line	Wardha-Pusad-Nanded	2.00
10.	New Line	Khandwa to Nardana via Khargone, Sendhwa	20.25
11.	Gauge Conversion	Pulgaon-Arvi GC with extn. to Amla	
12.	Doubling	Palwal and Bhuteshwar 3rd line	10.61
13.	Doubling	Kalyan-Kasara 3rd line	9.05
14.	Doubling	Daund-Manmad with electrification	25.00

1	2	3	4
15.	Doubling	Daund-Bigwan-Gulbarga	11.16
16.	Doubling	Pune-Lonavla Quadrupling	7.49
17.	Doubling	Thane-Diva 5th and 6th line over Mumbra Creek bridge	2.44
Eastern			
18.	New Line	Budge-Budge-Uluberia	1.35
19.	New Line	Tori-Shivpur	15.35
20.	New Line	Titlagarh-Sonarapur	3.04
21.	New Line	Budge-Budge-Namkhana-Frazerganj	4.50
22.	New Line	Patna-Rail Bridge across Ganga	279.45
23.	New Line	Mongyr-Rail cum road bridge across Ganga	472.0
24.	New Line	Pirpainty to Marry Go Round	1.78
25.	New Line	Jhajha-Girdih via Sonuchakhai	5.74
26.	New Line	Koderma-Hazaribagh-Gerwa Road	17.96
27.	New Line	Restoration of Magra-Tarakeshwar NG abandoned line as a BG line	6.75
28.	New Line	Azimganj-Murshidabad (Jiaganj)	2.00
29.	New Line	Bandel-Naihati	0.54
30.	New Line	Gaya-Chatra	5.94
31.	New Line	Tori-Chatra	2.92
32.	Doubling	Patratu-Chandil via Barkhakana	9.04
33.	Doubling	Howrah-Sealdah 3rd line between Belanagar-Bally and additional loop at Dumdum, Baranagar, and Bali	0.54
34.	Doubling	Shaktigarh and Dankuni 4th line	1.28
35.	Doubling	Baruipur-Diamond Harbour	4.0
36.	Doubling	Howrah and Bandel 4th line	1.18
37.	Traffic Facility work	Calcutta optimization of maintenance facilities	5.00
38.	Traffic facility work	Patna optimization of maintenance facilities	5.00
North Eastern			
39.	New Line	Nirmali-Bhaptiai	200.00
40.	Gauge conversion	Purnea-Saharsa via Madhepura	6.60

1	2	3	4
	Northeast Frontier		
41.	New Line	Kohima-Dimapur	3.71
42.	New Line	Sivok-Giellikhola	6.30
43.	New Line	Halem-Itanagar	4.05
44.	New Line	Jiribam-Imphal	6.07
45.	New Line	Agartala to Akhaura	0.45
46.	New Line	Bhairabi-Sairang/Aizwal	7.29
47.	New Line	Jogighopa to Silchar via Panchratna	33.75
	Northern		
48.	New Line	Aligarh-Jhijnhak via Sikandraro and Mainpuri	16.31
49.	New Line	Baramulla to Kupwara, Udhampur to Bhairawah, Doda to Kishtwar	24.12
50.	New Line	Haridwar-Kotdwara-Ramnagar	15.08
51.	New Line	Chandigarh to Dehradun via Jagadhari	31.20
52.	New Line	Kaithal-Yamuna Nagar via Karnala	9.29
53.	New Line	Ferozpur Cantt. - Taran Taran	3.37
54.	New Line	Hastinapur Rail linking	2.34
55.	New Line	Nokha-Sikar via Bedasar and Sujargarh	12.52
56.	New Line	Anupgarh to Bikaner	10.46
57.	New Line	Rohtak to Hissar via Meham and Hansi	6.75
58.	New Line	Sehnewal-Ladhowal	3.90
59.	New Line	Sambhal to Gajraula	6.52
60.	New Line	Sarna-Madhopur	8.10
61.	New Line	Sambhal to Rajghat	3.65
62.	New Line	Barhan-Etah line to Shajahanpur	10.29
63.	New Line	Shahganj-Amethi via Sultanpur	14.85
64.	New Line	Jhunjhunu-Pilani	1.35
65.	New Line	Badowal-Sahnewal	6.50
66.	New Line	Abohar-Tohana	14.75

1	2	3	4
67.	New Line	Una-Jaljaon Doaba	1.48
68.	Doubling	Jaipur to Merta Road	29.56
69.	Traffic Facility work	Delhi Area optimization and rationalization	7.45
70.	Traffic facility work	Identifying investment inputs required to cater for commuter traffic in Delhi and National Capital Region	104.50
South Central			
71.	New Line	Latur Road-Mudkhed	8.10
72.	New Line	Ranjitpura-Yeshwantnagar	1.48
73.	New Line	Donakonda-Vedareva	7.42
74.	New Line	Jaggayyapet-Miryalgudda	3.85
75.	Traffic Facility work	Development of infrastructure in Kakinada area	10.00
South Eastern			
76.	New Line	Umrer to Nagpur via Khaperkheda and Koradi	2.02
77.	New Line	Phulbani to Barhampur	15.75
78.	New Line	Bisrampur to Jabalpur	7.87
79.	New Line	Rajnandgaon-Jabalpur	20.25
80.	New Line	Bilaspur to Jabalpur	33.48
81.	New Line	Bimlagarh to Talcher	11.70
82.	New Line	Barwadih to Chirmiri Restoration of railway line	2.00
83.	New Line	Jeypore to Navragpur	4.05
84.	New Line	Lohardaga to Korba	13.05
85.	New Line	Naupada Road to Baragarh Road via Padamapur	5.40
86.	New Line	Talcher/Hindol Road to Berhampur/Gopalpur	0.50
87.	New Line	Pendra Road-Korba/Gerva Road	6.30
88.	New Line	Ramtek to Gotegaon via Khawasa, Seoni and Dhuma	2.00

1	2	3	4
89.	New Line	Kalinga Nagar/Daitari & Gopalpur complexes-Augmentation of rail infrastructure for proposed steel plants at	Nil
90.	New Line	Raipur-Jarsaguda via Khartapalan, Baloda Bazar, Batgaon and Sarangarh	20.92
91.	New Line	Ponduru-Razam	1.35
92.	New Line	Kottavalasa to Anakapalli bye pass line	1.80
93.	New Line	Talcher station to Talcher-Sambalpur line	0.30
94.	New Line	Jaypore-Malkangiri	8.10
95.	New Line	Katangi to Tirodi	0.90
96.	Gauge Conversion	Chhindwara-Nainpur	6.30
97.	Gauge Conversion	Naghbir to Nagpur	4.77
98.	Gauge Conversion	Chhindwara-Nagpur	6.77
99.	Doubling	Khurda Road-Puri	4.05
100.	Doubling	Chakdarpur-Bandamunda 3rd line	14.88
101.	Doubling	Bilaspur-Anuppur	8.88
102.	Doubling	Titlagarh-Raipur section on RV line & Titlagarh-Jharsuguda	31.60
103.	Doubling	Kottavalasa-Simhachalam 4th line & Vizayanagaram-Kottavalasa 3rd line	4.77
104.	Traffic Facility work	Rail facilities required on Eastern Coastal area of South Eastern Railway	20.00
Southern			
105.	New Line	Punalur to Erumeli	2.92
106.	New Line	Port Blair-Diglipur	16.13
107.	New Line	Ernakulam-Punalur-Trivandrum	9.18
108.	New Line	Mysore-Mangalore	16.20
109.	New Line	Kumbakonam to Namakal	12.82
110.	New Line	Madurai-Tuticorin new line and gauge conversion of Virudhunagar-Manmadurai	12.49
111.	New Line	Vaikam-Vaikam Road	0.68

1	2	3	4
112.	New Line	Bulb rail line at Shoranur	0.27
113.	New Line	Jolarpettai to Hosur via Krishnagiri	13.50
114.	New Line	Madurai-Kottayam	13.50
115.	Gauge Conversion	Madurai-Coimbatore	9.78
116.	Doubling	Tiruvaliore-Arakkonam 3rd line	3.51
117.	Traffic Facility work	2nd coaching terminal at Trivandrum	1.50
118.	Traffic Facility work	Chennai area-Optimisation and preparation of Master Plan for integrated development of rail infrastructure	5.00
119.	Traffic Facility work	Bangalore-Inter modal study (Metropolitan Transport Project)	10.00
Western			
120.	New Line	Bhavnagar-Tarapur	10.14
121.	New Line	Dungarpur to Ratlam via Banswara	27.00
122.	New Line	Kharaghoda-Santalpur	6.75
123.	New Line	Jaisalmer to Kandla	81.00
124.	New Line	Veraval to Kodinar	2.4
125.	Gauge conversion	Udaipur City-Himmatnagar-Ahmedabad	24.89
126.	Gauge conversion	Pratapnagar to Chhota Udaipur Gauge conversion and new BG line from Chhota Udaipur to Dhar	12.24
127.	Gauge conversion	Kalol-Kadi-Kotasan	3.60
128.	Gauge conversion	Mahesana-Taranga Hill	3.85
129.	Doubling	Goregaon-Borivali	7.64
130.	Doubling	Udhna-Jalgaon	19.91
131.	Doubling	Mumbai Central-Boravali	5.00
132.	Doubling	Ujjain-Indore	10.80
133.	Doubling	Delhi-Ahmedabad	63.18
134.	Traffic Facility work	Cochin Terminal at Dadar	1.00

[Translation]

Construction of Road Overbridge/Road Under Bridge in Rajasthan

4601. SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have laid down any guidelines for the construction of road over/under bridges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of road over/under bridges sanctioned for Rajasthan during the last three years, location-wise;

(d) the details of proposals for construction of road under/over bridges are pending;

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(f) the details of present status of on-going construction work of road under/over bridges?

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

(b) Road Over/Under Bridges are constructed on cost sharing basis or 'deposit' terms or under Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) scheme. Busy Level Crossings having traffic density of one lakh or more TVUs (Train Vehicle Unit - a unit obtained by multiplying the number of road vehicles with the number of trains passing over the level crossing in 24 hours) are considered for replacement by Road Over/Under Bridge on cost sharing basis, on State Govt. sponsoring such a proposal as per extant rules. The cost is borne in the ratio of 50:50 by Railway and concerned State Government for a two lane over bridge and two footpaths and its approaches. Construction of over bridges on new roads or in replacement of level crossings not qualifying for replacement on cost sharing basis are considered on 'deposit' terms i.e. full cost of construction and maintenance is borne by sponsoring authority.

In addition, under BOT scheme, State Governments can engage private entrepreneurs to construct Road Over/Under Bridges and collect toll from users and/or exploit the space underneath the bridge approaches commercially for a specified period.

(c) and (f) Statement I is attached.

(d) and (e) Statement II is attached.

Statement I

One cost sharing basis

Sl.No.	L.C. No.	Location	Status
1.	71-A	Hanumangarh-Bhatinda section of Rajasthan. Sanctioned in the Works Programme of 2000-2001	Profile sketch was not acceptable to State PWD. Revised profile sketch after joint inspection is being prepared.
2.	196	Road Over Bridge in Sikar Yard. Sanctioned in the Works Programme of 2000-2001	Detailed Estimate for approaches is awaited from State Govt.

On Deposit Terms

1.	RUB between Durgapura-Sanganer. Sanctioned in 2000-2001.	Tender opened on 28.3.2001 and is under finalisation
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On BOT concept

1.	24A	ROB on Kishangadh on Ajmer-Jaipur Section. Sanctioned in 1998-99.	Commissioned on Feb. 2000
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Statement II

Sl.No.	Name of Works	Present position
1.	Road Over Bridge at Bansī Industrial Area at L.C. No. 206 in Jaipur city	State Govt extended proposal in Sept. 2000 but yet to furnish information like width, key plan etc. & undertaking for closure of level crossing.
2.	Road Over Bridge at Mandore at L.C. No. 11 in Jodhpur city	—do—
3.	Road Under Bridge at Lal Sagar in lieu of L.C. No. C-9	Proposal approved for inclusion in supplementary Works Programme.

Railway Station on Contract

downgraded into contractor-operated halt stations on account of meagre traffic

4602. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

[English]

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Railway Station on Ko Theke Par Diye Jane Ki Soochna Se Jan rosh" appearing in 'Dainik Jagaran' (Varanasi) dated May 19, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to give Kopaganj and Ghosi railway stations on Indara-Dohri Ghat rail route under North Eastern Railways on contract basis; and

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

(b) and (c) Indara-Dohrihat section is an uneconomic branch line of North Eastern Railway where certain railway stations including Kopaganj and Ghosi have been

Cost of Power

4603. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of Power in Assam and other States in the North Eastern States region per unit has already gone upto Rs. 4; and

(b) if so, the details of the prevailing power tariff in commercial, domestic, agricultural and industrial sectors in Assam and other NE States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The average power tariff for commercial, domestic, agricultural and industrial sectors in Assam and other North-Eastern States during 2000-01 are as under:

(Paise/Kwh)

Sl. No.	Name of States	Commercial	Domestic	Agricultural/ Irrigation	Industrial
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	200.00	200.00	0.00	200.00
2.	Assam	416.56	146.47	233.24	361.40
3.	Manipur	210.00	167.97	125.40	125.27
4.	Meghalaya	205.91	130.75	52.00	202.23
5.	Mizoram	176.00	115.00	0.00	217.00
6.	Nagaland	280.00	160.00	0.00	225.00
7.	Tripura	130.00	95.00	75.00	120.00

Closure of ONGC/OIL Offices from Bihar

4604. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has allowed its PSUs like ONGC and Oil India Limited to pull out its offices and operations from Bihar;

(b) whether ONGC and OIL has completed its targets fixed by the Union Government for exploration schemes in Bihar; and

(c) the reason to suspend operation in Bihar by both PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Operations of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) in Gandak Project in Bihar and its office at Patna were closed on 30.4.1996. Land belonging to the Railways which was being utilised as storage yard and the railway siding were handed over by ONGC to the Railways in February, 1998. OIL has never operated in Bihar.

While there were no targets, ONGC had acquired 122 Ground Line Kilometers of 2D seismic data in Bihar, during the year 1997 in the field season 1996-97. In addition, Research & Development activities in coalbed methane were initiated in 1997-98 by ONGC in the Jharia coal-field areas of Dhanbad district of Bihar, which now falls in Jharkhand.

The operations of ONGC in Bihar were suspended since its activities had not brought out any encouraging results.

[Translation]

**Setting up of Financial Institute for
Hydel Power Projects**

4605. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under the consideration of the Government to set up a separate financial institute for small and medium hydel power projects;

(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 POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Surcharge on Diesel

4606. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have levied any surcharge on diesel with low quantity of sulphur since July, 2001;

(b) if so, the amount likely to be earned therefrom; and

(c) the purpose for which this amount is proposed to be spent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The ex-storage point price of 0.05% maximum sulphur diesel was revised in July, 2001. This was necessitated since the manufacturing process of diesel with 0.05% maximum sulphur involves higher cost of production to refineries and also the prices of this grade of diesel carry a premium over the normal grade in the international market.

[English]

Documentary Film by IREDA

4607. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKEHDI: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) runs an awareness campaign through print publicity and by making documentary films on its activities;

(b) if so, the total budget of IREDA for publicity and the amount spent thereon during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the names of agencies/companies who produced films for IREDA during the last three years; and

(d) the titles and themes of the films telecast, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) has been organizing awareness and publicity campaigns on its various activities through print and electronic media and also by making documentary films. The details of budget allocated by IREDA for the publicity and amount spent thereon year-wise, during the last three years is as given below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Total Budget	Expenditure
1998-99	10.00	5.98
1999-2000	40.00	44.56
2000-2001	60.00	88.21

(c) and (d) M/s. Prime Images Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore and M/s. Factual Media Network, New Delhi were engaged for producing two Video Films for IREDA during the last three years. Films on "Solar Cooker" in 10 languages and on "Women in Renewable Energy" were produced during this period. These films were screened during various Business Development Meets etc. on renewable energy. The films were not, telecast so far.

Target Set by NTPC for Power Generation

4608. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the target set by NTPC for power generation from Vindhyachal Thermal Power Plant during the Ninth Plan;

(b) the actual achievement made by that Thermal Plant during the plan period;

(c) whether the Government have a proposal for the expansion of that Plant;

(d) if so, the steps taken thereon; and

(e) the projection made for power generation after its expansion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) During the Ninth Plan, Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Plant of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) generated 47,687 Million Units against a target of 44,902 Million Units (till July, 2001). The year-wise details of target sets and actual achievements of the project are as under:—

Ninth Plan

Generation (Million Units)

Years	Target (MOU)	Actual
1997-1998	8890	8750
1998-1999	8800	9934
1999-2000	10858	9895
2000-2001	11600	14196
2001-2002 (April to July 2001)	4754 (Pro-rata)	4912
Total	44902	47687

(c) to (e) NTPC has proposed expansion of Vindhyachal STPP as Stage-III by addition of 1000 MW capacity. The feasibility report for Stage-III submitted to Central Electricity Authority by NTPC is under appraisal for techno-economic clearance.

[Translation]

Performance of Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Agriculture

4609. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the performance of each of the Centrally sponsored schemes undertaken for the development of agriculture in Maharashtra during each of the last two years; and

(b) the details of amount allocated and utilized by the State during the said period, scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) The details of amounts released and utilised by Maharashtra Government under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are enclosed at statement I. With a view to providing greater flexibility to States, a Macro Management Scheme "Supplementation/Complementation of States efforts through Work Plans" by integrating 27 on-going Centrally Sponsored Schemes was launched in October, 2000 in all States including Maharashtra. Under the scheme, the Central assistance is provided to States

based on Work Plans comprising of region/crop/area specific interventions for the development of agriculture in the State. A list of the 27 Centrally Sponsored Schemes subsumed under Macro Management Scheme is given at statement II.

Centrally Sponsored Schemes supplement the efforts of the State Government in increasing the production and productivity of crops. The performance of Schemes is reflected in terms of production and productivity of crops. The details of area, production and productivity of major crops during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 as a result of implementation of these Schemes are given at statement III.

Statement I

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.		1999-2000 Allocation/Expenditure Releases		2000-2001 Allocation/Expenditure Releases	
		3	4	5	6
I.	CROP	1228.97	852.33	622.10	161.40
1.	Integrated Cereal Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Rice)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.	Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Wheat Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Wheat)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Coarse Cereals Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP Coarse Cereals)	389.65	95.97	72.30	72.30
4.	Sustainable Development of sugarcane Based Cropping System Areas (SUBACS)	271.63	423.96	23.80	23.80
5.	Special Jute Development Programme	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Technology Mission on Cotton	567.69	332.40	526.00	65.30
II.	TMOP	1480.43	1281.13	1138.24	844.83
7.	Oilseed Production Programme (OPP)	1030.43	890.33	825.00	576.11
8.	National Pulses Development Project (NPDP)	430.00	275.85	271.00	238.64

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Accelerated Maize Development Programme	20.00	114.95	42.24	30.08
10.	Oil Palm Development Programme (OPDP)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
III.	Horticulture	3173.80	1145.66	383.97	575.36
11.	Integrated Development of Tropical Arid and Temperate zone Fruits	200.00	229.19	43.58	64.06
12.	Production and Supply of Vegetable Seeds	18.00	17.94	0.00	0.00
13.	Development of Root and Tuber Crops	0.50	3.45	0.00	0.00
14.	Development of Commercial Floriculture	18.70	46.72	6.00	6.00
15.	Development of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants	8.00	8.00	0.35	1.36
16.	Development of Cashews/including Cocoa	545.98	700.38	0.80	170.70
17.	Integrated Programme for Development of Spices	71.19	135.03	21.01	21.01
18.	Development of Mushroom	6.68	4.95	3.00	3.00
19.	Use of Plastics in Agriculture	2304.75	0.00	309.23	309.23
20.	Bee Keeping	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
IV.	Seeds	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.15
21.	Scheme for Foundation and Certified Seed Production of Vegetable Crops	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.15
V.	Fertiliser	203.41	45.49	63.64	228.45
22.	Balanced and Integrated use of Fertiliser	203.41	45.49	63.64	228.45
VI.	Agri. Machinery	269.10	268.90	36.90	0.00
23.	Promotion of agricultural Mechanisation among small farmers	269.10	268.90	36.90	0.00
VII.	RFS	800.00	1628.23	1290.00	1411.11
24.	National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR)	800.00	1628.23	1290.00	1411.11
VIII.	NRM (SWC)	716.50	699.05	136.75	545.61
25.	Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood prone Rivers	700.00	699.05	133.00	541.66

1	2	3	4	5	6
26.	Reclamation and Development of Alkali (Usuar) Soil	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
27.	Strengthening of State Land Use Boards	16.50	0.00	3.75	3.95
IX.	Cooperation	2.84	0.00	0.00	0.00
28.	Assistance to Weaker Section Co-operatives	2.84	0.00	0.00	0.00
X.	DTE. of E&S	37.00	59.69	39.50	21.45
29.	Timely Reporting Scheme (TRS)	27.00	46.69	30.00	16.65
30.	Establishment of Agency for Reporting Statistics	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Improvement of Crop Statistics (ICS)	10.00	13.00	9.50	4.80
XI	Policy & Plan	0.00	0.00	6884.75	4553.37
32.	Macro Management	0.00	0.00	6884.75	4553.37
XII.	Agriculture Census	16.90	14.72	40.26	0.00
33.	Agriculture Census	16.90	14.72	40.26	0.00
Total		7928.95	5995.20	10636.11	8352.73

*Provisional

Statement II*List of Centrally Sponsored Schemes*

1. Assistance to Coop. Weaker Section.
2. Assistance to Women Cooperatives.
3. Non-overdue Cover Scheme.
4. Agri. Credit Stabilisation Fund.
5. Special Scheme for SC/ST
6. Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in Rice Based Cropping System Areas.
7. Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in Wheat Based Cropping System Areas.
8. Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in Coarse Cereals Based Cropping System Areas
9. Special Jute Development Programme
10. Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System Areas.
11. Balanced & Integrated Use of Fertilizer.
12. Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization among Small farmers
13. Integrated Development of Tropical, Arid & Temperate Zone Fruits.
14. Production and Supply of Vegetable Seeds.
15. Development of Commercial Floriculture.
16. Development of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants.
17. Development of Roots & Tuber Crops
18. Development of Cocoa & Cashew
19. Integrated Programme for Development of Spices.

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 20. Development of Mushroom.
21. Use of Plastics in Agriculture.
22. Bee-Keeping.
23. National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas. | 24. Scheme for Foundation & Centrifiged Seed Production of Vegetable Crops.
25. Soil Conservation in Catchments of River Valley Projects & Flood Prone Rivers.
26. Reclamation & Development of Alkali Soils
27. State Land Use Boards. |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Statement III*Details of Area, Production and Productivity of Major Crops in Maharashtra*

Crops	Area (000' hectares)		Production ('000 tonnes)		Yield (Kg/Hectare)	
	1998-1999	1999-2000	1998-1999	1999-2000	1998-1999	1999-2000
Rice	1483.1	1508.8	2467.6	2535.9	1664	1681
Wheat	1015.5	1049.1	1308.5	1436.1	1289	1369
Coarse Cereals	7096.2	7408.9	6721.8	6446.8	947	870
Pulses	3499.5	3605.1	2254.9	2188.4	644	607

Setting up of Power Plants

4610. RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any power plant has not been set up in Uttar Pradesh for the last ten years resulting in acute power shortage;

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

(c) the details of power plants set up in the country during the last three years, location-wise; State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The following hydro/thermal power projects have been commissioned during the period 1991-92 to 2000-01 in Uttar Pradesh:

Name of the Project/Capacity (MW)	Commissioned in
Central Sector	
Tanakpur HEP (3x40), NHPC	1991-92
NCTPP (4x210), NTPC	1991-92, 1992-93 & 1993-94
Dadri CCGT (GT-4x131+ST-2x146.5), NTPC	1991-92, 1992-93 & 1993-94
Unchahar TPP U-3&4 (2x210), NTPC	1998-99 & 1999-2000
Tanda U-4 (110)*, NTPC	1997-98
State Sector	
Khara HEP (3x24)	1991-92
Sobla HEP (2x3)	1998-99 & 1999-2000
Anpara 'B' (2x500)	1993-94, 1994-95

*State Sector, now transferred to NTPC.

(b) Does not arise.

commissioned during the last three years are given in the statement.

(c) The details of State-wise power plants

Statement*List of power projects commissioned during the last three years*

Names of Project	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
1	2	3	4
Central Sector			
Unchahar, NTPC	210	210	
Kayamkulam, NTPC	230.6	119.4	
Vindhyachal, NTPC	500	500	
Faridabad, NTPC		286	144
Kahalguri, NEEPCO	30		
Agartala, NEEPCO	21		
Doyang, NEEPCO			75
Rangit-III, NHPC		60	
RAPP, NPC		220	220
Kaiga, NPC		220	220
State Sector			
Thein Dam (Punjab)			600
Bhatinda (Punjab)	210		
Suratgarh (Rajasthan)	250	250	
Panipat (Haryana)			210
Ghanvi (H.P.)			22.5
Chenai-III (J&K)			7.5
Upper Sindh (J. & K.)		35	
Sobla (U.P.)	6		
Wanakbori (Gujarat)	210		
Sanjay Gandhi Extn. (M.P.)	210	210	
Khaperkheda (Mahar.)			420
Kadana (Guj.)	60		
Bansagar Ton (M.P.)			20.0

1	2	3	4
Rajghat (M.P.)		45	
Koyna-IV (Mah.)	250	750	
Warna (Maha.)	8		
Dudhaganga (Maha.)		24	
Raichur (Karnataka)	210	210	
Barhampuram (Kerala)	20		
Kozhikode (Kerala)		128	
Karikal (Pondicherry)	22.9	9.6	
Srisailam (A.P.)			
Singur (A.P.)	15	15	60
Sharavathi (Karnataka)			
Kalinadi - Kodalalli (Karnataka)	180	40	
Kuttiyadi Extn. (Kerala)			50
Kakkad (Kerala)		50	
Poringal Kuthu (Kerala)	16		
Pillaiperumanllur (T.N.) GT			225
Sathnur Dam (T.N.)	7.5		
Kovikalappal (T.N.)			107
Kunda-V Extn. (T.N.)		30	
Bakreshwar (W.B.)		210	420
Upper Indravati (Orissa)		300	300
Teesta Canal (W.B.)	15	22.5	
DG (Lakshadweep)			3.05
DG (A&N Island)			5.72
Private Sector			
Jojobera (Bihar)			120
Magnum Power FO (Hary.) (Liquid Fuel)		25	
Paguthan CCGT (Gujarat)	250		
Surat Lignite (Gujarat)		250	

1	2	3	4
Dabhol-I (Maha.)	740		
Salgaocar CCGT (Goa) (Liquid Fuel)		48	
Kondapalli, (A.P.) Liquid Fuel			350
Bellary-DG (Karnataka)			25.2
Torangallu (Karnataka)	130	130	
Eloor (BSES) (Kerala) (Liquid Fuel)		135	39
Samalpatti-DG (T.N.)			105
Basin Bridge DG (T.N.) (Liquid Fuel)	200		
Budge Budge (W. Bengal)	250		
Banaskandi (Assam)	5		

Encroachment of Railway Land

4611. DR. M. P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the arrangements made by the Government for preventing encroachment on railway land;

(b) whether there is any Government machinery to get information about these encroachments;

(c) whether officers are responsible for preventing encroachment on railway land;

(d) if so, the reasons for encroachments despite fixing the responsibility in this regard and the number of officers assigned the responsibility of preventing the encroachment on Railway land; and

(e) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (e) The railway land boundary has been demarcated at site by putting boundary posts. fencing and boundary walls are provided in vulnerable areas. There are legal deterrents to encroachments also, such as the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised

Occupants) Act, 1971. The Railways Act, 1989 also has a provision in Section 147 that any person trying to encroach upon the railway land is a trespasser and is liable to be evicted and punished. The field officials have instructions to be vigilant in regard to encroachments on railway land and prevent the same. If they are unable to prevent any encroachment, they have to immediately inform the matter to local Police for assistance and to higher officials. These officials carry out frequent inspections in their jurisdictions to get information about encroachments to prevent encroachments and evict encroachers. The Railways Act, 1989 provides for any railway servant to prevent and remove such trespass. There is pressure on public land in urban areas due to urban migration. Railway lands lie in ribbon like long stretches and are thus difficult to safeguard from incidents of trespassing and encroachments despite continuous efforts to prevent these. The Government wants to prevent all trespass/encroachments and wants to remove encroachers from railway lands.

[English]

Introducing Replaceable Cylinders

4612. SHRI K.E.KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce replaceable cylinders as Auto Fuel for two wheelers and three wheelers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any study has been conducted on the safety of this usage;

(d) if so, the findings thereof;

(e) whether any request from Andhra Pradesh Government has been received in this regard for its early introduction; and

(f) if so, the decision taken by the Government on introducing these replaceable cylinders?

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

(c) and (d) Government constituted a Committee in April, 2000 comprising of LPG Equipment Research Centre, Bangalore (as convenor), Chief Controller of Explosives (CCOE) and Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) to examine the feasibility of use of LPG as an auto fuel by two/three wheelers with replaceable cylinders. The Committee Members except ARAI were of the view that the use of replaceable cylinders can lead to unauthorized and illegal storage, pilferage and various other problems leading to hazardous situations involving public safety.

(e) and (f) Andhra Pradesh Government requested the Government to allow the use of replaceable cylinders in two/three wheelers. However, the proposal has not been agreed to by the Government in view of the reasons stated above.

Canteens in Ministry Office

4613. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of canteens working separately for staff and officers in the Ministry office with working hours in each case;

(b) the names of eatables being sold by each canteen either against cash or against refreshment vouchers/requisitions;

(c) the monthly expenditure in case of refreshment requisitions during 1999-2000 and 2001 upto June;

(d) whether some mobile canteens are also functioning in the Ministry office;

(e) if so, the names of eatables being sold by Mobile outlets;

(f) whether Ministerial canteens provide room service to staff and officers against cash payment;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) There are two Canteens operating in Rail Bhavan viz. Railway Board Staff Canteen and Northern Railway Canteen. The Northern Railway Canteen is primarily meeting the requirements of Ministers' Office and other senior Officers. The Railway Board Staff Canteen operates from 0900 hrs. to 1730 hrs. The Northern Railway Canteen operates from 0800 hours till required.

(b) Statements showing eatables being sold by Railway Board Staff Canteen and Northern Railway Canteen are given in statement I & II respectively.

(c) Statement showing expenditure incurred during 1999-2000 and upto June 2001 against requisition slips are at statement III.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Mobile trolley system has been introduced by the Railway Board Staff Canteen on 1st, 4th & 5th floors of Rail Bhavan. Tea along with generally two sweet and two saltish items such as Besan Burfi, Besan Laddoo, Boondi Laddoo, Baloo Shahi, Vada, Samosa, Pakoda and Bhonda are available on these mobile trolleys.

(f) and (g) All items, except non-vegetarian and Lunch items, are supplied in Rooms by Railway Board Staff Canteen against cash payment.

(h) Does not arise.

Statement I*List of Eatables being sold by Railway Board Staff Canteen*

S.No. I	Items
1	2
Sweets	
1.	Besan Burfi/Boondi Laddoo/Balu Shahi
2.	Besan Laddoo/Coconut Laddoo/Jalebi
3.	Gulab Jamun
4.	Khoya Burfi
5.	Kheer
Namkeen	
1.	Alloo Bhonda/Samosa/Urd Dal Vada/Channa Dal Vada/Matthi/Palak Pakora
2.	Kachori/Bread Pakora
3.	Vegetable Cutlet
Beverages	
1.	Tea
2.	Espresso Coffee
3.	Fresh Coffee
4.	Apple Juice
Other Items	
1.	Veg. Sandwich
2.	Veg. Patties
3.	Mixture (Packet)
4.	Groundnuts (Packet)
5.	Packed lunch

1	2
Non-Veg. Items	
1.	Mutton Curry/Mutton Keema
2.	Mutton cutlet
3.	Omlette/Mutton Nargis
Lunch Items	
1.	Idli with Sambhar/Puri Bhaji
2.	Upma/Dosa/Veg. curry/Dahi Vada
3.	Vegetable ordinary
4.	Chapati/Dal
5.	Channa plate with Kulcha
6.	Burger
7.	Veg. Thali
8.	Rice Pullao
9.	Channa Plate

Statement II*List of Eatables being sold by Northern Railway Canteen*

Sl.No.	Items
1.	Tea
2.	Coffee
3.	Biscuits/Mineral Water/Cheese Roll
4.	Chips/Fresh Juice/Cashewnuts
5.	Veg. Cutlet/Veg. Sandwich
6.	Toasts
7.	Packed Lunch
8.	Fruity
9.	Sweets/Samosa
10.	Special sweets/French fires
11.	Dhokla/Soup

Statement III*Monthly Expenditure in case of Refreshment Requisitions during 1999-2000 in Rupees*

Canteen	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	October	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March
Railway Board Staff Canteen	123866	113293	130715	147883	158496	153504	162473	165075	183204	156442	169972	174193
Northern Railway Canteen	191356	166054	201211	204056	124584	119536	144474	114348	146078	149172	179917	189297
Total	315222	279347	331926	351939	283080	273040	306947	279423	329282	305614	349889	363490

*Monthly Expenditure in Case of Refreshment
Requisitions 2001 upto June in Rupees*

Name of Canteen	April	May	June
Railway Board Staff Canteen	166488	192030	183604
Northern Railway Canteen	179678	222103	163933
Total	346166	414133	347537

Construction of Kichha-Khatima Rail Line

4614. SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the then Prime Minister (Shri H.D. Deva Gowda) had laid the foundation stone at Kashipur in 1996 for the construction of a new Railway Line from Kichha to Khatima via Sitarganj and Nanakmatta; and

(b) if so, the progress made so far in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

EMU Extension upto Bahadurgarh

4615. SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Capital Region Planning Board has suggested to extend EMU services upto NCR towns;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to extend the electrification upto Bahadurgarh so as to extend the EMU services; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. National Capital Region Planning Board has accepted the report suggesting development of EMU services within Delhi & NCR towns.

The project will be implemented by National Capital Region Planning Board with equal equity participation of Ministry of Urban Development & P.A., Ministry of Railways and the beneficiary State Governments. Extension of EMU services to Bahadurgarh is also a part of the report. However, no decision on implementation of the report has yet been received from NCR Planning Board.

Construction of Railway Station

4616. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the demand of several local representatives and Members of Parliament regarding construction of Railway Station at Nanaviz under Daund-Pune rail line Solapur Division;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to construct a railway station at Nanaviz;

(c) if so, the time by which the said railway station is likely to be constructed; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (d) Opening of a halt station at Nanaviz between Patas and Daund railway stations on Daund-Pune section has been examined and the same has not been found justified both financially and operationally.

LPG Distributorship at Bareilly

4617. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 769 dated July 26, 2001 and state:

(a) the names of all the 41 locations where such LPG distributorships in Bareilly Commissioner are yet to be set up; and

(b) the time by which the selection process for the said distributorships are likely to be completed in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The names of 41 locations pending for commissioning

of LPG distributorships by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies in Bareilly Commissionary (U.P.) are given in the statement enclosed.

It generally takes 6-12 months for commissioning the LPG distributorship from the date of interview.

Statement

Details of LPG Distributorship Location Pending for Commissioning by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) under Bareilly Commissionary as on July 01, 2001

Sl.No.	Location	District	Name of OMC
1	2	3	4
1.	Bareilly	Bareilly	BPCL
2.	Bisharatganj	Bareilly	BPCL
3.	Culttarbuckganj	Bareilly	BPCL
4.	Dhaura Tanda	Bareilly	BPCL
5.	Shergarh	Bareilly	BPCL
6.	Sirauli	Bareilly	BPCL
7.	Thiria Nizamat Khan	Bareilly	BPCL
8.	Neoria Hussainpur	Pilibhit	BPCL
9.	Allahganj	Sahajahanpur	BPCL
10.	Jalalabad	Sahajahanpur	BPCL
11.	Kanth	Sahajahanpur	BPCL
12.	Mirzapur Dev. Board	Sahajahanpur	BPCL
13.	Bisauli	Badaun	IOCL
14.	Dataganj	Badaun	IOCL
15.	Islamnagar	Badaun	IOCL
16.	Bilsi	Badaun	IOCL
17.	Allahpur	Badaun	IOCL
18.	Gawan	Badaun	IOCL
19.	Bareilly (B)	Bareilly	IOCL
20.	Bareilly	Bareilly	IOCL
21.	Bareilly (A)	Bareilly	IOCL
22.	Nawabganj	Bareilly	IOCL

1	2	3	4
23.	Sainthal	Bareilly	IOCL
24.	Deoranian	Bareilly	IOCL
25.	Sherpurkalan	Pilibhit	IOCL
26.	Pilibhit	Pilibhit	IOCL
27.	Powayan	Sahajahanpur	IOCL
28.	Kudaganj	Sahajahanpur	IOCL
29.	Meeranpurkatra	Sahajahanpur	IOCL
30.	Babrala	Badaun	HPCL
31.	Wazirganj	Badaun	HPCL
32.	Bareilly	Bareilly	HPCL
33.	Mirganj	Bareilly	HPCL
34.	Sheeshgarh	Bareilly	HPCL
35.	Bilsanda	Pilibhit	HPCL
36.	Pilibhit	Pilibhit	HPCL
37.	Khuthar	Sahajahanpur	HPCL
38.	Sahajahanpur	Sahajahanpur	HPCL
39.	Richa	Bareilly	IBP Co. Ltd.
40.	Rithaura	Bareilly	IBP Co. Ltd.
41.	Fatehganj	Bareilly	IBP Co. Ltd.

Categorisation of Areca as Food Commodity

4618. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sent any proposal to declare Areca as 'Food Commodity';

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

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir. The Government of Karnataka has not sent any proposal to declare Areca as "food commodity".

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

Bungling in Delhi Public Library

4619. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem regarding "Bungling of Lakhs of Rupees in Delhi Public Library" appearing in the Hindustan (Hindi) on June 29, 2001;

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

(c) the amount deposited by the cashier in the Bank on August 27, 1997;

(d) whether any complaint has been lodged regarding the bungling or any inquiry has been ordered in this regard; and

(e) if so, the outcome of the inquiry and action taken against the guilty officials?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The Delhi Public Library authorities are well aware of the newsitem which appeared in the Hindustan (Hindi) on 29.6.2001.

(b) and (c) The Cashier deposited a sum of Rs. 2154.85 only in the Bank on 27.8.97 instead of Rs. 1,92,154.85 and tampered the counterfoil of the Bank deposit slip. The irregularity of tampering the records by the then Cashier came to the notice of the authorities on 30.9.98 while compiling the Bank Reconciliation Statements for the period from April, 97 to March, 98. On verification of the Cash Chest, the amount of Rs. 1,90,000/- which was not deposited by the Cashier was found lying in the Chest and the same was deposited in the Bank on 30.9.98 itself.

(d) and (e) An inquiry was conducted and Departmental Proceedings were initiated against the then Cashier who tampered the official records and the penalty of withholding his promotion for a period of five years has been imposed on him.

Corruption in Railways

4620. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to rampant corruption in recruitment, tendering, disposal of scrap etc., there has been heavy loss of revenue;

(b) if so, the loss suffered as a result thereof during the last three years;

(c) the steps taken to check the same by the Government henceforth;

(d) whether the Railways while floating tenders for the disposal of scrap have asked the tenderers for earnest money deposit;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether there is any written document on tendering to be followed by the Railways;

(h) if so, whether there is a proposal to lay the tender documents on the table of the House; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Regular checks are carried out to check the same.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) In tenders for the sale of scrap, there is generally a stipulation of Earnest Money Deposit of 5% of the estimated Sale Value subject to a maximum of Rs. 50,000.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) Yes, Sir.

(h) it is a public document and is available for sale.

(i) In view of answer to (h) above, it is not required.

Milk Adulteration

4621. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has about 200 million milch heads with some 75 million farmers producing about 78 million tonnes of milk a year with productivity of less than 1000 kg. per year of milk yield as against some 12000 in Israel;

(b) whether average monthly income of a dairy farmer is about Rs. 1000/- as against estimated income of Rs. 1 lakh for a person engaged in milk adulteration business which has emerged as a thriving parallel milk economy as reported in the Hindustan Times dated December 26, 2000;

(c) whether any anti-adulteration steps have been taken apart from improvement in the productivity of milch animal as outlined in plan documents, NDDB/NDRI plans over the decades;

(d) whether synthetic milk detection kits developed by the Government have made any dent on milk adulteration; and

(e) if so, the details of such kits sold, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) As per livestock census 1992 the milch animal population of India was 98.07 millions and the production of milk in 1998-99 was 75.2 million tonnes. The average yield of milk per cow and buffalo during 1998-99 was 1049 and 1552 litres per annum respectively.

(b) The observation reported in the Hindustan Times, dated 26.12.2000 have quoted from the study of a NGO "INITIATIVES" Mumbai. the study by "Initiatives" is based on the data from inadequate sample size covering selected areas only to arrive at invalid results and misleading generalizations.

(c) Sale of milk and milk products containing substances not found in milk except as provided in the Rules, is already prohibited under the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955. The Food (Health) Authorities of the States/U.Ts. have been advised to step-up surveillance measures and take appropriate legal action against the offenders.

(d) National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal has devised field testing kit for checking adulteration under the field condition. It has helped in discouraging the practice of adulteration in milk under commercial condition.

(e) So far the Institute has sold 74 nos. of these kits. The details of such kits sold, State-wise are being collected.

Construction of Rail Birdge over River Teesta

4622. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways was to undertake construction of some railway over bridges over river Teesta in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Railways in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Loan from UTI

4623. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are unable to pay salary to its employees and have had to arrange loan of Rs. 2500 crores from UTI;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to tide over the prevailing situation?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Conservation of Monuments by Traditional Methods

4624. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India has decided to undertake a major drive for restoration and preservation of a number of historical and prestigious monuments all over the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the funds earmarked therefor, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to adopt traditional construction methodology and building material for restoration of monuments?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Archaeological Survey of India has a normal annual

programme for maintenance, conservation & preservation of the centrally protected monuments as per their actual needs and the availability of resources. The funds allocated for the maintenance & conservation of the centrally protected monuments circle-wise is as per statement enclosed.

(c) As far as possible, the conservation of the centrally protected monuments is done as per archaeological norms, taking care that the authenticity of the ancient form, fabric and texture of the monument are maintained.

Statement

Circle wise allocation of fund for 2001-2002

Sl.No.	Name of Circle	Allocation in lakhs
1.	Agra	225
2.	Aurangabad	345
3.	Bangalore	160
4.	Bhopal	145
5.	Bhubaneswar	145
6.	Chennai	160
7.	Calcutta	115
8.	Chandigarh	155
9.	Delhi	200
10.	Dharwad	135
11.	Mini Circle (Goa)	60
12.	Guwahati	150
13.	Hyderabad	180
14.	Jaipur	150
15.	Lucknow	140
16.	Patna	155
17.	Srinagar	100
18.	Thrissure	115
19.	Vadodara	195
20.	Chief Horticulturist	550
21.	Director (Science)	220

[Translation]

Diversion of Trains Route

4625. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representations against the diversion of Sadbhavna Express, Sabarmati Express, Saryu-Yamuna Express and Tata Express trains and requesting for running these trains via Siwan only on old route;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Some representations including that from the Hon'ble Member have been received in this regard. These have been examined but not found implementable. There has been no change in the route of Sadbhavna Express trains which continue to run via existing routes since their inception. 9165/9166 Sabarmati Express and 4649/4650 Saryu Yamuna Express have been diverted to run via Chhapra-Balla-Mau, in order to provide additional service to passengers of Indara-Phephna sector as also to time its arrival at Darbhanga and Muzaffarpur to suit the convenience of travelling public. 8181/8182 Tata-Gorakhpur Express has been terminated at Chhapra from 1.10.1996 due to poor patronage between Chhapra-Gorakhpur. However, a passenger train between Chhapra-Gorakhpur has been provided to cater to the needs of travelling public on this sector.

Arbitrators

4626. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure for appointment of arbitrators by the Government;

(b) the number of persons appointed as arbitrators in the department of company affairs during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have appointed one person or group of persons as arbitrators for more than one term, and;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE, COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) A Permanent Machinery of Arbitrators has been set up in the Department of Public Enterprises to settle all commercial disputes between PSEs *inter se* and between a PSE and a Government Department excluding disputes of income tax, customs and excise. An Officer of the rank of Joint Secretary & Legal Adviser belonging to the Indian Legal Service is appointed as Arbitrator to settle disputes under that scheme. Such appointment is not made for a fixed period. As regards the disputes between the Government/Government Departments and private parties, in certain Departments such as CPWD and DGS&D, a general provision for Arbitration by a single Arbitrator in their conditions of contract has been made. In DGS&D, two Officers of the rank of Director belonging to Indian Legal Service are appointed as Arbitrators. In CPWD, the Arbitrator is appointed on deputation basis for a fixed term. That apart, in terms of arbitration clause in the contracts, the Arbitrators are appointed by the designated Officer of the Department in the arbitration clause.

(b) No Arbitrator has been appointed in the Department of Company Affairs during the last three years.

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

[*English*]

Computerisation of Courts

4627. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH:
SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI:

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

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged the Union Government that the city of Hyderabad should be included along with four other metropolitan cities for mass computerisation and networking of Courts; and

(b) if so, the time by which this request of the State Government is likely to be acceded to?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal is for computerisation and networking of City Civil Courts only for four metropolitan cities *i.e.* Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai as pilot scheme.

Due to constraint of resources, it has not been possible for the Central Government to extend the scheme of computerisation and networking in the subordinate judiciary to other cities including Hyderabad. However, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, for development of infrastructural facilities for the judiciary, the States/UTs are free to utilise the required amount for computerisation within the overall allocation made to the States/UTs.

[*Translation*]

Power Plants In Jharkhand

4628. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the power plants of Jharkhand are lagging far behind their stipulated schedule;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the cost over-run due to inordinate delay in their completion;

(d) whether any officer has been found responsible for causing inordinate delay therein; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) Details indicating original and latest schedules of commissioning, original and latest costs and reasons for time/cost over runs of lagging hydro/thermal power plants of Jharkhand are furnished as under:

Name of Project with Capacity (MW)	Commissioning Schedule Original/Latest	Estimated Cost (Rs. Crores) Original/Latest	Reasons for time/cost overruns
Chandil LBC (2x4 MW)	1988-90/2001-02	12.95/32.49	(i) Funds constraints (ii) Delay in supply and erection of EOT crane (iii) Delay in PH Civil works, (iv) General Price Escalation; and (v) Delay in Supply by BHEL
North Koel (2x12 MW)	1988-89/2002-03	21.94/47.34	(i) Law and Order problems. (ii) General price escalation (iii) Funds constraints (iv) Delay in tail race tunnel/tail race channel and PH civil works.
Tenughat St. II (3x210 MW)	1994-96 @	669.10/2400.00	(i) Paucity of funds, (ii) Price escalation, (iii) Financial tie up and project execution is yet to be taken by project authorities.

@ As order for main plant and equipment is yet to be placed, commissioning schedule cannot be anticipated.

Donations by IOCL

[English]

4629. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation Limited gives donation and advertisements for sports and cultural activities; and

(b) if so, the expenditure incurred by IOCL during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) advertises its products and brands by way of sponsoring or co-sponsoring sports and cultural activities.

(b) The expenditure incurred by the IOC on this account during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 is given below:

Year	Expenditure (Rs.)
1999-2000	3,46,72,000.00
2000-2001	2,87,13,500.00

Outstanding Dues Against SEB

4630. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) are withholding a huge amount of Railways for carrying coal to thermal power plants;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the latest amount outstanding against each SEB; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to recover the outstanding money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Amount outstanding from State Electricity Boards and Power House to end of June 2001 is Rs. 1822.47 Crore.

(b) Dues arose because of the continuing non-viability of the current operations of the SEBs.

(c) A statement is attached.

(d) The steps taken by the Government to recover the outstanding money include:

- (1) State Electricity Boards and Power Houses which fail to observe the conditions of 'Prepayment of Freight' as also payment of current freight are closely monitored by the zonal Railways and regular meetings are held with senior officials of State Electricity Boards and Power Houses.
- (2) Pursuant to Government's decision on 7.02.1997 that the outstanding dues from State Electricity

Boards/Power Houses as on 31.12.1996 would be adjusted from the Central Plan Assistance of the State Governments subject to certain limits, an amount of Rs. 134.80 crore has been received by Railways up to 31.03.2001.

- (3) Adjustment of outstanding from State Electricity Boards against traction bills.
- (4) The Ministry of Railways has approached Ministry of Power Ministry of Finance, Chief Ministers and Chief Secretaries of concerned State Governments at various levels including that of Minister of Railways, urging early steps for clearance of the dues.
- (5) Ministry of Power had set up an Expert Group regarding settlement of SEB Dues.

Statement

The latest amount outstanding against each SEB is as under:—

(Rs. in crore)

Name of State Electricity Board/Power Houses	Outstanding dues as on 30.6.2001
1. Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board	39.11
2. Assam State Electricity Board	0.95
3. Bihar State Electricity Board	3.91
4. Delhi Vidyut Board	136.10
5. Gujarat State Electricity Board	160.37
6. Haryana State Electricity Board	35.18
7. Karnataka State Electricity Board	0.33
8. Maharashtra State Electricity Board	19.71
9. Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board	7.61
10. Punjab State Electricity Board	217.68
11. Rajasthan State Electricity Board	80.58
12. Tamil Nadu State Electricity Board	18.41
13. Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board	22.68
14. West Bengal State Electricity Board	29.38
15. Badarpur Thermal Power Station	976.91
16. National Thermal Power Corporation	70.37
17. Damodar Valley Corporation	2.49
18. Private Power House—Sabarmati	0.70
Total	1822.47

Night Tourism in Humayun's Tomb

4631. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Humayun's tomb in Delhi with lighting system will now be kept open upto 10 p.m. to promote night tourism specially for foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this facility would be extended to other city monuments including the historic Qutab Minar;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Humayun's Tomb is kept open for night viewing between 1900 hrs. to 2100 hrs. on all days for all visitors w.e.f. 12.6.2001 enabling them to view the illumination of the main tomb of the monument on payment of entry fee in force.

(c) to (e) There is no proposal with the Government for extending this facility to other monuments in Delhi.

Direct Subsidy to Farmers

4632. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Associated Chambers of Commerce has suggested the Government to provide direct subsidy to encourage farmers to boost the production of oilseeds; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) No such suggestion has been sent by the Associated Chambers of Commerce to the Government of India.

(b) Question does not arise.

Magarwada Power Project in Daman and Diu

4633. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Magarwada Power Project of 22 KV in Daman and Khardapada Power Station of 220 KV in Silvassa (DNH) are likely to be completed within next two three months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the posts to run these power stations have not been created so far; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government to create posts for these power stations without any further delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The Schemes for 3x50 MVA, 220/66 KV Sub-station at Magarwada in UT of Daman & Diu and 2x100 MVA, 220/66 KV sub-station at Khardapada in UT of Dadra & Nagar Haveli were approved by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) at an estimated cost of Rs. 35.10 crores and Rs. 35.13 crores respectively. As per the latest reports from Central Electricity Authority, these Sub-stations are scheduled for commissioning by December, 2001.

The proposal for creation of posts for these sub-stations has not been agreed to by the competent authority so far in view of the ban imposed by the Deptt. of Expenditure on creation of new posts.

• **Construction and Development near
Oil PSUs in Mumbai**

4634. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of new construction and development coming up near Oil PSUs at Mahul Mumbai;

(b) if so, whether the local residents, MP and also Oil PSUs have drawn attention of his Ministry towards security threat in this area;

(c) if so, whether his Ministry has taken serious note of the same;

(d) if so, whether BPCL, HPCL, IOC have written to his Ministry and to the Ministry of Home Affairs in this regard; and

(e) if so, the observations made by them and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Representations have been received relating to security hazards caused due to traffic congestion on the roads leading to the two refineries of HPCL and BPCL at Mumbai and alleged unauthorised constructions in their vicinity.

(d) and (e) The matter has been taken up by the effected PSUs, BPCL & HPCL with the concerned Central & State Government authorities/agencies.

The Government of Maharashtra has been requested to initiate the following actions:—

- (i) Removal of congestion of traffic along the roads approaching HPCL and BPCL refineries at Mumbai including other installations such as Tata Electric, IDBL, BARC etc, and regulating, construction of residential colonies in the vicinity of these undertakings;
- (ii) Early completion of acquisition proceedings of land for BPCL contiguous to the Refinery to help elimination of the potential security threat to the Refinery; and
- (iii) Advise the Collector, Mumbai Suburban District, to remove the container storage activity of M/s. Bombay Industrial Corporation in the vicinity of HPCL Refinery.

Opening of Duty Free Shops in Hotels

4635. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Duty Free Shops are available only at the airports;

(b) if so, whether the Government are planning to open duty free shops in the hotels and other places;

(c) if so, the details thereof, location-wise; and

(d) the total earning by ITDC from the existing duty free shops and likely to be increased by opening shops in hotels and other places?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) ITDC has no scheme to open duty free shops in hotels or any places other than airports.

(d) The total turnover of ITDC from duty free shops was Rs. 84.51 crores (Prov.) for the year 2000-01. Since there is no proposal to open duty free shops in hotels or any other place, the question of increasing turnover due to that effect does not arise.

[Translation]

Own Farm Water Management

4636. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details about the own Farm Water Management Project;

(b) the names of the States where the said project has been launched;

(c) whether the Government of Bihar has submitted its proposal for the own Farm Water Management Project; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) In order to improve productivity in Eastern part of the country a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme, "Own Farm Water Management" is proposed for implementation during the IX Five Year Plan in the States of Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Eastern U.P. W.B. (9 districts), Arunachal Pradesh, Assam Manipur, and Mizoram. Under the scheme, financial assistance for shallow tube wells, dug wells, lift irrigation points, diesel pump sets would be provided through NABARD as credit linked scheme. The proposed pattern of funding provides for 20% beneficiary's contribution, 30% assistance from Government of India and 50% loan from NABARD.

(c) and (d) The Government of Bihar had submitted a proposal on Million Shallow Tube wells Scheme to the Planning Commission who suggested to this Ministry to cover this under the "**Own Farm Water Management Scheme**". The suggestion of the Planning Commission has been taken into account in the scheme. Besides, Planning Commission have allocated an additional central assistance of Rs. 25.5 crore to the Government of Bihar under the State Plan to implement the Million Shallow Tube Well Project.

[English]

Inland Water System

4637. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether, the Inland Waterways System is running some demonstration of river vessels in some parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the cost of such demonstration work;

(d) the gains from this expenditure;

(e) whether there is a proposal to wind up such work;

(f) if so, the sectors where such river borne vessels are being run; and

(g) the steps proposed to devise new system to use the river network already available in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) which has been entrusted with the responsibility for regulation and development of Inland Water Transportation (IWT) in the country has deployed a cargo vessel 'M.V. Rajagopalachari' available with the organization on National Waterway No. 1 (The Ganges) for demonstration of navigability of the waterway on its various sectors for transportation of cargo.

(c) The cost of demonstration would depend upon the deployment of vessel in particular stretch of the waterway and the river distance covered. IWAI makes possible efforts to recover the expenses to the extent possible in a particular voyage by way of freight charged from the shippers for transportation of their cargo.

(d) Demonstration has to be carried out to establish the navigability of the Waterway and to create confidence amongst the shippers that their products can be carried safely and reach in time by the IWT mode.

(e) No. Sir.

(f) At present demonstration voyages have been conducted on NW-1 as there is only one cargo vessel presently with IWAI.

(g) The Government has taken a series of decisions including adoption of a policy package to attract private sector participation and investment, which are as follows:

- Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) to enter into joint ventures with private sector;
- Equity participation upto a maximum of 40% by Govt. in BOT projects;
- Tax exemption as available in infrastructure sector;
- Enhancement in depreciation rate for inland vessels at par with the rate applicable to ocean going vessels;
- Vessels Building Subsidy of 30% for ship owners for inland vessels built in Indian Shipyards; and
- Levying minimum customs duty on imported equipment and machinery for the development of inland waterways.

[Translation]

Promotion of Art and Culture

4638. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the achievements made by the Government towards promotion and expansion of Arts and Culture;

(b) the details of the achievements made and the activities undertaken by the Cultural Centres during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have set up Cultural Resources and Training Centres for foreign teachers;

(d) if so, the details thereof, location-wise; and

(e) the functions and objectives and the achievements made by them?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The details of the achievements are given in the Annual Reports of the Department of Culture which are available in the Parliament Library.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

[English]

Schemes to Fund Activities Relating to Animals

4639. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated a scheme to allocate funds against the activities relating to animals in areas affected by cyclones and natural calamities;

(b) if so, where any funds has been released to perennially cyclone affected areas like Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether there is any scope for enhancing assistance to build permanent infrastructure for areas which are cyclone prone; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) As per the scheme, there is ready availability of funds with the State Governments under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for undertaking immediate relief measures in the wake of natural calamities including cyclone. For 2001-02, an allocation of Rs. 207.96 crore has been made to Andhra Pradesh under CRF which includes Central share of Rs. 155.97 crore. Central share of Rs. 77.985 crore has so far been released to the State.

(c) and (d) Funds for building permanent infrastructure are to be arranged by the State Government through State Plan schemes and/or assistance from other funding agencies.

Slaughter Houses

4640. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of slaughter houses both authorised and unauthorised working in the country as on date;

(b) whether the Government are providing any subsidy to slaughter houses;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government are planning to shut down the unauthorised slaughter houses in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The latest figures available with Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying as per Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics (as on 31.3.1997) the number of registered slaughterhouses in the country is 2733 and the number of unregistered slaughterhouses is 5038.

(b) and (c) The Government is operating a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Modernization/improvement of slaughterhouses" wherein grant-in-aid is provided to the State Governments on 50:50 (Centre : State) sharing basis.

(d) to (f) Keeping in view the standards necessary for maintaining sanitary conditions in slaughterhouses and hygienic production of wholesome meat the Central Government from time to time have been advising the State Governments to regulate the slaughterhouse activities and prevent illegal slaughter.

M.S.P. For Lentil

4641. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have approved the Minimum Support Price of Rs. 1200 per quintal for fair average quality Masur (lentil);

(b) if so, whether this price is applicable on produce of 2000-01 season to be marketed in 2001-2002;

(c) if so, whether this price was fixed on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices;

(d) if so, the extent to which this is likely to benefit the farmers in the States;

(e) the details of other schemes cleared by the Government in this regard; and

(f) the States that are likely to be benefited under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (f) The Government has recently decided to include Masur (lentil) under the Minimum Support Price (MSP) scheme and has fixed the MSP for masur at Rs. 1200 per quintal for fair average quality (FAQ) for the 2000-01 crop to be marketed in rabi marketing season 2001-2002. The MSP of masur has been fixed on the basis of the Report of the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) and other factors considered important in price fixation. This will benefit the farmers all over the country, particularly, in the major masur producing States like, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Under MSP Scheme, the extent of benefits depend upon the behaviour of market price *vis-a-vis* Minimum Support Prices and as such it cannot be quantified. The MSP scheme covers 25 agricultural commodities, including lentils and no other agricultural commodities has been brought under its purview recently.

Demand of Natural Gas

4642. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country need a huge quantity of gas to meet its growing oil deficit;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to meet the requirement of oil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Against the estimated demand of petroleum products of 105 million tonnes, the indigenous crude oil production is expected to be around 32.5 million tonnes during the current year 2001-02. As per the Hydrocarbon Vision 2025 the potential demand of natural gas in the country is estimated to 151 million standard cubic meters per day (MMSCMD) in 2001-02, 231 MMSCMD in 2006-07, 313 MMSCMD in 2011-12 and 391 MMSCMD in 2024-25. As against this, the current availability of gas is around 65 MMSCMD only.

(c) Several important steps have been taken to increase oil and gas production in the country which include:—

- (i) To improve the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes; in particular Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has taken up 15 fields for this purpose at an estimated investment of Rs. 10,000 crores, which would also help in accelerating oil production from these fields.
- (ii) To increase exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). Under the first round of NELP, Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) has been signed for 24 blocks in which works are in progress. Additionally, under the second round of NELP, PSCs have been signed on 17.07.2001 for 23 blocks.
- (iii) To attract technology and investment; PSCs for 9 discovered fields, 8 in Gujarat and 1 in Assam, were signed on 23.2.2001 with consortia of Indian and foreign companies.
- (iv) To explore in new areas, especially in deep water and difficult frontier areas, as also explore in the deeper layer of the producing fields.
- (v) To develop faster the newly discovered fields and to step up the use of new technologies for seismic surveys, work over, stimulation operations, drilling of wells etc. in producing areas.
- (vi) To acquire acreages abroad.

*[Translation]***Misuse of Railway Tickets under VIP Quota**

4643. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the prescribed rules for confirmation of railway tickets under VIP quota and other emergent demands;

(b) whether instances of misuse of the VIP quota on the basis of bogus letters of MPs have come to the notice of the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof during the last two years and the current year so far along with the action taken in each case and the number of persons booked in this regard;

(d) whether nexus between the railway officials and the travel agents has also been established with regard to misuse of the said quota during the said period;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the persons found guilty in this regard along with the action taken against them; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to stop such unfair activities in his Ministry in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) A limited number of berths have been earmarked as Emergency Quota to meet the emergent travel requirement of High Official Requisition (HOR) holders, Ministers, MPs/MLAs, VIPs and other emergent demands. The preference is given to High Official Requisition holder and the MPs travelling themselves. Thereafter the unutilized quota is released in favour of other requests taking into account factors like status of passengers travelling, nature of urgency like travelling on Government Duty, bereavement in the family, sickness etc.

(b) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

*[English]***Extension of Railway Line**

4644. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether laying of an extension line from Renigunta railway station to Alipiri junction at the foot of Triumala hills with financial assistance from the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has been discussed by the Railway authorities with TTD officials;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the TTD has accepted the proposal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A paper study to assess the feasibility of providing a line has been done. However, as no formal request in this regard from Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) authorities was received, no further action could be taken.

*[Translation]***Drought In M.P.**

4645. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose issue directions to the General Insurance Corporation of India under the National Crop Insurance Scheme to assess the yield on the basis of the harvested crop in view of the severe drought and lesser sowing in Madhya Pradesh during 2000-2001;

(b) whether the Union government would give directions to the GIC to accept the declaration letters received even after the cut off date in view of the interest of the farmers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) No Sir. It is not permissible under the

National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS). In fact, General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) does not make assessment of yield. It is done by the concerned State Government on the basis of Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs). Such yield rates are made available to the Implementing Agency i.e. GIC for working out payable claims.

(b) and (c) Only in exceptional cases where delay is beyond the control, late insurance declarations are allowed to be accepted. Keeping in view, the interest of the farmers, GIC was directed to accept late declarations of the farmers in respect of District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) of Chhatarpur, Narsimhapur and Vidisha in Kharif 2000 season.

Pending cases of Service Matters

4646. SHRI TARACHAND SAHU: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases relating to pension, retirement benefits, gratuity, promotion, arrears of salary etc. of the Government, Public Sector employees and members of judicial service pending in the Supreme Court and various High Courts in the country, High Courts-wise; and

(b) the measures being taken by the Government to expedite disposal of these cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The available information is enclosed in the statement.

(b) Both the Government and the Judiciary are concerned with the quick disposal of pending cases. Various steps have been taken by the Government for speeding up the disposal of these cases. These include simplification of rules and procedure by the High Courts on the basis of the advice and recommendations of expert bodies like the Malimath Committee etc. The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2000 and the Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment Bill), 1994. *Inter alia* contain provisions for cutting short the delays and for fixing a definite time frame at various stages of civil and criminal proceedings. The Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs has been addressing the High Courts periodically for filling up of vacancies of judges in the High Courts.

The last such communication was sent in February, 2001. Efforts are also being made to adopt alternative modes of dispute resolution, such as, arbitration, conciliation and settlement of cases through Lok Adalats.

The High Courts have been requested by the then Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs in August, 1988 to follow the steps taken by the Supreme Court in bringing down the pendencies such as more practical categorisation and grouping of cases, to take up for hearing all the cases listed for the particular day as far as possible, non-accumulation of defective matters, reservation of more and sufficient time slot for old pending cases in chronological order and streamlining of administration and man-power of the registry through computer network. Many High Courts have favourably responded to the above.

A Centrally Sponsored Scheme relating to development of infrastructural facilities for the Judiciary is being implemented by the Department of Justice since 1993-94. The scheme includes construction of court buildings and residential quarters for Judges/Judicial Officers covering High Courts and Subordinate Courts. From 1993-94 to 2000-2001 an amount of Rs. 404.15 crores has been released to various States/UTs as Central share under this scheme. Against this, Rs. 834 crore has been spent by various States/UTs upto 2000-2001.

Computerization has since been completed in the Supreme Court and most of the High Courts in the country. Computerization helps in early disposal of cases.

Statement

Supreme Court:—

As on 31st July, 2001 there were 3092 cases relating to Service Matters pending in the Supreme Court. These include 1429 Admission Matters and 1663 Regular Hearing Matters.

High Courts:—

Number of cases relating to pension, retirement benefits, gratuity & promotion etc. pending in various High Courts.

Sl. No.	Name of the High Court	Number of cases pending
1	2	3
1.	Allahabad	Not available
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil
3.	Bombay	5508

1	2	3
4.	Calcutta	8516
5.	Delhi	Not available
6.	Gauhati	3
7.	Gujarat	Not available
8.	Himachal Pradesh	387
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1687
10.	Karnataka	2268
11.	Kerala	3298
12.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil
13.	Madras	6138
14.	Orissa	1194
15.	Patna	1734
16.	Punjab & Haryana	1011
17.	Rajasthan	3634
18.	Sikkim	Nil
19.	Chhattisgarh	Not available
20.	Jharkhand	Not available
21.	Uttaranchal	Not available

[English]

Construction of Cold Storage Under Subsidy Scheme in Karnataka

4447. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA:
SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI R.S. PATIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of requests received by NHB for construction of cold storage under subsidy scheme from the Government of Karnataka; and

(b) the amount released/approved by NHB towards subsidy for construction of cold storages in Karnataka so far since 1995?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The Scheme for construction of cold storages implemented by the National Horticulture Board (NHB), an autonomous organization under the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, does not envisage the receipt of the proposals from the State Governments nor any such proposal has been received from the Government of Karnataka. However, 13 proposals have been received by NHB for construction of cold storage from private sector from Karnataka State.

(b) During VIII Five Year Plan, NHB was implementing a scheme entitled 'Integrated Project on Management of post harvest infrastructure of horticulture crops' under which financial assistance was provided in the form of soft loan for construction of cold storages also. Since January, 2000, NHB is implementing a new scheme on cold storage entitled 'Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme for Construction/Expansion/Modernisation of Cold Storages and Storages for Horticulture Produce' under which back-ended subsidy is provided. Under both the schemes, the NHB has assisted 19 numbers of cold storage since 1995-96 as per details given below:

Year	Under Soft loan Scheme		Under Subsidy Scheme	
	No. of Cold Storages	Amount released (Rs. in lakhs)	No. of Cold Storages	Amount released (Rs. in lakhs)
1995-96	2	20.00	0	0
1996-97	2	65.00	0	0
1997-98	3	59.18	0	0
1998-99	2	67.70	0	0
1999-2000	1	35.00	0	0
2000-2001	0	0	8	293.95
2001-Till date	0	0	1	19.27
Total	10	246.88	9	313.22

[Translation]

Loading/Unloading of Goods

4648. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set any target for loading and unloading of goods at the ports during the last three years, port-wise;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the extent to which the target has been achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a), (b), and (d) Yes, Sir. The details of port-wise cargo traffic targets and their achievement during the last three years (1998-99 to 2000-01) are as under:—

(In Million Tonnes)

Port	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-01	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
Calcutta	30.00	29.39	30.90	31.03	32.00	29.96
Paradip	13.35	13.11	13.75	13.64	19.20	19.90
Visakhapatnam	36.00	36.65	35.00	39.51	43.00	44.69
Chennai	36.50	35.20	35.50	37.44	42.00	41.22
Tuticorin	10.20	10.15	10.50	9.99	12.00	12.28
Cochin	12.25	12.66	12.40	12.80	12.00	13.12
New Mangalore	15.50	14.21	14.60	17.60	18.40	17.89
Mormugao	20.20	18.02	18.00	18.23	19.70	19.63
J.L. Nehru	10.00	11.72	12.85	14.97	18.00	18.58
Mumbai	34.00	30.97	32.00	30.41	28.50	27.03
Kandla	40.00	40.64	42.50	46.30	39.00	36.74

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Mudkhed-Adilabad Gauge Conversion Project

4649. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mudkhed-Adilabad gauge conversion project was approved in 1984-85;

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

(c) the expenditure incurred thereon so far and the funds allocated to the project;

(d) whether the project has been awarded to a private contractor; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the project is likely to be completed.

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

(b) The anticipated cost of the project is Rs. 170 cr.

(c) The expenditure incurred on the work upto 31.3.2001 is Rs. 7.82 cr. and the outlay provided during 2001-2002 is Rs. 20 cr and one thousand only.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The work was awarded to M/s. Shakthi Concrete Industries Ltd. (SCIL), Hyderabad under the Build-Own-

Lease-Transfer (BOLT) Scheme in June 1996, with the Bare Construction Cost (BCC), including interest during construction (IDC), at Rs. 158.646 crore and annual lease charges @ Rs. 32,36,37,840/-. The transfer fee at the end of 8 years period will be Rs. 8.5 cr. The contractors have been facing problems in arranging finances. The work is expected to be completed within a period of 18 months once the finances become available.

Abandoning of Interest Subsidiary and E-Commerce Corporation

4650. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering abandoning an Internet subsidiary under the Railways;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the same fate has fallen on e-commerce corporation proposed to be set up as announced in the last Railway Budget; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (d) Presently, a corporation named RailTel Corporation of India Limited (RCIL) under Ministry of Railways has been formed with the approval of Cabinet. The Corporation proposes to lay optic fibre cable along the Railway track and to provide various telecom services. In addition, in the Railway Budget for the Year 2001-02, a separate IT company to avail of the opportunities offered by e-commerce has been contemplated. The proposal is under conceptual stage and final decision on the issue is yet to be taken.

[*Translation*]

Capital Investment In Handloom/Powerloom Industries

4651. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed the requirement of capital investment in Handloom and Powerloom industries;

(b) if so, the estimate and the total capital invested in the industries in the country, at present;

(c) the estimated total capital investment required for these two industries separately; and

(d) the concrete steps taken to meet the requirement of capital investment in these industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR):

(a) to (d) The Government of India has been implementing various developmental and welfare schemes under the Handloom Sector like Project Package Scheme, Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana and Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme, which provide financial assistance for purchase of looms, accessories and construction of Workshed/Workshed-cum-Houses etc. However the Government has not carried out any study for assessing the requirement of capital investment.

As far as the Powerloom Sector is concerned, the estimated requirement of capital investment as assessed for modernisation of 2.5 lakh plain looms into semi-automatic/automatic looms upto the year 2004, is Rs. 3000 crore. During the period from April, 1999 to May, 2001, an amount of Rs. 13.46 crore by way of loan has been disbursed to the Powerloom Sector for technology upgradation under the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme launched by the Central Government with effect from 1.4.1999 for modernisation of Textile and Jute Industries including the decentralised Powerloom Sector, for a period of five years.

[*English*]

CNG Stations in Delhi

4652. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "No CNG stations in outer East Delhi: Centre" appearing in the Indian Express dated July 25, 2001;

(b) if so whether the CNG filling stations donot exist in outer and east Delhi areas resulting inconvenience to CNG run vehicle owners;

(c) if so, whether there is any plans to set up CNG stations in the adjoining NCR towns of the capital also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise, Sir.

Production of Rice

4653. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of Basmati rice in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) the names of the countries to whom Basmati rice is exported;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to formulate any scheme for increasing the production of Basmati rice; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The Government do not monitor the production of rice variety-wise. However, the state-wise total production of rice in the country during 1999-2000 is given in statement I.

(b) The names of countries to which Basmati rice was exported in 1999-2000 from India are given in Statement II.

(c) and (d) To increase the production of Basmati rice, the Government distributes Seed Minikits (2 kg. size of each kit) at an assistance of Rs. 65/- per kit among the farmers of the traditional Basmati rice growing areas of the country under Central Sector Rice Seed Minikit Programme. Besides, under the said programme, Special Orientation Programme on Rice Production Technology including Basmati Rice Production is also organized for the training of State Government officials at an expenditure of Rs. 35,000/- per training.

Statement I

State-wise Estimates of Production of Rice During 1999-2000

		('000' Tonnes)
Sl.No.	State	Production
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10489.6
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	134.8
3.	Assam	3860.7
4.	Bihar	7741.6
5.	Goa	139.9
6.	Gujarat	984.9
7.	Haryana	2594.0
8.	Himachal Pradesh	120.4
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	391.1
10.	Karnataka	3635.0
11.	Kerala	770.8
12.	Madhya Pradesh	6376.5
13.	Maharashtra	2535.9
14.	Manipur	365.0
15.	Meghalaya	156.9
16.	Mizoram	88.4
17.	Nagaland	220.0
18.	Orissa	5187.0
19.	Punjab	8716.0

1	2	3
20.	Rajasthan	252.6
21.	Sikkim	23.4
22.	Tamil Nadu	7225.3
23.	Tripura	491.5
24.	Uttar Pradesh	12912.0
25.	West Bengal	13951.0
26.	A & N Island	26.2
27.	D & N Haveli	17.0
28.	Delhi	6.0
29.	Daman & Diu	3.3
30.	Pondicherry	58.3
All India		89475.1

Statement II

*Countries to which India exported Basmati rice in
1999-2000*

Sl.No.	Name of Country
1	2
1.	Australia
2.	Austria
3.	Azerbaijan
4.	Baharain
5.	Bangladesh
6.	Belgium
7.	Benin
8.	Botswana
9.	Brazil
10.	Brunei
11.	Canada
12.	China Peoples Republic
13.	Colombia

1	2
14.	Congo Peoples Republic
15.	Cyprus
16.	Czech Republic
17.	Denmark
18.	Egypt
19.	Estonia
20.	Finland
21.	Fiji
22.	France
23.	German Federal Republic
24.	Ghana
25.	Greece
26.	Guadeloupe
27.	Guinea
28.	Hong Kong
29.	Israel
30.	Italy
31.	Ivory coast
32.	Japan
33.	Jordan
34.	Kenya
35.	Kuwait
36.	Lebanon
37.	Malawi
38.	Malaysia
39.	Maldives
40.	Martinique
41.	Mauritius
42.	Mayanmar
43.	Moldivia
44.	Nepal
45.	Netherland
46.	New Zealand

1	2
47.	Nigeria
48.	Norway
49.	Oman
50.	Philippines
51.	Poland
52.	Portugal
53.	Qatar
54.	Reunion
55.	Russia
56.	Saudi Arab
57.	Seychelles
58.	Singapore
59.	Slovenia
60.	South Africa
61.	Spain
62.	Sri Lanka
63.	Sudan
64.	Sweden
65.	Switzerland
66.	Syria
67.	Tanzania
68.	Trinidad
69.	Tunisia
70.	Turkey
71.	Uganda
72.	United Arab Emirates
73.	UK
74.	Ukraine
75.	USA
76.	Uzbekistan
77.	Yemen Republic
78.	Zambia
79.	Zimbabwe

*[Translation]***Bio-Resources Project**

4654. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have started work on the preparation of digitised inventory on Bio-Resources Project; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir, we do not have Bio-Resources Project as such.

(b) Not Applicable.

*[English]***Cost of Cylinders**

4655. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a bid to breaking cartel formed by LPG cylinder manufacturers, the public sector oil companies have decided to procure empty LPG cylinders at lower price;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated savings likely to be made by the Government as a result thereof during the current years;

(d) whether the Government are collecting security money from the consumers at the rate of Rs. 900 per cylinder at present;

(e) if so, whether this amount is consisting of cost of cylinder and maintenance charges;

(f) if so, the total security money collected by the Government upto March 31, 2001;

(g) whether keeping in view of its decision of down grade the prices of empty cylinder for oil companies, the Government propose to bring down the cost of maintenance charges being charged from the consumers; and

Source: Monthly Statistics of the Foreign Trade of India (Annual Number for 1999-2000) Vol. I, Part-II, March 2000, DGCI & S, Kolkata.

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (h) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies floated the tenders individually for procurement of cylinders for the calendar year 2001. It is expected that the price of procurement of cylinders will come down. However the cylinder manufacturers have challenged the tendering procedure in various Courts and the matter is pending for disposal. As the matter is sub-judice, it is not possible to ascertain the extent of reduction in the price, at this stage.

At present, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies are collecting the security deposits from consumers at the rate of Rs. 900 per cylinder which also includes maintenance charges. However, the rate of security deposit is Rs. 500 per cylinder in the North-East region. The total amount of security deposits held by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies as on 31.3.2001 was about Rs. 7185 crores.

[*Translation*]

Export of Engines and Coaches

4656 SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of export of railway engines and passenger coaches during the last three years and till today, country-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the export of engines and coaches; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) The details of engines and coaches, exported during the last three years are as under:—

Year	Engines	Coaches
1998-1999	Nil	Nil
1999-2000	(i) 2 nos. old YP(MG) steam locos to USA (ii) 10 nos. old MG diesel electric locos to Myanmar	Nil
2000-2001	5 New BG diesel electric locomotives to Bangladesh	72 Nos. MG Bogies to Vietnam
2001-2002 (upto July, 2001)	4 New BG diesel electric locomotives to Bangladesh	Nil

As on date 35 nos. old YDM4 (MG) locos have been given on lease to the following countries through RITES and IRCON with an earning of Rs. 682.5 lakhs per year.

(i)	Malaysia	25 nos.
(ii)	Tanzania	10 nos.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) RITES and IRCON (PSU's of Ministry of Railways) are the exporting agencies and they have been directed to make aggressive marketing efforts for sale of rolling stock. Presently, they are in touch with Bangladesh, Sri

Lanka, Vietnam, Nigeria and Colombia for the export of engines and coaches.

Orders for export of 2 New BG diesel-electric locos to Sir Lanka, 4 nos. to Bangladesh and 5 new MG diesel-electric locos to Vietnam are in hand.

A new design of high speed MG diesel loco is under development for export market.

GMs of Production Units have been empowered to adopt marginal costing for export of rolling stock to be competitive in the Global Market.

*[English]***Target for Laying LNG Pipeline**

4657. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

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

(a) whether GAIL has set any target for laying natural gas pipeline from 2001 to 2003 in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of States are likely to be benefited as a result thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

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

Statement

Sl. No.	Pipeline Description	Facilities	Length (in Km)	Cost (Rs/crore)	States to be benefitted	Completion schedule
1.	Hazira-Bijaipur-Jadishpur (HBJ) upgradation	42" pipeline and 2+1 compressor	610	2450	Gujarat, Rajasthan, U.P., Punjab, Haryana, M.P. and NCT of Delhi	To match with completion of Dahej LNG terminal. To be partially completed by December, 2003.
2.	K.G. Basin Pipelines	8" to 20" Pipelines and consumers terminals	515	569	Andhra Pradesh	July, 2003
3.	Cauvery Basin Pipelines	4" to 24" Pipelines	117	168	Tamil Nadu	December, 2002
4.	NCT Delhi Pipelines	3" to 12" Pipelines	4	7	NCT Delhi	December, 2002.
5.	Gujarat Region Pipelines	8" to 12" Pipelines	41	36	Gujarat	December, 2002.

Group Accident Insurance Scheme for Fishermen

4658. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have implemented Group Accident Insurance Scheme for fishermen;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received representation for enhancement of insurance coverage; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of the 'Group Accident Insurance for Active Fishermen' component of the "National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen" are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) No suggestion/representation has been received for enhancement of insurance coverage for active fishermen.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Government of India is implementing in States and Union Territories Centrally sponsored "National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen". Grant-in-Aid is sanctioned for the following three components of the Scheme:—

- (a) Housing
- (b) Group Accident Insurance for Active Fishermen
- (c) Saving-cum-Relief

The salient features of the 'Group Accident Insurance for Active Fishermen' component under the "National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen" are given in the succeeding paragraph.

'Group Accident Insurance for Active Fishermen' component of the "National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen" provides that fishermen who are licensed or registered as active fishermen with the State/UT Governments would be insured for Rs. 50,000/- against death or permanent disability and Rs. 25,000/- for partial accident. The insurance cover will be for a period of 12 months and a policy would be taken out by National Federation of Fishermen's Cooperatives Limited (FISHCOPFED) in respect of all the participating States/UTs. The annual premium payable would not exceed Rs. 15/- per head 50% of which will be subsidized as grants-in-aid by the Central Government and remaining 50% by the State Government. In the case of Union Territories, 100% premium will be borne by the Central Government. In case of those States/UTs which subscribe to this component through FISHCOPFED, the Central share of the assistance (100% premium in case of UTs) would be released directly to FISHCOPFED and will not be routed through States/UTs. The State Governments should, however, ensure that their share of premium is sent to FISHCOPFED well before the due date of renewal of the policy. In case of those States/UTs who do not subscribe to this component through FISHCOPFED, the release of Central share should be restricted on the basis of annual premium that would be payable had the insurance been taken through FISHCOPFED or the actual premium, whichever is less. No contribution will be collected from the fishermen. The Scheme would cover fishermen in both marine and inland sectors. FISHCOPFED will be

the executing agency and would operate the scheme through any subsidiary or General Insurance Corporation of India in case of the States/UTs which opt to subscribe to the scheme through FISHCOPFED.

Rural Electrification

4659. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some villages in tribal belt of Andaman and Nicobar Islands have been left out from the purview of rural electrification;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are thinking of inclusion of those villages in rural electrification; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) Out of 504 inhabited villages 1991 census) in the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, 501 villages have been electrified and the balance 3 villages have been declared as non-feasible for electrification.

[*Translation*]

Redressal of Complaints

4600. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the rules framed by the Railways for redressal of complaints in catering department;

(b) whether the complaints in this regard are not properly investigated; and

(c) if so, the number of complaints received during the last two years and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Whenever complaints are received, investigations are conducted by the zonal railways and in case the allegations are substantiated the departmental action is initiated against staff in case of departmental catering and fines imposed or licence/supply discontinued in case of private licensees/suppliers.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) 1748 complaints received on various accounts during the last two years, have been investigated and appropriate action initiated, wherever required as indicated in (a) above.

[English]

Sethusamudram Project

4661. SHRI V. VETRISILVAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the long pending demand of Tamil Nadu for implementing the Sethusamudram project;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to implement the project; and

(c) the reasons for delay in implementing the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Shipping has requested Chairman, Tuticorin Port Trust to go ahead for inviting the tenders for undertaking the feasibility/environment studies for the Sethusamudram Ship Canal Project. Tuticorin Port Trust has already initiated action to conduct the feasibility/environmental study.

[Translation]

Purchase of Electricity from Pakistan

4662. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether about four years ago Pakistan had offered to sell two thousand MW electricity to India;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that lack of cordial relations with Pakistan failed the proposed electricity deal;

(c) if so, whether this issue was talked on with Pakistan during the Agra Summit; and

(d) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b)

Pakistan had offered to sell electricity to India about four years ago. Two rounds of discussion were held on power import from Pakistan. During the second round of discussion in January, 1999, Government of Pakistan confirmed availability of 300 MW of power for export to India for next ten years which could be increased to 600 MW as per availability during certain periods of time, depending upon technical limits of the system on either side. The methodology for arriving at tariff, rates and operating agreements for purchase of power was also discussed. However, no final decision has yet been taken in this regard.

(c) No, Sir.

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

Over-Bridges in Maharashtra

4663. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of road bridges in Maharashtra, district-wise;

(b) the district-wise number of dilapidated over-bridges;

(c) the district-wise number of such bridges under repair; and

(d) the number of bridges proposed to be repaired, district-wise?

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

1.	Gonda	01
2.	Bhandra	01
3.	Nagpur	13
4.	Mumbai	44
5.	Thane	17
6.	Dhulao	01
7.	Nasik	11
8.	Pune	12
9.	Satara	05
10.	Sangli	03

11.	Nanded	03
12.	Kolhapur	02
13.	Aurangabad	04
14.	Jalna	03
15.	Parbhani	01
16.	Jalgaon	06
17.	Raigarh	05
18.	Solapur	03
19.	Wardha	03
20.	Chandrapur	03
21.	Ahmednagar	02
22.	Akola	02
23.	Amravati	01
24.	Baramati	01
Total		147

(b) Nil.

(c) Nil.

(d) Nil.

*[English]***Requirement of LPG for Gujarat**

4664. SHRI G.J. JAVIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated monthly requirement of LPG for Gujarat at present alongwith the supply position;

(b) the steps taken so far to meet the requirement of LPG in the State;

(c) whether rural areas of the Gujarat have been neglected for supply of LPG;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The average monthly requirement of LPG for the State of Gujarat is estimated to be 40 Thousand Metric Tonne (TMT). The demand of LPG customers enrolled with the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies in the State of Gujarat has been met, by and large, in full.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have already identified 59 locations for setting up of LPG distributorships exclusively in rural areas and 65 LPG distributorships in urban/rural areas in the State of Gujarat to cater to the demand of rural consumers.

Contempt of Courts Act

4665. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

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

(a) whether the Bar Council of India and State Bar Councils have demanded changes in the Contempt of Courts Act to bring judges of Supreme Court and High Courts in its purview;

(b) if so, whether the Government have considered and examined the suggestions made by the Bar Council of India;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) At a meeting of State Bar Councils, held at Jodhpur in which the Bar Council of India participated, a Resolution was passed, stating *inter-alia*, that the Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts be brought within the purview of the Contempt of Court Jurisdiction. A copy of the resolution dated 3.6.2001 is enclosed as statement.

(b) to (d) Various provisions of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 were reviewed by the Government in pursuance of the suggestion of the P.C. Jain Commission set up by the Government to review the Administrative Laws and it was decided not to amend the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 for the present.

Statement

*The Bar Council of Rajasthan, Jodhpur,
Contempt of Court
Resolution*

The representatives of the Bar Council of India and the representatives of State Bar Councils express their deep concern in regard to increasing numbers of contempt

proceedings specially against lawyers and are of the firm opinion that the provisions of Constitution of India and the Contempt of Courts Act require amendments in the larger public interest.

It is therefore resolved that the Central Government be requested to initiate the following amendments to Article 129 and 215 of Constitution of India and Contempt of Courts Act, 1971:

- (i) truth of the allegation as a defence;
- (ii) to exclude jurisdiction of All the Court to take proceedings of contempt against lawyers;

OR

- (iii) to make provision for referring the contempt matters against lawyers before initiation of proceedings to the Hon'ble Chief Justice, who would decide whether there is justification for initiating contempt proceedings after consulting the Chairman of respective Bar Council and President of the concerned Bar Association;
- (iv) fair criticism of Judgements/Orders of the Courts and the Judicial Conduct of a Judge/Judicial Officer be excluded from preview of Contempt of Courts Act, 1971;
- (v) The Judges of the Apex Court and the High Courts of all the States be brought within the preview of Contempt of Court jurisdiction like other Judicial Officers.

Dismantling of APM

4666. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH:
SHRI ANNASAHEB M. K. PATIL:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Committee on deregulation of marketing of controlled petroleum products after dismantling of petro APM has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the main recommendations made by the Committee;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon; and

(d) the details of marketing rights given to private and foreign companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) The Government of India announced a road map for dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in November, 1997. The aforesaid announcement *inter-alia* provided for grant of marketing rights for transportation fuels viz. Motor Spirit (MS), High Speed Diesel (HSD) and Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) conditional on owning and operating refineries with an investment of at least Rs. 2,000 crore or oil exploration and production companies producing atleast three million tonnes of crude oil annually. Full de-regulation of Petroleum Sector is targetted from 1st April, 2002.

The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas had constituted an in house group in December 1999 to review the present policies and practices for marketing of controlled petroleum products and to make recommendations. The Ministry is considering the report of the Group.

In this regard, as per the detailed Marketing Guidelines to be notified, firms/companies fulfilling the laid down conditions would be entitled to have the marketing rights for transportation fuels.

Production of Spun Yarn

4667. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the production of Spun yarn in the country during each of the last three years and estimated for 2001-2002, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the steady decline in the production of spun yarn in Madhya Pradesh since August 2001;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it has adversely affected the production of mill made fabric in that State; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve the textile industry in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) The production of spun yarn in the country during the last three years and 2001-2002, is as below:—

Year	Million kgs.
1998-1999	2808
1999-2000	3046
2000-2001	3160
2001-2002 (Estimated)	3192

(b) to (d) The production of spun yarn in the State of Madhya Pradesh during the last three years and 2001-2002 (upto May, 2001), is as below:

Year	Million kgs.
1998-1999	179
1999-2000	204
2000-2001	202
2001-2002 (April-May)	31

In the State of Madhya Pradesh, there was a marginal decline in total spun yarn production during 2000-2001 as compared to that of 1999-2000. The reason for decline was closure of four more composite mills. This has further caused slight decline in fabric production from the mill sector during the first two months of current financial year as compared to the corresponding period of the last year.

(e) For modernisation of textile and jute industries the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been launched w.e.f. 1.4.1999 for a period of five years. The Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) has been launched to improve quality, productivity and production of cotton thereby to make the quality cotton available to the user industry. Both the schemes are applicable for whole of India including Madhya Pradesh.

[*Translation*]

Sanction of Rail Survey Project

4668. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the sanctioned surveys for railway Projects under Samastipur Railway Division of North-Eastern Railway zone during the last three years; and

(b) the present position of these sanctioned survey project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) The surveys are sanctioned railway-wise and not division-wise. However, details of the surveys sanctioned for railway projects which fall in the jurisdiction of Samastipur Division of North Eastern Railway during last 3 years are as under:—

Sl.No. Name of the survey

1. Reconnaissance Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey for new line from Badlaghat-Alamnagar-Bhawanipur-Purnea-Dalkolha.
2. Preliminary Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey for new line from Motihari to Sitamarhi.
3. Preliminary Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey for new line from Supaul to Araria via Tirveniganj and Raniganj.
4. Reconnaissance Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey for new line from Koparia to Bihariganj via Banma-Sonebarsa and Alamnagar.
5. Updating survey for gauge conversion of Purnea-Saharsa.

(b) The surveys from S.No. 1 to 4 above have been completed. The proposals could not be considered due to unremunerative nature of the projects and constraint of resources. The survey at S.No. 5 above is under progress. Further consideration would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

[*English*]

Coal Based Power Plants

4669. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of coal-based power plants (TPP) set up in the country both in private as well as in public sector;

(b) whether there was a proposal to set up some coal-based power plants in Orissa;

(c) if so, the places identified for the establishment of these plants; and

(d) the steps taken to set up the Thermal Power Stations at Kamalonga in Dhenkanal district of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) As on July 31, 2001, 81 coal based thermal power projects have been set up in the country as per details given below:

Sl.No.	Description	Number
1	2	3
1.	Public Sector Projects (Central + State)	71

1	2	3
2. Private Sector Projects		
a.	Utility	9
b.	Independent Power Producer	1
Total		81

(b) and (c) Details of the proposals for setting up of coal based power projects in Orissa indicating the places identified for establishment of the plants are given in the statement enclosed.

(d) No Detailed Project Report has been received in Central Electricity Authority from Government of Orissa for setting up a thermal power project at Kamalonga in Dhenkanal District in Orissa.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)	Commissioning Schedule/Status
1	2	3	4

Central Sector

1. Talcher STPS Stage-II, District Angul by National Thermal Power Corporation (date of techno-economic clearance 23.10.1997)

Unit 3	500	11/2003
Unit 4	500	8/2004
Unit 5	500	5/2005
Unit 6	500	5/2006

Private Sector

1. Ib Valey TPP Stage-II, District Jharsuguda by M/s. AES Ib Valley Corporation (Date of techno-economic clearance 26.2.1999)

Unit 5	250	33 months from financial closure
Unit 6	250	36 months from financial closure
Financial closure not achieved		

Duburi TPS, District Jaipur by M/s. Kalinga Power Corporation (Date of techno-economic clearance 29.4.1999)

Unit 1	250	33 months from financial closure
Unit 2	250	36 months from financial closure
Financial closure not achieved		

1.	2	3	4
4.	Hirma Stage-I, District, Jharsuguda by M/s. Mirant Asia Pacific Limited (formerly CEPA) and Reliance Power—Under Mega Power Policy for Government of India.	6x720	Likely to yield benefits during 11th Plan period

State Sector

5.	1b TPS U-3&4, District, Jharsuguda by M/s. Orissa Power Generation Corporation (OPGC)	2x210	Revised DPR has been received. Project Authorities are advised to tie-up inputs/clearance.
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Cost of Drilling for Oil Exploration

Amount in Rs.

4770. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present cost of drilling 50 metres for oil exploration incurred by OIL and ONGC in hilly areas and in plains separately;

(b) whether the cost of drilling in Assam by Oil India Limited was less than that ONGC in 1970 which stands high at present; and

(c) the reasons for the increase in the cost of drilling and the steps being taken to bring it down?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No Exploration and Production (E&P) company in India drills 50 meters well for oil exploration and production. However, the drilling of 50 meters is done for shot hole seismic surveys for data acquisition. The cost of drilling these holes is dependent on area of operation. Notwithstanding the above, the per metre cost of exploratory drilling for oil and gas exploration by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) as a whole, for the year 2000-01 is given below:

	Amount in Rs.
ONGC	30,608
OIL	45,774

(b) and (c) However, the latest per metre cost of exploratory drilling for oil and gas by ONGC and OIL in Assam in the year 2000-01, is given below:

ONGC	29,686
OIL	45,819

The main reasons for increase in cost of drilling are: increase in input cost and shifting more towards logistically difficult terrain and deep depths for drilling the wells. Various steps like optimal use of available resources, application of more cost effective new technologies and increasing productivity of individuals, are undertaken to bring down the drilling cost.

[Translation]

Removal of Encroachment

4671. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have removed the encroachment made on railway land during the last three years;

(b) if so, the zone-wise details thereof during the said period;

(c) the reasons for encroachments on railway lands;

(d) whether any enquiry has been conducted alongwith the role of railway officers in this regard; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Zone-wise number of encroachments removed during the last three years.

Year/Zone	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	Total
Central	281	492	9292	10,065
Eastern	15358	14798	7249	37,405
Northern	1768	2675	4592	9,035
North eastern	54	77	73	204
Northeast Frontier	7067	5786	5825	18,678
Southern	NIL	341	3	344
South Central	795	587	987	2,369
South Eastern	3809	6323	3692	13,824
Western	3684	2856	4450	10,990
Total	32,816	33,935	36,163	1,02,914

(c) There is pressure on public lands in urban areas due to urban migration. Railway land lie in ribbon like long stretches and are thus difficult to safeguard from incidents of trespassing and encroachments despite continuous efforts to prevent these.

(d) and (e) Railways are engaged in a continuous exercise in preventing and removing encroachments. Cases of fresh encroachments are enquired into regularly. The Government wants to prevent all trespasses/encroachments and wants to remove encroachments from railway lands.

Catering Contract

4672. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1678 dated August, 2, 2001 regarding catering services in trains and state:

(a) the names of firms against which complaints were made by the zonal railways;

(b) the names of private licence holders against whom a fine has been imposed and licence has been cancelled, zone-wise;

(c) the details of recommendations made by the Vigilance department in this regard; and

(d) the details of ongoing investigations in connection with a case under the Eastern Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No complaints have been made by the Zonal Railways.

(b) On the recommendations of Railway Vigilance, fines have been imposed against Northern Railway's pantry car licensees viz. M/s. R.C. Goel, M/s. P.R. Catering Co., M/s. Doon Caterers, M/s. Food World and M/s. R.K. Associates of South Eastern Railway. Besides the licence of Non-Vegetarian Refreshment Room at Coimbatore (Southern Railway) of M/s. Shyammaraju terminated.

(c) Vigilance Department recommended for improvement in quality of meals, display of rates, to control overcharging, supply of full complement of cutlery, to improve general hygiene standard etc.

(d) A complaint received against a mobile licensee is under enquiry in the Eastern Railway.

Functioning of Private Power Projects

4673. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to inspect the functioning of private power projects in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No, Sir. The power purchase agreement in regard to private power projects is a contract between the project developer and the concerned State Electricity Board and the Government of India is not required to inspect the functioning of the projects. The Implementation Agreement governs the relations between the concerned State Government and the private producer.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Special Funds to Protect Taj Mahal

4674. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any special funds from U.S.A. or any other foreign country to protect and preserve the Taj Mahal at Agra;

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

(c) the other steps taken to protect and preserve the Taj Mahal?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Archaeological Survey of India has not received special funds either from the U.S.A. or from any other foreign country for protection and preservation of the Taj Mahal, Agra. However, UNESCO has sanctioned a project for the preservation of the Taj Mahal and other Monuments at Agra, and for the setting up of a laboratory for conducting Scientific studies on Marble and Sandstone.

(c) The other steps taken to protect and preserve the Taj Mahal, Agra are as per statement enclosed.

Statement

The following steps have been taken for protection of Taj Mahal Agra from Pollution

(i) Two Thermal power plants in Agra were closed down in 1981.

- (ii) Agra railway marshalling yard have been dieselised
- (iii) The Archaeological Survey of India is monitoring the ambient air around the Taj Mahal to assess the level of sulphur-dioxide, suspended particulate matter and other pollutants as well as meteorological data in order to take such remedial measures as may be required. Besides, periodical chemical treatment and preservation is being carried out.
- (iv) The State Government is monitoring the pollution levels in Agra.
- (v) Department of Environment, Government of India vide its notification dated 3rd May, 1983 has demarcated an area measuring 10,400 sq. Kms. around Taj Mahal where no industry with pollution potential is allowed.
- (vi) There is a ban on the use of furnace oil and diesel generators in industries in Agra. The foundaries are not permitted to operate during winter nights.
- (vii) Movement of heavy vehicles around Taj Mahal has been stopped and the parking has been shifted to Shilpgram.
- (viii) Battery operated vehicles have been introduced for transporting visitors from Shilpgram to Taj Mahal gate & back.
- (ix) Burning of rubbish near Taj has been stopped.
- (x) Emission standards for vehicles have been prescribed under the Environment (protection) Act; 1986.
- (xi) The Forest Department of the Government of Uttar Pradesh has created a green belt covering 500 meters around Taj Mahal by plantation of trees on available Government land.
- (xii) Mehtab Bagh, has been developed as an archaeological garden by Archaeological Survey of India.
- (xiii) The State Government has also planted trees in an area of 10 Hectares around Fundary Nagar and Industrial area, 12 Hectares in UPSIDC and 5 Hectares in the Cantonment area.

Promotion of SCs/STs at Apex Level Posts

4675. SHRI ANANDA MOHAN BISWAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Recruitment Rules for the post of Chairman and Members, Railway Board, Financial Commissioner (Railway), General Managers, Additional Members and the Senior Administrative Grade contain a provision "that norms mentioned above, if considered necessary in the public interest, may be relaxed to the extent necessary in consultation with the Department of Personnel and Training;

(b) whether these relaxations have been given in regard to minimum service in favour of general candidate and the officers have been promoted to Railway Board Members, FC and Chairman by relaxing the minimum service condition;

(c) whether these relaxations have not been considered in the case of SCs/STs who were not fulfilling the left over service condition of recruitment rules and resulted into their supersession who are required to be reported to the appropriate authority;

(d) if so, whether the railways would consider the special relaxation in favour of SC/ST officers who are otherwise eligible to be promoted as an Additional Member, Railway Board, but due to not having a required length of left over service they have to work on the same posts for a number of years which are now operated in as Additional Member posts; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (e) There are no Recruitment Rules as such for the post of Chairman, Railway Board, Members of the Railway Board, including Financial Commissioner, General Managers and Additional Members, Railway Board. Appointments to these posts are governed by the norms laid-down in the Resolutions notified for filling up of these posts. While in the case of Additional Members, the Resolution laying-down the norms has been notified on 11-10-2000, appointments to the posts of Chairman, Railway Board, Members of the Railway Board including Financial Commissioner are governed by the Resolution dated 16-02-1987. The appointments to the posts of General Managers are made

in keeping with the Resolution dated 16-07-1986 as amended from time to time. In the norms notified for appointments to the post of General Managers and Additional Members there is a provision that any of these norms can be relaxed if considered necessary in public interest in consultation with the Department of Personnel & Training.

In the norms for filling up the posts of Additional Members, Railway Board, there is a condition of one year residual service from the date of occurrence of vacancy falling in the turn of the officer for appointment as Additional Member. This condition is uniformly applied to all the officers, including those belonging to the reserved categories. In fact, there has been no discrimination against any officer whether of general category or those belonging to SC/ST communities while making appointments to the posts of Additional Members in this respect.

As regards the posts of General Managers, there also, there is a requirement of two years residual service from the date of occurrence of the vacancy falling in the turn of the officer and all appointments of General managers are made in keeping with this provision without any relaxation and this is uniformly applied to officers of general category as also officers of the reserved category without any discrimination.

For filling up of the posts of Board Members, including Financial Commissioners and Chairman, Railway Board, the norms are relaxed to the extent warranted in order to have suitable officers for manning these posts. The norms laid-down are not very rigid as the word 'normally' has been prefixed before them. While making appointments to these posts in relaxation of the norms, no discrimination is exercised between general candidates and candidates belonging to the reserved categories.

In the case of appointment to the posts of Additional Members and General managers, no relaxation in tenure prescribed in the norms is considered administratively desirable.

Introduction of Trains

4676. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of trains introduced indicating the starting and terminating points during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether some trains have been withdrawn during the said period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor, train-wise?

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

Investment in Agriculture

4677. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
DR. ASHOK PATEL:
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:
SHRI RAMESHWAR DUDI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the share of public and private investment in agriculture during 1999-2000 and 2001-2002 separately;

(b) the reasons attributed to the declining trend in the investment during the said period; and

(c) the steps taken to encourage more investment in this sector so as to achieve atleast 4% growth in agriculture sector during the Tenth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) The estimates of public and private investment in Agriculture including Animal Husbandry, measured in terms of Gross Capital Formation (GCF) have been released by the Central Statistical Organisation for the years up to 1999-2000. These estimates for the two years 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are as under:

Table

Gross Capital Formation (GC) in Agriculture including Animal Husbandry

(Rs. in crore)

Year	GCF in Agriculture including Animal Husbandry	
	Public	Private
1998-99	6573	18293
1999-2000	8515	21059

As seen from the TABLE, there is no decline in the investment in agriculture.

(c) The Government have already taken steps to encourage more investment in agriculture by way of strengthening rural infrastructure in the current year such as provision for additional flow of credit to agricultural sector (Rs. 10,500 Crore), additional funds for construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (Rs. 2,500 Crore) and enhanced allocations for rural electrification (Rs. 750 Crore). Further, schemes like Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) in National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for completion of various types of rural infrastructure projects; Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) to provide additional central assistance by way of loans to State Governments for early completion of their selected large irrigation and multi-purpose projects; and Watershed Development Project (WDP) in NABARD for integrated water development in 100 priority districts are being implemented. All these measures will help in increasing investment in agriculture and achieving a higher growth rate in the Tenth Plan period.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion of Gonda-Gorakhpur Loop Line

4678. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the gauge conversion work of Gorakhpur-Gonda loop line is likely to be taken up; and

(b) the time by which all formalities in this regard are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) The work of gauge conversion of Gorakhpur-Gonda loop line was included in the budget subject to clearance being taken. The work would be taken up after obtaining requisite clearances, action for which has already been initiated. It is not feasible to fix time frame by which clearances would become available.

[English]

Donations to Political Parties

4679. PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that almost all the political parties are receiving donations from industrial houses and others;

(b) if so, the logic behind accepting such donations;

(c) whether the Government propose to regularize or ban such donations by bringing a legislation in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) The Government is aware that many political parties may have to depend upon political donations so as to maintain their day-to-day affairs and for contesting elections, especially in view of the size of the country and the electorate. The provisions of section 293A of the Companies Act, 1956, permit political contributions in specified circumstances. The Government is not in favour of a total ban on political donations by private companies as it is of the view that the corporate sector should be allowed to play a legitimate role within the defined norms in the functioning of Indian democracy. The Government is, however, not averse to regularizing these donations so as to make the process more transparent.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to impose blanket ban on such contributions.

Oil Refineries Commissioned During Ninth Plan Period

4680. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new Oil Refineries started during the Ninth Five Year Plan original and latest estimates in each case and target set for its completion location-wise; and

(b) the estimated employment to be created in each case both direct and indirect employment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a)

During the Ninth Five Year Plan, new oil refineries have been started at Panipat, Haryana by Indian Oil Corporation Limited and at Numaligarh, Assam by Numaligarh Refinery Ltd. at approved cost of Rs. 3868 crore and Rs. 2489 crore respectively. The Panipat refinery was commissioned in phases from October, 1998 to April, 1999 and Numaligarh refinery from April, 1999 to June, 2000.

In addition in the private sector M/s. Reliance Petroleum Ltd. has set up a refinery at Jamnagar, Gujarat.

(b) The direct employment created by the Panipat refinery and Numaligarh refinery is 828 and 633 respectively. It is not possible to exactly indicate the indirect employment created.

[Translation]

Pending Cases of Atrocities against SCs/STs

4681. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases regarding atrocities against SCs/STs are pending in the Supreme Court and various High Courts, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government for early disposal of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(b) Both the Government and the Judiciary are concerned with the quick disposal of pending cases. Various steps have been taken by the Government for speeding up the disposal of these cases. These include simplification of rules and procedure by the High Courts on the basis of the advice and recommendations of expert bodies like the Malimath Committee etc. The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2000 and the Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment Bill), 1994. *inter alia* contain provisions for cutting short the delays and for fixing a definite time frame at various stages of civil and criminal proceedings. The Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs has been addressing the High Courts periodically for filling up of vacancies of judges in the High Courts. The last such communication was sent in February, 2001. Efforts are also being made to adopt alternative modes of dispute resolution, such as, arbitration, conciliation and settlement of cases through Lok Adalats.

The High Courts have been requested by the then Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs in August, 1988 to follow the steps taken by the Supreme Court in bringing down the pendencies such as more practical categorisation and grouping of cases, to take up for hearing all the cases listed for the particular day as far as possible, non-accumulation of defective matters, reservation of more and sufficient time slot for old pending cases in chronological order and streamlining of administration and man-power of the registry through computer network. Many High Courts have favourably responded to the above.

A Centrally Sponsored Scheme relating to development of infrastructural facilities for the Judiciary is being implemented by the Department of Justice since 1993-94. The scheme includes construction of court buildings and residential quarters for Judges/Judicial Officers covering High Courts and Subordinate Courts. From 1993-94 to 2000-2001 an amount of Rs. 404.15 crores has been released to various States/UTs as Central share under this scheme. Against this, Rs. 834 crore has been spent by various States/UTs upto 2000-2001.

Computerization has since been completed in the Supreme Court and most of the High Courts in the country. Computerization helps in early disposal of cases.

[English]

Imposition of Tax on Oil Refining

4682. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was some differences between the State Government of Orissa and his Ministry on the imposition of tax on the oil refining which is being set up at Paradeep;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any steps has been taken to resolve the problems; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) The sale tax concessions approved by the Orissa Government in December, 1998/August, 1999 for the refinery project were subsequently withdrawn in February,

2000. To make the project viable and competitive, a package of incentives including issuance of 5% seven year maturity bonds by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) to Orissa Government in lieu of sales tax, exemption of central sales tax for 30 years, exemption of entry tax on crude oil and certain other tax incentives during the construction period was submitted to the State Government. The State Government have approved in June, 2001, the package of special incentives for the project.

Survey for Sakleshpur-Kadur-Chikmagalur Rail Line

4683. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the preliminary engineering-cum-traffic survey was conducted in a new railway line between Sakleshpur-Kadur Chikmagalur by the Railways;

(b) if so, the results of the survey;

(c) the follow up action taken to construct the said line; and

(d) the fund sanctioned therefor?

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

(b) As per the survey conducted in 1995-96, the cost of this 93 km long line from Kadur to Sakleshpur via Chikmagalur was assessed as Rs. 157 cr. with rate of return of 6.38%.

(c) The work has been included in the budget 1996-97. The clearances have since been obtained and work has been taken up.

(d) An amount of Rs. 8.56 cr. has been sent upto 31.3.2001. An outlay of Rs. 3. Cr. has been provided during 2001-02.

Losses in Purchase of Onions

4684. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some requests have been received from the Government of Maharashtra to accord sanction to the losses incurred on account of purchase of 5.20 lakh metric tonne of onions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have conveyed their sanction after consideration of their requests; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) State Government of Maharashtra had requested Central Government to implement market intervention scheme (MIS) for Onion for the quantity of 5.85 lakh metric tonne during 2000 season.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) MIS for onion in Maharashtra was sanctioned and implemented for quantity of 65,000 metric tonnes during 2000 season as per the guidelines of the scheme.

Breeds and Milk Production

4685. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether under Operation Flood project an important National Milch Herd set up had been proposed for its success;

(b) if so, the details of this scheme and set up indicating in detail whether these objectives and targets were fully met specially in respect of India's 30 descript native breeds and milk production targets;

(c) whether rural urban divide has widened in respect of per capita milk consumption as a result of failure of milk productivity;

(d) whether average intake of nutrients in rural areas is 70g/day against 250g/day in urban areas and 40 g in slum areas of urban areas;

(e) whether an independent analysis carried out by the initiatives of NGO, Mumbai is in harmony with these findings; and

(f) if so, the corrective steps proposed by the Government in future planning at NDDB?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) National Milch Herd, *inter-alia*, was one of the objectives of the Operation Flood II programme. It aimed at providing artificial services etc. to enable members to breed improved milch animals.

The international funding agencies while evaluating the Operation Flood programme however, monitored the genetic improvement by looking at the achievements of revised targets for dairy cooperative societies covered by artificial inseminations, AI done per year, etc. The revised targets in these areas were by and large met.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) These estimates of intake of nutrients are based on NGO's publication named "The White Challenge" and Government of India cannot comment on the authenticity of this data.

(e) Since these finding are quoted from the studies of Initiatives, an NGO based in Mumbai, the question of harmony between the two does not arise.

(f) Does not arise in view of information furnished above at (e).

Delay in Justice

4686. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned, "Justice delayed is justice denied" appearing in the Times of India dated August 6, 2001;

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

(c) the findings of the Chief Justice of India and Law Minister who visited Tihar Jail, Delhi recently and had issued any directions to the Government/Courts/jail Administration in this regard;

(d) the action taken by the Government/Courts/jail administration on these directions;

(e) whether an apex court has directed to release on bail all undertrials involved in the petty offences or whose trials have been pending for one year or more; and

(f) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

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

(b), (e) and (f) The Supreme Court in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 559/94-R.D. Upadhyay vs. State of Andhra Pradesh and Ors. - vide Orders dated 10th December, 1998 and 13th October, 1999 voiced its concern over the criminal cases pending trial for more than five years and the undertrial prisoners languishing in jail for petty offences and directed all State Governments and Union Territories Administrations to take effective steps for filing challans/reports particularly in cases which involve petty offences. The Central Government has also written to all the State Governments and UT Administrations to take urgent necessary steps for expeditious disposal of cases of undertrials who are languishing in various jails in the country.

Supreme Court in its judgement dated 1.5.1996 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 1128 of 1986, Common Cause Vs Union of India and others, has given several directions to expedite long pending trials & the release of undertrials who have been in jails for a long time. These directions include closing of criminal cases pending for one year or more if the offence is punishable with fine only & is not of a recurring nature, & if the trial has still not commenced.

[*Translation*]

Training to Unemployed Textiles Workers

4687. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the policy formulated by the Government to rehabilitate the workers rendered jobless due to closure of the textile mills;

(b) whether the Government have taken any steps to seek assistance from the NIFT to provide training to the unemployed textile workers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken or being contemplated by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Government have set up the Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS) to provide interim relief to the workers rendered jobless due to permanent closure or partial closure of textile mills in the private sector. The mill should have been closed on or after 6 June, 1985 either under Section 25-O of the Industrial Dispute Act or an official liquidator would have been appointed by the concerned High Court under Companies Act, 1956 in the process of winding up of the unit.

(b) to (d) The National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) has been established mainly for the purpose of developing technically competent human resources through a professional programme of education, research, service and training in fashion technology, which is open to all including the unemployed textile workers, who are otherwise eligible.

[*English*]

National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding

4688. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched a national project for cattle and buffalo breeding;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the manner in which benefits of the project reach to the farmers/breeders as early as possible; and

(d) the steps taken for management of breeding operations on scientific lines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ninth Plan Centrally Sponsored Scheme National Project for Cattle and Buffalo breeding envisages delivery of breeding inputs at the farmers door step, radically improving coverage of bovine population under organised breeding programme, improvement in quality of bulls used for natural service, conservation of indigenous breed, optimum utilisation and enhancement of capacity in institutional infrastructure as well as developing synergies among major players.

(c) Direct release of grants to the State implementing Agencies (SIA) will ensure minimum lock-up period and faster implementation for the benefit of farmers, mobile AI facilities will reach the services to their doorstep and promotion of breeders organisations will provide them means of tackling their problems through innovative measures.

(d) Detailed guidelines for formulation of State sub-project have already been circulated which insist on strengthening of sperm stations and bull mother farms for optimal capacity utilisation, institutional restructuring to improve quality and supply of breeding inputs, a radical human resource development programme for skill upgradation of personnel, quality control of services and inputs, cost recovery of services and inputs and adherence to scientific programme and protocol for genetic improvement. A close monitoring of the progress is envisaged under the programme.

Opening of Museum in J&K

4689. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to open new museums in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Redevelopment Plans of Mumbai High

4690. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

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

(a) whether any irregularities in the redevelopment plans of Mumbai High have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have asked the CVC to inquire the matter before the investment made for redevelopment of Mumbai High;

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

(e) the other steps taken by the Government to develop Mumbai High?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) In order to improve the production and recoveries of oil and gas from Mumbai High North field, Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) carried out studies for its redevelopment, in consultation with international consultants M/s. Gaffney, Cline & Associates, an internationally reputed reservoir consulting firm in U.K. and the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons. The ensuing redevelopment plan conceived as a modular approach has been approved by the ONGC Board. No irregularity has come to the notice of Government in this regard.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Redevelopment Plans are comprehensive plans.

Burning of Barauni-Kanpur Pipeline

4691. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a major fire engulfed an area of three Km near Sikaria half railway station of Barauni-Kanpur pipeline of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main reasons for this fire;

(d) the total loss suffered by Indian Oil Corporation Limited due to this fire;

(e) whether inquiry Committee set up by the Government has given its report; and

(f) if so, the main findings of the Committee and the steps being taken to avoid such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) On 12.4.2001 Indian Oil Corporation Limited reported that a leak had occurred in Barauni-Kanpur product pipeline near Sikaria halt in Arrah District of Bihar which resulted in the spillage of motor spirit and subsequently fire. The fire did not engulf three-km area but was restricted to water, which had accumulated in a close-ended nallah. The fire fighting operations were immediately started and the fire was extinguished.

(c) to (e) The high level inquiry Committee, consisting of the members from Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD) and Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), in its report brought out that the failure of pipe might have been caused by conjoint action of presence of V notch on seam, corrosion patches on the longitudinal weld seam, adjoining heat affect zone and monetary surge in the pipeline. The total loss suffered by Indian Oil Corporation Limited is approximately Rs. 85 lakhs.

(f) Some of the important recommendations were given below:—

1. Defect identified by Intelligent Pig Survey to be rectified on top priority.
2. The maximum operating pressure in Barauni-Patna, Patna-Mughalsarai and Mughalsarai-Allahabad of Barauni-Kanpur pipeline be derated by 20% with immediate effect.

The important recommendations of the Committee have been complied with by IOCL.

Safety Measures

4692. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI K. BALARAMA KRISHNAMURTHY:
DR. JAYANTA RONGPI:
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have decided that Zonal General Managers will be held responsible for safety lapses;

(b) if so, whether these Zonal General Managers will be responsible for managing Rs. 17,000 crore funds announced by the Prime Minister meant for greater responsibility for the rail managements;

(c) if so, whether an additional availability of Rs. 2,500 crore for safety works during the current financial year would further leave no room for excuses like resource crunch;

(d) whether the General Managers have also been asked to consider how the Railways could make its contribution to the funds; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to provide safety in the railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Each accident including serious ones are inquired into either by Railway officials or by Commission of Railway Safety, an independent body under the control of Ministry of Civil Aviation to establish causes of accidents and make recommendations. As per finding of inquiry reports whosoever is held responsible for an accident irrespective of the level is taken up.

(b) The issue of setting up of a non-lapsable safety fund as well as other related issues, are receiving attention of the Government.

(c) Additional fund likely to be made available during the current financial year will be used for ongoing safety projects and assets renewal. Since safety is a continuous and ongoing process, unless funds for renewal of assets are fully allocated financial crunch will continue.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Safety is accorded highest priority in train operation. Safety of train is ensured by adopting various methods like mechanized maintenance of track, walkie talkie communication between driver and guard, intensive training by modern methods of training and frequent inspections at various levels to check lapse on the part of staff and others.

**Japanese Assistance to Simhadri
Thermal Power Station**

4693. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Japanese Government has signed an agreement with the Indian Government to grant Rs. 720 crore worth of official development assistance for the Simhadri Thermal Power Station Phase-II;

(b) if so, the details of projects on Phase-II which the Japanese Government has frozen and are now ready to provide assistance;

(c) the conditions for granting loan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is implementing Simhadri Thermal Power Project (TPP) (2x500 MW) in Visakhapatnam District of Andhra Pradesh. The project is partly funded by loan to NTPC from Japan Bank for International Co-operation (JBIC). In February, 1997, JBIC extended first trache loan of JY 19,817 million (approximately Rs. 710 crores).

Subsequently in August, 2000, second Tranche loan of JY 12,194 million (approximately Rs. 465 crores) was pledged by Government of Japan as Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan. Loan agreement for this second tranche loan was signed between NTPC and JBIC on 30th March, 2001 and made effective on 31st May, 2001. Main terms and conditions of the second tranche loan are as follows:

- (i) The rate of interest will be 1.8% per annum.
- (ii) Disbursement period shall be 7 years from effectuation of the loan.
- (iii) The repayment period will be twenty (20) years after the grace period of ten (10) years.

The work on Simhadri TP is progressing as per schedule. Unit 1 and Unit II are likely to be commissioned in March, 2002 and December, 2002 respectively.

As present, NTPC has no proposal to develop phase II of Simhadri TPP.

Recharging of Discarded Oilfields

4694. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has drawn up plans and finalised contracts for reworking on the 12 discarded oilfields under its control;

(b) if so, the details of such discarded oilfields;

(c) the reasons for abandoning them earlier;

(d) the details of investment required for the exploration work by ONGC on these discarded oilfields;

(e) whether any cost benefit analysis has been done on this proposal for each of the 12 oilfields; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) In so far as Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) is concerned, there are no such discarded oil fields.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

Size of LPG Cylinders

4695. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the size of the existing LPG cylinder to reduce transport cost;

(b) if so, whether the existing size of the cylinder could be increased by at least 25 percent storage capacity without any safety problems;

(c) whether the Government have studied this possibility to economise on cost of the LPG cylinder to the consumer;

(d) if so, the time by which big sized cylinders are likely to come into the market;

(e) whether any experiment has been done earlier; and

(f) if so, the findings and experience thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (f) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies are marketing LPG for domestic purpose in 14.2 Kg. capacity cylinder. At present, there is no plan to increase the size of 14.2 Kg. cylinder for domestic purpose keeping in view the problem of delivery of the LPG cylinder to the door step of the consumer.

Rotation of Wards for Election

4696. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a provision for rotation of wards for election of municipal councillor, zila parishads etc., every five years in respect of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes women;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government propose to review the provision of rotation of wards/constituency for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes women; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (e) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Maize As Value Added Corn Products

4697. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recently organized Maize Mela in Bangalore by the State Governments has kindled much interest in the public about conversion of Maize into value added corn products;

(b) whether Maize was hitherto used only for animal feed and starch manufacturing;

(c) whether the Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore, has developed formulae/recipes for Maize products which can be commercially exploited; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Union Government to support promotion of Maize products manufacture and marketing in Karnataka through the value-addition process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) Yes Sir. A large number of people visited the Maize Mela organized at Bangalore from 4 to 7th July-2001 and showed keen interest in the subject matter of the fair.

(b) Maize is used for food purposes also, apart from being used as animal feed and starch manufacturing.

(c) The Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore has developed various processes and products such as maize flakes and chips, maize noodles, low fat snack products, improved maize roti flour etc.

(d) The Government of India is providing financial assistance for setting up/expansion/modernization of food processing industries including maize based value added products.

[Translation]

Electricity Rates for Farmers

4698. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it was decided to revise electricity rates, particularly for farmers of Rajasthan, in the meeting of Power Ministers;

(b) whether the Government of Rajasthan has revised the electricity rates; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Chief Minister's Conference held in 1996 adopted a Common Minimum National Action Plan (CMNPP) which envisages *inter-alia* that no sector shall pay less than 50% of the

average cost of supply (cost of generation plus transmission and distribution) and the tariffs for agricultural sector will not be less than 50 paise/unit to be brought to 50% of average cost in not more than three years.

The Chief Ministers/Power Ministers Conference held on 3.3.2001 *inter alia* resolved that the past decisions of Chief Ministers of minimum agricultural tariff of 50 paise may be implemented immediately.

(b) and (c) The Rajasthan Regulatory Commission after considering all objections and hearing all parties has in its tariff order dated 24.3.2001 revised the tariff for agriculture supply as follows:—

- (i) For metered supply from 70 paise per unit to 90 paise per unit.
- (ii) For flat rate supply from Rs. 60/- per HP per month to Rs. 85/- HP per month.

Financial Assistance Under REC

4699. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of maximum and minimum financial assistance given under REC during the last two years and current financial year State-wise;

(b) the criteria for providing financial assistance by REC; and

(c) the financial assistance provided to Madhya Pradesh during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) REC's loans are given for financing power infrastructure projects in rural areas. Such loans are sanctioned based on requirement of the concerned projects and credentials of the borrowing organization. Maximum and minimum disbursement during the relevant years is given below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Maximum	Disbursement	Minimum Disbursement (Excluding States where no disbursement has been made on account of their default in repayments)	
	State	Amount	State	Amount
1999-2000	Maharashtra	40262	Sikkim	15
2000-2001	Maharashtra	75453	U.P.	2
2001-2002 upto July	Rajasthan	13770	M.P.	1

(c) On account of continued default in repayment of earlier loans, fresh flow of credit to MP has not been feasible Disbursement made to MP given during the relevant years are given below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Disbursement
1999-2000	9081
2000-2001	151
2001-2002 (upto July)	1

Export of Handloom Products

4700. SHRI RAJO SINGH:
PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of handloom products exported during each of the last three years and current year, country-wise and product-wise;

(b) the target fixed for export of handloom products during the said period product-wise;

(c) the reasons for decline in export;

(d) the handloom products which achieved higher rate of success in export during 2000-2001; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to further promote the export of handloom products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) The information on country-wise and product-wise export of handloom items during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 (upto December 2000) is given in the enclosed statement. The information pertaining to the subsequent period has not become available.

(b) No product-wise targets are fixed for export of handloom products. The targets set for overall export of cotton handloom fabrics/made-ups, in general, during the last three years and the current year have been as under:—

Year	Target (Million US dollar)
1998-99	600
1999-2000	600
2000-01	650
2001-02	550

(c) The reasons for decline in exports may be attributed to the recessionary conditions prevailing in some of the overseas markets; acute competition from countries like China, Pakistan, Turkey, Israel, etc.; and fall in exports to Europe reportedly due to decrease in the value of Europe currency against US dollar, making imports into the European Union countries dearer, and adversely affecting exports of major items like table linen, place mats and other made-up items from India to the European Union.

(d) Since product-wise export figures for the financial year 2000-01 have not become available from the concerned quarters, this information is not available.

(e) The steps taken by the Government to promote export of handloom products are as under:—

- Organisation of Buyer-Seller Meets in important International markets;
- Participation in leading International fairs/exhibitions in selected countries;
- Technical upgradation of looms and various production processes;
- Assistance made available to the exporters under Duty Entitlement Pass Book Scheme/Duty Drawback Scheme;
- Technology Upgradation Fund to upgrade technology;
- Supply of Hank Yarn at Millgate Prices through National Handloom Development Corporation to handloom production centres;
- Assistance provided under the Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing scheme to build up production capabilities through diversification of products, design development and through publicity and marketing abroad;
- Updating of website at frequent intervals to update information to the buyers about the handloom products; and
- Inviting buyers from abroad to visit various handloom production centres in India.

Statement

The quantity and value of handloom products exported during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 (upto December, 2000)

Year	Fabrics		Madeups		Total
	Qty. in Crore Sq. M	Value Rs. in Crore	Qty. in Crore Kg.	Value Rs. in Crore	Rs. in crore
1998-99	3.999	223.488	9.586	1784.42	2007.908
1999-2000	4.007	206.799	9.269	1685.11	1891.909
2000-01 (Apr. - Dec. 2000)	2.510	139.940	5.860	1180.44	1320.380

*Export of cotton handloom fabrics/madeups to major countries**During 1998-99, 1999-2000 & 2000-01 (April-Dec. 2000)*

(Figures in Rs. in Crore)

S.No. Countries	Exports during the period		
	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01 (Apr.-Dec.)
1. U.S.A.	617.77	581.60	441.9
2. U.K.	233.14	246.91	144.63
3. Japan	164.99	147.40	81.80
4. Germany	160.35	160.22	88.16
5. France	105.50	105.97	66.40
6. Sweden	103.26	91.73	50.73
7. Australia	77.95	66.96	39.47
8. Italy	61.35	50.25	96.17
9. Belgium	68.28	48.82	32.07
10. Spain	30.12	49.77	30.16
11. Netherlands	51.86	27.90	11.63
12. Denmark	30.13	23.55	11.57
13. Singapore	16.30	20.85	15.20
14. Malaysia	9.53	18.04	13.59
15. Taiwan	11.51	5.94	4.57
16. South Africa	16.76	18.04	13.27

*[English]***Perennial Problem**

4701. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether flood situation every year throughout the country is a perennial problem; and

(b) if so, the concrete steps taken to solve this problem during the current year and the next year?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Some part or other of the country is affected by floods every year. There is ready availability of funds for the States under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF)

for taking immediate relief measures in the wake of natural calamities including floods. While management of floods is the responsibility of State Government concerned, the Ministry of Water Resources and the State Governments are implementing a number of schemes which have components towards long-term measures for mitigating damage due to floods.

Construction of Light House Towar at Puri

4702. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the purchase orders for acquiring equipments for the lighthouse has been placed in June, 1993 even before the commencement/finalisation of the contract for the construction of lighthouse tower at Puri;

(b) if so, whether the equipments costing Rs. 14.10 lakh was purchased in October 1995 and its warranty period was expired in January 1997;

(c) if so, the action taken against the errant officials;

(d) whether the lighthouse at Puri was declared unsafe in December 1991 and it is still functioning at the unsafe building even after a lapse of eight years; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the action taken to get the lighthouse tower shifted to a safer place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Supply orders for procurement of Light equipment for Puri, Koddikarai and Daman were placed at the same time since the equipment was similar for all the three lighthouses. Although the warranty period of the equipment has expired in January, 1997, similar equipments are in operation at two lighthouses namely, Koddikarai and Daman and the equipments installed at Koddikarai and Daman are working satisfactorily. The performance of Puri equipment was also found satisfactory when tested for its performance on its receipt. The Department of Lighthouses & Lightships is also having the expertise in running such types of equipments and therefore, does not envisage any difficulty in successful operation.

(c) No action is considered necessary in view of (a) & (b) above.

(d) The Puri lighthouse tower is a 3 metre MS trestle installed on the roof of the Circuit House Puri, which was in safe condition at that time. However, when Public Works Department, Orissa (PWD Division, Puri) informed the Department of Lighthouses & Lightships that the roof of the building on which the light equipment is installed, has been declared unsafe and required to be demolished, there was no alternative for the Department but to remove the Light from the circuit House roof. However, Public Works Department (PWD), Orissa have permitted the Department to continue the operation till a final decision of the demolition of the building is actually taken. In the meantime, PWD, Orissa did some strengthening work without demolishing the building. Therefore, the light equipment has not been shifted from its original place.

(e) The construction of Lighthouse Tower at new location is in advanced stage of completion and is likely to be operational by March, 2002.

Agricultural Mechanisation

4703. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States covered by the training and testing activities of the Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institute in the country;

(b) whether the process has been initiated for creation of Roll Over Protective Structure and Emission Test Facilities to each of the States; and

(c) the progress made so far in formation of agricultural mechanization in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Farm Machinery Training and Testing institutes are located at Budni in Madhya Pradesh, Hissar in Haryana, Garladinne in Andhra Pradesh and at Biswanath Chariali in Assam. The facilities of training for the benefit of the farmers, technicians, rural youth etc. and testing of machines at these Institutes can be availed of by interested persons residing in any part of the country.

(b) Action has been initiated for setting up of test facilities for Roll Over Protective Structures and for emissions at the Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institute, at Budni, since this is the only Institute in the country which undertakes testing of tractors at present.

(c) There has been considerable progress in agricultural mechanization in the country during the past few decades. This progress may be seen from the increase in farm power availability from about 0.295 KW/hectare in 1971-72 to about 1.231 KW/hectare during the current year.

Request for Reducing the Premium Rate of Sugarcane from Maharashtra

4704. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has requested the Union Government to reduce the premium rate of sugarcane crop from 2.5% to 0.50% under the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Keeping in view the variability in the past yield data of sugarcane, State Government of Maharashtra requested for reduction in the premium rate from 1% to 0.5% under National Agriculture Insurance (NAIS).

General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) which is the implementing Agency (IA) works out actuarial premium rates for annual commercial/horticultural crops (including sugarcane) covered under NAIS. The methodology adopted by the IA for working out the actuarial premium rates has already been communicated to the Government of Maharashtra. According to GIC, besides variability in the past yield data other factors such as inflationary trends, sum insured, data inconsistency, moral hazards, anti-selection etc. are also taken in to account while calculating the actuarial premium rates. Accordingly, GIC has worked out the premium rate of 1% for sugarcane in Kharif 2000 season.

Power Generation During the Ninth Plan

4705. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the target set by the National Thermal Power Corporation on power generation during the Ninth Plan and the achievement made therein so far;

(b) whether NTPC has any proposal for the upward revision of power generation during the Tenth Plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the plant-wise projection made therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The year-wise generation targets and corresponding achievements of NTPC plants during Ninth Plan are as under:—

Million Units (MUs)		
Year	Target (MUs)	Actual (MUs)
1	2	3
1997-98	99000	106290

1	2	3
1998-99	104000	109505
1999-00	107000	118677
2000-01	114000	130154
2001-02 (April-July)	39435 (Pro-rata)	43700
Total	463435	508326

(b) to (d) The existing installed capacity of NPTC stations is 19435 MW (19935 MW by end of Ninth Plan). During Tenth Plan, NTPC proposes to add another 9900 MW Power Generating Capacity. The plant-wise details are as under:

Project (State)	Capacity
Simhadri (A.P.)	500 MW
Talchar-II (Orissa)	2000 MW
Ramagundam-III (A.P.)	500 MW
Rihand-II (U.P.)	1000 MW
Sipat (Chhattisgarh)	1320 MW
Khalgaon-II (Bihar)	660 MW
Barh (Bihar)	660 MW
North Karanpura (Bihar)	660 MW
Anta-II (Rajasthan)*	650 MW
Ayraiya-II (U.P.)*	650 MW
Kawas-II (Gujarat)*	650 MW
Gandhar-II (Gujarat)*	650 MW
Total Tenth Plan	9900 MW

* Capacity Addition of these expansion stages of NTPC's gas projects is subject to confirmation of reasonable firm price of regassified LNG, acceptable to beneficiary States/UTs.

The above capacity Addition Plan of NTPC is subject to 95% collection of current bills, 100% realization of past outstanding dues progressively through securitisation.

[Translation]

**Power Generation Capacity of
Power Plants in Bihar**

4706 DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of power generation capacity of each power plant in Bihar increased during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the power generation capacity of the power plants in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) There has been no addition in respect of existing thermal/hydro power stations in Bihar during the last 3 years.

(b) and (c) The following thermal projects have been proposed to increase power generation capacity in the State:

1. Existing Station

Kahalgaon STPP St. II (2x660 MW) by National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd.

2. New Proposals

(i) Katihar TPP (2x250 MW) - State Sector Project

(ii) Barh STPP (3x660 MW) by National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd.

In addition to above projects, Barauni and Muzaffarpur thermal power stations have been identified by Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB) for Renovation & Modernisation (R&M) and Life Extension (LE) works during the 10th Plan to improve their availability, PLF and extension of their operating life. BSEB has been advised to formulate comprehensive R&M/LE scheme after getting the Residual Life Assessment Studies. The Government of India is providing additional Central Plan Assistance under Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) in the form of grant and loan for R&M works, subject to fulfillment of certain conditions. During 2000-01, an amount of Rs. 10.28 crores was sanctioned under APDP comprising Rs. 5.14 crores as grant and Rs. 5.14 crores as loan for R&M of Muzaffarpur TPS.

[English]

**Encouragement to Fishing, Poultry
and Coconut Development**

4707. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have chalked out new plans for the encouragement of fisheries, poultry and coconut development in the country, State-wise; and

(b) if so, the amount required to be spent on these plans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The Government is implementing various schemes for the development of fisheries, poultry and coconut in the country. However, no new Scheme has been formulated for the development of fisheries, poultry and coconut.

[Translation]

Stoppage of Trains at Navapur and Dondaicha

4708. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representation from the Members of Parliament for providing stoppage of mail and express trains at Navapur and Dondaicha railway stations running on the Surat-Bhusawal rail line;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the income earned by the Railways from the passengers' ticket fares at Navapur and Dondaicha railway stations and whether the said income is less than the minimum income earned at any railway station in the country where a mail or express train has been provided a stoppage;

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to ascertain the facts if Railways are incurring losses or not by providing a stoppage at Navapur railway station; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (e) Demands have been received from MPs, MLAs etc. including from Shri Manikrao Hodalya Gavit, MP to provide the stoppage of Surat-Varanasi Tapti-Ganga Express & Chennai-Ahmedabad Navjeevan Express at Navpur and Hapa-Howrah Express, Oha-Puri Express, Ahmedabad-Puri Express, Ahmedabad-Bangalore Express, Ahmedabad-Chennai Navjeevan Express, Surat-Varanasi Tapti-Ganga Express & Surat-Patna Express at Dondaicha station.

While deciding on the need for a new stoppage of a train the factors to be taken into account are (1) sale of tickets (2) population of towns/cities (3) trains already stopping/availability of alternative services (4) convenience of the existing services (5) new developments taking place (6) operational problems of availability of path and platform at enroute stations (7) pattern of traffic (8) passing time of the trains (9) nature of the train and (10) additional costs involved in stoppage of a train.

The daily average originating passenger at Navapur is 421 and that of Dondaicha are 905 and the daily average earning of Navapur is Rs. 13,500/- and that of Dondaicha is Rs. 22,673/-

After examining the above, stoppage of Surat-Varanasi Tapti-Ganga Express (5 days in a week) and Surat-Patna Express (bi-weekly) at Dondaicha station has been provided from 1.11.2000. Stoppage of 615/616 Chennai Egmore-Jodhpur Summer Special train (weekly) was also provided at Dondaicha during 2001.

Stoppage of other trains at Navapur and Dondaicha stations has not been found feasible at present.

[English]

Departmental Examination

4709. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Eastern Railway has conducted Asst. Operation/Traffic Manager Departmental Examination in March, 2001;

(b) if so, the irregularities being committed by the Eastern Railways Selection Committee;

(c) whether the Government have received some complaints from the M.P.s in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (e) A complaint dated 8.4.2001, from Hon'ble Members of Parliament alleging certain irregularities in a departmental examination on the Eastern Railway, for selection as Assistant Operating Manager/ Assistant Traffic Manager, was received by the Ministry of Railways. A Vigilance enquiry has been ordered to look into the alleged irregularities.

Registration of Marriage Compulsory

4710. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI R.S. PATIL:

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

(a) whether the Government have received representation from the National Commission for Women and other organisations regarding registration of marriage to be made compulsory;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) National Commission for Women in its Annual Report for the year 1997-98 has recommended compulsory registration of marriages with the aim of preventing child marriages, requirements of consent of the bride to the marriage, to ensure prohibition against polygamy and also to ensure that the wife gets notice of an intended further marriage.

(c) Registration of marriages solemnised or contracted under the Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872, the Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936 and the Special Marriage Act, 1954 are compulsory. Section 8 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 provides that if the State Government is of opinion that is necessary or expedient so to do, it may provide that the entering of the particulars of Hindu

marriages in the Hindu marriage register shall be compulsory in the State or in any part thereof, whether in all cases or in such cases as may be specified. Certain State Governments, namely, the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka have State Acts providing for compulsory registration of marriages in those States. Registration of Marriages solemnised otherwise than under the Special Marriage Act, 1954 is permissible under section 16 of the said Act if such marriages fulfil certain conditions as laid down under chapter III of that Act. The question of making registration of Hindu marriages compulsory could thus be considered by the State Governments as per the local situation prevailing in those States. Hence, there is no proposal to make any changes in that law.

Special Central Assistance for Earthquake in Gujarat

4711. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA:
PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK:
SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any request from the Government of Gujarat for release of special central assistance for the earthquake affected people of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantum of Central assistance requested for, the quantum of Central assistance announced and the quantum of central assistance released so far?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) The Government of Gujarat had submitted a memorandum seeking Central assistance of about Rs. 13,000 crore in the wake of the earthquake of 26th January, 2001. In addition to release of Central Share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), assistance amounting to Rs. 1467.37 crore from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) has been released to the State besides release of funds under related central schemes.

Settlement of Outstanding Dues

4712. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the States have alleged that NTPC is overcharging the States for power being sold to them;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action proposed for one time settlement to clear the outstanding dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The tariffs for NTPC power stations upto May, 1999 were determined by Government of India as per provisions in the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948. This function now vests with Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) as per the provision in the Electricity Regulatory Commission Act, 1998. They have determined a few provisional tariffs for newly commissioned units. The CERC have decided that tariffs so far determined by the Government of India or provisionally determined by the Commission shall remain valid upto 31.3.2001. The Commission, vide notification dated 4.4.2001, have further extended the validity of existing tariffs upto 30.9.2001 to enable them to determine revised tariffs to be effective from 1.4.2001.

NTPC raises bills every month based on tariffs notified as indicated above and in accordance with the Regional Energy Accounts issued by Regional Electricity Boards. Therefore, NTPC has not overcharged the States for the power sold by them.

(c) Pursuant to decision taken in the Chief Minister's Conference in March, 2001, the Expert Committee constituted by Government of India the Chairmanship of Member (Energy), Planning Commission has submitted its report on one time settlement of outstanding dues of SEBs payable to CPSUs on 11.5.2001. The Expert Group as recommended substantial incentive to the State utilities to settle past due and ensure full payment in future. These benefits include:

- (i) Partial write-off of surcharge to the extent of 50% thereof.
- (ii) CPSUs to give 2% of bond amount as cash incentive to those SEBs who open and maintain LCs without default by the specified dates.
- (iii) Issuance of the tax-free bonds by the State Governments.
- (iv) The Cash incentives for a period of 4 years @ 4% of the face value of the bonds to SEBs for achieving the prescribed performance milestones by the SEBs.

Recommendations of the Expert Group were considered by the High Level Empowered Group of Chief Ministers and these Recommendations have been accepted with the following modifications.

- (a) The waiver of surcharge recommended by the Expert Group increased from 50% to 60%.
- (b) The incentives for a period of 4 years @ 4% of the face value of the bonds for achievement of performance milestones by the SEBs, increased to 6% in the first year and 5% in the second year.

All the State Governments have been requested to initiate necessary steps for the implementation of the aforesaid scheme.

Compensation to Accident Victims

4713. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI Y.V. RAO:
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Railways puts compensation on fast track" appearing in the statesman dated July 10, 2001;

(b) if so, the average time taken to settle the compensation claim;

(c) whether the period of payment of compensation to the victims of rail accidents has been reduced;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of cases relating to compensation to the victims of rail accidents pending as on 31 July, 2001; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to clear those cases expeditiously?

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

(b) The average time taken for settlement of compensation claims for train accident is 352 days.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Before setting up of Railway Claims Tribunal, the adhoc Claims Commissioners appointed by the State Governments were taking 2 to 3 years to settle accident claims. This period has now been reduced to 352 days.

(e) 454 train accident cases are pending as on 31.7.2001.

(f) Various steps are taken at different stages for expeditious clearance of cases. These include:

(j) After filing of claims and receipt of summons from the Railway Claims Tribunal, written statements are filed by the Railways within 30 days.

(ii) Members are deputed from one bench to another to hold double branches to facilitate clearance of cases.

(iii) On receipt of decree, cheques are dispatched within a fortnight.

Withdrawal of Foreign Companies

4714. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a host of multinational companies have threatened to pull out from the Indian power projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry has taken up the payment support mechanism with the Ministry of Finance; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) M/s. AES Corporation of the United States of America, who have acquired 51% of CESCO, an electric distribution company in eastern Orissa, have, in a letter addressed to the Ministry of Power, indicated their intention to abandon its commitment to the Distribution Company citing dissatisfaction with the performance of the Grid Corporation of Orissa (GRIDCO) and non-compliance of the contractual obligations. Enron Corporation, promoters

of Dabhol Power Project (2184 MW) in Maharashtra have also indicated its desire to sell foreign equity owned by them, Bechtal Enterprises and General Electric Corporation because of the ongoing dispute between Dabhol Power Company and Maharashtra State Electricity Board.

(c) and (d) The proposal for structuring large power projects and for providing support to Power Trading Corporation of India Limited, is presently under consideration of the Government.

Double Shift In Courts

4715. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce double shift system of courts in the country to overcome the pending menace of legal cases;

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

(c) the number of cases kept pending for the last 20, 15, 10 and 5 years in each State as on date?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) The proposal to introduce double shift system of courts was examined by the Government alongwith many others to reduce delays in the legal system. In view of the lack of support from the State Governments/High Courts, the proposal for double shifts in courts has not been pursued further.

(c) As per available information in the Department Justice a statement showing number of cases pending for 3-10 years and more than 10 years in each State is at the statement enclosed.

Statement

As per available age-wise pendency of cases in the District/Subordinate Court (State-wise)

Sl.No.	Name of the States/UTs	Three to ten years old	Over ten years old	As on
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	137064	7177	6/2000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	18	0	6/1999
3.	Assam	61	32	12/1999
4.	Bihar	315436	59449	6/2000
5.	Goa	10805	2857	12/2000
6.	Gujarat	837006	97822	6/2000
7.	Haryana	102370	1880	12/1998
8.	Himachal Pradesh	26895	351	6/2000
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	8770	3827	12/1998
10.	Karnataka	233019	28132	6/2000
11.	Kerala	65215	2825	6/2000
12.	Madhya Pradesh	325692	66219	6/2000
13.	Maharashtra	776074	217257	6/2000
14.	Manipur	2098	431	12/1999

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Meghalaya	4004	1658	12/1999
16.	Mizoram	68	2	6/2000
17.	Nagaland	NOT AVAILABLE		
18.	Orissa	131097	10187	6/2000
19.	Punjab	47898	4142	12/1998
20.	Rajasthan	259721	49468	6/2000
21.	Sikkim	41	0	12/1999
22.	Tamil Nadu	48426	5182	12/1999
23.	Tripura	2192	335	6/2000
24.	Uttar Pradesh	857741	158532	12/1999
25.	West Bengal	308573	95555	12/1998
26.	Andman & Nicobar	127	3	6/1999
27.	Chandigarh	2908	79	12/1998
28.	Dadra & N. Haveli	275	7	6/2000
29.	Daman & Diu	322	16	6/2000
30.	Delhi	111074	15571	12/2000
31.	Lakshdweep	25	4	6/2000
32.	Pondicherry	1042	345	6/2000

[Translation]

**Funds from Foreign Countries for
Agricultural Projects**

4716. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received funds from foreign countries for agricultural projects during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the Agricultural Projects to be launched with foreign assistance?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

**Construction of Refrigeration Facilities in Private
Sector**

4717. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to give fiscal and other incentives for construction of refrigeration facilities in private sector for perishable commodities like vegetables etc. to the States in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total capacity likely to be created during 2001-2002; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) Section 80-IB of the Income-Tax Act envisages two tier tax holiday to industrial undertakings including **cold storage plants** set up in an industrially backward State (as specified in the 8th Schedule of the Income Tax Act) and in notified industrially backward districts in respect of commencement of operation on or after 1.4.1993 and 1.10.1994, respectively and upto 31.3.2002. For undertakings in industrially backward States and category-A industrially backward districts, a deduction of 100% of profit and gains for the first 5 years followed by 25% (30% for companies) for the next 5 years is available. For undertakings in Category-B industrially backward districts a deduction of 100% of profit and gains for the first 3 years followed by 25% (30% for companies) for the next 5 years is available. Further, Cold chain facilities for agricultural produce enjoy a 10 year 25% (30% for companies) deduction from profits and gains under Section 80-IB on commencement of operation on or after 1.4.1999 and up to 31.3.2003.

Certain specified goods, if intended to be used for the installation of a cold storage, cold room or refrigerated vehicle, for the preservation, storage or transport of agricultural produce are exempt from payment of excise duty.

Besides, financial assistance in the form of back-ended Capital Investment subsidy is provided for construction of cold storages and cold chain infrastructure like pre-cooling units, cool stores, containers, refer vans, etc. by the National Horticulture Board (NHB), an autonomous organization under the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, under its schemes as below:—

- (i) Capital Investment Subsidy @25% of the project cost not exceeding Rs. 50.00 lakhs per project and @33.33% of the project cost up to a ceiling of Rs. 60.00 lakhs per project for North Eastern States for construction of cold storages.
- (ii) Capital investment subsidy @ 20% of the total project cost not exceeding Rs. 25.00 lakhs per project for development of Commercial Horticulture through Post Harvest Management. For North East/Tribal/Hilly Areas maximum limit of subsidy is Rs. 30.00 lakhs.

As on date, 327 number of cold storage projects creating a total capacity of 16.00 lakh MT have been sanctioned.

Setting up of Expert Panel

4718. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has requested the Finance Minister to set up an expert panel to suggest a level playing field for the industry to compete globally; and

(b) if so, the response received thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the representations received from the Shipping Industry and its Association, the Indian National Shipowners' Association, for grant of incentives to the Shipping Industry in order to have a level playing field to compete globally, are examined from time to time in consultation with Ministry of Finance.

Production and Export of Agricultural Products

4719. SHRI SAHIB SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to review the existing legal obstacles in the law in view of globalization and coming of World Trade Organization on the international scene, to ensure boost up in production and export of the agricultural produce/products;

(b) the details of agricultural products item-wise, produced and exported during each of the last three years and up to July 31, 2001 along with the name of importing country; and

(c) the details of the projections made in this regard for 2001-02 and 2002-03?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Saline Affected Land in A&N Islands

4720. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have carried out any land survey of saline affected land in the country particularly in Andaman and Nicobar Islands which has been causing huge loss to farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the results achieved therefrom, State-wise, especially in Andaman and Nicobar Islands; and

(c) the remedial steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) No systematic survey has been taken up to assess the saline affected land in the country. However, it has been estimated that 55.01 lakh ha. is affected by salinity including coastal saline soils in the country. The State-wise extent of saline including coastal saline is given in the statement. The Department of Agriculture, Andaman & Nicobar Administration has carried out land survey for Andaman Group of Islands including Campbell Bay. The area affected by salinity obtained from the survey report is as under:

(i)	Highly saline affected (S3)	532.12 ha.
(ii)	Moderately affected (S2)	477.96 ha.
(iii)	Slightly affected S(3)	349.14 ha.
Total		1359.22 ha.

(c) Andaman Public Works Department is entrusted for the implementation of saline reclamation works. During the current year, Rs. 80 lakhs has been provided to Andaman Public Works Department to take up reclamation of saline affected land. Besides this, Department of Agriculture is also taking up three saline reclamation bund works costing Rs. 15 lakh during the current year. During the 10th Five Year Plan, in the draft proposal, a provision of Rs. 571 lakhs has been proposed for the reclamation of saline affected land in the U.T. of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Further, Central Agricultural Research Institute for A&N Group of Islands, Portblair (ICAR) has developed suitable technologies in the form of high yielding rice varieties and other plantation crops, aqua culture under saline environment and several other techniques for the successful utilization of saline soils.

Statement

Statewise Details of the Estimated area under Salinity

State	Land Affected by Salinity Incl. coastal saline sandy
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	1.76
Gujarat	1.00

1	2
Haryana	0.76
Karnataka	3.28
Kerala	1.17
Madhya Pradesh	0.78
Maharashtra	4.75
Rajasthan	10.00*
Tamil Nadu	1.00
Uttar Pradesh	1.95
Andaman & Nicobar	0.01
Total	40.38 +14.65 ** 55.01

* Includes saline area of arid Rajasthan and Rann of Katch.

** Sandy areas appears not reported along coastal saline soils.

Research Programmes of Plant Varieties/Foodgrains

4721. SHRI V. VETRISILVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the hybrid/high-tech research programmes of plant varieties/foodgrains currently undertaken by Indian scientists

(b) the steps taken by the Government to meet the need of such high yielding and resistive varieties of plants and foodgrains;

(c) whether such high yielding varieties of Plants/foodgrains are imported; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) High priority is being accorded for development of hybrids to harness hybrid vigour in food grains, specially in crops such as rice, maize, pearl millet and sorghum. The hybrid technology is also being widely used in sunflower, safflower, castor, rapeseed-mustard, pigeon pea, vegetables such as tomato, brinjal, Cauliflower, Cucurbits, etc. and fruits such as mango, guava, grape, apple, melons etc. under various All India Coordinated Research

Projects/Institutes and National Agricultural Technology Project under ICAR. Similar high priority is given to high-tech research area like biotechnology. Development and testing of transgenic crops varieties are in different stages of progress in crops such as potato, brinjal, cauliflower, cotton, rice etc.

(b) For realizing the potential of hybrid for achieving high yield and resistance to pests and disease, a special project on "Promotion of Research and Development efforts on hybrids in selected crops" was implemented during 1989 to 1996-97 with an outlay of Rs. 2988.407 lakhs. This Project with appropriate reorientation is now supported from World Bank under NATP as "Development of Hybrids-crops" with a budget outlay of Rs. 1793.27 lakhs. Similar emphasis on hybrid research and development in vegetables was given under "Network Project on Promotion of Hybrid Research in Vegetable

Crops" from 1.10.95 to 31.3.99 with an outlay of Rs. 344.01 lakhs. This project is now extended under NATP as "Development of Hybrid Vegetable Crops" with an outlay of Rs. 363.95 lakhs. the programme on hybrid technology also includes frontline demonstrations for testing the above crop hybrids in farmer's fields. Funds are also provided under United Nations Development Programme for promotion of hybrid rice.

(c) Most of the high yielding hybrids and varieties in all crops are indigenously developed by our own scientists. However, a few hybrids/planting material/varieties in selected crops are being imported by the private sector under the new seed policy.

(d) Seeds and planting material are being imported under the New Seed Policy. Details of such material recommended for import during the last three years are enclosed in the statement.

Statement

Details of Seed/Planting material recommended for import during the last three years

		(Qty. in Nos/T)		
S.No.	Particulars	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
1.	Sprouted Oil-Palm seedlings	26.5 lakhs (C)	12.27 lakhs (C)	—
2.	Fruits & Root Stocks & Cuttings of Apple, stawberry, plum, pear, grapes etc.	15.96 lakhs (C)	0.58 (C)	3.21 lakh (C)
3.	Maize seed	1.628 T (E)	0.718 T (E)	0.020 T(E)
4.	Jujuba seed	2.00 T (C)	—	—
5.	Papaya seed	0.032 (C)	—	—
6.	Soyabean seed	0.075 (E)	0.25 (E)	—
7.	Rape seed	3.00 T (C)	—	—
8.	Pea seed	—	0.25 (E)	0.03 (E)
9.	Jute seed	—	0.18 (C)	—
10.	Berseem seed	—	0.054 (E)	0.025 (E)
11.	Grass seed	—	7.375 (C)	0.16 (C)
12.	Others seeds	—	0.01 (E)	0.60 (E)

Symbol C = Cultivation
E= Experiment

[Translation]

Unlicenced Coolies

4722. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the railway stations in Maharashtra, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh where unlicenced coolies are being employed instead of licenced coolies by the contractors for loading and unloading of the parcels;

(b) whether the Government have decided to abolish contract system for loading and unloading of parcels;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the said decision has been implemented in all the railway stations;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the time by which the said decision is likely to be implemented at all the railway stations in Delhi, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) It is not the policy of Railways to permit Contractors to engage licenced coolies for parcel loading/unloading.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (f) Do not arise.

Rope Way System in Jaipur

4723. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to start rope way system for public convenience in Nahargarh, Jaigarh, Amer and Galta pilgrimage centre in Jaipur city;

(b) if so, the proposed time for its commencement of the said works;

(c) whether the Government have released or propose to release funds for the said plan;

(d) whether there is any possibility of obtaining funds from some other agency; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (e) The Development of infrastructure including setting up of rope way service at tourist places/pilgrim centres, providing facilities to the visitors at these places, their upkeep and maintenance are primarily the responsibilities of the State/UT's Government concerned. However, Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance for specific projects prioritized in consultation with the State/UT's Government every year. The State Government of Rajasthan has not submitted any proposal for prioritization and for central financial assistance, for setting-up of rope way services in Nahargarh, Jaigarh, Amer and Galta pilgrimage centre in Jaipur city.

[English]

Setting up Thermal Plant In Mangalore

4724. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Thermal Power Corporation has decided to set up a thermal plant at Neelavar village;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there was any protest by villages for taking over their most fertile land; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) At present, National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has no proposal to set up a thermal plant at Neelavar village in district Udupi, Karnataka. A team of NTPC officials visited a site near Neelavar village to assess prima-facie suitability of the site. However, the site was not found suitable because of high vegetation cover, highly undulating land, granite layer underneath, high cost of water drawal system etc.

Production of Golden Rice

4725. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to produce genetically modified "Golden Rice" which is enriched with Vitamin-A;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the programme currently undertaken by the Government to produce such enriched varieties of plants and foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Department of Biotechnology and Indian Council of Agricultural Research are jointly working towards finalisation of a proposal with Swiss Department regarding research programme to be undertaken for producing "Golden Rice" which is rich in Vitamin A. Presently, the genetically engineered "Golden rice" is in the genetic background of Japonica rice, which is not preferred in a tropical country like India therefore there is need to develop pro-vitamin A rich rice varieties of local interest, which are consumed by masses in India.

Under the project, it is proposed to introduce genes encoding beta carotenoid into Indian rice lines through genetic transformation as well as introgression breeding without affecting the other agronomic traits. The rice lines finally developed through research will be tested for their toxicity, allergenicity and nutritional impact as well as other agronomic parameters before it is made available for general cultivation.

Vacant Post of Judges in District and Sub-Ordinate Courts

4726. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:
SHRI B.V.N. REDDY:

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

(a) the steps taken by the Government to fill up the accumulated vacancies of 1500 judges in the district and sub-ordinate courts in the country; and

(b) the time by which these vacancies are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Appointment of District Judges and other judges of the subordinate courts is made by the Governor of the State in consultation with the High Court exercising jurisdiction in relation to such State under the provisions of articles 233-234 of the Constitution of India. The Central Government have been periodically urging the State Governments/Union territories and the High Courts to accord utmost priority to filling up of vacant posts of judges and magistrates. The Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs has written in this regard to the Chief Justices of all High Courts and Chief Ministers of all States on 4.4.2001. The filling up of the existing vacancies at the district and subordinate courts is the concern of the respective High Courts and the State Governments.

Therefore, no time frame can be prescribed by the Union Government to fill up the accumulated vacancies.

[*Translation*]

Tourist Centre in Jharkhand

4727. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the tourist centres in Jharkhand selected for development at national level;

(b) the pace of development in regard thereto and the reasons for delay in its development; and

(c) the scheme for the development of new tourism centres in the State?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Development of tourist centres is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations. Department of Tourism, Government of India, however, provides financial assistance for tourism projects prioritized in consultation with them every year. The details of financial assistance provided for tourism projects of Jharkhand during 2000-2001 are as under:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of project	Amount sanctioned	Amount released
1.	Tourist Complex at Jamshedpur	49.28	14.78
2.	Tourist Complex at Rajrappa	49.28	14.78
3.	Tourist Complex at Rikhia	49.28	14.78
4.	Wayside facilities at Godermana	19.55	5.86
5.	Wayside facilities at Itkhor	19.55	5.86
6.	Wayside facilities at Tenughat	19.55	5.86

(b) These projects are implemented by the State Government. Subsequent installments of funds are released on receipt of Utilization Certificate, Completion Certificate etc.

(c) Nine projects with Central financial component of Rs. 344.00 lakhs have been prioritized during the current financial year.

[English]

Hike In Court Fees

4728. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the court fees has been increased;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any protest has been lodged in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to take some positive steps in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) The levying of court fee on institution and trial of suits and the petitions presented to the courts is regulated under the Courts Fees' Act, 1870. this is a Central enactment. However, the power to amend the Act in its application to the States has been delegated to the State Governments. Accordingly, the State

Governments can amend the Court Fees Act in its application to their territories as and when considered necessary by them.

The Central Government has no proposal to increase the court fees.

(c) and (d) No protest has been received so far in the Department of Justice in this connection.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Income Details of Political Parties

4729. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to unstarred Question No. 5869 dated April 26, 2001 regarding Income details submitted by political parties and to state:

(a) whether the required information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(d) the time by which the required information is likely to be laid on the table of House?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) The requisite information is still being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House, as soon as possible.

Production of Fruit and Vegetables

4730. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether production of fruits and vegetables in the country is about 60.20 crore tonne; and

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to provide remunerative prices of fruits and vegetables to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir. The total production of fruits and vegetables in the country is 13.63 crore tones (4.55 crore tonnes fruits and 9.08) crore tonnes vegetables) during 1999-2000.

(b) Since fruits and vegetables are perishable commodities, they are not covered under Market Support Price (M.S.P.). However, these are covered under the Market Intervention Scheme (M.I.S.) wherein the market operation is done on the formal request of State Government subject to their willingness to share 50 per cent loss, if any, incurred in undertaking the Scheme.

Irregularities in Handloom/Handicrafts Sectors

4731. RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Carpet Industry of Bhadoi and Saree Industry of Banaras are on the verge of ruination due to irregularities committed by the Handicraft and Handloom sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof, the reaction of the Government thereon; and

(c) the details of measures taken by the Government to promote and protect these industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) In so far as carpet industry of Bhadohi is concerned, no irregularities have been reported. However in so far as Saree industry of Banaras is concerned, the Government of India is implementing the handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 under which 11 categories of textile articles have been reserved at present for exclusive production on handlooms to protect the

interest of Handloom weavers. During the implementing of the said Act, 3 cases have been detected in Banaras violating the provisions of the Act by producing sarees on powerloom units which is prohibited under the provisions of the Act *ibid*. Hence, FIRs were lodged against the powerloom units violating the provisions of the said Act and these cases are under trial in the concerned courts at Banaras. Out of these 3 cases, 2 have been decided by the Court and 1 case is still under trial.

(c) A number of schemes are being implemented by the Government to promote and protect the handicrafts and handlooms industry in the country including carpet industry of Bhadohi and Saree industry of Banaras. The schemes for the handicraft sector include: training; design development; setting up of craft development centres/ common facility centre; exhibition and publicity; marketing development; launching of website on handicrafts; workshed-cum-housing scheme and launching of Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY) for developing artisan clusters. The schemes for handlooms sector include Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana; Workshed and Workshed-cum-Housing; Insurance; health packages; thrift fund and mill gate price schemes etc.

Storage Problem Due to Excess Production of Wheat and Rice

4732. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether storage problem has arisen due to excess production of wheat and rice in the country;

(b) if so, the scheme of the Government in this regard;

(c) whether this excess production has caused loss to the farmers instead of profit;

(d) if so, whether this is due to change in or breaking of crop cycle;

(e) if so, the action the Government propose to take in this regard; and

(f) if not, the factors responsible for loss to the farmers despite excess production?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The storage problem can not be ascribed to a single reason like the excess production of wheat and

rice. Even though huge procurement operations have been undertaken by Food Corporation of India (FCI), the storage problem has been effectively managed during the Rabi 2000-01 season.

(b) For the next Kharif season, the Government has advised FCI as well as the State Governments to create additional storage capacities. FCI's target is to construct additional storage capacity of 1.29 lakh MT during 2001-02. During this period, the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) will be constructing 2.00 lakh MT of storage capacity. Further, steps have been taken to create additional capacity of 64.00 lakh MT on long-term basis through the State Governments, State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs), CWC, etc.

(c) to (f) The Government has taken several steps to protect the interests of farmers and these include fixation of minimum support prices of major agricultural commodities and procurement operations thereof, implementation of Market Intervention Scheme, etc.

[English]

Strength of Judges

4733. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the ratio/number of judges per 10 lakh population in the country;

(b) the total number of judges/judicial officers at present in the Supreme Court, High Courts and Lower Courts in the country;

(c) the number of posts vacant, till date;

(d) the number of days courts remain closed in a year;

(e) the number of cases pending in the courts; and

(f) the reasons for enjoying about six months leave by the courts while the pending cases are piling up?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) At present, there is a sanctioned strength of about 13 judges per 10 lakh population in the country.

(b) and (c) At present, there are 26 judges in the Supreme Court, 470 judges in the High Courts and 10769 judicial officers in Lower Courts.

While there is no vacancy in the Supreme Court as on date, 177 posts of judges are vacant in the High Courts as on 16.8.2001 and 1576 vacancies of judicial officers are there in the Subordinate/District Courts as per available information.

(d) to (f) The Chief Justice of India on a reference on 25.6.86 informed that the Supreme Court was already working for 220 days but the full Courts had decided to add two more working days. The views of the Chief Justice of India were communicated to the High Courts. Most of the Chief Justices were of the view that 210 working days were alright and no change was called for as judges put in extra work in their chambers or at their residence. This was also resolved in the Chief Justices' Conference held in 1997.

The working days/vacations of the subordinate courts in the States are regulated by the concerned High Courts.

The Departments of Justice has recently requested all High Courts and State Governments to re-examine the annual vacations and working days in High Courts.

Various steps have been taken by the Government to speed up the disposal of mounting arrears of cases. These include filling up of vacancies of judges, strengthening of judicial infrastructure by construction of courtrooms and residences of judges etc., simplification of rules and procedures on the basis of advice and recommendations of expert bodies, like the Law Commission, the Malimath Committee etc. Government have sanctioned an amount of Rs. 502.90 crore for creation of Fast Track Courts for expeditious disposal of long pending cases, priority being given to cases involving undertrials in jails.

There were 22,047 cases pending in the Supreme Court as on 28.2.2001, 35.16 lakh cases pending in the High Courts as on 30.9.2000 and 2.03 crore cases pending in the Subordinate Courts as in June, 2000.

Agro Processing Industries

4734. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the target set by the Government for Agro-Processing Sector during the current year;

(b) whether the Government have any concrete plan for food processing industry;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to invest in food processing industry; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) Agro processing sector has been accorded priority attention by the Government. However, since agro processing includes both food and non-food items and are in organized and unorganized sectors, no specific financial or physical targets could be set by the Government.

(b) and (c) The Department of Food Processing Industries has initiated action for formulating a National Food Processing Policy and for this purpose a Draft Policy has been prepared, which broadly covers issues to availability of raw material, backward, linkages, processing facilities including post-harvest infrastructure, packaging, food quality and safety etc.

(d) and (e) The Department of Food Processing Industries does not set up any food processing unit on its own. However, under its Plan Schemes, it provides financial assistance to Private Industries, Public Sector Undertakings, Non-Governmental Organisations, Cooperatives, Human Resource Development and Research & Development Institutions etc. for the development of the food Processing Sector.

[Translation]

Non-Payment of Dues of NTPC by Delhi and U.P. Electricity Boards

4735. DR. BALIRAM: Will the minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Electricity Boards of Delhi and Uttar Pradesh have failed to pay dues to NTPC on time;

(b) if so, whether NTPC may effect a cut in the electricity being supplied to Delhi and U.P.; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) In terms of the Bulk Power Supply Agreement signed by Delhi Vidyut Board (DVB) and Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd. (UPPCL) with National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC). NTPC is empowered to regulate power supply to DVB and UPPCL in case of default in payment of its bills.

(c) DVB is not paying NTPC bills in full. The payments by DVB are detailed below:

(Rs. Crores)

Month	Billing	Realisation	Shortfall
April'01	107.57	102.80	4.77
May'01	161.09	116.00	45.09
June'01	171.53	116.00	55.53
July'01	157.59	148.28	9.31
Total	597.78	483.08	114.70

NTPC's outstanding dues against DVB has reached to Rs. 3141.04 crores including surcharge of Rs. 1580.50 crores as on 31.7.2001. NTPC is constantly pursuing with DVB for ensuring full payment of current dues. NTPC may resort to regulation of power supply to DVB if payment position does not improve.

UPPCL has been defaulting in making payments to NTPC despite repeated requests and discussions at the highest level in UPPCL and Govt. of U.P. The payment made by UPPCL have been inadequate as can be seen from the following table:

Month	Billing	Realisation	Shortfall
April'01	266.56	130.35	136.21
May'01	256.17	100.00	156.17
June'01	253.67	131.01	122.66
July'01	280.94	150.64	130.30
Total	1057.34	512.00	545.34

It can be seen from the above that during April to July, 2001, UPPCL has paid only 48.4% of the amount billed by NTPC. As a result the outstanding dues of UPPCL have mounted to Rs. 3430.84 crores including surcharge of Rs. 844.16 crores as on 31.7.2001.

NTPC has requested UPPCL to take the following actions by 15.8.2001:

- (i) To re-establish and enhance LCs from Rs. 120 crores to Rs. 259 crores.
- (ii) To pay monthly bills in full.
- (iii) To pay shortfall of Rs. 545.34 crores accumulated between April and July, 2001.
- (iv) To issue regular bonds in place of Promissory Note issued for Rs. 1809.03 crores.

[English]

Transfer of TTEs

4736. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether TTEs in the Howrah Rajdhani Express are continuing their services in the same train for several years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of such employees who are continuing their services on the Howrah Rajdhani Express for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Travelling Ticket Examiners (TTEs) deployed in Howrah Rajdhani Express are working in combined roster for Rajdhani, Shatabdi Express trains and Headquarters Squad. As such these staff do not continuously work in Howrah Rajdhani Express. Moreover, the staff is also changed from time to time based on their performance.

Gherkins for Export

4737. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka unit of APEDA is buying gherkins for export;

(b) if so, the names of other agricultural produce the APEDA is planning to export; and

(c) whether APEDA will enter into purchase of mangoes from Karnataka in view of high production of mangoes?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir. APEDA neither buys goods for exports nor does it export.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

LPG Agencies/Petrol Pumps in Chhattisgarh

4738. SHRI VISHNUDEO SAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Petrol/Diesel Pumps and LPG Agencies allotted in Chhattisgarh during each of the last three years;

(b) the categories for which these agencies were kept reserved and the categories of person to whom these agencies have actually been allotted; and

(c) the steps taken to allot more number of Petrol/Diesel Pumps and LPG agencies in district headquarters in Chhattisgarh where agencies retail outlets have not been set up during the aforesaid period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) the year-wise numbers of retail outlet (RO) dealerships and LPG distributorships allotted in the State of Chhattisgarh during the last three years, i.e., 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, are given below:-

Year	Number of R.O. dealerships	Number of LPG distributorships
1998-99	01	01
1999-2000	04	10
2000-2001	—	05

These dealerships/distributorships were allotted to the persons belonging to the respective categories for which these had been reserved.

29 retail outlet dealerships and 84 LPG distributorships are pending for commissioning in the State of Chhattisgarh. These dealerships/distributorships are at various stages of the process of selection of dealers/distributors by the concerned Dealer Selection Board.

[English]

Introduction of ULSD

4739. SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of transporters have argued in favour of introducing ULSD as it does not involve high capital cost unlike compressed natural gas (CNG); and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Many transport organizations, namely Indian Tourist Transporters Association, Delhi Contract Bus Association, DTC, DTC Private Bus Operators Welfare Association, Indian Association of Tour Operators have made representation to the Environment Pollution (Prevention & Control) Authority for National Capital Region in favour of using diesel of maximum 0.05% sulphur content.

Presently the country is in the process of switching over from Euro-I equivalent vehicle technology to Euro-II equivalent vehicle technology for which 0.05% max. Sulphur content diesel is the required specification. Diesel meeting this specification is being produced in the country. Engine technologies that need diesel having lower sulphur content are yet to be developed/tested in the country. Ultra-low sulphur diesel is, therefore, not required at present.

[Translation]

Introduction of Trains to Darbhanga, Samastipur and Patna Railway Station

4740. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the railway stations under the North Eastern Railways where trains have been provided as per their demand during the last year;

(b) whether the Railway Department has failed to provide trains to Darbhanga, Samastipur and Patna railway stations as per their demand;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to provide sufficient number of trains?

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

[English]

Telephone and Water Lines Laid under Rail Tracks

4741. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone and water lines have been laid down below rail tracks in some States and Territories;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some objectives are to be achieved from this arrangements;

(d) if so, the details thereof with special reference to usefulness and safety of the system;

(e) whether the Government propose to extend this system in more States and Territories in future; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir. However, requests from Government/Public Sector Organisations/local bodies/Individuals for crossing of telephone lines/water lines over or under the tracks, are considered as per extant rules.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Efficiency of Railway Employees

4742. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Karmachariyon par lagam nahi laga saka Nitish' appearing in the *Rashtriya Sahara* dated May 14, 2001;

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

(c) the category-wise estimated number of surplus employees and the policy of the Government in this regard?

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

(b) The news-item gives the personal views of an individual which are of a general nature and without any specific suggestion. Some of the remarks regarding Rakesh Mohan Committee are not factually correct. Safety is being given the utmost importance on the Railways. Despite the financial crunch and other constraints, all possible efforts are made to ensure safe travel. Necessary preventive measures are taken on the basis of the recommendations of Commissioner of Railway Safety who enquires into major accidents. Various measures to improve the efficiency of the Railway employees and to improve their competence in discharging their duties in the fast changing scenario of technological advancements have been taken, which have progressively enabled the Railways to carry more freight and passenger traffic, with reduced staff strength. The minimum educational qualification of 8th Class pass is presently prescribed for recruitment of Gangmen.

(c) The category-wise estimated number of surplus employees as on 31-5-2001 are:

Group 'C'	Group 'D'	Total
3990	4280	8270

It is the policy of the Indian Railways that re-deployment of surplus staff should be given the highest priority and their absorption will have precedence over all other modes of recruitment.

[English]

Policy of Partial Resitement of Retail Outlets

4743. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had amended the policy of partial resitement and resitement of retail outlets in the year 1999;

(b) if so, whether the introduction of new policy has automatically cancelled all such previous cases of partial resitement/resitement which were approved in the industry meeting and were pending in the District Court/High Courts;

(c) if so, whether the Government have called such cases for approval again; and

(d) if so, the justification for considering the grant of approval to install such Jubilee Petrol pumps which are in pipeline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) With a view to empowering the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to face the emerging competition from the Private Sector in the deregulated scenario, the Government issued guidelines on 3.9.1998, delegating the authority for resitement of retail outlets/LPG distributorships to the OMCs concerned, subject to certain conditions. As it was felt that even empowering the OMCs to decide cases of resitement, there might still be some deserving cases not strictly covered by the guidelines, instructions were issued to the OMCs on 28.7.1999 to send such cases to the Government for decision.

Instructions were issued by the Government on 10.5.2000 allowing partial resitement of retail outlets with the approval of the Government subject to certain conditions.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Government conveyed the decision to discontinue the scheme of setting up Jubilee Retail Outlets (JROs) to the OMCs on 24.11.2000. A proposal has been received from the Oil Industry for permitting the OMCs to set up the JROs in the following cases:—

- (i) Locations where JROs were already under constructions as on 1.12.2000.
- (ii) Where land had been procured as on 1.12.2000.
- (iii) where negotiations for land procurement has been completed and the landlord's confirmation on negotiated terms were received as on 1.12.2000.

[Translation]

Dealership of Petroleum Products in U.P.

4744. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons to whom dealership of petrol, diesel, L.P.G., and Kerosene allotted during the last three years along with the list of selected applicants in the entire Uttar Pradesh as per reservation, quota-wise; and

(b) the process of constitution of the Dealers Selection Board (D.S.B.) for the purpose of selecting the applicants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) 81 retail outlet dealerships, 67 LPG distributorships and 7 SKO-LDO dealerships were allotted to persons belonging to the respective categories for which these dealerships/distributorships had been reserved, in the State of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years, i.e., 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001.

(b) Nine Dealer Selection Boards (DSBs) have been constituted for the selection of dealers/distributors in the State of Uttar Pradesh. The composition of the DSB is given below:-

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| (i) A retired Judge of a High Court/retired District Judge/
retired Additional District Judge | Chairman |
| (ii) An Officer of the concerned Oil Company not below the rank of Deputy General Manager or Chief Manager, depending on availability. | Member |

-
- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| (iii) An Officer of another Oil Company not below the rank of Deputy General Manager or Chief Manager, depending on availability. | Member |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
-

Closure of Enron Project

4745. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the closing down of its project, the Enron Power Company is likely to cause loss to the tune of crores of rupees to the Government of India;

(b) if so, whether the Government of India will have to pay the sum equivalent to the bill of one year along with payment of crores of rupees as penalty besides bearing the debt burden of the company; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The Power Purchase Agreement in respect of the 2184 MW Dabhol power project was entered into between the Maharashtra State Electricity Boards (MSEB) and M/s. Dabhol Power Company (DPC). The liability of the Government of India (GOI) is confined to the counter guarantee issued to Phase-I of the project with the capacity of 740 MW. The GOI counter guarantee covers some of the energy and capacity payments as well as some termination payments and gets invoked in the event of MSEB failing to make such due payments to DPC and the Government of Maharashtra (GOM) as the primary guarantor also fails to make such payments to DPC. The capacity and energy payments are on an annual basis and were capped for the year 1995-1996 at Rs. 1500 crores which would increase annually in a manner specified in the counter guarantee. The termination payment is a one time payment which falls due in the event of termination of the PPA and is capped a debt servicing obligations relating to outstanding foreign debt not exceeding US \$ 300 million. A Tripartite Agreement signed between the Ministry of Finance, GOM and the Reserve Bank of India enables GOI to recover from GOM any payments made by GOI under the GOI counter guarantee.

*[English]***Accident Figure**

4746. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the Survey conducted by the Khanna Committee on South Central Railway officials statistics it is noticed that the distorted feed back from the field to some extent failed to bring out valid trends for management to take corrective action with non-follow-up action on the non-reported accidents, unsafe practice down the line are not detected until a major accident occur; and

(b) if so, the Government's stand on the said observation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) South Central Railway is reporting all consequential train accidents to Railway Board according to extant instructions. In fact, various types of accidents are reported to different levels depending on their seriousness. Yard derailments etc. are reported only upto the level of Divisions. Smaller accidents not having serious repercussions are reported upto the level of Zonal Railways. Only "Consequential Train Accidents" which include collisions, derailments, level crossing accidents and fire cases having serious repercussions are reported to Railway Board. Thus, reporting to different levels for different types of accidents depend on their seriousness. However, even in case of yard derailments etc. accident inquiries are held at an appropriate level, and staff held responsible are taken up. Thus there is complete follow up action on each and every accident.

Safety is an ongoing and continuous process and action is taken at all the levels to avoid recurrence of similar accidents.

Evacuation of Petroleum Products from Refineries

4747. DR. RAJESHWARAMMA VUKKALA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of pipelines planned for evacuation of petroleum products from refineries in Gujarat to feed the various consumption zones in the Central parts of the country; and

(b) the manner in which such projects would be financed and the target set for commissioning the pipelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Petronet India Ltd. through its joint venture company, Petronet CI Limited, propose to lay a pipeline for evacuation of petroleum products from Reliance Petroleum Limited and Essar Oil Limited refineries at Sikka and Vadinar as well as from Gujarat refinery of India Oil Corporation at Koyali to feed the various consumption zones in Central India.

(b) The Central India pipeline project envisage financing arrangement by the Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT) basis. The target date proposed for completion of phase-I of the project is December, 2003.

*[Translation]***Productive Policy for Promoting Livestock**

4748. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a National Cattle Reproductive Policy for promoting livestock in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposed policy also envisages to develop different breeds of animals; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ninth Plan Centrally Sponsored Scheme National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding insist on adoption of a cattle breeding policy by each State. A National Cattle Breeding Policy is also being attempted within the framework of National Livestock Policy which will address the issues concerning growth rate of cattle population, their requirement for various purposes and utilisation. A National Commission on Cattle has also been constituted by the Government.

(c) and (d) The proposed Policy will also address the concerns towards conservation and improvement of indigenous breeds as defined by the scientific research and the needs of the different States.

Oil/Gas Reserves in Godavari-Mahanadi Basin

4749. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether mineral oil/natural gas reserve has been found in Godavari-Mahanadi basin; and

(b) if so, the quantity thereof and the expenditure likely to be spent on its extraction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Krishna – Godavari (KG) basin and Mahanadi basin are two distinct basins located on the east Coast of India. Oil and natural gas reserves have so far been found by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd (ONGC) and private/joint venture (JV) companies, both in offshore and onland areas of the KG basin. No commercial discoveries of oil and gas have so far been made in Mahanadi basin.

(b) As on date, ONGC has found about 78 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) of "oil plus oil equivalent of gas" (O+OEG), of which about 15 MMT is contributed by their 40% share in Ravva field JV consortium. The total ultimate reserves of O+OEG in KG Basin, of the private parties, including 60% share of JV consortium in Ravva field & Ravva satellite gas discovery and recently made discoveries in 'Annapurna' and prospect "P" in exploration block KG-DWN-98/2 is in the range of 48 – 62 MMT. Both the two recent discoveries in the exploration block need further appraisal for finalizing before developing the appropriate development plan for extraction of the oil and gas. It is therefore, not possible to quantify the likely

expenditure to be incurred for extraction of hydrocarbons from KG Basin, as it depends on a number of variables, which are normal in the business of hydrocarbon extraction.

[English]

Development of Bodh Gaya

4750. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme of the development of international tourism spot at Bodh Gaya was received from the local area Member of Parliament;

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

(c) the steps taken to develop the spot?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. A project report prepared by Shree Vishnupad Prabandhakarini Samiti, Gaya for bringing Gaya on international map was received from the Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) from Gaya.

(b) As development of tourist/pilgrim places is primarily undertaken by State Governments/UT Administrations, the letter of the Member of Parliament along-with the project report was sent to Government of Bihar for necessary action.

(c) The details of Central financial assistance extended for Tourism projects of Bodh Gaya during the last three years are as under:-

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sr. No.	Year	Name of Project	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1.	1998-99	Illumination of Mahabodhi Temple	24.00	12.00
2.	-do-	Buddha Mahotsav	13.56	13.56
3.	2000-2001	Buddha Mahotsav	7.50	3.75

A major project for development of infrastructure along Buddhist Circuits in Bihar including Bodh Gaya was completed at a cost of Rs. 113.00 crores in December, 1998 with loan from Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan.

Corruption of FA&CAO (Constn.) Office

4751. SHRI ANANDA MOHAN BISWAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the wide spread corruption is prevailing in the Expenditure Section of the FA & CAO (Constn.), Northern Railway, in the passing of bills of contractors and suppliers;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to prevent such wide spread corruption;

(c) whether defaulters has been punished for such corruption; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Shifting of ONGC Headquarters from Dehradun

4752. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether oil exploration work is mainly concentrated in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Assam, Godavari basin, Andaman and Nicobar;

(b) if so, the benefits of keeping the headquarters of ONGC at Dehradun far away from exploration sites entailing avoidable expenditure on TA and DA to Officers;

(c) whether the headquarters of ONGC is proposed to be shifted to some central place; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) At present, exploration by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) is mainly carried out in the States of Gujarat, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu and Tripura as also in the offshore areas adjoining the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Kerala, Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal.

(b) Since 1956, the Headquarters of ONGC have been at Dehradun, which has all major supports required

to carry out the administrative functions as well as co-ordination of the operations of the ONGC. There major Research & Development Institutes of ONGC, namely Keshava Deva Malviya Institute of Petroleum Exploration (KDMIPE), Institute of Drilling Technology (IDT) and Geodata Processing & Interpretation Centre (GEOPIC) are located at Dehradun. In addition, the Institute of Management Development (IMD) is also based at Dehradun. These help in providing necessary technical and administrative support to facilitate better decision making as well as in activities related to Corporate Governance. Besides, Dehradun is in proximity to New Delhi, where the Registered Office of ONGC as also the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and other concerned organisations are situated.

As regards expenditure on TA & DA of officers of ONGC performing official tours, since the operations of ONGC are spread over the length and breadth of the country and since the tours are undertaken in connection with the coordination of activities being undertaken at the various Work Centres, this expenditure cannot be avoided even if ONGC's Headquarters is situated at a place other than Dehradun.

(c) There is no proposal for shifting Headquarters of ONGC from Dehradun.

(d) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (c) above.

Gherao within Office Complex

4753. SHRI ANANDA MOHAN BISWAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the hon'ble Supreme court of India has upheld the instructions of the Railways that no gherao of Railway Officers can be done within the office campus;

(b) whether these instructions have been framed in 1956 and reiterated a number of times;

(c) whether the Trade Unions are violating Hon'ble Supreme Court's decision as well as Railway Board instructions by holding number of demonstrations and gherao within the office premises of FA & CAO (Constn.) in Railways; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not taking any action for compliance of Hon'ble Supreme Court's judgement and Railway Board's instructions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgement dated 4.2.1969 in Civil Appeal No. 1206 of 1996 have inter-alia held that there is no fundamental right for any one to hold meeting in Government premises.

(b) Northern Railway had issued certain instructions in 1956 prohibiting meetings inside railway premises. Instructions prohibiting demonstration or raising of slogans or other such disorderly conduct in office premises were issued by Ministry of Railways on 27.4.1964 and reiterated from time to time.

(c) and (d) The last such incident occurred on Northern Railway on 10.5.2001 when some trade union representatives and staff staged a protest within and outside the chamber of one of the FA&CAOs (Constn.) Union Officials/staff involved in the incident were cautioned and counselled.

Training Programme by IASRI

4754. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute (IASRI) under ICAR is conducting a training programme under a Revolving Fund Project on information technology;

(b) if so, whether the QRT report for the period (1987-95) advised IASRI against conducting such training;

(c) if so, whether IASRI has since developed any new expertise for conducting the training; and

(d) if so, the details of scientists associated with the said project, including Project Investigator, their qualifications, experience etc. and the number of their research papers, category-wise as on June 30, 2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Instead QRT encouraged conducting the computer training programs for training manpower.

(c) Yes, Sir. Revolving Fund Scheme, however, provides for hiring of additional hands as and when required.

(d) Details given as per Statement enclosed.

Statement

Details of Scientists associated with revolving Fund Scheme at IASRI

S.No.	Name	Designation/Status in the RFS project	Qualification	Experience	Research Papers
1.	Dr. S.D. Sharma	Principal Investigator	Ph. D (Agri. Statistics)	28 years	21
2.	Dr. V.K. Mahajan	Scientist Incharge	Ph.D (Agri. Statistics)	29 years	17

Completion of Panvel-Karjat Railway Project in Maharashtra

4755. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the process of acquisition of forest land for the new railway line between Panvel-Karjat in Maharashtra has been completed;

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

(b) the original cost of the project and the extent of escalation in the project cost as a result of delay in completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) The process for acquisition of forest land for Panvel-Karjat is in advance stage. Railway has deposited the required money with the State Government. The State Government has also obtained the clearance from Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(b) The work of formation, bridge and tunnels is in progress.

(c) The estimate cost of project was assessed as Rs. 106.89 cr. at 1997-98 price level. No estimation of revised cost has yet been done. The work is being progressed as per availability of resources.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 4025/2001]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Calcutta Metro Railway General Rules, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 682(E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th August, 2000, under section 199 of the Indian Railways Act, 1989.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 4026/2001]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
 - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, 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 4027/2001]

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 15 of the Notaries Act, 1952:—
 - (i) The Notaries (Amendment) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 172(E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th March, 2001.
 - (ii) The Notaries (Second Amendment) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 330(E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th May, 2001.
 - (iii) The Notaries (Third Amendment) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 460(E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th June 2001.
 - (iv) The Notaries (Third Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 630(E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st July, 2000.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 4028/2001]

- (2) A copy of the Appellate Tribunal for Foreign Exchange (Recruitment, Salary and Allowances and other Conditions of Service of Chairperson and Members) Rules, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 677(E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th August, 2000, under section 48 of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 4029/2001]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.
- (2) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 4030/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) a copy of the Notification No. S.O. 112(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th February, 2001, constituting an Advisory Committee showing the names of the Members issued under section 4 of the Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 4031/2001]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 3 of the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987.

- (i) S.O. 729(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st July, 2001 extending the validity of the order upto the 6th August, 2001 specifying mandatory packaging of certain commodities in jute packaging materials.
- (ii) S.O. 749(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th August, 2001 extending the validity of the order upto the 31st August, 2001 specifying mandatory packaging of certain commodities in jute packaging materials.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 4032/2001]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Fashion Technology, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Fashion Technology, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 4033/2001]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): Sir, on behalf of Shri Shripad Yasso Naik, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 505(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India

dated the 8th June, 2001 delegating the powers exercisable by the Central Registrar under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984 to the officers of the Government of Maharashtra, issued under sub-section (2) of section 4 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 4034/2001]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the West Bengal Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1994-95.
- (ii) Annual Report of the West Bengal Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1994-95, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 4035/2001]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Orissa Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1991-92.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Orissa Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1991-92, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 4036/2001]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the J & K Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation Limited, Srinagar, for the year 1990-91.
- (ii) Annual Report of the J & K Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation Limited, Srinagar, for the year 1990-91, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (3) Three statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 4037/2001]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of the section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963:—
 - (i) G.S.R. 543 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th July, 2001 approving the Tuticorin Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2001.
 - (ii) G.S.R. 547 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd July, 2001 approving the Mumbai Port Trust Employees' (Housing Loan) Amendment Regulations, 2001.
 - (iii) G.S.R. 548(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd July, 2001 approving the Madras Port Trust Employees' (Pay and Allowances) Regulation, 2001.
 - (iv) G.S.R. 573(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2001 approving the Tuticorin Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2001.
 - (v) G.S.R. 574(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2001 approving the Mumbai Port Trust Employees' (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulation, 2001.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 4038/2001]

12.02 hrs.

[English]

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA AND BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA-Laid

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to

enclose a copy of the Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2001 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 22nd August, 2001."

- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 115 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 22nd August, 2001, agreed to the following amendments made by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 2nd March, 2001, in the Judicial Administration Law (Repeal) Bill, 2000:-

ENACTING FORMULA

1. That at page 1, line 1,—

for "Fifty-first" substitute "Fifty-second"

CLAUSE 1

2. That at page 1, line 4,—

for "2000" substitute "2001"

- (iii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 22nd August, 2001, agreed without any amendment to the Hyderabad Export Duties (Validation) Repeal Bill, 2001, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 6th August, 2001."
- (iv) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 22nd August, 2001 agreed without any amendment to the Advocates' Welfare Fund Bill, 2001, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 6th August, 2001."

2. Sir, I lay on the Table the Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2001, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 22nd August, 2001.

[English]

12.03 hrs.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

MR. SPEAKER: The Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House in their Seventh

Report presented to the House on 22nd August, 2001 have recommended that leave of absence from the sittings of the House be granted to the following Members for the period mentioned against each:-

(1)	Shri Laxman Giluwa	16.12.2000 to 17.12.2000 19.02.2001 to 23.03.2001 and 16.04.2001
2)	Shri Ashok Kumar Singh Chandel	19.02.2001 to 23.03.2001 16.04.2001 to 27.04.2001 and 23.07.2001 to 05.08.2001
(3)	Shri M.V. Chandrashekhara Murthy	19.02.2001 to 23.03.2001
(4)	Shri Sadashivrao Dadoba Mandlik	09.03.2001 to 23.03.2001 and 16.04.2001 to 19.04.2001
(5)	Kumari Mamata Banerjee	17.03.2001 to 23.03.2001 and 16.04.2001 to 27.04.2001
(6)	Shri Akbor Ali Khandoker	16.03.2001 to 23.03.2001 and 16.04.2001 to 27.04.2001
(7)	Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay	16.03.2001 to 23.03.2001 and 16.04.2001 to 27.04.2001
(8)	Shri Sunil Dutt	23.07.2001 to 31.08.2001
9)	Shri Nikhil Kumar Choudhary	27.07.2001 to 31.08.2001
(10)	Shri Samar Choudhury	23.07.2001 to 31.08.2001

Is it the pleasure of the House that leave as recommended by the Committee be granted?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Leave is granted. The Members will be informed accordingly.

[English]

12.04. hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Twenty-third Report

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur): Sir, I beg to present the Twenty-third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture on 'National Agriculture Policy'.

12.04 1/2 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Sixth and Seventh Reports

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE (Jadavpur): Sir, I beg to present a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on External Affairs (2000-2001):-

- (1) Sixth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Third Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on "India's role in the United Nations with particular reference to her claim for Permanent Membership of the Security Council".
- (2) Seventh Report on "Haj Committee Bill, 2000".

12.05 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

PATENT ON BASMATI RICELINES AND GRAINS TO RICETEC INC. USA

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Based on media reports, appearing on August 21, 2001 an impression has been created among Hon'ble Members and others that an American firm has secured patents on Basmati Rice and that this has severe and adverse implications for India in regard to its basmati rice trade/exports. An impression has also been created that has "lost" its case before United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) for revision of the said patent.

At the very outset, I would like to categorically inform the House that the reports are incorrect and based on mis-interpretation. In fact, the decision of the USPTO in respect of the said patent signals a victory for India. Members would also have read subsequent press reports appearing on August 22, 2001 which have corrected the earlier erroneous impressions. The facts are as follows:

- A patent on Basmati rice lines and grains was granted by the USPTO to M/s. Rice Tec Inc. USA on September 2, 1997. The application for

this was filed on July 8, 1994. The patent had 20 claims.

- After the recent decision of the USPTO, 15 claims have already been set aside and the remaining 5 claims do not affect varieties of Basmati produced in India and will not affect India's trade/exports. In fact even the title of the patent which was "Basmati Ricelines and Grains" has now been changed to "Ricelines Bas 867 RT 1117 and RT 1121". The American company is, therefore, restricted to patent on these three Ricelines which it has developed.
- The grant of the said patent has not affected India's exports in general and to the USA in particular. In fact, total export of Basmati rice in 2000-01 are Rs. 2141.94 crores as compared to Rs. 1780.34 crores in the previous year. Similarly, exports to USA has risen from Rs. 70.71 crores in 1999-2000 to Rs. 129.34 crores in 2000-01. There is a six-fold increase of export of Basmati rice to the USA as compared to 1998-99.
- When this patent was granted in 1997, the Government of India had treated it as a matter of immediate concern since India exports a large quantity of basmati rice and earns considerable foreign exchange. Therefore, it was decided that measures be taken to challenge this patent before the USPTO.
- Following broad-based inter-ministerial consultations and evaluation by technical and legal experts, it was decided to file a petition in the USPTO to challenge claims that would have made our exports of Basmati to USA difficult. This challenge was filed on April 27, 2000.
- In September, 2000, M/s RiceTec surrendered three claims objectionable to India and one more claim as well. The Examiner of USPTO also issued a notice to RiceTec to re-examine all the remaining claims. Following this, 11 more claims have been removed by the recent decision of the USPTO on August 14, 2001.
- The remaining claims 8, 9, 11, 12 and 13 relate to three specific rice lines developed by RiceTec and were never specifically challenged by India since they did not constitute a threat.

A Basmati Development Fund was set up in December 1995 and a watch agency effective November, 1996 was appointed to keep a world wide watch for new trade mark applications for Basmati Rice or its deceptive variations. The watch agency has identified a number of attempted registrations of which 15 have been successfully challenged and concluded in our favour in UK, Australia, France, Spain, Chile, UAE etc. The remaining cases of attempted registration are being vigorously pursued by Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority (APEDA) in other countries.

In conclusion, it is reiterated that the reports and fears expressed on this issue were unfounded and misplaced.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 4039/2001]

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Normally, there is no practice like that after the Statement. If you want, you can have a separate discussion on this, but not now, please.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you want, you can give a notice. We can have Half-an-Hour discussion on this.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker Sir, ruling was given on the statement of the hon. Minister that it would be taken...(Interruptions)

SHRI C.N. SINGH (Machhlisahar): I may be taken today itself...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: How are you giving direction to the Chair? Whether it is your job to give directions to the Chair?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is too much, Shri C.N. Singh.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What are the hon. Members doing? Please ask if you do not know about the rules.

[English]

12.11 hrs.

TWO-MEMBER CONSTITUENCIES (ABOLITION) AND OTHER LAWS REPEAL BILL *

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to repeal the Two-Member Constituencies (Abolition) Act, 1961 and certain other enactments.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to repeal the Two-Member Constituencies (Abolition) Act, 1961 and certain other enactments."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO: I introduce the Bill.

12.12 hrs.

RE: TEHALKA DOT COM ISSUE

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Balia, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the manner in which a leading newspaper of Delhi has published certain disclosures about tehalka episode is not only disgraceful but also against the dignity of the House. It is quite natural for the members to be worried about it. The same tactics were adopted in the Tehalka episode. Through newspapers and electronic media, people all over the world came to know about the corruption prevailing in our Defence Forces. Government constituted a commission in this regard and Defence Forces also constituted their own court. We have come to know through newspapers that they have taken

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section 2, dated 23.8.2001.

[Shri Chandra Shekhar]

further action also in this regard. When commission's inquiry was on the verge of completion and some people were going to be punished, suddenly another tape was produced by the same people who had produced the Tehalka tape. The statements given in this tape are so objectionable that I think it is not proper to mention them in the House.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, information should not be biased, it should be neutral and independent. Right of information should be there but it does not mean that information should be collected with the use of immoral measures. It can not be considered as the national duty to expose the information all over the world and to harm the dignity and prestige of the country, rather it should have been handed over to the Prime Minister; Defence Minister or senior officials first. I am sorry to say that yesterday, Akashvani has also broadcast the statement issued by the Tehalka spokesman. He has stated that they have done it in the interest of the country and will continue to do so. Some serious steps are required to be taken in this matter. I do not know whether there is any legal provision in this regard. As per my knowledge what they have done, is not covered under any rule or legal provision. I do not know what Government is doing. Government have become habitual of keeping mum and expressing its inability on every issue. I would not have raised this issue but I feel that this incident has degraded the reputation of our country and our forces and it has exposed our whole system. I would say that if there is no rule or law in this regard then the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs who is present here, should ask the Minister of Law to keep a check on such people. Can not we tell these persons that Government is there to be worried about the country?

I also do not agree with the attitude of the Government. It appears that the Government had become crippled. I fail to understand the reasons due to which the Government remain silent even when remarks are passed against them. Mr. Speaker, Sir, such incidents have happened at several places and it concerns security of the country and the defence forces. Some Members were agitated due to yesterday's happening and it was natural to react in this manner. I have an apprehension that if such incidents are not checked, then this agitation will not confine to the House only but it will spread among our defence forces. It will affect the parliamentary system of Government.

[English]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, undoubtedly the methods adopted by Tehalka are reprehensible. We totally disapprove of the use of immoral measures that have been adopted and which have taken Tehalka beyond the realm of reporting the news to the realm of almost making the news. But, Mr. Speaker, Sir, what is even more farcical is the drama that is being enacted by some of the Members of the NDA in trying to convert this into an opportunity to obliterate...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL (Monghyr): Why they are enacting such a drama...(Interruptions) They stalled the proceedings of the House for 15 days, now why they are enacting such a drama...(Interruptions) It is their routine affair.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not appropriate. Mandal ji please speak when you will be given the chance.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): It is their routine drama...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, this is not fair....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Brahma Nand Mandal, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Shri Madhavrao Scindia's name. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He is the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. Please understand that he has taken the permission of the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

* Not recorded.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: You called the meeting this morning only and now again the similar things are being repeated...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: No running commentary please.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: I would like to repeat that we totally disapprove of the immoral measures that have been adopted but I would again like to repeat that what is even more farcical is the dream that is being enacted by some of the NDA Members who are trying to convert this into an opportunity to obliterate all the earlier findings which have appeared on the tape....(*Interruptions*) Sir, what do the hon. Members want?...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: They did not let the House to function for 15 days...(*Interruptions*) What you did...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: What action you took against them when they did not let the House to function for 15 days?

MR. SPEAKER : This is too much. You please sit down. What are you doing?

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, he is telling you...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is too much. What are you doing? Please take your seat.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, why are they getting hysterical? Let them take an objective view also on certain things. On the one hand where we have disapproved the measures, can we obliterate all the revelations that we have seen by our own eyes? What do they want? Do they want us to forget the stunning demonstrations of corruption on the screen that was indulged in by one of the highest functionaries of the leading party of the NDA? Do they want us to forget

that? Do they want us to forget the scenes that we saw on Television of other functionaries and the actions that they indulged in at the ministerial residences?

Do they want us to forget that? How can we forget that?...(*Interruptions*) Do they want us to forget that? What are they wanting us?...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: What is the physical language he is expressing?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Do they want us to forget the seamy and sleazy side of Government that was revealed on television through the films? Do they want us to forget the lewd comments and observations that were made by the principal players who succumbed to the honey-trap? Do they want us to forget the utter contempt shown by those principal players to the bravest of the brave who lost their lives for us in Kargil? Do they want us to forget that? What do they want? Do they want to obliterate everything?...(*Interruptions*)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, I have a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no point of order during 'Zero Hour'.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: I would, Mr. Speaker, like to make this point that Mr. Parliamentary Affairs Minister, I think we already had a meeting...(*Interruptions*)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Already a Judicial Commission is looking into all these things. The matter should not be referred here...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: I was not referring to it.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It is the merit of the case...(*Interruptions*) Immoral methods are being adopted...(*Interruptions*) He should not go into all these things...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: We cannot forget Kargil. I am sorry. They were the bravest *Jawans* who laid their lives down for us. We should not forget the scenes that were enacted on the television through the films where people played with our national security and the lives of the *jawans*. I am sorry we cannot forget it.

[Shri Madhavrao Scindia]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I just want to make a point that these methods, however reprehensible and abhorrent, do not and cannot from the merit of the findings. The gravity of the actions of those who are seen on film is in no way diminished. And the Congress has been demanding inquiry and action against the highest involved. In fact, we had asked for a JPC. It is still not too late. You can still think, maybe, of a JPC.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, by all means, let action be taken against the Tehelka team if they have violated the laws of the land. But what the nation wants is an inquiry and action against the culprits, the highest involved. The nation wants them to be brought to book. We cannot lose sight of it. They have caused us the greatest damage. They have played with our national security. They have played with the lives of our *jawans*. So, if you want to take action against the Tehelka team if they have violated the laws of the land, take action. But you must take action against the highest involved in the matter of national security. Otherwise, we will take it that the Government is involved in a massive cover-up of the entire operation.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Congress Party has flouted the law...(Interruptions)

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is misleading the House...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except the speech of Shri Prabhunath Singh.

...(Interruptions) *

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Lal Muni Chaubey, I have not called your name. I have called Shri Prabhunath Singh. You please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...(Interruptions) *

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Shri Prabhunath Singh. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the questions regarding Tehalka dot com were raised earlier. It was informed at that time that the Tehalka tapes are of 100 hours out of which only four hour's tape has been screened on television. I want to raise only two-three questions. We all are aware of the outcome of the debate on this issue within this House and outside. Due to this issue, the Defence Minister to resign and a commission was set up for detailed investigation into merits and demerits of the means adopted for disclosure. The hundred hour tape was submitted to the commission. That tape has been shown to all advocates of the commission. So far as I know, there are some objectionable statements in this tape. These are not only objectionable but a portion of the tape revealing truth has been omitted.

So far as the question of viewing this tape is concerned, I know that the tape includes the statement of Shri Jain also which states that Jain would not talk to Shri George Fernandes regarding defence deal. He is an honest person, he has not been shown in the tape...(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, since yesterday, the newspapers are giving the reports regarding the cheap tactics used to lure the senior defence officers. Tehalka people are terming it as investigative journalism but on reviewing the tape we find that it reveals that only one side of it carries the sound while the other side has no sound. Such a degraded act has four aspects.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, one of them is the conspiracy to destabilise the Central Government. Secondly, it was an effort to lower the morale of defence forces and to degrade the officials who fought for the country in Kargil and sacrificed their lives. Such an act shows that they are traitors. Thirdly, the way conspiracy has been hatched for a such degraded activity, it falls under section 406 of Cr. P.C. I would like to submit that all this fraud falls under section 420. Fourthly, the commission is confused about the investigation process to be taken up. Therefore, I would like to submit that when cassettes are available before investigation, then Government can register case by taking statement of the girl involved. However, the Government have not taken any action in the matter.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would request the Government to register the case against Tehalka dot com and to arrest the guilty. Through you, I would like to make this demand to the Government and I hope that in view of the seriousness of the issue, Government will assure the House on this issue.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, people all over the world saw these tapes and...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Raghuvansh Prasad ji, I have not called you, you please sit down. Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is quite natural that a very senior and respected Member like Shri Chandra Shekhar would raise a very important issue which has agitated all sections of the House.

We are not sitting here as conscience-keepers of everybody or of the defence personnel in this country. The question is, a certain publication has been made yesterday, which gives out certain very serious disclosures about how the defence personnel are falling prey to temptations when some people try to get inside information about defence deals. Senior officers are supposedly falling prey and are submitting to this. What we are objecting is the manner of disclosure but are we not to object to those persons indulging in such activities against the interests of the country and parting with defence deals? This is the most heinous aspect of matter.

We are replying on what we have found in the Press, as Shri Chandra Shekhar is doing. The whole set of tapes was given to two authorities — one is the Army and the other is the Commission. We do not know where it has come from and how it has come to newspaper but somebody has leaked it. The newspapers have a right to publish it. The newspaper in which it has been published has as much right to do it as the Tehelka. com people have the right to find out the truth about the people indulging in it. Therefore, if we are criticising them, we are willy-nilly criticising the important newspaper that has published it but you are not saying one word about them.

This double standard should not apply. we know your difficulties. The Convenor of the NDA has lost his job in the Ministry although he is sitting in seat No. 4 in this House. This is the trouble. This is the uncomfortable feeling you are having. Therefore, you are trying to throttle...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Stature of Shri George Fernandes is more than that of a Minister.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I will say two more sentences. It is not my job to exonerate anybody if anybody has committed any crime or committed any offence. You take all actions under the law. The action has to be taken by the Government. Then, why are the partners in the Government coming here and creating problems here, interrupting the proceedings of the House? You are in the Government. You persuade the Government to take action against those. If it is open in law, you do it. But I am not hearing one word from the Government condemning the action of those highly placed Army officers who have fallen prey into these, if this has really happened.

Therefore, we are concerned about the defence of this country. You are trying to show you are a great moralist. The question is, the House is to be concerned with the serious lapses of the Defence personnel. Therefore, we have been demanding that a JPC should be appointed in this which should go into all these questions and we do not have to depend on these leaks here and there. Let the hon. Members of this House, with all their sense of responsibility and seriousness, go into this question and find out the truth so that condign punishment could be given both to the political personnel and also the personnel outside the ambit of this House. Persons both within and outside should suffer the consequences.

Even now there is a time. Therefore, the Government should wake up and accept the plea of the Opposition for a JPC so that all these questions can be gone into. I am not exonerating anybody. I am not trying to be an extra-moralist for the purpose of saying illegal actions have been taken, improper procedure has been adopted.

One of the highest functionaries of one of the countries in the world had to face impeachment proceedings. Nobody tried to stop that in that country. You are following them blindfolded and now you are trying to be very touchy about it saying — 'no, no; women should not be brought in'. You are accepting the disclosures in other countries.

Sir, let us not try to be moralists here. Let us try to find out the facts and a JPC can really find out the facts. I demand the appointment of a JPC.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Brahma Nand Mandal to speak for a minute. He has given a notice on this subject.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak. What I can submit in one minute. I would like to say something on the points raised regarding 'Tehelka' incident. It is a serious matter. Once in this Parliament I have stated that...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Brahma Nand Mandal, please address the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: I had said that for power and money politicians behave in a ** manner. I stated this in the Parliament in 1996. 'Tehelaka' incident came into light last year and what has been published in 'Indian Express' yesterday collectively reveal a conspiracy for acquiring of power and money. I would like to say to Somnath Babu especially that atleast he should not become a part of this sort of **. However, you are also becoming a part of this**. What is it. It is...(Interruptions)

[English]

SARDAR BUTA SINGH (Jalore): Sir, hon. Member Shri Somnath Chatterjee has not done any **. It is a derogatory word...(Interruptions) The hon. Member should withdraw his words.

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, the unparliamentary words should be removed from the proceedings...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: The tapes of 'Tehelaka' which have been published in 'Indian Express' is not only a matter of national security but has national and social ramifications. It also raises finger towards the Parliament as to for what it has been constituted...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Sir, the objectionable word that is used by him should be expunged.

MR. SPEAKER: If it is objectionable, it can be expunged.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: It has been proclaimed that what has been done by 'Tehelka' is to expose corruption. They wanted to show the world and people of this country that officers, politicians and other people are involved in corruption. But I would like to ask what 'Tehelaka' is?

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Brahma Nand Mandal, you are not debating the issue.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: It is a company set up to earn profit and not to promote journalism. Country and society become secondary to profit...(Interruptions) *

[English]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Mr. Speaker Sir, how can he say this?...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, he is making this kind of an allegation...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: That will not go on record.

...(Interruptions) *

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, this should not go on record. How can he say such a thing?...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: How can he say this? This is highly irresponsible...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Mr. Speaker Sir, we were listening to him in silence...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker Sir, we will not allow him to make such a remark against any quarter in the House...(Interruptions)

** Expunged as ordered by the Chair

* Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: I would like to submit that in 1996 a law was enacted that action would be taken against the persons who allure girls for use in houses and hotels...(Interruptions) 'Tehelaka' has flouted this law...(Interruptions) *

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...(Interruptions) *

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have already told nothing should go on record.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions) *

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...(Interruptions) *

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions) *

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions) *

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, today former Prime Minister, hon'ble Chandra Shekhar, raised a question here. His point was quite pointed. He wanted to know the opinion of the House on the newsitem published in newspapers yesterday that whether it is proper to use wicked means for unearthing truth regarding some incident.

Hon'ble Madhavraoji said that yesterday some drama was enacted. I feel that it was not graceful on his part, when he raises an issue and rushes to the well of the House. It is patriotism when they do so, but when the same tactics are adopted by Members of the Party opposed to him then it is termed as a drama. We are not discussing merits and demerits of the matter because a judicial commission has been appointed to probe the matter. Punishment has been awarded to army officials involved in this matter. Remaining persons will also be punished. I am not saying that Army officials who accepted bribe or are involved in prostitution should not be punished for that. Nothing of that sort is being done. Just now Somnathji has asked for constituting JPC for this purpose.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, a judicial Commission, more powerful than JPC, has been appointed to look into the matter, which will award punishment to the guilty. But Somnathji, and Madhavrao, is it proper to use prostitutes and allurements in investigative journalism. There is a judgement of the Supreme Court...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will you please yield for a minute? We have made it very clear that we totally disapprove of the measures that were adopted.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It has been disapproved by Congress Party and I think that all the parties have disapproved it, so I need not speak at length on this issue. The Supreme Court has given a judgement that it is illegal and immoral to allure and bribe a person even if he is a habitual bribe taker. In the same manner using anything for this purpose was a limited question and the rest of the issues are before the commission. Commission will look into it and also do justice. It is not proper to make a demand for constituting JPC for this purpose.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday a news item was published in English daily regarding 'Tehelaka' and hon'ble Chandra Shekharji raised this issue in the House. It was debated here and various points were made. I would not like to comment on all the points but some specifically different issues were also raised during the debate.

* Not recorded.

[Shri Pramod Mahajan]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Government I would like to state that in our country journalists have been given all sorts of freedom to unravel the truth. Investigative journalism has earned a name in the country during the last 15-20 years. I feel that journalism is important for Parliamentary democracy and there is no question to harm it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, alongwith this it is a controversial issue that what is actual meaning of investigative journalism and what type of means should be used for it. One may opine that all type of means can be used. But here I see that most of the parties consider that investigative journalism does not mean that immoral or illegal means should be used to find truth. In other words, I do not feel that any person who is lured by immoral means is not guilty. He is guilty and should be punished. But it will create a problem if in the name of investigative journalism freedom of use of women and money is given for allurement purposes. I do not say so to save the guilty. I have already said that guilty should be punished but investigate journalism should be done within the purview of legal and social bindings. However, in the news item published in the newspaper it seems that 'Tehelaka.com.' has used immoral means for unraveling the news. The Chief of 'Tehelka. com' has accepted this fact. But alongwith it he said it is not wrong because attainment of the objective is more important. He has said that it does not make any difference what type of means have been used.

Therefore, I can only submit that the Home Ministry will conduct an inquiry into the news item published in yesterday's newspapers and in regard to the response of the Tehelaka.com thereto. During the enquiry no one will be allowed to violate law for gathering information. Stringent action would be taken against the persons who resorted to immoral means and violated the laws to gather news. The Government will not hesitate in taking action...(Interruptions) I am not saying that you cannot say so...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I said it should be according to the law...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Let me complete.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has not yet completed his reply.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, people of this country have a right to information. Journalists too have got a right to probe and investigate. As no MP is permitted to violate law in the same way journalists are also not above the law. Journalists are also not permitted to infringe the law for gathering news. Our society will not accept the system in which journalists are allowed to violate laws. Every person is equal before law. Stringent action would be taken against the journalists who have violated the law...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Till then he may escape and go abroad.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Brahma Nand Mandal, what are you doing?

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, he is crossing his limits...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions) *

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: They are disturbing their own Minister...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: The rest of the issues which have been raised here are controversial. Hon'ble Madhavraoji, Somnath Chatterjee and I, myself can differ on these issues. In my opinion Shri George Fernandes is innocent in this matter and he is one of the good defence Ministers. Opinion of other persons can be different on it. But now it will be decided by Venkatswamy commission and we will take any action in this regard after the judgement of Venkat Swamy Commission.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramji Lal Suman.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, how can the hon. Minister say so?...(Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions) *

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Brahma Nand Mandal, you are not behaving properly in the House. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing, except what Shri Ramji Lal Suman is saying would go on record.

...(Interruptions) *

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, peace is not being maintained in the House...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing would go on record.

...(Interruptions) *

MR. SPEAKER: There are other Members also.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have to call 43 names.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions) *

MR. SPEAKER: Except what Shri Ramji Lal Suman says, nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions) *

MR. SPEAKER: There are other Members who have given notices.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice for another question but on behalf of Samajwadi party, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the incident of firing on villagers in Barauli police station under Bagpat district.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Suman, you have to raise the issue on which you have given notice.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Your notice is not on this subject. There is another notice and you should speak on that.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): We have given notice for Adjournment Motions.

MR. SPEAKER: He has given a separate notice for it.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of India takes loan from financial institutions and various countries. One of the conditions for taking loan is to spend it within the stipulated time and the Government has to pay commitment charge if the loan amount is not spent within prescribed time frame. The Government has been paying commitment charge since 1990. Recently the Government has paid Rs. 254 crore as commitment charge for the last five years. As per the report of C & AG since 1990 no such year has passed for which the Government has not paid Rs. 40 crore to Rs. 90 crore as commitment charge. Asian Bank and World Bank have been paid the highest amount of commitment charges. I would like to submit that at least 10 out of total number of projects as envisaged in the first and second Five Year Plans have not yet taken off in the country. It is really unfortunate that the Government of India procures loan but fails to utilize properly. I wish that stringent action should be taken against those persons who are responsible for not utilising this money.

SHRI C.N. SINGH (Machhlishahar): We have given notice for Adjournment Motion on police firing in Bagpat. You have told that we will be allowed during the Zero Hour.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. You are disturbing. All the Members have given notices.

* Not recorded.

SARDAR BUTA SINGH (Jalore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the present Government has ruined the reservation policy meant for SCs and STs as a result of which the conditions of people belonging to SCs/STs are deteriorating throughout the country.

12.55 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

Activities are being committed on them. Authorities have started feeling that the Government of India is discriminating against people belonging to SCs and STs communities. I can recall that the hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Shri Pramod Mahajan made a statement on 19th December 2000 when we raised this issue. This issue does not relate to any political party but is a national issue.

As the political parties are unanimous on this issue. That day also, this issue was raised on behalf of all the political parties and while expressing sympathy Shri Pramod Mahajan made a statement.

[English]

Responding to the Members concerned, the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Pramod Mahajan remarked. In this regard, I want to quote from the Press, *The Times of India*. It says:

"The Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Shri Pramod Mahajan remarked that five official memoranda issued in 1997 virtually stopping the reservation in promotions had created hurdles in the implementation of policy. He agreed that though the official memoranda have been withdrawn and the Parliament has passed the Constitution Amendment Bills providing for job reservation, the message has not been filtered down and there were anomalies in the implementation of the policy. He further said that 'I will convey the feelings of the whole House to the hon. Prime Minister. Efforts would be made to ensure that bottlenecks regarding implementation...' (Interruptions) "

I am quoting only what Shri Pramod Mahajan said... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

The Statement was made one year ago... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Ratilal Kalidas Varma, let him complete.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhanduka): I was also reading out same way... (Interruptions) and Ramjilal Sumanji was disturbing me... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him complete.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ratilal Kalidas Varma, please resume your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you had promised to allow us for raising Bagpat issue during Zero Hour... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him complete first.

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (Kasargod): Sir, these people are always disturbing the House. We are not getting any chance to raise our issues... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, please take your seat. Let him complete first.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please allow us to speak on Bagpat issue... (Interruptions) The Members of Samajwadi Party may be expelled with the support of public, we... (Interruptions) this is wrong... (Interruptions) such a discrimination will not be tolerated in the House. Four persons have been killed there... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, please take your seat. Otherwise, I will have to name you. There has to be some limit.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: We have given the notice for Adjournment Motion...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shrimati Renu Kumari, you also resume your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri T. Govindan, I am trying to conduct the business of the House. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Sir, everyday I have been giving notices to raise my issue during 'Zero Hour' but these people are always disturbing the House. How can I get a chance to speak?...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are correct.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am trying to conduct the business of the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: The hon. Members are upset. In spite of giving prior notices, they are not being able to speak...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All sections of the House must understand it. How can we run the House if everyday Members are creating disturbances?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Balua, U.P.): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today, Mr. Speaker and all of us were sitting under your leadership and efforts were being made to

chalk out a strategy as to how the House can be run, so that image of the House can be saved from getting tarnished outside. Keeping this all in view, I have raised the issue in this form. I was not knowing that the dispute would take such a serious turn and someone would get so much annoyed over the comments of other Members. It is immaterial whether I do agree with what Somnath Da has said. If he has told that criminals have entered politics and if Shri Pramod Mahajan has commented something on it then why there is hue and cry from other sides...(Interruptions) Shri Akhilesh ji has been raising issue of Baghpath since yesterday...(Interruptions)

13.00 hrs.

And hon'ble Speaker has said that he would be permitted to speak during Zero Hour.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, I did not say. I would not permit him.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: I am telling it, since you have called Shri Buta Singh to speak, therefore, I would request hon'ble Members to listen to Shri Buta Singh. Thereafter you can allow either Akhilesh Singh or someone else from his party, whosoever desires to speak...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mandal, hon'ble Chandra Shekhar is on his legs.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, some Members have developed a habit who do not allow anyone to speak which is a very bad habit. Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, only because of this I do not attend meetings of committees. I go only if ordered by the Speaker. There are certain Members, who feel disturbing the proceedings is a part of Parliamentary proceedings. Therefore, I request you to allow Akhileshji after Buta Singh ji's speech is over.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would give him a chance.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, what Shri Chandra Shekhar had said in the morning, is quite right. I do agree with him that everyone should get an opportunity. Secondly, it was agreed that every Member

would speak from his seat. I think, right from today this rule should be followed. Everyone should speak from the seat allotted to him and should not leave his seat while speaking...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You will get a chance provided you keep quiet.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Madam, if you want to have a chance to speak, you will have to keep quiet.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SARDAR BUTA SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue raised by me is not a disputed one. It is a national issue. All hon'ble Members of this House have a consensus over it. First of all I would ask Shri Pramod Mahajan that a year ago an assurance was given by the Government of India but why it has not been fulfilled so far. What action has been taken on that? He meet Prime Minister of India several times, but he have never met the Prime Minister in this regard. Did he never get an opportunity to discuss this issue with the PM...(Interruptions) I will conclude my speech after speaking for two minutes on this important issue. I don't want to be dragged in any dispute or controversy. I just want to raise the issue and leave it to our sentiment, our friend, our goodman Shri Pramod Mahajan so that he can help us. Pramod Mahajan ji knows that the Department of Personnel has issued seven circulars withdrawing reservation. I would just make a mention and would not go in details. First circular was issued on 30 Jan' 97 wherein it was stated that..

[English]

"Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, promoted against the reserved vacancies, will hereafter not be in a position to demand any excess work from those working under them because they will one day become senior to these people because of this OM."

[Translation]

It affected adversely the reservation process but no action was taken by the Government.

[English]

"Nothing has been done by the Government to withdraw this nefarious OM."

[Translation]

Second circular was issued on 2 July, 1997 which altogether finished reservation, It stated—

[English]

"A new Roaster System has been silently introduced reducing the percentage of posts reserved for both Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes."

[Translation]

Pramod ji may tell, what action has been taken in this regard.

[English]

"Nothing has been done by the Government of India to amend this OM to reintroduce earlier roaster system provided for the posts reserved for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and a new vacancy-based system has been introduced which is detrimental to the interests of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes."

[Translation]

Similarly, third circular was issued on 22 July, 1997.

[Translation]

Sir, I am referring to circular of the Government of India. If you want, I can lay it on the Table.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may read it.

SARDAR BUTA SINGH: Under the provisions of circular dated 22 July, 1997...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please lay it on the Table.

SARDAR BUTA SINGH: I will lay it on the Table if you give permission of it...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please lay it on the Table.

SARDAR BUTA SINGH: I will lay it on the Table if you give permission of it...(Interruptions) In accordance

with this circular the Government of India made two amendments in the Constitution. Those amendments could have benefited dalits but the Government of India have circulated those to selected departments only...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan): Sir, it is a question of life and death for us...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SARDAR BUTA SINGH: Consequent upon issuance of these two circulars, both the amendments made by the Government were passed by both the Houses. These were not enforced. Some important department of the Government itself, such as—Public Undertakings, Banking Institutions, Life Insurance Corporation of India, all major and minor ports in India, P&T have not been affected by the Constitutional amendment. It has been notified in selected departments....(*Interruptions*) The notification did not have desired effect. Not only this, in none of India's 26-27 States these amendments have been followed so far. It would have been better, if hon'ble Prime Minister had called a conference of Chief Ministers and discussed about said amendments....(*Interruptions*) What he is talking is not good...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Govindan, please resume your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Why are you disturbing the House? Now you keep quiet and let there be peace in the House.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SARDAR BUTA SINGH: Hon'ble Prime Minister should have discussed this matter with all the States and told them that the Union Government have decided to implement these amendments, then none of the States would have dared to neglect it. Today, I charge the present Government that it wrote no such letter to any of the States. Consequently, all the States are following Supreme Court's old decision whereby the reservation for Dalits and Scheduled Tribes was withdrawn. Many of my colleagues are urging me to table all these Official

Memorandas. Therefore, I seek your permission to lay them on the Table.* Today there is a major issue before the nation that the constitutional provision for reservation for Dalits, which is as good as fundamental right, should to be curtailed.

I am sorry to say that in the decision given by the Supreme Court regarding the backward classes issue, the dalits have not been given any representation, they do not have any say. At the end of the decision, it was written:-

[*English*]

"This is the law of the land."

Is the Supreme Court's judgement that this is the law of the land more important than the Fundamental Right of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes? I want to ask this question from the present Government.

[*Translation*]

Sir, our request is that the reservation quota that has now been sanctioned as per our number was established 50 years back. But in the present times, it should be 27.5 percent as per the 1991 census...(*Interruptions*) I am talking about the Constitution.

Sir, three issues are left and I would talk on all of them. The chairman of the elected Committee of Parliament- 'parliamentary Committee for SC-ST', who belongs to BJP has decided that there should be reservations in Judiciary and Army.

Thirdly, that the reservation policy should be implemented in the public undertakings that are being privatised. Your goodself has promised and the hon. Prime Minister has also promised that a National Judiciary Commission would be constituted. There should be representation of Dalits and tribals in this commission and reservations should also be there in the Judiciary. I request the hon. Minister not to associate the backwards with the decision regarding reservation policy in Telephones. We have no objection if you give reservation to the backward classes separately. But the reservation for SC-STs is a fundamental right and that is why I request that a separate policy should be made for them which should not have any discrepancy.

* As the Speaker subsequently did not accord the necessary permission, the paper was not treated as laid on the Table of the House.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): We are also making a request in this regard.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I allow you to be associated with this matter.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The Rashtriya Janata Dal has organised a big dharna at Jantar Mantar regarding the matter of constitution of National Judicial Commission and reservation for backward classes and SCs-STs in the appointment of Supreme Court and High Court Judges raised by Shri Buta Singh today. The hon. Minister Shri Ramakant is also involved in this agitation taking place at Jantar-Mantar. We support the constitution of National Judicial commission and reservation in the appointment of Judges and request the Government to think over it.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): The issue raised by Buta Singh ji...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except, the hon. Minister's response:

...*(Interruptions)* *

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the issue raised by the hon. Member Buta Singh ji...*(Interruptions)* I am going to support you also...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): They have killed thousands of people as also dalits...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: As it is a matter pertaining to the dalits, so all the M.Ps of various parties, or may be tribals also, are mentally associated with this issue. And that is why I do not wish to politicise this issue too much. I have used the word 'too much' because in the beginning itself, Buta singhji has said that the present Government are anti-dalits...*(Interruptions)* First of all I wish to clarify that five Government circulars that are being discussed upon here, were not issued by our Government. These circulars were issued by the Government in which Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh was Minister.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: It was the decision of the Judiciary.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Now you have recalled decision of the Judiciary. The United Front Government in which Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh was Minister and which had got the support of the party of Shri Buta Singh, has issued these five circulars.

Only the United Front Government and its ally, the Congress Party are responsible for the injustice done to the dalits through those five circulars. Our Government is definitely not responsible for this. In fact we have gone through these circulars only after our Government came into power. We asserted that the Supreme Court may have given this verdict but the NDA Government feel that reservation for dalits should be protected at any cost and if the Supreme Court has given such a decision, the Parliament would change the law in this regard, but reservation for dalits should not be brought into cold waters, it should be protected. This decision was taken by our Government. So far as five circulars are concerned, I remember that one of them was withdrawn by the Government, itself since it was under the Government's jurisdiction. Second was withdrawn by us after making amendment in the Constitution. I fully agree with the view point of Buta Singh ji. He has complained that certain State Governments are implementing the old decision thereby ignoring the amendment made in the Constitution thereafter. But whatever they are doing, is wrong. They should not do like this. I do not know which State Governments are doing so but one thing is sure that maximum number of State Government in the country are of the Congress Party, i.e. 11 State Governments. We are ready to listen to the advice of Shri Buta Singh regarding non-implementation and would bring this in the knowledge of the hon. Prime Minister, but we request Shri Buta Singh to give this advice of implementation to his own party also, which has 11 Chief Ministers in various States of the country. So far as two circulars are concerned...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA (Jhabua): Why don't you write to the State Governments in this regard?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I did not know that a letter from the Prime Minister is required for the Congress Chief Ministers to work according to the Constitution. Now the hon. Minister has given this information, so I will tell the hon. Prime Minister that they do not follow the Constitution without his letter...*(Interruptions)*

SARDAR BUTA SINGH: Hon. Prime Minister used to write letters in this regard even when there was Congress Party Government throughout the country...*(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Why don't you want to write?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: This is your inheritance....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, please address the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: An amendment in the Constitution is also required for the remaining circulars. I meet 17 times as also 70 times. I have made a statement in this regard in this august House. I have personally told the NDA members and the members of the party of the hon. Member when they met me that not because I have given an assurance in the House, but I really feel from the core of my heart that all these circulars should be withdrawn and nothing should obstruct in implementing the reservation policy. Only out of such a pious thought, hon. Prime Minister held talks with the DOPT. There is a need to amend the Constitution in this regard. In view of doing this the DOPT and Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs are working together...(Interruptions) I will not discuss the things in the House which you are referring otherwise this will create problem. I am trying to help you. I will tell you about that problem lateron, please meet me lateron. Like the dalits, there is an other section in the society. We have to consider everyone, please try to understand this.

We are in touch with the Ministry of Law in this regard. The draft is being prepared. We are trying to withdraw that circular as soon as possible by amending the Constitution. One should not worry about that. Thank you very much...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh Singh.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Kunwar Akhilesh Singh is saying.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in Daluhara village under Balini police station of Baghpat district of Uttar Pradesh, women, dalits, people of backward classes were assaulted and looted two days back. Yesterday, on 22.8.2001 a Mahapanchayat was called under the leadership of Shri Onkar Yadav, Zilla panchayat Chairman of Samajwadi Party at Sri Krishna Inter College near Balaini Police Station wherein more than 50,000 people have participated. When they were holding the Panchayat, Balaini police opened fire on them on the instigation of a Union Minister. Four persons died on the spot, three were seriously injured while more than 70 suffered minor injuries and were admitted in Hospital. There is tension in the area. Uttar Pradesh police is deliberately opening fire on the innocents.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I demand that the Government send a parliamentary group there so that the incident could be examined in true perspective. Thereafter the policemen who have shot dead innocent farmers should be given stringent punishments. In addition, the Uttar Pradesh police should be strictly told to refrain from killing innocent people.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is present here. He should inform whether a parliamentary group is being sent or not?

SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA (Kaisarganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is present. Please instruct him.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can not do that.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in protect we are walking out of the House.

13.22 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Beni Prasad Verma and some other hon. Members then left the House.

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (Khagaria): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, dalits are being killed daily in Bihar. On 16th August 6 dalits were murdered and last night, that is 22nd August, 16 Harijans were murdered in Datamay village under Dhanurwa police station of Jahanabad district. Bihar Government is hapless and not capable of doing anything...(Interruptions) Gandhiji had said that good means should be used for good ends. I am at a loss to

* Not recorded.

understand the ends Government wants to achieve by getting innocent dalits killed? A Government which is not able to maintain law and order and safeguard the lives of weaker sections should be dismissed so that the lives of dalits and weaker sections of Bihar are safeguarded...(Interruptions) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what instructions are being given by the Union Government in this regard...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please let her conclude.

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Union Government should take prompt action in this regard.

SHRI ARUN KUMAR (Jahanabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this matter relates to my constituency. I have also given a notice in that regard.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I permit you to associate.

SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Jahanabad is my Parliamentary Constituency. The manner in which dalits are being killed there shows clearly that the killers have State Government's protection. It was published in all the newspapers that killers have committed the crime under the patronage of a Minister. On the night of 16th, 6 persons belonging to 'Mochi' community were killed and last night 7 harijans were murdered. Thus, in the current month alone, 45 harijans have been murdered but no representative of the State Government has visited the spot.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I demand that Union Government should intervene in a situation where dalits are being massacred and the State Government should be dismissed.

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Union Government should tell as to what action is being taken against the Bihar Government...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is present here. Please direct him to say something on the issue...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mandal, I cannot compel him. Shri Suresh Kurup to speak now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have not given notice.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: 45 Dalits had been killed in one month....(Interruptions) You direct the Government.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot compel the Government.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: It should be investigated by the Union Government.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mandal, I am on my legs.

[Translation]

What is wrong with you.

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: 45 dalits have been killed there...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please resume your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is Zero Hour. The hon. Minister could respond only if he so wishes. I cannot compel him.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. I will not allow you to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Please give us protection and direct the Government. 45 harijans have been killed there...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: It is happening there in the protection of the Government. 45 harijans have been killed there and some Ministers are also involved in it...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, please direct the Government...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot do so.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rai, I cannot compel the Government.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with your leave, I would like to point out something about the law and order situation in States like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh...(Interruptions) I am not in a position to say anything...(Interruptions) I have no information regarding it nor is it the responsibility of the Government. I have no source of information...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Law and order is a State subject. Shri Suresh Kurup, please proceed.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): I would like to bring to the notice of the House...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this issue was raised earlier also and then hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs had said a report would be submitted after an inquiry. What happened to that report? Hundred persons have been killed there in a month. Seven persons have been killed in four days and 45 persons have been killed in a month. You ought to direct the Government to submit a report in this regard. All this is taking place under the patronage of Bihar Government...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is a State subject.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Government of India has no *locus standi* here.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is a law and order situation. This is a State subject.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi): 45 dalits have been killed there in a month.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rai, this is not the way to behave in the House. Please do not interrupt the House like this.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Butchering of dalits is not a State subject...(Interruptions) This is butchering of dalits in the country.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Thomas, law and order is a State subject.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is not prepared to respond. How can I ask him to respond? I cannot direct the hon. Minister from the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: This is not a law and order situation. This is butchering of dalits in this country...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: When you become the Minister, you will understand the problem. How can I react to it? He is just standing up and saying that something happened in some State. How can the Government of India respond to it immediately?...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at Two of the Clock.

13.28 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.05 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at five
minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

(SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA in the Chair)

[English]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (I) Need to provide funds to Government of Orissa for proper maintenance of Baldevjiu temple at Keonjharh.

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK (Keonjhar): Sir, the preservation of the 16th century's Baldevjiu temple at

[Shri Ananta Nayak]

Keonjhar in Orissa needs special attention of the Government of India. Lord Jagannath, Balabhadra and deity Subhadra are being worshipped in that famous temple by thousands of devotees. It is one of the famous ancient monuments in Orissa. The famous car festival is held there every year which draws thousands of pilgrims from all over India. Besides, tourists, visiting nearby Sidhmata, Sanghagra and Badhagra also pay a visit to that temple. But the temple and its complex are not being maintained properly. The State Government is not able to bear the cost of maintenance and preservation due to constraint of resources.

In view of the urgent need of the maintenance and preservation of the Baldevjiu temple and also of the temple complex, I demand that adequate funds be given for the necessary work without any further delay.

(ii) Need to provide financial assistance to Government of Jharkhand to check the spread of Malaria in Palamu Commissioner.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM (Palamu): Mr. Chairman, Sir, three districts come under Palamu commissioner — Palamu, Garhwa and Latehar. All the three districts are badly infested with Malaria. Every year hundreds of people die of Malaria. Blood test facility is available only in district headquarters, while it should have been available in each of the blocks. DDT and other anti-malaria spray are not being sprayed which is extremely essential in this case. Most of casualties due to malaria are in rural areas which are predominantly inhabited by people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to send a team to assess the situation there and provide adequate financial assistance to the State Government and monetary compensation should also be given to the dependents of the deceased.

(iii) Need to effectively implement the welfare schemes meant for SCs/STs in Rajasthan.

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA (Swai Madhopur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Central Government have been running various schemes for the educational, economic and social upliftment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, however, the benefits of the schemes are not reaching to the villages in Rajasthan. Sufficient financial allocations are not made to the education and health related schemes and as a result of this the beneficiaries are not getting optimum benefits. Therefore, through you, I would like to request the Minister that the Government should pay

attention towards evaluation of the voluntary organisations which have been allocated funds for expansion of girl child education and building hostels for them in Swai Madhopur, Karoli and Dausa Janpad in Rajasthan. The participation of the local Members of Parliament in the approval of the proposal for the development of the region should be ensured for the better results in this regard.

(iv) Need to improve telephone services in Ahmedabad and Bhavnagar districts, Gujarat.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the telecom subscribers, especially the telephone subscribers in rural areas of Ahmedabad and Bhavnagar district under my Parliamentary constituency are facing several difficulties in availing telecom facilities. Despite several complaints the shortage of cable has not been met. There is shortage of machines in telephone exchange.

I urge upon the Central Government to lay cable and set up new exchange in my constituency and immediately attend the telephone cable fault during the rainy season and also to reduce the bill amount of those subscribers whose telephones are lying dead for a long time. I also request the Government to immediately clear the long waiting lists of telephone connection.

(v) Need to lay broad gauge rail line between Ajmer and Pushkar and also take up gauge conversion work of Ajmer-Bhilwara Chittor — Udaipur line in Rajasthan.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, nearly two years back the Ministry of Railways had approved a plan for conversion of Ajmer-Bhilwara-Chittor-Udaipur meter gauge into broad gauge for connecting the Southern parts of Rajasthan. Similarly the Government had announced for connecting Pushkar, the important tourist spot and pilgrim for national and foreign tourist and known for the famous temple and holy ponds all over the country, to Ajmer through rail line. However, even after passing of two three years no efforts have been made by the Ministry of Railways in this direction and the budget allocation made for these two projects are not adequate. Even the construction work of bridges falling between Ajmer-Pushkar and Ajmer-Bhilwara-Chittor-Udaipur will not be completed from the budget allocation made for these projects. It is on account of the delay in completion of the project of laying new rail line between Ajmer-Pushkar and conversion of Ajmer-Bhilwara-Chittor-Udaipur meter gauge into broad gauge that the over all cost of the projects are increasing drastically.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to immediately take decision to complete the work of laying of broad gauge line between Ajmer-Pushkar and to accord top priority to the gauge conversion between Ajmer-Bhilwara-Chittor-Udaipur within stipulated time frame.

[English]

(vi) Need to waive Excise/Custom duties on Naphtha to reduce the price of power in Kerala.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Sir, the fuel used in Kayamkulam Combined Cycle Power Plant of NTPC is Naphtha. Feasibility Report of Naphtha based Kayamkulam Power Plant was prepared in 1994 and PPA was signed in January 1995. At that time, the price of Naphtha was only Rs. 6,200 per MT and cost of power was estimated at Rs. 2.40 per unit. Present cost of power is estimated to be around Rs. 5.00 per unit or more with the prevailing high cost of Naphtha.

The high price of power from Kayamkulam is not all affordable by Kerala. Therefore, there is an urgent need for Government of India to consider concessions by way of relief of Excise/Customs duties on Naphtha to render the power affordable. Price of Power will be increased by Rs. 0.44 per unit on account of the component of the Excise/Customs duty. By waiving Excise and Customs duties, price of Power from Kayamkulam Combined Cycle Power Plant could be brought down to considerable extent.

[Translation]

(vii) Need to review the working of Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana, particularly in U.P.

RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH (Pratapgarh): Through the House, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana. Under the Project new roads were proposed to be constructed but this project is being executed just by carrying out repairs of the old roads.

Under this project the Government officials have been authorised to take decision about the selection of roads and as a result of this, roads are not constructed in those areas where these are required and roads are constructed where there is no need. The Members of Parliament are not consulted by the officials regarding the construction of roads in their constituencies nor they are invited to participate in the meeting pertaining to the project. The officials have prepared the draft of the project in my Parliamentary Constituency, Pratapgarh but neither my advice was sought nor I was invited to participate in the meeting.

I urge upon the Government to review the functioning of the Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana and to ensure that only new roads are constructed under this project and the concerned Members of Parliament are consulted before taking up the work under this project.

[English]

(viii) Need to safeguard the interests of coir industry in the country.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, the traditional coir industry engaging about five lakhs of women workers is on the ruin. Coir production is at a standstill because of the non-availability of market for coir products. The Union Government had also withdrawn all the subsidy granted to the coir workers. Their welfare fund schemes are also in crisis. I, therefore, request the Central Government to intervene in the matter and save the coir workers from starvation.

(ix) Need to accord sanction to Integrated Water and Sanitation Project of Andhra Pradesh for providing water and sanitation facilities in schools throughout the State.

DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA (Nellore): The Government of Andhra Pradesh has come out with a scheme of "Integrated Water and Sanitation Project" with the intention of providing the above facilities throughout the State in schools. The Government of Andhra Pradesh had submitted a proposal to the Government of India for utilisation of funds provided by the Department for International Development (DFID) of USA for the Integrated Water and Sanitation Project which is the first of its kind in the country. The Government of India had been requested by the Government of Andhra Pradesh to consider this proposal on priority basis, if needed, by amending the paragraph 13.2 of the Project Memorandum of Andhra Pradesh District Primary Education Project (DPEP) in consultation with the Department for International Development (DFID). I request the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development through you, Sir, to clear the project at the earliest as the academic year has already commenced.

[Translation]

(x) Need for early gauge conversion of rail line between Bareilly and Lucknow, U.P.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Indian Railways have significant contribution in economic and industrial development of Tarai area of Uttar Pradesh. However, the pace of economic development of the region has become stagnant in the

[Shri Ravi Prakash Verma]

absence of gauge conversion of important rail route between Bareilly and Lucknow. The present global economic order is pressing upon India for a export oriented agriculture. There has been infinite potential of export oriented agriculture in Tarai region, however, the lack of basic infrastructure is creating hurdle in the way of development. In the event of gauge conversion of north-eastern railway division the farmers of this region will have easy access to important export centres, airports and docks and it will encourage export oriented agriculture and important capital investment in the agriculture sector.

Through the House, I urge upon the Government to ensure immediately gauge conversion of Barielly-Lucknow Division of North Eastern Railway so that all available resources may be streamlined for building the new economic system.

(xi) Need to open a Central School at Mashkrakh (Saran) in Bihar at the earliest.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had requested the hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development through a letter to set up a Central School in my home town Mashrakh (Saran). The Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangthan had also taken interest in setting up the school but so far this long pending demand of local people has not been fulfilled. All documentary formalities have been completed in this regard. I also assured the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangthan for providing land and extending all cooperation at every level through D.M. Chhapra in setting up this school, but so far construction of this school building has not been started. Mr. Chairman, Sir, Mashrakh is a block headquarter and Government school, college, railway station, big market, bank, police station, telephone exchange and several offices of State Government are situated here. This block headquarter has a population of about 1 lakh, out of which 1000-1200 people are government employees, and education of their children is affected for want of Kendriya Vidyalaya. There is no Kendriya Vidyalaya under Chhapra Commissioner.

Therefore, through you, I demand from the Government that a Kendriya Vidyalaya should be set up in Mashrakh at the earliest.

(xii) Need for computerisation of ticket reservation office at Supaul station in District Saharsa, Bihar.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV (Saharsa): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Supaul station between Saharsa and Farbisganj rail section in East Central Railway is very important. Since it is located in district headquarter, a large number of passengers arrive and depart from the station. Passengers face a great difficulty due to non availability of computerised reservation counter and foot over-bridge.

Therefore, the Government is requested to make arrangements for computerised reservation facility and construction of foot overbridge at Supaul station at the earliest.

(xiii) Need to amend forest laws for development of undeveloped areas in the country.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government of India had enforced Forest Laws in 1980. Instead of promoting afforestation illegal felling of trees is going on which is causing loss of crores of rupees and the development of primitive tribes living in forests has stagnated. Forest land is needed for carrying out work for construction of dams, canals generation of power, providing telephone facility construction of schools, roads and other infrastructural work. Further revenue land is to be given for obtaining warrant for it. Since there is no revenue land so the development work comes to a standstill. The projects keep on lying pending for 10 years forwarded to Bhopal and Delhi. In between the cost of project increases 10 times. Thus time is wasted and the country suffers financial loss. The funds given by the Union Government and the State Government for development purpose remains unutilised. I, therefore, request the Union Government that necessary amendments may be carried out in the Forest laws and land for developmental work should be provided unconditionally.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat): I am on point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Under which rule you are on point of Order.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: I have to make a submission.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Rule has to be quoted for Point of Order.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: I would like to get an information.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: I have no objection if the matters listed for yesterday under the Rule 377 have been lapsed. I was present here yesterday...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have not quoted the rule.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Why are you not listening to my point...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your name is not there in the list of members who have to raise matters under the Rule 377. How you can be called here to speak. Your name was there in the list yesterday. Today it has not been included. Gatam na shochani. Let bygones be bygones.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Names of other members from yesterday's list have been included in the list but not mine. May I ask this or not?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No member from yesterday's list has been called here to speak. The members, who have given fresh notices have been selected through ballot.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: You should listen to my point. From yesterday's list the hon'ble members have been called here to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your name is not there in the list. I will tell about it after checking the record.

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai): He is saying that his name was there in the list yesterday. From yesterday's list members have been called to speak today but he has not been called.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The members whose names were in ballot have been called here to speak.

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Now please allow him to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no such rule. Only the Members whose names are there in the list will be called here to speak.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: I have an objection that you are not listening to my points. I am not elected to this House for the first time. I would like to get an information. I have no objection if all the matters, which were to be raised yesterday under Rule 377 have been by passed. But I have noticed that from yesterday's list some Members have been given a chance to speak. But I am not being given chance to speak.

I would like to get information on it but you are not ready to listen to my point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your name is not there in today's list. I can tell whether your name was there in the list or not only after checking the record. You will get a chance to speak on Monday.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur): How can that be done on Monday.

(English)

How can it be done?

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is a special case.

...*(Interruptions)*

(English)

14.26 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF INDIAN COUNCIL OF WORLD AFFAIRS (SECOND) ORDINANCE AND INDIAN COUNCIL OF WORLD AFFAIRS BILL

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up item Nos. 16 and 17 together.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Mr. Chairman, Sir, kindly allow me to place the facts before the House. I am speaking to the good conscience of this House to maintain the high traditions of Parliamentary democracy.

The Indian Council of World Affairs Bill to replace the Ordinance of 2000 was introduced in the Lok Sabha during the Winter Session of Parliament in 2000. The Bill was considered by this House and passed by the

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Lok Sabha on the 18th December, 2000. We had finally passed this Bill. The Bill was listed for consideration in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st December, 2000 but before it could be taken up for consideration, the Rajya Sabha adjourned. Then, the Bill lapsed.

In order to maintain continuity of action, the Indian Council of World Affairs Ordinance (No.1) was promulgated on the 5th January, 2001. That was the second time the Ordinance was promulgated. Again, owing to repeated adjournments of the two Houses of Parliament, the Bill could neither be withdrawn nor be introduced. Accordingly, the Ordinance (No. 1 of 2001) was again re-issued. It also got expired after six weeks. Then, in order to maintain continuity, a second Ordinance, that is, the third Ordinance of 2001 was promulgated by the President on the 8th May, 2001. So, there was re-issuance of the Ordinance for three times. I do not want to go into the details of the case. It is an admitted fact that there were three re-promulgations.

Secondly, it is also an admitted fact that this House has taken cognisance of this Bill and the House has already passed the Bill on the 18th December, 2000. We will now have to examine the constitutional provision so far as the re-promulgation is concerned. In this context, I may refer to a Full Bench decision of the Supreme Court. I am reading from the decision of the Supreme Court, which was pronounced in 1987. I am reading from page 579. That judgement was pronounced by the Chief Justice Bhagwati and Justices Ranganath Mishra, B.L. Ojha, M.M. Dutta and K.M. Singhvi. The Full Bench decision was reported in 1987. In that case, the petitioner is a professor of political science, who has done substantial research work and is deeply interested in ensuring proper implementation of the Constitutional provisions.

The Supreme Court had finally looked into the matter. It was in the case of Dr. D.C. Wadhwa and others *versus* The State of Bihar. It was in 1987. The Supreme Court had examined the entire question of re-promulgation of Ordinance. I am reading the relevant paragraph from the judgement. In that case the question examined was whether the Governor has powers or not to re-promulgate the same Ordinance successively without getting it passed by the Legislature. That was the question examined by the Full Bench of the Supreme Court. The Court said:

"Clearly the Governor cannot do it. He cannot assume the legislative function in excess of strictly

defined limits set out in the Constitution because otherwise it would be usurping a function which does not belong to him."

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I request the hon. Member not to go to the Official Gallery.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I am reading from the judgement. This was in 1987. The Court said:

"It is significant to note that so far as the President of India is concerned, though he has the same power of issuing the Ordinance under article 123 as the Governor has under article 213, there is not a single instance in which the President has, since 1950 till today, re-promulgated any of the Ordinance after its expiry."

That was the tradition of this House. This was not set by me but by the Supreme Court. They have found that commencing from 1950 till date, there was not a single instance wherein an Ordinance was re-promulgated by the President. This judgement was in 1987.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Radhakrishnan, you will have a right to reply also. Please conclude now.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, there was no other instance in the history of Parliament. I want to know why this was done in Bihar State. The issuance of Ordinance is more or less like an epidemic disease in parliamentary democracy. It will spread to all the States. This tendency of issuing of Ordinances is more or less like a highly contagious disease in parliamentary democracy. After the NDA Government has assumed power, the epidemic is now spreading to this House also. This contagious disease has now spread to the four walls of this Parliament.

The President has re-promulgated the Ordinance thrice in utter violation of the system enunciated by the Full Bench of the Supreme Court. What is the authority of the President to issue an Ordinance when this Full Bench decision is there?

It is applicable to everybody. It is applicable to the States as well as to Parliament. Moreover, it has been significantly noted that there was not a single instance in Parliament where the President had to re-promulgate the Ordinance. This was till 1987. They had examined the whole matter then.

I am now coming to the next point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think this is your concluding part.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, here the question is not only that it is a mere case of Bihar, but there is a case where this House has passed this Bill.

The House has already taken cognizance of this Bill and we have passed it. Moreover, it was only on the 9th of August, after the commencement of this Session, that they had come with a motion to withdraw the Bill that had been passed by this House. So, at a time when the last Ordinance was issued, it is crystal clear that the Bill was passed by this House. Can the Executive, under the emergency provisions of the Constitution, issue an Ordinance when the House is already seized of the matter and has passed the Bill? It is only an emergency provision and it can be used only sparingly and in exceptional cases. It cannot be used in a routine manner.

Now, I may be permitted to state that I am personally satisfied that there was no such instance in Parliament when this decision was taken. Now, we have come to experience that we are discussing a Bill which was already passed and in the midst of passing of this Bill, they have issued an Ordinance in complete disregard of the constitutional provisions as well as the ruling of the Supreme Court. Now, I will tell you what exactly is the position. I shall refer to the constitutional process.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Radhakrishnan, you will have the right to reply. Please conclude.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Please do not disturb me.

Is the Executive justified in advising the President to issue an Ordinance when the House has passed the Bill? Now, I shall draw your attention to the provision in the Constitution. I shall take you to article 108 of the Constitution. Article 108 (1) reads:

"If after a Bill has been passed by one House and transmitted to the other House—

- (a) the Bill is rejected by the other House; or
- (b) the Houses have finally disagreed as to the amendments to be made in the Bill; or
- (c) more than six months elapse from the date of the reception of the Bill by the other House without the Bill being passed by it,

The President may, unless the Bill has elapsed by reason of a dissolution of the House..."

Here, there is no dissolution. The House is still alive. Both the Houses are alive.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That Bill was withdrawn.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: One House had passed it and even the other House rejected it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: In spite of that, the Bill was withdrawn.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Article 108 further reads:

"...The President may, unless the Bill has elapsed by reason of a dissolution of the House of the People, notify to the Houses by message if they are sitting or by public notification if they are not sitting, his intention to summon them to meet in a joint sitting for the purpose of deliberating and voting on the Bill."

This is the provision. Article 108 should have been resorted to for passing this Bill. In the context that one of the Houses had passed the Bill and the other House had not passed it, they need not resort to the emergency provision, the extraordinary provision of the Constitution. There is an ordinary provision in article 108 and they should have resorted to this provision.

This is a clear case of encroachment on the powers of this House. This is a clear case wherein they have violated the Full Bench decision of the Supreme Court where it is crystal clear that re-promulgation is not at all allowed and re-promulgation is considered to be a fraud on the Constitution. Moreover, here is a case which is an extension of Bihar case. In Bihar case, only a re-promulgation was done, but here not only re-promulgation is done but also the passing of the Bill is there. Why should they withdraw the Bill when it is passed in one House? Since they had to take a decision, the Bill had to be withdrawn. Now, the Ordinance, was issued when the Bill was passed by this House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude, Shri Radhakrishnan. Please take your seat now because you have got the right to reply later. Therefore, do not finish all the points now itself.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: My humble submission is that this is a clear case where constitutional provisions have been given a go-by. Hon. Speaker is the

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custodian, and he is the Almighty to protect the rights of this House. If you take a very serious view of the matter and you are inclined to follow the Supreme Court's clear decision, then this should not be allowed. Of course, I do understand and I know that the Speaker is bound to conduct the business of this House, but he should not conduct illegal business. It is not the business of the Speaker to conduct illegal business.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Radhakrishnan, please take your seat now.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: It is not the Speaker's business to conduct it in violation of the constitutional provisions. When there is a specific provision in the Constitution, they cannot resort to this provision.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat, Shri Radhakrishnan. You have made your point.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I, therefore, appeal that my Disapproval Resolution be accepted. I am sure, if this matter goes to the Court, the Court would definitely throw away this process, and warn you that we will be more or less put into difficulty. The matter will go to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court will take a very serious view of the matter. If you pass this Bill in utter disregard of what they have said, I warn this House and all of you that the Supreme Court will take a very serious view of the matter and the entire proceedings will be thrown to the wind, and we will be put in a ridiculous position.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Radhakrishnan, please take your seat. You have made your point.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: In order to avoid such a position, I appeal to the good conscience of the House to maintain parliamentary dignity, parliamentary tradition, which was maintained, by this House till 1980 or 1990 as the judgement said. It has now become the practice of the NDA Government to bring in legislation by issuance of an Ordinance. Therefore, I strongly plead that my Disapproval Resolution be accepted.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): Sir, I want to seek a clarification from the Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Jos, please take your seat.

SHRI A.C. JOS: We may pass this Bill, but is the hon. Minister sure that the Upper House will accept it? I want to know whether hon. Minister is sure or not.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: The other House will not pass it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Radhakrishnan, please take your seat.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI JAG MOHAN): So far as the point raised by the hon. Member is concerned, the issue is very simple. This ruling of the Supreme Court which the hon. Member was reading, pertains to the Bihar case where the matter was never referred to the Legislature. Here is a Bill which was passed by the Lok Sabha and sent to the Rajya Sabha. The Rajya Sabha could not consider it due to repeated adjournments. I have explained all these things when the point of order was raised last time.

The second point is that this Bill has already been withdrawn with the permission of both the Houses, which he is referring to. Therefore, this objection is not at all valid. We have taken the legal advice from the Attorney General and it is perfectly valid. The House itself has given the permission. This is the point, so far as the technical aspect is concerned. If no other point is to be made, I can give the justification for this Bill.

The basic point which I want to make is, this is a very tragic story of an institution, a very renowned institution, which has been ruined, which has been smothered to decline and death. Now, an attempt is being made to resurrect this institution, to infuse new life into it and to ensure that this does not become a kind of a small ground of politics and petty considerations, and the high purpose with which Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru and the Government had set up this institution is fulfilled.

Now, I am very surprised when it has been said that the other House may not pass it, when objections were raised last time to stall the Bill. The point is that there are three consecutive recommendations of the Standing Committee attached to the Ministry of External Affairs and they are unanimous recommendations. I would like to read those recommendations which speak for themselves.

What do these recommendations say?

First, the Standing Committee of 1993-94 observed, 'the Committee feels that it is high time that the ICWA

was salvaged and resurrected as an autonomous institution of national importance before it is too late.' The Committee of 1994-95 reiterated this view. The Committee of 1998-99 made the following observation:

"...while expressing deep concern over the state of affairs in the ICWA, popularly known as Sapru House, the Committee are of the view that unless ICWA is taken over by the Government there would be further deterioration in this institution which was set up with high hopes of making it a credible and a respectable institution. It continued to work well till 1980. The Committee recommends that the Ministry of External Affairs should come forward and make every effort to revive the proposal of take over of ICWA by the Government."

Sir, forty-four prominent Members of this august House as well as of the Rajya Sabha made this recommendation. Who were these Members? I will just name a few of them, namely, Shri Sharad Pawar, Dr. Karan Singh, Shri P.A. Sangma, Shri Shivraj Patil—he was objecting to it when he was sitting in the House last time - Shri P. Shiv Shankar, Shri Natwar Singh, Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee, Shri Madhavsingh Solanki, Shri R. Mohammad Khan and I was also one of the Members but I am not quoting that here. This recommendation had been made earlier also and now I am surprised that every one, whether they belong to the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha is objecting to it. What we are doing is following their recommendations only. We are implementing their recommendations and these recommendations have not been made once or twice but thrice by such prominent and senior parliamentarians. It raises an issue of integrity of thought and honesty of conviction. It raises many issues. It is first recommended and then it is said that they do not want this Bill to be passed. I do not want to go into any controversy. I would like to place on the Table of the House the authenticated copies all those notes and records of the opinions expressed when late Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister and when Shri V.P. Singh was the Prime Minister. What were the recommendations and what was the view of the Government then? I would only read a few of them, particularly when late Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister. Some of the Members here say that they would oppose it in the Rajya Sabha and some of them tried their best to oppose it here as well. The note approved by the then Prime Minister says that Government should take over the Indian Council of World Affairs. The basic objective in suggesting such a measure was to prevent mismanagement of the Indian Council of World Affairs and the vicious politicking that has, over the years destroyed this prestigious institution.

Sir, then again in December, 1986, the then Prime Minister had approved that the Government should sort out the mess in the Indian Council of World Affairs by declaring it an institution of national importance. Proper arrangements should also have to be made to cope with the law and order problems. It was the opinion of late Rajiv Gandhi Government that the then President of the ICWA was a man of such a stature that it would require a law and order problem to be tackled when you take it over. Therefore, they requested for the Ordinance to be issued by Friday lest the property of the Council would have to be done away with. This was the attitude of the then President and the view expressed by the Government which is now opposing it.

Sir, then came the Government of Shri V.P. Singh. What was the view of that Government? For the last several years, the ICWA has been in a terrible shape with heavy financial arrears and a sharp deterioration in its academic excellence.

"This is primarily because the institution's leadership has been hijacked by individuals who sought to use it as a platform for politics. The President of the ICWA Harcharan Singh Josh, a minor Congress (I) politician, registered bogus members so as to capture the Executive Committee. The Former Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi had approved that the Government should take remedial measures to restore the ICWA as a premier institution, remodel its constitution against possible hijacking of the institution in the future. The note also referred to the constant complaint referred by the members of the staff, academicians and political personalities. It would be a shame if we do not act to save this premier institution especially when all the basic spadework has already been done. Earlier, complaints had been received from several Members of Parliament including Shri Bali Ram Bhagat, Shri Bhuvanesh Chaturvedi."

Sir, I would like to mention, as a background, that this institution was set up in 1943 by persons of eminence like Shri Tej Bahadur Sapru. People like Prof. Hridayanath Kunzru were associated with it. It had a high name in those days. It worked very well for 38 years and then fell into the hands of Shri Harchand Singh Josh. In 1986, *The Hindustan Times* carried an investigative report on ICWA. Many other papers did so at different times. However, for want of time I would refer to the investigative report published by the *The Hindustan Times* only. I would like to lay an authenticated copy of this on the Table of the House. I will read only one or two extracts from this report. It says:

[Shri Jag Mohan]

"What happened to ICWA is a reflection of the Indian reality where a group of petty politicians shatter the dream of community equality for their personal empire-building. The tragedy is that the Organisation has gone down hill."

Another extract says:

"In 60s, if India Gate was the geographical landmark of the Capital, Sapru House was landmark in cultural and intellectual life of independent India. In the years immediately after, ICWA provided a forum for visiting dignitaries like Ho Chi Minh, Chester Bol, Karl Henessor, Arnold Toynbee. Today, it is better known for a theatre parading the name of Punjabi culture, Kabaddi matches organised by petty traders, lavish wedding parties and various activities."

There is another equally damaging report. What was the *modus operandi* followed? I have with me this report which mentions the names of people who were registered as members. I will place this report on the Table of the House. Here are some of the posters of the plays being staged in this institute of learning. They say, "*kudi jawan, gawandi pareshan*". This was the level to which this institute was reduced.

For twenty years the same gentleman occupied the position by manipulating the elections. As to how the elections were manipulated was a story in itself, a tragic story. I will just place on record a list of the cheques issued. How were the members recruited? A single cheque was issued for 330 members. The number of the cheque is given; it is dated 15th June, 1982. Three hundred and thirty members were enrolled on the basis of that one cheque. All of them were from Delhi. I will read the roll of honour later on. Another 100 people, and another 200 people were registered in bulk. I will place all those lists on the Table of the House. Who were the people enrolled as members? The very learned people and the great academicians that were registered were — Mahinder Pal Singh, Sabzi Mandi; Patwar Singh, Sabzi Mandi; Inderjit Kaur, Sabzi Mandi; Balbir Singh, Sabzi Mandi; Jaspal Singh, Sabzi Mandi, Harnam Singh, Sabzi Mandi and so on. I will give you the whole list of hundreds of people who were enrolled. They say, it is with their vote that they were elected.

There was a box item in *The Hindustan Times* about this. A reporter from *The Hindustan Times* went to various places where these people were there and interviewed

them. One of the persons interviewed was Shri Satnam Singh who is a drop out in academy after school. What does he do? He runs a provision store in Shaura Kothi, Sabzi Mandi. And, he was a Member of the ICWA! His shop is opposite the house of Shri Harcharan Singh Josh. When the Reporter of *The Hindustan Times* met Shri Satnam Singh posing him as a research scholar doing a research on ICWA, he was visibly embarrassed and replied: "Why do you not ask some learned men about ICWA? Why are you asking me? I know nothing about it" When asked as to why he became a Member of ICWA, Shri Satnam Singh replied: "Josh Saheb told me to sign the form and I did so. I have good relations with his brother." On being asked whether he goes to Sapru House, he replied: "No. Every year, I just go once just for election. We go and cast our votes." When he was asked by the Reporter as to whom did he cast his vote last time, he replied: "I do not remember. Josh Saheb gave us the list and we voted for all in that list."

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are a number of such interviews taken about its working. A person alleged to be hand in glove with Shri Josh — Shri Rishi — is the Vice-President of this Council who is an industrialist owing an electronic factory at Okhla. In 1982, he allegedly financed 22 Members at a cost of Rs. 21,600 via cheques of the Central Bank of India, New Delhi. The cheque numbers are all given. That is how the Members were recruited and that is how the bogus elections were held. For 20 years, the Indian Council of World Affairs was dominated by a single individual. This also speaks not only of power politics or administration but the culture of apathy and indifference which we have in this country. For evil to prosper all the good men have to do nothing. That is why practically he did nothing for 20 years.

Though the efforts were made during the regime of Shri Rajiv Gandhi and Shri V.P. Singh yet they were not sustained efforts.

Some sort of a technical point was raised in the court. The court took it up and then a division bench also allowed it. Then the Houses were meeting but later on, one House dissolved and nobody, subsequently, pursued the matter.

But now, this Government has taken energetic steps in this regard. We have brought this issue to the forefront. Our intention is to save this Institution and restore its old glory. We have taken so many steps. We have brought

a new composition of the Council to ensure that this type of hijacking never takes place again and we will ensure that this type of Sabzi Mandi does not control it. We have given a lot of suggestions. One is that the President of this Council will be the ex-officio Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha. The hon. Vice-President of India will be the ex-officio Chairperson of this Council. We have suggested that five hon. Members of this Lok Sabha may be nominated by the Speaker and three Members of Rajya Sabha may be nominated by the Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha to the Council. We have said that we will recruit all the people. The Council will nominate the learned people. We have a list of 45 such people which balance the point of election as well as nomination. The idea is to prevent the hijacking.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, a point was made that it would be bureaucratised regarding control. There will be no excessive control by the Government. When the hon. Members of this august House and the hon. Members of Rajya Sabha will be there, how can anybody control it or dominate it? The respect is due to all the opinions. The Chairperson is the Vice-President of India. So, there will be nothing of this sort. Take for example, the present arrangement. It is not a catholic arrangement. Whom did we nominate? We have nominated Shri Hamid Ansari. We have nominated the Vice-Chancellors. We have nominated Shri Dipak Nayyar, Shri Syed Shahabuddin, Prof. Nirmala Joshi, Prof. Rakesh Mohan and other eminent personalities. There is not a single person about whom any objection can be raised. Those who are genuinely interested in our foreign diplomacy, foreign relations and economic relations are the persons in it.

15.00 hrs.

Therefore, Sir, I would like to curtail it and say that I have got three sets of photos with me, which I will authenticate and place before this House showing what was the condition before we took over, what was the condition at the time of take over and what was discovered from the roof, including the liquor bottle. During the last one year, I was nominated as the Chairman of the Reconstruction Committee. I will also place on the Table of the House what work has been done by the Reconstruction Committee to restore this building to such a glory. What was the condition of this building at that time? It was collapsing. What a beautiful building now it is! What was the condition of the stinking bathrooms and what is their condition now? What is the condition of the

staircase, the library, bookstalls? For want of time I do not want to go into the details. I have a film with me and I am prepared to show it to anyone in the Nirman Bhavan. All those who are interested can come and see it. I am also prepared to escort them to the institution itself and see the transformation which has taken place in this institution. Now we have to inject the spirit of dynamism for raising it to a new level. The legacy at present of Harcharan Singh Josh and company is, a deserted building, a deserted library, decaying institution and a dead institution. Now, we have to revive it. It is for you to decide whether you want it to be resurrected or not. I am sure the reply of this House will be to completely resurrect it.

I thank the Members for having listened to me and I would request that this Bill be passed.

SHRI R.L. BHATIA (Amritsar): Sir, I stand to oppose the Bill presented by Shri Jagmohan. Before I speak on the Bill, I would like to draw the attention of the House of the venom of the Minister against a particular individual. In his short speech of ten minutes, he named him seven times. There lies the whole question of this Bill coming to this House. He can correct me if I am wrong. Shri Josh told me that, Shri Jagmohan called him and told that he should take two RSS leaders in the Committee...(Interruptions)

SHRI JAG MOHAN: I have not mentioned the name. I have read from the records. I have only read the records recorded during the time of Shri Rajiv Gandhi and Shri V.P. Singh.

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: I simply ask you this. Did you ever have any talk with Shri Josh?

SHRI JAG MOHAN: No, not at all.

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: He said, you had. You may either contradict it...(Interruptions)

SHRI JAG MOHAN: Where is the question of my contacting him? Was the recommendation made by the Standing Committee also because of my contact?...(Interruptions)

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: That is a different thing. I am not going to the Standing Committee.

[Shri R.L. Bhatia]

Sir, the Indian Council of World Affairs was set up by Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and people like Zakir Hussain, Radhakrishnan, Hridayanath Kunzru...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Under what rule?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I know the rule. I have a very important and pertinent question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Under what rule you wish to raise the point of order?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I know the rule, Sir, but I do not have the book with me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I know, you know the rule but you will have to mention it. You first mention the rule.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: When a Member is speaking anything contrary, we can raise...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Under what rule are you raising the point of order?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: When a Member is speaking opposed to fact...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Radhakrishnan, you may first quote the rule.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I do not exactly know the number.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are raising a point of order without knowing the rule number.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, Rule 376 says:

"A point of order shall relate to the interpretation or enforcement of these rules or such Articles of the Constitution as regulate the business of the House..."

I am referring to the business of the House. Sir, I have raised a very pertinent question. This Bill has again been brought to this House and it will have to go to the other House again. Will there be any change in the situation? Is it not a colourful exercise? The House is a very important body. It is a Constitutional functionary...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Radhakrishnan, there is no point of order. Please take your seat.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, he has not answered a single point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Radhakrishnan, there is no point of order. Please take your seat.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I did not go into any part of the Bill. I did not speak a word about the content of the Bill. What I spoke was about the legal procedure.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will get the opportunity.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: He has not replied my legal point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can say all these things in your speech.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: When I raised a question of maintainability and constitutionality, he should answer my question. He has not replied anything...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Sir, this Institute was set up with a very lofty idea that the people should be educated in foreign affairs, the foreign policy of the Indian Government should be propagated, and people should have the right of discussion and deliberation in this institution. Sir, this institution was presided over by man like Baliram Bhagat who was the former Foreign Minister and late Rajiv Gandhi was the Vice President of this institution. Sardar Swaran Singh was also managing its affairs. Today, Shri Sayeed, our Deputy-Speaker is the Vice Chairman of it. You are referring to Sabzimandi and all that but you have not referred to the people who are already there and are managing its affairs. Do you have any doubt that our Deputy-Speaker cannot manage the affairs?

Sir, history of this organisation is that the Government of India wanted to set up an independent organisation to educate people and organise debates. A very big library was set up where analysts, researchers, and students who were interested in the international affairs would go and study. This institution was imparting knowledge over

there. Sir, it was never supported by the Government. The Government only gave land to them at a nominal price of Rs. 10,000. This huge building which is known as Sapru House was set up by this organisation by getting donation from the people and through membership fee. The Government of India never gave any money and never supported this organisation. The whole idea of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was to set up an independent organisation which would look after their affairs to educate people in the field of international affairs.

As I said, it was never funded or supported by the Government. The only grant the Government of India gave was to the library. That was because of the fact that sixty thousand books of this organisation was taken away by JNU. The Government asked this organisation to hand over the books to JNU. Therefore, in compensation when a protest was made, Shri Chagla, the then Education Minister, promised to help this institution and for a couple of years Rs. 2 lakh was given. Thereafter, no amount of money or aid was given by the Government.

With regard to the library, Mr. Minister objected by saying that there were no books and nothing of the kind. He went to the extent of describing it as a dying organisation. But, I would say that even after sixty thousand books were taken away by JNU, this institute bought 26 thousand books and journals published all over the world were made available for the researchers to study, to write papers and to prepare for debates. This library was appreciated even by the UN. When the UN Director came here, he appreciated it by saying that it was a very good library. But the Minister is saying something very different, which is wrong.

The Minister has also said that there has been a deterioration of the institution and it is a dying institution. But the activities of this organisation since 1980, the period to which he referred, speaks otherwise. About 400 to 500 scholarly publications have taken place. The Council had organised an International Conference of UN on New World Order which was attended by 84 distinguished leaders from outside and 90 eminent persons from India. But the Minister says that this organisation is dying.

Similarly, many other activities have been organised by this institution. So much so, this prestigious organisation gave a prize to Mr. Nelson Mandela. He came to the institute and addressed its members.

Mr. Yasser Arafat was also given a prize by this institute who also came here to address its members. But the Minister says that it is a dying organisation and nobody is taking any interest in it.

There has been no violation on the commitment of lease. Money has been paid regularly every year, the last payment being up to 2000. There is no due from this organisation whatsoever. There is an objection that they have sub-let some areas in this organisation. But who are the people who have been sub-let? They are; the Strategic Institute, the Press Institute, and the Children Service Society. If I am wrong the Minister may correct me, there is an organisation in which the Minister himself is the President and that also has got a portion in this sub-letting. He can deny this.

SHRI JAG MOHAN: No, I am not. I will reply to your point.

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: I agree with Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan that this Government is issuing one Ordinance after another. This is the third Ordinance they have placed before this House. Bills are brought in, Bills are returned and again Bills are re-introduced. This is not the way to run the Parliament. It smells something. As I said earlier, there seems to be something wrong in the relationship between the Minister and Shri Josh since he had named him a number of times. That is how he is in a hurry to bring this Bill and get it passed by this House. He has quoted a Supreme Court decision also. Yet the Minister wants to hurry up this Bill.

In between, when the case was in the court, there was a stay order. The Minister sent 200 policemen to take over the possession of the building. Alongwith them, there were more than 100 RSS workers. So, what was the hurry? When the case is in the court, when the proceedings are going on, what is the hurry to bring Ordinances and Ordinances, and then hurry up with the Bill? I fail to understand this point. The Minister shall have to explain as to why it is done.

Then, let me come to the objects of the Bill. He has listed the objects of the Bill. The institution has been carrying on, with its present set-up, every object or work which he has mentioned. Debates are taking place and all books and journals are there. All types of activities which he has mentioned have already been done. There is nothing new which you are saying. But apart from

[Shri R.L. Bhatia]

that, this Institute has started the Indira Gandhi Memorial Inter-university Debates. From all over India, universities, come here for debates and get prizes. The last prize was got by the Delhi University. This was the activity which was being done by the Institute.

All I want to say is that the Government wants to take it over. The objective is very clear. My own view is that like any other institute which was saffronised, you are saffronising this Institute also. You have already saffronised ICCR, you have already saffronised the Indian Council of Historic Research and you have already saffronised the Indira Gandhi Centre for Arts. You are saffronising history, education and now the axe is on ICWA. This is part of your thinking. You have an independent organisation which was set up by the public institutions and they are doing good job and you want to saffronise it. Therefore, you want to take it over. That is the main object which you have not mentioned in this Bill. I feel there is no valid reason except what you have said. You just want to take it over. You are now mentioning five Members from this House and ten Members from that House. But already big people are there. Our hon. Deputy Speaker is the Vice-Chairman of this Institute. Prof. Hingorani is there and a number of people are still on the Board. They are organising seminars. At least, 200 seminars have been organised in these few years. I must have addressed half-a-dozen seminars and he is saying that it is a dying and dilapidating organisation. So, I do not find these arguments valid. All I can find is that you want to saffronise it and you are doing it. Therefore, I oppose it.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I strongly support the Indian Council of World Affairs Bill, 2001. The Government has introduced this Bill to declare the Indian Council related to world affairs as an institution of national importance and to incorporate it accordingly as also to make provisions of other subjects related to it.

In fact I found it very ridiculous, the way hon. Bhatiaji was making comments about this Bill that such a scholar is saying illogical things which does not suit a person of his dignity. I wish to say to him that wherefrom has the RSS come when high dignitaries at the level of hon. Vice President of India as its ex-officio Chairman and the MPs of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha have been nominated as its members alongwith Vice Chancellors of prestigious Universities and other scholars of national level

are to be included in this council? The hon. Member is saying that saffronisation is being done and RSS workers have been included...(Interruptions)

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Hon. Deputy Speaker is its ex-officio Chairman.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: What problem does the hon. Members have if RSS workers are included in it. I feel that the Congress has developed some sort of allergy from the RSS. Please tell me whether the RSS people are not the inhabitants of India or do they not consider India as their mother land, or do they not love their country or do they not have a feeling of honour towards their country, or do they not want to see their country as one of the highly revered countries of the world or do they not have the aptitude for promoting and developing the country or do they not have dreams to see their country at the top of the world. What is wrong in it if they dream like that? Congress believes that if a lie is repeated 100 times, it becomes a truth. My opinion is that a lie always remains a lie.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, they had no problem when the said institution was being blooded with Congress people. The name of Harcharan Josh is being repeated every now and then. Sir, I do not want to name anyone, but the institution of national importance was given on rent for marriage purposes. What could be worse than this? Sir, through you I wish to draw the attention of the House towards the fact that elections regarding this institution were going to be held. Actually bogus people have been made members in this Institution, as has been mentioned in regard to subzi-mandi. The date of election was 5th September, 2000, but elections were already conducted on 12th August, 2000 and thereby included their own men in it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. leader of the Opposition, Shrimati Sonia Gandhiji is present here. I wish to say to her to be cautious of such people. When persons of great repute like Pandit Jawarharlal Nehru Sarvapalli Dr. Radha Krishnan, Dr. Zakir Hussain, Shri Haridayanath Kunjru, Shri Tej Bahadur Sapru and Dr. Rajendra Prasad are associated with this institution, and when it goes in the hands of such persons, it becomes one's duty to raise his voice against the misuse of this institution. Sir, you will be surprised to know that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of this council were elected for 20 long years. The officials working in this institution were not paid regularly. They had sent a memorandum in this regard to the Government that they were not being made regular payment.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the said institution gets donation from influential people from Chennai, Mumbai and Delhi as this institution is associated with big leaders and is an institution of national importance, which has a library of world repute but unfortunately, today, this institution has fallen in the hands of a few people. And so there is nothing wrong if the Government have interfered in it.

Sir, talks have been held for introducing three four ordinances. I feel that through these ordinances, the Government have maintained continuity so that unnecessary interference could be prevented. Now the building of this institution has been refurnished. So through this Ordinance, continuity was maintained, otherwise sometimes the Lok Sabha was dissolved, sometimes, the Bill could not be introduced in time in Rajya Sabha, or sometimes perhaps it could not be passed, so there were many obstructions in the way. Had this Government failed to bring this ordinance, it would have once again gone in the hands of those who have ruined it.

Sir, the building was found very dirty, toilets were not clean, wires were disconnected and walls were dilapidated. This institution would have gutted in fire had it caught fire due to electrical short circuit. A special kind of empty bottles were found lying there. You can very well understand as to what sort of activities were going on over there. The ineffable condition of this institution of national importance is difficult to explain. I extend my congratulations to the Government for taking over this institution into their hands and increasing its respect and honour. The hon. Members should also express their thanks on this. The broken wires would have caused fire, if they had not been repaired. The building had not been repaired for decades. He himself has accepted that this much amount had come from the rent and he used to give rupees ten thousands as rent I wish to know that where was the money of rent utilised?

[English]

No staff member was present. No salaries were disbursed. Is this the way of its functioning?

[Translation]

Is this the way to function? Stage, Hall etc. are all in a dilapidated condition. Books from the library were missing.

[English]

Asians Relations Conference, 1947...

[Translation]

Rare books were also found missing. It was revealed later on that people sold these books. Even earlier also books of national importance were shifted to J.N.U. Later on they asked for compensation and were given a sum of rupees two lakhs and those books were taken back in the library.

I need your protection because it is my duty to give reply to the allegations made. It is not right to say that the institution was not given any grant. Grant was given but

[English]

When the grant was misused.

[Translation]

and when there was no audit for years no accounts were shown, as happens in public institutions. The Government decided to take over this institution of national importance to check all sorts of irregularities for which I extend my congratulations to the Government.

The hon. Member has said that matter went into the court. When referred to the Punjab and Haryana High Court, the Court decided to give its decision later on, but the Bill can be introduced in Lok Sabha and the Government can introduce Ordinance Bill etc. for the purpose and make provisions accordingly. This is the decision of the court itself and under such circumstances, I feel that protection of the Government is very much essential. The society of this institution was registered in 1943 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 and the objective of the Council was to promote the study of Indian and international affairs. And this is why the N.D.A. Government have introduced this Bill in order to accomplish those objectives as also to make it a popular institution at the world repute to conduct studies and research and to provide excellent facilities here. I, therefore, strongly support it.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has explained the situation, particularly the background in which the Bill was brought forward. He has elaborated how, because of some constraints, it

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

could not be passed in the other House and also how the Ordinance lapsed, etc. The aim of the Bill is something that is be welcomed that it is going to be declared as an institute of national importance and it is proposed to be made broad-based.

The prestigious institutions - set up in the early 40s by eminent people like Pandit Nehru, Pandit H.N. Kunzru, Prof. Zaqir Hussain and many others - has come to such a pass that deplorable condition is prevailing in almost all areas, including the very rich library. It is a sad commentary on the management or rather, what should be called, the mismanagement during the last several years.

It is true that the Standing Committee met at least three times, as far as I remember, and had recommended that without further loss of time, the Government should act and if necessary take it over; give it the right shape and right direction and restore its lost prestige, honour and glory. There cannot be any dispute about that.

The hon. Minister was reading out the recommendations of the Committee, 'the Committee feels that it is high time that ICWA was salvaged and resurrected as an autonomous institution of national importance before it is too late.' I am sorry to say that the idea of autonomy to the Government has reached such a pass that we cannot but be worried about the intention of the Government. If you look at the track record of this Government, what happened in the Indian Council of Historical Research, world renowned historians have been removed and RSS people have been planted there with a hidden agenda to disseminate their distorted version of Hinduism or what has been aptly described as political Hindusim.

This is not limited to Indian Council of Historical Research, in the Indian Council of Social Science Research, their own man, Prof. M.L. Sondhi, has made a public statement, "That I belong to their philosophy broadly, but because I wanted to run it with some sort of independence, they are not ready to tolerate". This is true about many other institutions, educational institutions, University Grants Commission, National Council of Education, Research and Training, Advanced Studies Centre and everywhere. Political appointments with RSS background are only being selected and put a key posts in culture, education and everywhere. That is our apprehension.

When the Government or the hon. Minister says that they wanted to make it an institution of national importance, there cannot be any dispute about that, but

what they want to do is very clear by its composition that is proposed. What is the composition? It will be a Government-driven body of mostly nominated persons. It will be an appendage of the Ministry of External Affairs. But in other countries, like America, Britain, Japan, such bodies are used as a think-tank and they are independent bodies. They contribute to the thinking of the Government. They supplement, complement and if necessary they oppose and criticise also. There lies their credibility.

15.34 hrs.

(SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*)

When we are entering a new stage of track diplomacy, people to people contact, at such a situation, this is an urgent step required that this should be given such independence. It will earn the honour, faith and it will have the credibility. It will go beyond the borders of this particular land. It will earn the trust of other people also to develop the people to people contact, cultural contacts, and track to diplomacy.

But what is being done here is that the Council will be mostly have nominated persons by the Government, except four Members from the Lok Sabha and three from the Rajya Sabha. I would have been very happy to support this measure that from mismanagement, we want to restore a healthy atmosphere.

I fully agree with what you say. I fully agree that the mismanagement had led to such a situation that horrible corruption could tack place. This prestigious institution has all the important documents in connection with the Non-aligned Movement. It has very important documents in relation to foreign affairs. When the Jawaharlal Nehru International Affairs was set up, its library was given some amount for acquisition of certain number of books. I am not sure about the number and it may be one or two lakh or something. If the prestige it held because of the association of great eminent people is to be restored, then a broad-based body, a truly autonomous body and not a nominated body will have to be set up.

15.36 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

I think, the Government is not thinking in that line. The Government should reconsider their decision if it is to be given proper autonomy and proper independence and not to be considered as an appendage of the External Affairs Ministry. The External Affairs Minister is the President of the Governing Body. The Government will

nominate the Director-General. Most of the members, including the Financial Advisor, are all from the External Affairs Ministry. What is the use of having this body? You can have anybody in the Advisory Body to the Government. You do have so many other bodies. There are Analysis Studies, Specific Studies, Indira Gandhi Awards Body, etc. You do have the Indian Council of Cultural Relations. You do have so many other bodies. This body, as a think tank, should be given independence because the academicians, former diplomats and many research workers are ready to contribute to this independent body. They will never toe your line. They may not agree with so many things and they may agree with certain things. Naturally, I think, independence is not being ensured.

There is Prasar Bharati. At the time when Prasar Bharati was set up, we had given our suggestions for having real autonomy. You have to earn the credibility through such mechanism. You can set up a body for research. Independent people will not surrender themselves. They will never like to toe the line of the Government. We will have to find out the reputed persons who are respected internationally and put them in this body. We require an independent body and not the nominated people of this Government.

Although the Standing Committee has recommended it, the spirit of the recommendation has been left out and the very purpose for which the steps are being taken will be broadly spoiled because of its composition. In the present form, it cannot be accepted.

So, I oppose this Bill with the suggestion that let it be reconsidered and later on, after having a full discussion and taking into consideration the views of all the sections of the House, we can enrich this Bill so that autonomous body of national importance can be set up.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Indian Council of World Affairs Bill, 2001, not totally on the ground of merits of the Bill but because it is doing something good from the worse.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): It is because you are supporting the Government.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: It is not like that. For the past two decades or so, the institution has lost not only its lustre but also it was totally destroyed. For namesake

only, the Indian Council of World Affairs is existing there. If you go into the affairs of that, it is totally in disarray. It is not to the liking of any Member. If any Member wanted to visit the library, he cannot sit there even for about 10 minutes. The institution was well-thought out by the statesmen and by the people of eminence of the country, like Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Sir, Radhakrishnan. They were all eminent people. They all thought about it. They wanted to make it truly a world body of think tank, which can cater to the needs of various researchers on various subjects, which will be useful to uphold democracy on the proper lines. A think tank is required. A proper body is required. An independent body is required to have a check on the Government, to advise on various issues and also to participate in the world forums.

But unfortunately the affairs have been deteriorated over a period of time. It became a pocket institution of a few individuals. Rightly the Government has taken steps. There are no politics in it. However, will the re-constituted Council help maintain its autonomy? That is yet to be seen because in the revised schedule of its Governing Body, hon. Vice-President is made as the President of the institution, and also various members are being nominated. But everybody should not be nominated. There should be some experts on international law and some other economic subjects to make it truly a world class body. A world class library is also required. I do not know to what extent the present library is still intact. If it is required to be revitalised, the hon. Minister has to revitalise it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS: First, you have a look at it. He has invited all of us to go and see it.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: We are going to see it. We would love to see this and also see this body is becoming really a world class body. So, ultimately it is these think tanks which are required to uphold democracy and the democratic rights. It is improper to say that the Government is taking over this institution only to 'safronise'. I do not agree with this. These things should not come in the way of it. Today, this Government may be there. Tomorrow, you may come into the Government but you cannot blame each other. So, as far as this institution is concerned, it is improper to say that. What we all are concerned is to maintain this institution as a world class body and also to make it as independent as possible, as autonomous as possible and as good as possible.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Autonomy would come by election and not by nomination.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: The hon. Speaker is there in the Governing Body. The Vice-President is there. Both of them can nominate. They nominate only good people and the people who are interested in it. If they wanted outsiders, experts from universities and other areas and researchers to come, let them also come. Today you have only a name. That name is to be retained again and brought to the form of the old glory. So, in this effort, we support you. But at the same time, there should not be any laxity on the part of the Government. Three Ordinances have been issued for a Bill because you yourself have not thought that this is a very important Bill. Otherwise, you would not have made it lapsed in the Rajya Sabha. If it is some other Financial Bill, if it is some other important Bill, at that time you would have taken the care. Having made it lapsed the first Ordinance in the year 2000, you have issued another Ordinance very hurriedly. Again that was lapsed and you have again issued the third Ordinance of 2001. So, these things will create some sort of confusion in the minds of all of us.

The Government should be aware of these situations. There should not be any laxity in future. The Bill had already been passed by this House and there was otherwise no need to discuss this Bill. Today, we are wasting our time. However, since it is a laudable and good cause, all of us agree and support the Government heartily. They have to make it a world-class institution for all of us to appreciate.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has brought forward the Indian Council of World Affairs Bill. It has been stated that this institution was set up in 1943 by eminent personalities for study and publicity of matters related to World Affairs. In a few years, this institution became a world renowned institution but since 1981 its performance deteriorated and by the year 2000 it lost its importance to a great extent. It was a world fame institution and this ordinance has been promulgated for making it an institution of national importance. This ordinance has been promulgated not for the first time but thrice.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Bhatia has raised the issue regarding inclusion of RSS workers in this institution. I also have apprehensions in this regard. It is an intricate affairs. It has been stated in Rule 7(1):

"On and from the 1st day of September, 2000 and until the appointment of date under Sub-Section (2), the Council shall consist of the following members, the Union Minister for External Affairs shall be its President ex-officio and its members will be appointed by the Vice President". Mr. Speaker, Sir, then in clause-2 it has been written:

"on and from such date as may be appointed by the Central Government by notification in the official Gazette, the Council shall consist of the following members."

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Vice-President, Chairman and Vice-Chairman will recommend the names of Members. The date of appointment will be fixed as per their desire under Clause-2. It will prove to be deceitful or tricky clause. Under Clause-1 the Union Minister of External Affairs shall be the President and under Clause-2 Vice President will appoint its members—what type of Law is it? Now in clause-3 it has been written:

"Notwithstanding anything contained in clauses (b), (e), (f), (g) and (h), the first such appointments or selections or nominations under the Act shall be made by the Central Government."

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a trick, Clause-1 is independent. They are the authority to fix the date under Clause-2 and after fixing the date the Union Government is responsible for all the tasks. Now the matter is clear. The apprehensions expressed earlier that RSS is ruining this institution have now become clear to all. People do not read the complete bill and are not in a position to know as to where ambiguous clauses have been inserted...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): You are propagating the RSS rather more.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: When this institution was not under the control of the Government at that time it was a world renowned institution but now it is being made an institution of national repute. Are you moving forward or backwards. For Government institutions, selling, disinvestment and privatisation is being encouraged. But this institution is not going to fetch you financial dividends. It seems that propagandists of RSS will be included into it. This may be the interest of the Government in bringing this bill...(Interruptions)

SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI (Ahmednagar): You see RSS even in your dreams.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: This institution started working during the tenure of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru. Prominent personalities like Sapruji, Kunruji were associated with this institution. This institution started functioning during the freedom struggle in 1947. This institution became world renowned when it was not under the control of the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: You are not saying anything about the Bill. It has to be passed. Not much time has been left for this purpose.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The Government has stated that since 1981 its working deteriorated—the Government should know as to what is the basis of saying so. Has any impartial committee conducted an inquiry into it? On what basis it is being said that its functioning deteriorated since 1981. It shall be clarified. It is a kind of *suo-motu* statement from the Government. What are the reasons that educationists, experts, students and teachers got alienated from this institution. How this institution of world repute deteriorated? It has been claimed that its working has deteriorated but what are the basis of such deterioration or whether the Government want to have control over it. After studying the Clauses of the bill, it seems that the Government is not only trying to have control over it but it is going to saffronise this institution. Will the working of this institution not deteriorate further in such conditions? Several public sector institutions are not working well and are being given to private sector. The Government should clarify as to what is the basis of saying this. Bhatiaji and Rupchand Palji has rightly raised questions and expressed apprehension in this regard. The intention of the Government is not good. I do not understand as to why the Government is bent upon defeating the very purpose for which this institution was created. Why the Government want to ruin this institution. The Ministry of External Affairs is under the control of the Government and now employees and officers of this Ministry will look after its working. The Department of External Affairs will propagate its policies through this institution. I have my doubts in this regard and there is need to clarify these points. I feel that they will make a mess of this institution and hence they should be prevented from doing so.

[English]

SHRI JAG MOHAN: Sir, I would be very very brief because I have already made the main points and brought certain facts on record of this House.

A point has been made that I was very vocal and very much against a particular person. I think this presumption is totally wrong. I may have spoken with some passion and some conviction. That is all I would request. I never named anybody. I have no personal grudge against anybody. I have only said what is on the record.

My distinguished friend Shri R.L. Bhatia has said that there are no dues. After the Government took it over, a special audit was ordered by me as the Chairman of the Reconstruction Committee.

What has the Audit reported? The amount of Rs. 10 crore is due from this institution. For land, about Rs. nine crore are pending. Then, building already stands re-entered. An amount of Rs. 1.5 crore is due to NDMC from this institution. There are so many things in the whole list of the Audit Paragraphs, including Rs. 16,000 to be paid to a *halwai*. All that I am saying is that there are 16 serious Audit Paragraphs involving defaultation of amounts which are being investigated, apart from the serious loss of books and valuable documents. So, the issue is that we should go by records and if the things were so good as Shri Bhatia was painting, then what was the necessity of the Standing Committee unanimously recommending, not once but three times, and what was the necessity of all those notes which I have read from Shri Rajiv Gandhi's time and Shri V.P. Singh's time?

What was the Bill that was brought at that time? Our Bill is far more liberal than the Bill that was brought in 1990. There is no mention of any Member of Parliament. There is no mention of any Vice-President. What we recommended and what is contained in this Bill is not something that will result in saffronisation taking place. I am surprised. What does it say? It lays down that there will be so many academicians and two of them will be at least the Vice-Chancellors and the diplomats who have served and who have experience in all these diplomacies. All qualifications are prescribed. This is, therefore, not at all correct to say about it.

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh said about the interim Council. What is the interim Council? He said it is like the Central Government for the interim and later on we have brought in the Vice-President etc. What is the interim Council which we have nominated? It consists of Shri Hamid Ansari, Vice-Chancellor, Aligarh Muslim University; Shri Deepak Nayyar, Vice-Chancellor, Delhi University; former Ambassador, Shri Syed Shahabuddin; Dr. Jayant Kumar Ray; Justice R.S. Pathak; Dr. Nirmla Joshi from

[Shri Jag Mohan]

the prestigious University of Delhi; Dr. Rakesh Mohan; Shri Raja Mohan; Shri Bhuvnesh Chaturvedi; Shri Syed Naqvi; Shri Y.K. Alagh; Shrimati Y. Sondhi. What type of apprehensions were expressed and what are the facts! Therefore, my point is that you have read the facts before we could make any such thing. I have already placed the Standing Committee photos. I am prepared to take you to the House there and show all the things there.

What I say in the end is that the real issue is whether you would like to place the affairs of the Indian Council of World Affairs in the hands of a Governing Body which is headed by the Vice-President of India and the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha by virtue of his office and on which there is a permanent representation of two august Houses — five hon. Members of Lok Sabha and three hon. Members of Rajya Sabha — and which has a trusted arrangement through a combination of election and nomination to have on it eminent Vice-chancellors of the Universities, intellectuals, experienced diplomats, scholars and experts in international relations and economics, or you would like it to be kept in the clutches of the coterie of a small-time politicians who hijacked it for 20 years, resorted to subversion of its constitution, fraudulent enrolment of members, manipulation of accounts and large-scale violation of lease agreement and municipal bye-laws, and whose only contribution was to reduce a great and glorious institution, a seat of learning and research and an avenue of intellectual advancement of the country to the level of a Punjabi *mandwa*. I am ashamed even to read what is the plight of *mandwas*.

What was the legacy? The legacy was an amount of Rs. 9 crore due to the Government, over Rs. one crore due to NDMC, a decaying building, a deserted library, a demoralised and disgruntled staff, a catalogue of disgraceful dramas, financial irregularities fraudulent manipulation and enrolment, and a near dead institution.

Now, all that I want is that in view of these facts which I have mentioned, I strongly commend that this Bill be passed.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, please take only one minute.

16.00 hrs.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I have raised mainly two points. The first thing is regarding the constitutionality of promulgating an Ordinance thrice, with particular reference to Dr. D.C. Wadhwa's case, which was decided by a Full Bench of the Supreme Court in 1987. He has not answered that, and that is still there.

I think, he cannot answer that and nobody else can answer that because the Supreme Court's decision is final.

Then, again, to prove his *bona fides*, I asked the Government as to what prevented them from resorting to article 108 of the Constitution, according to which, if one House has passed the Bill and the other House is not doing it, then the Government can advise the President to call for a Joint Session to get the Bill passed, and they should not resort to emergency provisions of the Constitution. They have resorted to emergency provisions.

Thirdly, will the situation change? We have passed the Bill once, then we will be asked to pass it the second time, the third time, and we will be discussing the Indian Council of World Affairs Bill till the conditions of the Rajya Sabha are met. Is it a classroom? Is it not a mockery that a Bill is discussed and passed twice or thrice? It is unheard of in parliamentary history. We are doing that process. Our solemn pledge, our parliamentary duty is to legislate, and that legislative process has become a mockery because of this action. When we have passed the Bill once, it is very, very unfortunate that we are being asked to pass the same Bill for the second time.

MR. SPEAKER: I think, the Minister has replied to this point.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: We are setting a very bad precedent. My learned friend has not answered any of these points. He told us that all the members of the Executive Council are nominated, that there are five Members from the Lok Sabha, three Members from the Rajya Sabha and some Vice-Chancellors. Will it change or will it alter the conduct of the institution? He has not answered that. Moreover, it is very pertinent to mention that he was a member of the same body for a long time. Now, he is pleading that the present institution is out of order because of doing all those things. What was he doing all those days? Did he object to it? He was a member of that Executive body. He was keeping silent. He was also in the Committee when all this alleged mischief took place. We do not know whether he was a silent spectator or an active participant. Now, all of a sudden, he comes before us and says, "Please vote for this thing."

I am sorry to say that he has not replied to my points. I am extremely sorry that you are creating a very bad precedent in the history of this House. With these words, I conclude.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, do you want to say anything?

SHRI JAG MOHAN: I have already replied that this ruling is not applicable in this case because the Bill was brought to the Parliament. In that case, the Bill was never brought to the Legislature.

MR. SPEAKER: So, it was already replied.

SHRI JAG MOHAN: I have already replied. The second point is that the Rajya Sabha adjourned not because of any fault of the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"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 motion was negated.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"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."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 29 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 29 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI JAG MOHAN: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon Members, item no. 19 has been allotted one hour. But this requires just adoption of the report. There is no need to discuss this. It is only adoption of the Resolution.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I have suggestions to make in this Resolution. It could be taken up tomorrow.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, normally this is just adoption by the House.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: This is done along with the Budget.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: You have already discussed the Budget.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It is done separately. I have certain suggestions to make in regard to the rate of dividend and all.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: This is a unanimous decision of the Committee.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: But his has to be adopted by this House and so we have the right to make suggestions.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: The Committee has already made its unanimous recommendations. Your Party had also been represented in that Committee.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Then what is the use of bringing this Resolution to the House?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: It has got to be ratified by this House.

MR. SPEAKER: The House has to adopt it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, we can take it up tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: This would take just two minutes.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, then you allow me to make my submission.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: You speak on the Railways in the discussion on the Supplementary Budget. We would not object to it...(Interruptions) Sir, we are all ready to hear his speech on disinvestment. We do not want him to disinvest his energy on Railways.

16.06 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATIONS IN SECOND REPORT OF RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House approves the recommendations contained in Paragraphs 40, 41, 43, 45, 46, 47, 48 and 49 of the Second Report of the Railway Convention Committee, (1999) appointed to review the rate of dividend payable by the Railway Undertaking to General Revenues etc., which was presented to Lok Sabha on 23rd February, 2001."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House approves the recommendations contained in Paragraphs 40, 41, 43, 45, 46, 47, 48 and 49 of the Second Report of the Railway Convention Committee, (1999) appointed to review the rate of dividend payable by the Railway Undertaking to General Revenues etc., which was presented to Lok Sabha on 23rd February, 2001."

The motion was adopted.

16.09 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193 Disinvestment of Public Sector Undertakings

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House would now take up item No. 28. Discussion under Rule 193 — Disinvestment of Public Sector Undertakings.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): Sir, what about item no. 18.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we have to start the discussion under 193.

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, would it be taken up tomorrow?

MR. SPEAKER: Yes.

Now, time allotted for this discussion is four hours.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, there should not be any time limit for the opening batsman!

Sir, this is for the fourth time that I am initiating a discussion on disinvestment in this House. The hon. Minister for Disinvestment has circulated a document of policy and procedure. But this is not the White Paper what we demanded.

He started with a quotation from Amartya Sen. It says:

"While the case for economic reforms may take good note of the diagnosis that India has too much Government interference in some fields, it ignores the fact that India has insufficient and inefficient Government activity in many other fields including that of basic education, health care, social security, land reforms and promotion of social change. This inertia contributes to the persistence of widespread deprivation, economic stagnation and social inequity."

With this quotation of Amartya Sen, the Minister of Disinvestment wants to justify the acts of the Government. In his document the Minister says:

"The resources deployed by the Government for undertaking commercial activity should be unlocked and deployed for social activities."

As to the purpose of disinvestment, of privatisation, of selling out public sector shares; the Minister of Disinvestment has repeatedly said that huge amount is locked up in public sector units which has to be released for social activities, for basic education, for health, for rural development. But, what is the actual position? What has been the allocation in the current year's Budget for elementary education and literacy? It is Rs. 4,000 crore. What was the allocation last year? It was Rs. 3,729 crore. While the target was Rs. 42,000 crore, the achievement was only Rs. 22,000 crore. A substantial percentage of this fund has to be spent for elementary education, basic education. But there has not been any increase in the allocation for basic education. Same is the case with women and child development. Allocation was Rs. 1460 crore in the year 2000-2001. It has been increased to only Rs. 1560 crore in the current year. So, there has been no substantial increase in the allocation for women and child development either. Same is the case with rural development. Allocation for the year 2000-01 was Rs. 9,760 crore. This year, it has been increased by only Rs. 5 crore to Rs. 9,765 crore. For drinking water supply, Rs. 2,100 was the allocation for the year 2000-01. Allocation for the current year is Rs. 2,160. Where has all the money gone? There has been no substantial increase on these items of expenditure.

Although the Minister had stated that a substantial percentage of the funds that become available following the sale of public sector shares would be spent for rural development, for basic education, for health, etc., nothing of that sort has been done.

Sir, what is the objective of the disinvestment or privatisation of PSUs? It is for restructuring, rehabilitation of the sick units. A number of times, we had wanted to know from the hon. Minister about it. During the Winter Session of Parliament, in December on the debate we asked the hon. Minister as to what had been done for restructuring, rehabilitation and revival of sick public sector undertakings. We had wanted a break-up of all figures.

Sir, today the workers and employees of the PSUs are not getting their wages for months together. Not only the wages, even the statutory dues to the extent of more than Rs. 2,000 crore has not been paid to the employees who had opted for VRS or who have retired on natural retirement.

Sir, I can furnish a list of workers who have died of starvation. But they are saying that all care is being taken to protect the interests of workers. Repeatedly, the hon. Minister has been saying that the main purpose of disinvestment is that a substantial percentage of the funds, which would be available out of disinvestment, would be spent for revival of sick units. But the fact is that nothing has been spent on revival of any sick public sector undertaking. If it is not done then why the Minister of Textile has to take a decision to close down more than 75 sick mills of National Textile Corporation?

Sir, what the Minister is trying here is to show that the public sector undertakings are insufficient, they are a burden on economy and they are not contributing to the nation. He is saying so as if the private sector companies are more efficient than the public sector undertakings.

About the financial performance of the corporations, I have the figures for two years, namely, 1997-98 and 1998-99. What was the rate of return on investment? It was just 10.1 per cent. He is trying to twist the figures here in this document. SCOPE, Standing Conference of Public Sector Enterprises had made a study only a few months ago. They have brought out a report. In the report, we find that most of the public sector undertakings are more efficient than the private sector companies. But the hon. Minister is trying to say that the private sector companies are more efficient.

Sir, their return is just 10.1 per cent and 7.8 per cent in the following years. The rate of return on investment expected was 15 per cent from the public sector undertakings.

Sir, 1,452 companies or about 60 per cent of the companies which are listed ones did not declare any dividend during 1998-99. The comparative share of non-dividend declaring companies in two sectors is like this. In the case of PSUs, it is 24 per cent whereas in the case of private sector companies, it is 60.5 per cent. Nearly, 62 per cent of PSUs have declared dividend exceeding 10 per cent.

In case of private sector, it is 35.6 per cent. Their declared dividend is exceeding 10 per cent. Thousands of private sector companies listed in the stock exchanges have never declared any dividend at all. Non-payment of dividend should normally lead to profit retention of the company which should result in higher capital marketisation. About 41 per cent of the public sector companies had an earning per share that is exceeding Rs. 10 against only 16.5 per cent of the private sector. In spite of that, Mr. Minister, you are trying to justify that the private sector is more efficient than the public sector and you privatise not only the public sectors which are sick, chronically non-viable but also profit-making Blue Chip Companies which are earning crores and crores of rupees.

Nearly 32.7 per cent of the private sector has registered nil or negative EPS against only 17 per cent in case of public sector. In case of gross margin on the capital employed, it has risen from 17.9 per cent in 1990-91 — that was the year when the Government of India took the policy of liberalisation or economic reforms — to 23.6 per cent in 1997-98 in case of CPU. Tax to equity ratio has escalated from 20.1 per cent in 1990-91 to 20.9 per cent in 1997-98. In taxes also, the Government share from these enterprises, return grows impressively from 8 per cent to 29.4 per cent. Umpteen times the Government has said that huge amount has been invested and there is no return from the investment. What is the total investment? In 1998-99 it was Rs. 2301.40 billion. In all 240 CPU, the percentage of paid up capital is only 33.5 per cent. The balance was in the form of long term loans. Of the total paid up capital, the share of the Government of India was approximately 84 per cent and the loan share was much lower than 22 per cent. Sir, the Government does contribute Rs. 967.17 billion or 42 per cent and not Rs. 2,300 billion which is generally perceived. Against the investment of 967.17 billion, what is the earning? The national exchequer earns or receives, including taxes, Rs. 469.24 billion or 48.5 per cent. This was the figure for 1998-99.

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

It increased in the year 1999-2000 also. In spite of that, the Minister says that the public sector is less efficient than private sector. The total receipts of the Government work out to be Rs. 165.50 billion over those three years on an average investment of Rs. 929.53 billion. It means the Government has received Rs. 1538.35 billion against a total cumulative investment of Rs. 967.20 billion which is an inconceivable equation to anybody who is interested in this subject of national importance. Sir, even if the share of profit is excluded, the total receipts to the Exchequer comes to Rs. 1282.25 billion which is 138 per cent. What is the purpose that has been explained here by the Minister in the document? Why is there disinvestment? Why shares are sold out even at below the market price? I quote what he has stated:

"Moreover, the removal of quantitative restrictions on imports, lowering of tariff, and removal of restrictions of other kinds of global trade services and capital, pursuant to our acceptance of WTO regime and various economic reforms have made it imperative that public sector is privatised at the earliest, failing which, it will soon fall sick."

Sir, he has admitted that it will soon fall sick. It is because of removal of quantitative restriction and reduction in import tariff of the public sector. Even blue-chip companies like NTPC, BHEL, VSNL, GAIL, ONGC, IOC, etc. all will fall sick. The Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant has already fallen sick since it started commercial production. He further says:

"Failing which, it will soon fall sick and find it extremely difficult to survive in the new competitive environment."

Then, why do you not privatise everything including your Government? Then, he has put a question which is very important. He said:

"Whether taxpayers money can be saved from commercial risk by transferring risk to the private sector wherever the private sector is willing to step in and assume such risks."

You cannot take risk in the public sector. You want to transfer the risk to the private sector. Mr. Minister, when there is a risk how much dividend you have received? Very cleverly you have excluded LIC and GIC. I do not understand why you have excluded LIC and GIC. What was their equity when they were nationalised? It was only Rs. 5 crore. What was the paid up capital? It was only Rs. 5 crore. How much have you received during these years? You have received crores of rupees. Sir, we cannot compare public sector with private sector.

We have taken over a large number of public sector companies. We have taken over more than one hundred NTC Mills. It is not wrong. You may say that it was a wrong decision. But I would say that it was a correct decision. The taking over of IISCO in 1973 was also a correct decision. You may again say that the taking over of coal companies or nationalisation of some companies was a wrong decision. But I would say it was a correct decision not only to save the coal industry, but also to save the nation itself.

A large number of companies have been taken over and nationalised. But no step was taken to modernise them. I know one company. We raised the issue of the Scooter India Ltd. The Government of India had taken a decision to close it down and we protested against it. Then the Government of India reviewed the decision and the orders to close it down were withdrawn. Today it has become a viable company from a non-viable company.

The main issue is about the evaluation. The President of India in his Address to the joint sitting of Parliament this year stated that the disinvestment process should be transparent. But, is this really transparent? I have the report of C&AG on Modern Food Industries Ltd. with me. How was its evaluation done? There are four methods of evaluation and the C&AG mentions in his document what are those methods. They are: firstly, Discounted Cash Flow, DCF which he is adopting; secondly, Balance Sheet; thirdly, Transaction Multiple; and fourthly, Asset Evaluation.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you have already taken 25 minutes.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I am initiating the debate, Sir. I always take fifty minutes. Please give me some more time.

MR. SPEAKER: Your Party has got a total of 15 minutes only.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I will take another 15 minutes, Sir.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): This has become a ritual, a *karmakand*. So, please allow him to finish the *karmakand*. He does it in every Session.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: What is the loss to the Exchequer? I am not taking of your period, Mr. Minister. I am talking of 1992 because you will refer to that also and I know what would be your reply. In 1992 the loss to the Exchequer was more than Rs. 3,000 crore. Shri Jag Mohan says a number of times that the unanimous

resolution or decision or recommendation of any Standing Committee of Parliament should be honoured. Are you honouring the unanimous recommendations of the Standing Committee on Industry? What is the loss to the Exchequer as pointed out by the Standing Committee during the period from 1992 to 2001? It is Rs. 10,000 crore. It is all because of under-evaluation. Evaluation has not been properly done in the case of Modern Food Industries Ltd. What has been stated by C&AG in this regard? The global agency which computed the value through Asset Evaluation Method is the only evaluation conducted by the asset evaluator appointed by the Ministry.

On Hindustan Lever Limited, their estimate was Rs. 168 crore and the global advisor's estimate was Rs. 105 crore. Why is this difference? This difference is because you adopted the discounted cash flow method, but the only proper method should be the asset valuation method. You have not counted the replacement.

Sir, the asset valuation method essentially estimates the replacement cost of the asset offered for sale. While disinvesting the equity or offering strategic sale of blue chips in strategic sectors like oil and petroleum, telecommunications, air transport - Air India and Indian Airlines - fertilisers, etc. it must be worked out as to what cost the country would incur in establishing such an enterprise at the current market price. You have stated in the Manual or the document as:

"The asset evaluation normally reflects the amount which may need to be spent to create similar infrastructure as that of a business to value or value which may be realised by liquidation of a company through sale."

Is this being done or not? If you are doing it, then why has the price of Modern Food Industries Limited been undervalued?

The Comptroller and Auditor-General has already pointed it out. In the case of BALCO, we have raised a number of points. How has the evaluation of Rs. 550 crore been done? What is the price of the land? What is the price of the deposits in the mines? What is the price of the building and plant and machinery? It is because all calculations have been made and then evaluation has been done. If you calculate all this, then the value of the assets of BALCO should be more than Rs. 3000 crore.

[Translation]

You are putting your hand on your head.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): How it has been reduced to three thousand from 5 thousand. Earlier it was 5 thousand crore.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I have said more than 3 thousand. It may be 5 thousand. Why are you still considering it wrong and amazed over it.

[English]

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: It is very instructive. You are probably educating us. For instance, on Air India, I have seen evaluations coming down from Rs. 25,000 crore to Rs. 24,000 crore, to Rs. 14,000 crore, to Rs. 9,000 crore and to Rs. 6000 - Rs. 7000 crore in the other House. So, it is a range of evaluations by great experts like yourself. It is very good to educate us.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI (Rewa): The hon'ble Minister may be knowing about the actual figure.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I am asking. You can tell that.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: But you have taken a decision to disinvest 26 per cent to one bidder. You have excluded another bidder, Mr. Hinduja. On the same ground, the Sterlite Company was blacklisted. But how was the Sterlite Company qualified for BALCO? We pointed it out on the floor of the House also. How a blacklisted company could be qualified for taking over a giant aluminium company? You have no answer, Mr. Shourie. In the case of Air India, in the past also, we had pointed it out. I have the Report of the Standing Committee on Surface Transport and Civil Aviation.

What was the recommendation of the Committee? It says:

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

"The Committee also strongly disapproves the idea of the Government to offer 26 per cent equity and the management control of Air India to the foreign strategic partner."

You are offering 26 per cent equity along with management control. Nowhere in the world has this happened. It further says:

"The Committee fails to understand as to why the Government is permitting, at one go, the foreign strategic partner to acquire 26 per cent equity and the management control whereas even countries like the United States, China, Taiwan, Australia, Canada etc., which have earned a big name as the champions of liberalisation and privatisation, are not allowing total management control to the foreign partners."

But you are offering both, 26 per cent equity as well as total management control. You have given total management control to Suzuki. Mr. Speaker, Sir, in your Chamber we had a meeting which was represented by all political parties and we came to an agreement with the MUL management to stop victimisation by MUL.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: In 1992 the MUL was made a private company by handing over majority shares to Suzuki and complete management control to them. That happened in 1992.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Then, you have put the nail on the coffin. Why should you follow Congress Party's footprint? You always say that this process was started by Congress Party during Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao's regime. But Shri Narasimha Rao himself is speaking against liberalisation, privatisation and disinvestment. Last time I quoted from his article. Why are you offering the management control also to one bidder? Why is there only one bidder? The flagship company, Air India, would be handed over to a multi-national company, Tata Singapore Airlines. This Government is doing such a shameful act. They are calling themselves *swadeshis*. In the name of *swadeshis*, they are inviting *vidheshis*. They are *pucca videshis*.

I would like to quote a few lines from the same Report. It says:

"The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Government must keep in mind the national interests and that, while going in for disinvestment, the sovereign rights of the country, with regard to the safety and security of the country, must be protected."

How will safety and security be protected when you hand over the entire management control to a foreign company? What will happen to BSNL? The Committee's recommendations were unanimous. The Committee consisted of Members from BJP and its allies like DMK, BJD, and Trinamool Congress. Nobody has dissented.

In another place, it says:

"In the opinion of the Committee, the 'strategic sale' route needs to be reviewed in particular. They also desire that widest possible consultations must be held with the workers at an appropriate stage invariably, with a view to fully safeguard their interests in all the cases of disinvestment."

Sir, take, for example, the case of disinvestment in Sri Lankan Airlines. We have seen what happened to the workers of Sri Lankan Airlines after disinvestment. Are these consultations taking place with the workers?

I have not seen a single case where consultation has taken place with the workers. I am saying this because umpteen times, this Government has been saying that the interest of the workers will be protected.

Similar is the case of VSNL. What is the reserve fund lying with the VSNL? Thousands and thousands of crores of rupees are lying there. Mr. Minister, why are you disinvesting it? Why are you trying to disinvest other companies and blue chip companies? I would like to know whether they are not contributing to the exchequer. This is nothing but outright loot of our public asset.

MR. SPEAKER: So, I think, you are now concluding.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I am now coming to the concluding remarks.

Sir, why are we defending the public sector undertakings? We are defending the public sector undertakings in order to defend our economic sovereignty. By selling out the shares of public sector undertakings outright, our economic sovereignty is undermined. He has mentioned here about BALCO that after the debate in Parliament, the deal was approved by the Lok Sabha. I am quite surprised to hear this. The Lok Sabha has not approved the deal. There was a debate under Rule 184. But that does not mean that it was approved.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: It was voted upon.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Of course, it was voted upon. But it does not mean that Parliament approved it. Mr. Minister, you are misleading the House. If it was debated, did it mean Parliament approved it?

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): It had already been voted upon. In Parliament, when the Budget is debated, from the Opposition side, you oppose it. But when the Budget is voted, it means that it is approved. Do you agree with me or not?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: What was the Motion?

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: You brought that Motion under Rule 184. It was not discussed under Rule 193. You asked for voting. It was voted upon.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): So what? Was it approved?

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: That Motion was debated, voted upon and approved.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Was it approved? Does it mean that? I think it does not mean that...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The House debated the Motion. That does not mean that the House had approved it.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: We do not know what is said about it in communist West Bengal, but here, in Lok Sabha, it is said that it is approved.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: No. You may kindly find it out.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, he has misled the House by saying this in the booklet. He has circulated three booklets. One is on Lagan Jute Mills; the second one is on the Modern Food Industries and the third one is about BALCO. I stress that nowhere in the world there is a Minister of Disinvestment. I would request him to tell us where there is a Minister of Disinvestment. The Minister concerned does not know what will happen to the undertakings under his control. He is doing everything. The Minister of Civil Aviation, Shri Sharad Yadav, is opposing it. He does not want it. That is why, he is absent today. He does not want the shares of Air India and the Indian Airlines disinvested. If the management control of Air India and Indian Airlines goes away, what will happen to the Ministry of Civil Aviation?

Sir, a single Minister is doing disinvestment of public sector undertakings of all the Ministries. Nowhere in the world is there a Minister for Disinvestment. Such a Minister is there only in our country.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is a Member of the Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment. He was present in the meeting. It is his decision along with the other Members of the Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment. I was not even the Minister of Disinvestment at that time.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: But he was opposed to that decision. He did not agree to it.

Sir, there are also other Ministers like the Heavy Industries Minister, Shri Manohar Joshi, who are very much against this policy of disinvestment of public sector undertakings. When Gas Authority of India Limited was disinvested, we opposed that and pointed out as to how the shares were sold below the market price. So, we wanted a probe on that, but that was not done.

Sir, we are not satisfied with this document titled "Disinvestment: Policy and Procedures" which has been circulated by the Government. We demand a White Paper on Disinvestment. We also demand—this is a request to you — that a separate Standing Committee on Disinvestment should be constituted and that Committee should scrutinise each and every disinvestment proposal of the Government. Now, only one Minister is doing everything and there is no transparency.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore): There is already a Committee on Public Undertakings, but it has no powers.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Who cares for Committee on Public Undertakings? I was the Chairman of the Committee on Public Undertakings for more than a year and I know its functions.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: The Standing Committee on Finance has been given that responsibility now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, it cannot do the job. Why can we not have a separate Committee on Disinvestment? Why is he objecting to it?

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, I am going to call Shri Venkaiah Naidu now. Please conclude.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, are there only Ministers to defend the Government? Are there no Members from their party to defend the Government? Shri Arun Jaitley also intervened in a similar debate as the first speaker from the Treasury

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

Benchés on an earlier occasion. But this has never happened...*(Interruptions)* The Minister of Disinvestment is finally going to reply to the debate...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I demand that the process of disinvestment should be stopped forthwith and all efforts should be taken to revive and strengthen public sector undertakings.

Sir, the first Prime Minister of our country, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, while inaugurating the first public sector undertakings at Sindhri in the erstwhile State of Bihar, said that today we are inaugurating a temple of modern India. But now, the NDA Government is not only destroying *masjids*, but they are also destroying the temples of modern India, the public sector undertakings.

Sir, we strongly oppose the selling out of our public sector undertakings, the outright loot that is being done, which is causing a loss of thousands of crores of rupees to the Exchequer. This should be stopped. The Government should reverse this policy. If the Government fails to reverse this policy, this Government should quit.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, is the Minister of Rural Development going to announce that he is winding up the Ministry of Rural Development also?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to intervene in this discussion...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Sir, he will be speaking on behalf of the BJP...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Hon. Speaker knows under what rule he is allowing me to speak.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: At times, there is a question of propriety. We never had Ministers being the first speakers from the Government side to intervene in the discussion.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: There is nothing wrong in it.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Last time, we had Shri Arun Shourie. This time, we have you. This has never happened before.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Whether first or second, what is the problem in this? I understand that there is no problem.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no problem.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: This House has discussed the issue umpteen number of times. A voting has taken place in this House. But I am not able to understand it.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Members from Rajya Sabha are being asked to speak...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH (Aurangabad, Bihar): I think, probably, he has a better decorum. Why is Shri Venkaiah Naidu being allowed to speak?

MR. SPEAKER: Do not create disturbance.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: There is a special perspective on which Shri Venkaiah Naidu has a view. We want to hear that also. He has a special perspective on this whole matter.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: The House is discussing the issue. As a Member of the Government, I am trying to put forth a point of view for consideration of the House. As a Minister for Rural Development, I have a particular perspective about this entire issue. Any number of strong words condemning the Government are not going to suffice for the simple reason that this very House has discussed it umpteen number of times and has come to certain conclusions. This is not the problem. We have not initiated this disinvestment. This Government has not initiated privatisation. When they were in power, they disinvested. They referred it to the Disinvestment Commission. They appointed Ramakrishna Commission. They appointed Ranagarajan Commission. They took their recommendations. Now, they say as if we are trying to sell away everything and then doing some injustice to the country.

The point is very simple. I want to say that there is nothing wrong in disinvestment. The disinvestment is done in the interest of the nation. The disinvestment is done in the interest of the work force and the industry. The disinvestment is done in order to have social security and equitable distribution of the wealth. I am not able to understand it. In the 50s, during Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's regime, a correct decision was taken to create public sector and also to set up industries in different parts of

the country, particularly in backward areas, because of lack of capital and technology. At that time, we did not have IDBIs, ICICIs or the IFCIs or the rich people. Now, there are Tatas, Birlas, Ambanis, Singhanias and other rich people who can invest some capital in private industry. That was the scenario at that time. So, the Government of the day, at that time, had taken a correct decision to end the regional imbalance, to provide support to the backward areas and also to give the needed technological support to those areas where it was not available. That was the background.

Today, my point is that I am speaking not only as a Minister but also as a person coming from a rural area. I would like to know as to what is the thinking of the entire House and the entire country. Today, let us see the situation. After so many years, we are now discussing more and more about the organised sector, that is, white-collared people. I am trying to impress upon the House that there is a need to take care of sections whose voices were not heard. The total workforce in the State Governments, the Central Government and in private organisations is 27 million. In the Central public sector undertakings, it is two million. In the rural side of the country, that is, the unorganised sector of the country, including urban areas, the workforce is 355 million. What about those people? Are we not concerned about them? Are we not agitated about them? After 53 years of Independence, is it not our duty to take care of those sections also? I do not think anybody can disagree with this. The agricultural labour, the weaver, the fishermen, the goldsmith, the blacksmith in the rural areas are also looking towards the Government for some sort of self-employment and also help.

17.00 hrs.

The rural people are also looking towards the Government for infrastructure creation...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: What are they doing for them?

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: What they could not do in 53 years, we are trying to do our best now...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: It is not the answer. Please tell us what this Government is doing for them? If the hon. Minister has a perspective that he was referring to, he should please tell us what he is doing for them and how does he intend to do something more for them with this disinvestment...(Interruptions)

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: If the hon. Speaker directs me to speak on rural development, the programmes, the policies, the initiatives taken by our Government, I will be happy to do it...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): The hon'ble Minister has raised the point of rural development. But in Uttar Pradesh the funds given for Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana are being diverted to pay salaries...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Now the hon'ble Minister has started saying a different thing altogether...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar): What will be the fate of 27 lakh workers?

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Muniyappa, he is not yielding. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except hon. Minister's submission.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): Sir, I can only offer my condolences to the Treasury Benches, because now-a-days Lok Sabha seems to be devoid of people who can initiate the debate. Shri Arun Jaitley, Member of Rajya Sabha will initiate one debate and Shri Venkaiah Naidu initiates another debate. This is a very sad state of affairs. There is no Lok Sabha Member, who can initiate the debate. I am very sorry for the Treasury Benches...(Interruptions)

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, I am not initiating the debate. The debate was initiated by the hon. Member of Lok Sabha from that side. Shri Scindia was not there at that time...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: I am talking about their side...(Interruptions)

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, there is no need to go into the technicalities. The House is the House and Parliament is Parliament...(Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: No, please. What are you doing?

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Yes, I am not a Member of this House, I am aware of this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Not like this please. This is not a Question-Answer session.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: But there are no people who can initiate the debate.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: There are enough number of people. There will not be people to match that side to create that sort of disturbance, but there are people who can put up some sensible things also and they have been doing it.

Sir, my point is very simple. If they are not interested in rural development, that is a different matter. I leave it to them. My point is that after 53 years, let us see the situation of the country today. The point which I am trying to make is that let us think about those people whose voice was not heard, think about those sections about whom we have not been able to take care. My suggestion is that by disinvesting, by privatising to the extent possible, wherever it is feasible, invest that money in the social sector, invest that money in the infrastructure, invest that money for the sake of those people whose interest was not taken care of so far to the extent that was required. This is the point that I am trying to make.

After 53 years, today, we have a situation that 80,000 major villages do not have electricity connections. More than 2,30,000 villages do not have telephone connections; 1,40,000 villages do not have *pucca* serviceable roads.

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH (Machhlisahar): Just now it has been told that the funds allocated for various schemes are being used to pay salaries....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: You have a concern for rural development. Members of your party were raising the point about farmers in the morning. Please listen to me first then counter my point. You have better command on Hindi language.

[English]

Sir, the point I was trying to make is that even today, after all our efforts, around two lakh habitations of the country do not have assured protected regular water supply and 82 per cent of the rural people do not have the sanitation facilities even today, after 53 years.

For these sanitation facilities, we require an additional sum of Rs. 20,000 crore, for the sake of rural road connectivity, which I have mentioned, we require a sum of Rs. 60,000 crore. For the sake of remaining work to be completed in drinking water, we require a sum of Rs. 40,000 crore. To bring the area, which is now treated as a wasteland, we need a huge amount of money.

My submission is that they are also countrymen, they are also people of this country, and they are also contributing for the welfare of this country. So, we should be also equally concerned about those people.

The point is that today, the country's financial position is known to everybody. It is not a one-day creation. It has been moving in that direction for the last 50 years with a little difference here and there. Today, the situation is that the country is having Rs. 12 lakh crore debt, internal as well as external; roughly Rs. 1,12,000 crore interest payment; and Rs. 1,20,000 crore principal repayment. What is your total revenue? It is Rs. 2,07,000 crore. Then, if you go by the revenue deficit and the fiscal deficit, the interest payment and principal repayment, then where is the money for all these?

We often hear in this House and also in the other House that people want more money to be given for old age pension. I do agree with them. People want that the sanitation programme should be completed at the earliest. I do agree with them. People want that the rural road connectivity should be taken up on a war footing. We also agree with them. People want that drinking water facilities should be provided to the rural people at the earliest. I also agree with them and I support their idea. But the point is, money can be raised only through two ways. One is, you increase the taxation. People are already overburdened. Many of us are not willing to do that. The second one is, you borrow money. When you borrow money — you know about the interest payment — the debt situation will further aggravate. What is the other way? I want to share my agony as a Minister. As a rural person coming from a village, I would like to plead with the House and with different political parties that we are not against the organised sector, we are not against the public sector and we have been helping them all these 50 years. Even after my Government came, there are figures that more than Rs. 11,000 crore have been given to the public sector by way of revival package and loans in this short span of period. It is not an ordinary amount. More than Rs. 11,000 crore have been given to the public sector for revival or for help or whatever activity it is. My point is very simple. We are all elected representatives. When we talk of people, the priority

should be given to those people who have not had their due all these years. I am not trying to blame this party or that party. It is not the time to apportion the responsibility also. I can take up a separate occasion for discussing about those political aspects. The aspect, which I am trying to impress upon the House in my own humble way, is that in these 53 years we could not take care of those people. Seventy per cent of the people are living in the rural areas. Thirty-eight per cent of the people are illiterates even today. Twenty-six per cent of the people are living below the poverty line. Two lakh villages, as I have told you earlier, do not have the basic requirements. That being the case, the reason for my intervention in this debate is to plead with the House and to plead with the spectrum of political opinion in the country is to seriously discuss this issue and then try to find out the way and means to address this important problem.

Procurement requires money. Storage requires money. We need huge storage facility in the country and particularly in the rural areas. Without having the storage facility, you cannot assure remunerative price to the farmers. The perishable goods are all getting destroyed because there is no storage facility, and for that, you need cold storage. That also requires huge amount of money. If that is the case — either it is the Finance Minister from this side, who is in the Government for a while, or the Finance Minister from that side when they were in the Government — money is limited and the resources are limited. And within those resources, we have to take care of those sections. I am pleading with the House that we have taken care of the public sector to the extent possible. After all, the industry has to survive. The employment has to continue and their interest should be taken care. Yes, it is agreed. We are all very senior people who are sitting here. Shri Basu Deb Acharia has made a point as if we are looting this and that. After all, we are all patriots and we are also nationalists. You may say that we are not nationalists and only you are nationalists. I am happy that a word is coming from your mouth that you are nationalists. I am happy about it. But the point is simple that this money has to be mobilised from within the country. Do you go for taxation to do this or do you go for disinvestment to the extent possible and invest that money in this priority area? As a student in my childhood, I had walked three to four kilometres a day to go to the school.

I have read under the lantern in the early days of my education. In the present day generation, you have wireless; you have Internet; you have Website; and then you have all these modern facilities that are confined to

a particular section of people in the country. Do you want those countrymen to suffer for a longer period? Is it not our joint responsibility to think in terms of withdrawing the money from that sector and investing the money in this sector? What is wrong in this? What is anti-national in this? What is anti-worker in this? I am not able to understand that. Do you want those companies to just go on like that and then tell the people, that particular company is incurring losses, so I am taxing you? Then I want to give salaries to the workers of that company. Is it fair? Is it honest on the part of any politician worth the name? Is it the policy?

Regarding earning also, I have seen how many companies, either profit-making or loss-making, were referred during the Congress regime to the Disinvestment Commission. I am not going into those details. There are other people will take care of it. I do not want to get myself detracted to that issue. I am talking on a very vital issue from the bottom of my heart. I have not intervened simply to score any brownie point or political point or make any sort of controversy. I would like to provoke people to address themselves to this very, very burning issue. How long you want the people to be there in the rural areas without these basic minimum necessities?

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: If you are so much worried about the poor then tell us as to what Dattopant Thengadi of your party say about disinvestment.

[English]

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: We hear occasionally demand for linking up Ganga-Cauvery. Ganga-Cauvery was estimated to cost around Rs. 70,000 crore in 1995. If you take the present day expenditure, this cost will go up to rupees two lakh crore minimum. Where is the money?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Do you have a plan to do that now?

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Yes, the major, medium and on-going irrigation projects are around 430. The estimated cost of completion of all these projects together is rupees two lakh crore. Are we doing justice by distributing money here two per cent, three per cent, 50 per cent, 100 per cent or 200 per cent depending on the demands of the Members of Parliament or Members of

[Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu]

Legislative Assemblies of respective States? Are we not doing injustice to those people? Should they be made to wait for such a longer period even after 53 years?

Another thing as I told you earlier is about housing. There is a massive shortage in the rural areas about the housing programme. For that also, we need money. Whether the money comes from the Central Government or from the State Government or from the bank, it remains the people's money. That money has to be invested here. The kitty is limited. Chapatis can be prepared as per the quantity of flour. You have this much money. You distribute it among various people whether it is organised sector or unorganised sector or electricity. My friend, Shri Suresh Prabhu was telling me that to meet the demand of power supply in the coming 10 years, you require a huge amount of rupees eight lakh crore. Today we find some people saying that

[Translation]

give us electricity free and some Members are promising to provide electricity free.

[English]

Whatever side they may be, that side or this side, I want to ask them this question. The simple point today is this. Give connectivity to those people. We are also having four-way highway project. It requires another huge investment of Rs. 58,000 crore for the national highway. We require another Rs. 50,000 crore for the *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana*. We require Rs. 40,000 crore for drinking water. We require rupees two lakh crore for Ganga-Cauvery linkage. With all this, my humble submission is this.

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH: You are talking about electricity, water, and road and the poor are getting none of the facility.

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you interrupting?

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: I have just joined the Cabinet and only three years have passed since we assumed power. However you are ready to forget those who have been ruling for the last 50 years. Both should work together.

[English]

This is a challenge before the system. This is a challenge before the country. That is why I am saying this. I want to put a straight question. You have taken care of the organised sector. You have taken care of the white collars. Please take care of those people who are not organised. This is the crux of my intervention in this debate. If you are not doing it, then you will be doing injustice. You can say no, give rupees one lakh crore or

Rs. 10,000 crore to that or Rs. 50,000 crore to this. Anybody can make any demand. We have been hearing it. During Question Hour, we also came across suggestions from the hon. Members. But the question is this. Where is the money?

The money is again, limited.

What is the position of the State public sector undertakings? What is happening in West Bengal? More than 50 units are running in losses. Actually, there are 54 units running in losses. Under the Government of India, if something goes wrong, everything is found to be wrong with the Government of India; if something goes wrong in West Bengal, nothing is found to have gone wrong in West Bengal. Will this approach help us?

In my own State, Andhra Pradesh, more than 20 units are going to be privatised. Privatisation and disinvestment are taking place even in Madhya Pradesh. The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, who spoke against the disinvestment in BALCO, next day, had the audacity to say that 29 of the public sector undertakings in the State had outlived their purpose...(Interruptions)

I am sorry, I stand corrected. It was the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh. After opposing the BALCO disinvestment tooth and nail and going to the extent of making allegations, the same State Government decides the next day that 29 public sector units have outlived their purpose. This list of 29 includes welfare organisations. I have the list and if you want I can give it to you...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: We said that we would entertain disinvestment only where there is an absolutely chronic loss-making unit, which has no hope of revival. Also, we are against disinvestment in an industry that has a record of making profits, especially in the competitive environment. You are disinvesting in even those units. This is what we cannot understand. We cannot understand why you are in such a hurry to do it. If they are making a profit in a competitive environment, why should you disinvest?

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: In 1996, on the 1st September, this big list of industries was referred to the Disinvestment Commission. Among them, certain companies were profit-making companies. Maruti Udyog Limited, to my knowledge, was making profits all through. Why was it disinvested? Even if it was ten per cent, twenty per cent or thirty per cent, what was the reason? If you go by the policy that profit-making public sector undertakings should not be privatised, let us stick to that. But is it the consensus? Is it what is happening in different States?

Even in Karnataka, more than 20 units — 26 to be precise — are going to be privatised. I am not trying to find fault with the Chief Minister. If the Chief Minister is trying to move progressively, I appreciate him. If something goes wrong, there is an Assembly to take care of the

Chief Minister and his activities. I do not want to drag his name and make unnecessary allegations. I did not make any allegation even against the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh. I only pointed out the contradiction in the stand taken.

I have also gone through the speech of the Leader of the Opposition in the Bangalore conference of the Congress Party subsequently where she has said, 'Per se, we are not against privatisation.' Of course, there was a rider, as Shri Madhavrao Scindia had rightly said, that we have to take care of their interests. There was also a demand from the Congress Party on one of those days. It was asked, 'Why should there be a Disinvestment Department and a Minister and all that? Let it be closed down.' That demand was also there.

As far as the other shade is concerned, we have seen what has happened to Kerala and what the financial situation of Kerala is. The new Chief Minister who has taken over has published a White Paper to bring out the financial position of that State. State after State, we are seeing that they are all able to understand the gravity of the situation about the financial situation of their particular States with regard to the functioning of the public sector units at the State level. I do not want to take the time of the House by going into those details State-wise though I have a list of all the State-wise units available with me. My thrust is, when we are in Opposition, we say something; when we are in position, we say something else. Should we not put a full stop to this attitude of any party on this very vital issue?

Please understand, I am trying to link the entire activity of getting some money, be it Rs. 5,000, Rs. 10,000 or Rs. 20,000. During 1991-98, that is, till we came to the Government, around Rs. 18,000 crore were disinvested from various companies, including some profit-making companies. If somebody says that that money was being used to adjust the Budget deficit, I can agree with that. But the question is, if the House, in its collective wisdom, decides that we should disinvest and utilise the money for infrastructure creation and providing basic services to the people, should we not think in that direction?

People are talking about Modern Food Industries and Modern Bread. I do not have the experience of hon. Members like Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi and other senior Members. I am not able to understand whether it is the duty of the Government to make bread.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Is it not the duty of the Government to ensure that the national interest is not compromised?

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: There is no question of compromising the national interest or the workers' interests. I am told, after privatisation, in Modern Food Industries, the salary of employees has gone up by Rs. 1,600 per month.

If I am wrong, please correct me. Those employees are getting Rs. 1,600 more per on the. Is it not a welfare of the workers? Should we not feel happy about it? You insist that we take all precautions; tell that 'these are the shortcomings and these are the remedial measures that are available with us and please consider these'. If anybody gives such meaningful suggestions. I can understand it.

[Translation]

Is it the duty of the Government to manufacture scooter, cycles, bread and to run hotels.

[English]

Is it the duty of the Government to run hotels? After this experience, is it the duty of the Government to run hotels? We sometimes go to that big hotel, Centaur hotel in Mumbai. It has such a big property and a massive building. They have a hotel in Delhi also. Those people do business and they incur losses and they want the ordinary taxpayers and the rickshaw-pullers to pay for their fault. This is the question that I am trying to ask. I am not putting a blame on anybody. Sir, there are 31 hotels in the public sector...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: All steps should be taken to make them profitable.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, there is a contradiction. On the one hand, he talks of losses and, on the other, he says like this...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have the chance to rebut it.

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAMA CHARAN SHUKLA (Mahasumand): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister is saying quite emphatically that he wants to do this and do away with

[Shri Shyama Charan Shukla]
that, but he has been selling the priceless assets at throwaway prices. This include Modern Bakery which had a large and very precious property and was sold at a throwaway price. BALCO also met the similar fate. People are objecting to the sale of such valuable assets at such cheap rates. You are trying to balance the budget by selling off your capital and reducing the assets of the country. The capital is consumed by anyone who goes bankrupt. The Government will mobilise some funds through the disinvestment by selling off the shares of the private sector. This will make the affairs smooth for a year or two but would cause a great harm to the country. The survival of many people was dependent upon the Public sector. This sector needs to be developed and improved for the well being of the people.

[English]

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, if this intervention is allowed, I have a cross-question to make.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Arun Shourie, you can do it during the reply.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, hon. Minister Shri Venkaiah Naidu has been very kind to yield.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: If my yielding and intervention is going to help to arrive at some broad consensus, I will be happy to do it umpteen number of times. This is not a political point where I would like to fight with any political party. As I told in the beginning, I am speaking from the bottom of my heart, with a heavy heart. The reason is very simple.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister is saying that as the Government had not been able to run it hence it should be sold. Tata is running his hotels properly, but you are not able to do so.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: That is not our job. It is not our job to see whether private owners are running it properly or not, that is their job. You raised a very good question.

[English]

This is not the business of the Government to run hotels. This is the point I want to make. Should the Government run hotels and restaurants, prepare bread

and bun and leave drinking water, electricity, sanitation, etc. to others? Is it the duty of the Government to make hair oil?...*(Interruptions)* Should we not focus the attention of this House as well as of the Government to those burning issues which have been neglected all these years?

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Tomorrow it might happen that you may start saying that we are not able to run the Government and hence handover the job of running the Government to Tatas.

[English]

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: If you do not agree with my theory or ideology, it is different...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: On the issue of 70 per cent of population we are really welcoming what you have said. Please clarify one point. In Udaipur you have one hotel, the actual cost of which is Rs.150 crore and you are selling it for Rs. 30 crore. What is the patriotism or the commitment of the Government here?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: We will give it to you...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: I am in the Committee on Industries. I went there. We discussed with the unions. The tender cost is going on but the actual cost is going down. Where is the patriotism here?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: It is not correct. The position is different...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Arun Shourie, you have a chance to reply.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, out of 31 hotels which are run by the Government, 30 are in losses. My point is simple. My humble request is to please withdraw from this business and then see how you proceed with it and how you get back the money...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Shri Basu Deb Acharia kept on speaking for 50 minutes and none objected. You give me some more time to speak.

[English]

Sir, I would like to take your permission to quote Prof. Amartya Sen. He said:

"While the case of economic reforms may take good note of the diacritics that India has too much Government interference in some fields, it ignores the fact that India also has insufficient Government activity in many other fields, including basic education, health care, social security, land reforms and the promotion of social change. This inertia too contributes to the persistence of a widespread deprivation, economic stagnation and social inequity."

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: This quotation of Noble Laureate Prof. Amartya Sen does not suggest ominous disinvestment that you are doing.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: I have no hesitation to say that I have taken care of you for 50 years; please take care of me in the rural areas. This is my approach. If you have any objection to my approach, then I will leave it to you...(Interruptions) There is a contradiction. This is the amount of money available and this is the demand...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Is the hon. Minister aware of what has happened?

MR. SPEAKER: How many times are you going to obstruct the Minister? What is this? You will also get a chance.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, in this country, there are public sector organisations where the average emoluments of an employees are in thousands. Some people say that it is Rs. 60,000 per month. There are people who are working as agricultural labourers in the village, as a porter, who are not getting even the prescribed minimum wage of Rs. 35 or Rs. 45...(Interruptions) My point is take care of those people, move your entire focus from this side to that side. You have taken enough care of these people. They have been taken care of and they are capable of standing on their own today.

The other day I had been to Visakhapatnam. The steel plant employees came and met me and gave a memorandum wherein they said, "as a students' leader of University, you were very active. Please save Visakhapatnam Steel Plant". All the unions came to me. They had told in their memorandum that they had increased the production from 165 tonnes to 240 tonnes. I said 'fine'. At the end of it, I gave the memorandum back to them.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: At one time, you faced bullet to save it. Kindly save it now.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, He is an MP from Visakhapatnam, so he is concerned, I am also a product of that University.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you have already taken thirty minutes.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir you must also calculate and exclude the time of queries by other Members. Also have some mercy on the rural people.

Sir, the point I was making is that they gave me a memorandum in which they told that they had increased production from 165 tonnes to 240 tonnes and asked me to help. I said, "I sympathise with you". Then, I gave the memorandum back to them and said 'namaskar'. They said that I was giving the memorandum back to them. I told them that saving the steel plant was in their hands. They asked how it was in their hands. I told them that if they could increase the production from 165 tonnes to 240 tonnes, they had the capacity to see that it ran on profitable basis. I said, "You do your effort and we will do our effort." This is what I said. It is a sort of accountability for those people, that has to be felt by the workforce. I am happy that accountability is slowly picking up now in different spheres of public activity. But we as politicians from different political parties have to promote this concept of accountability because we are answerable not only to these people but those people also. But the tendency is to go because there is a readymade organisation, readymade people, organised people. They are more vocal. So, we are more accountable to them and then we are less accountable to those people who are not able to collect together. This is the angle which has to be kept in mind by all of us while deciding the priority.

Sir, a former Chief Minister of Western Bengal — I do not want to mention his name — had also written a letter to the then Prime Minister in 1992 about IISCO at Bumpur in West Bengal. At the end of it, that Chief Minister says that if nothing is possible so and so industrialist, so and so private person is waiting. He is ready to invest and you please get him involved into this project. If a Communist Chief Minister, with all the experience of 22 years, can realise the reality of the situation and take such a realistic view, I appeal to the other comrade friends to try to understand the reality of the situation and do not be carried away by the slogans.

Today, I have big list of China. Privatisation is going on in China; privatisation is going on in the erstwhile East Germany.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: East Germany! Which country is 'East Germany'?

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: I am referring to the erstwhile East Germany.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: In East Germany, when they tried to privatise a section of the public sector, the East German people have taken away the PSUs.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: In the erstwhile East Germany, at that time, there was a particular ideological regime. That is why, I mentioned it like that, and there is nothing wrong in it. People remember 'North Bengal' even now; people remember 'Karachi' and 'Sind' even now. It is a part of the history, and let us not try to score points on this. My knowledge of history may not be as good as that of Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal. I give full marks to him for that. Knowing the history of West Germany and East Germany, they must really support this. Knowing what had happened to East Germany — they realised and, therefore, they removed the Berlin Wall — one should really understand the reality of the situation.

The exact figures are available for 2000-2001 — the revenue receipts of the Government of India were Rs. 2,31,745 crore, interest payment was Rs. 1,12,300 crore, and the principal repayment was Rs. 1,20,000 crore. Where is the money for developmental activities? I am not saying that money should come only from disinvestment or privatisation. I am only saying that this is also one source through which we can get money and invest it for proper development of those neglected areas.

We often hear slogans. Recently, when I went to Hyderabad — at that time, the Chairman of the World Bank came to Hyderabad — some people were shouting, "World Bank's Chairman go back, CM down, down". Then, I posed this question to myself, "What about the loans?" I got the reply, "No pay back; Chairman, World Bank — go back; loans — no pay back; prices — roll back; power — to be given free". Is it possible?

I will conclude soon because I do not want to take much of your time. Moreover, our friends are feeling a little uneasy, and I do not know the reason.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar): We are enjoying your speech.

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH (Machhalishahar): Will you tell one thing. You have said that the villages have been facing the same problem of lack of roads, electricity and drinking

water despite the passage of 53 years after independence. The system has been malfunctioning for the last 53 years. There is no need to sell off anything if only the corruption is weeded out from this system. Enough funds are there for the development of the country. However only 5 per cent of the total funds earmarked for the development works was utilised and the rest 95 per cent of the funds are misutilised.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: I don't agree with the figures cited by you. You also know that our's is a federal system.

SHRI C.N. SINGH: I also hail from the rural area. Only 5 per cent of the funds allocated are being utilised there. Had the funds been properly utilised we could have made a lot of progress in these 54 years.

[English]

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: This is one aspect where you say that if the money was spent properly, then the things would have been different to some extent. I have no disagreement on that. But you can not condemn the entire system saying that money is not reaching the villages at all. In the last three years, we have constructed more than 70 lakh houses for the poor people. The former Prime Minister expressed his concern on this. Yesterday, the present Prime Minister has expressed his concern on the same.

My point is that you are all aware, senior Members, that this responsibility of spending the money is with the State, District and *Panchayati Raj* institutions. Let us all join together to try, improve and do better targeting so that the benefits reach the needy people. For that, I have a four-point programme — awareness, transparency, people's participation, strengthening the *gram sabhas* and social audit. That is one aspect.

The second aspect is, even if you spend this money fully, cent per cent, and see that the benefits reach the people, still, the gap will be wider. This is what I am trying to submit to the House. I need Rs. 40,000 crore for providing drinking water; I need Rs. 60,000 crore for laying the roads, that too for connecting only those villages with a population of 500. There are villages in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Goa, Uttaranchal, in various parts of Himachal Pradesh and in the North-Eastern States where the population is only 100. Can we say that we will not lay the roads there? Recently, when I visited some of the villages in the North-East, they asked me, "You talk about villages with a population of 500 or 1,000, but what about those villages that have a population of

only 250 or 150?" I said "First of all, I want to exhaust the present list." They said, "We do not have villages with a population of 1,000 in our entire State. So, you have to reduce that figure." I said, "Fine, we will try to address that problem." If you take that also into consideration, you need a huge amount of money.

So, these are the available resources with us. So let us think seriously and come out with real business wherever possible. Let us strengthen the hands of the Government and create the right atmosphere for disinvestment to the extent required and possible. Let us get the best returns out of it and protect the interest of the workers. Let us join hands together. Let us on one side take care of those workers and on the other side utilise the money to take care of the interests of the workers in the unorganised sector in the rural areas. This is the thrust of my entire argument.

Sir, I have tried to do my bit in this presentation. I would like to request all the hon. Members that instead of trying to score political points on this, let us apply our minds, if not today, tomorrow to address this problem. They are becoming restive. We are talking of Internet, they are saying no net to villages. We are talking of the WLL, they are saying Sir, Wireless is available in our village. We are talking of highway, they are saying 'no way'. We are talking of over-head tanks, they are saying that give us ordinary tanks. They are saying as to what the Government is doing. Rupees ten thousand crore has been announced by the hon. Prime Minister for new schemes to take care of the rural people and provide employment to them. Employment does not mean Government jobs alone. No Government worth the name can give the required jobs in the Government sector in the coming years. We can provide self-employment. We can provide the needed infrastructure by providing the needed facilities that are available.

Sir, I would conclude by giving just one example. Hon. Members are waiting to get their chance. I had been to Madanapalle recently. This is near Bangalore. We have the Jiddu Krishnamurthy Foundation there. I found bundles of tomatoes stored on both sides of the road. I asked one of them there if there is likely to be any cinema shooting of Shri Raghavendra Rao or Krishna Reddy — who are popular film-makers in our area — in that place. I was told that no cinema shooting was going to take place there. Those tomatoes have been stored on the road side because they are waiting for somebody to come from Bangalore to purchase those tomatoes. I waited there a while and then I went to the market place

in Madanapalle. I saw there that auction has started. I enquired as to what the price was. I was told it was Rs. 16/-. I was really surprised at the first instance to find out that at Madanappalle tomatoes were selling at Rs. 16 a kilo. One of the farmers then told me that it was Rs. 16/- for a basket of ten kilos of tomatoes. That means, it cost, Rs. 1.60 per kilo.

Sir, I reached Bangalore that evening and was in my sister's place. I asked her at price tomatoes were selling in Bangalore. She told me that it was about Rs. 6/- to Rs. 8/- per kilo. I was surprised to find that just 132 kilometres behind, at Madanappalle it was selling at just Rs. 1.60 per kilogram. I had spent that evening in Bangalore and next day I came to Delhi. I asked my wife at what price tomatoes were selling in Delhi. She told me that it was selling at a variable price between Rs. 12/- and Rs. 18/-.

Sir, the reason for this is very simple. There is no storage facilities for the farmers. Tomatoes are perishable items and we have not been able to create enough infrastructure for godowns and cold storage for them in order that they could preserve them. Moreover, all these years they did not have adequate information also. Now, should we not make efforts to create cold storage for them? Last year the storage capacity of the cold storage was 12 lakhs tonnes. Ten lakh forty thousand tonnes of more capacity has been added this year.

Sir, myself and my friend, Shri Pramod Mahajan went to Nasik and we were addressing a public meeting there. Suddenly, somebody threw something at us. I thought somebody has thrown a bomb at us. The police ran after the person and caught him. But the police caught hold of a farmer only. We asked the police men

[Translation]

Why did you arrest the farmer?

[English]

The policeman told us that he was the man who had thrown that material at us.

[Translation]

I asked the farmer as to why he had thrown. The farmer replied that it was onion as there is so much production of onion in Nasik that there is none to buy it and he thought that it was apt to throw the onion to the attention of Pramod Mahajan towards the owes of onion growers. However you are the spokesman of the Party, I want to tell you that it pertains to the time when I was not the Minister but only the spokesman of the Party...*(Interruptions)*

[Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu]

[English]

Sir, we came back and told the hon. Prime Minister that there is need for providing cold storage facilities for those people. Also, there is need for creating opportunities for them to export their goods. These are practical problems which we have not been able to address because they are noticeable only in tiny villages and remote rural centres.

Sir, what I am trying to say is that let us all come together and give priority to those items and to those sections of society who have been deprived. We should disinvest in one sector to invest in another. We should invest in the rural sector and in the social sector. This is what I am saying.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: To whom are you addressing. Pramod Mahajan is not present in the House.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: I myself remember that the Delhi based journalists only get to learn through such experience however the village folk like us know as to what is the condition of the farmers.

[English]

I do not want to make a bold statement on the bias of this entire country towards rural people. Have we really focussed enough attention on this sector all these years forgetting the political spectrum, right from the Planning Commission to the politicians and everybody else? We have not. We should admit this fact. There is no meaning in finding fault with each other. I find fault with Congress and they find fault with me.

That is why, in spite of provocation I was trying not to get provoked because I did not want to lose the main track of my appeal to all of you. Please, understand the rationale from this point of view also and support the programme of the Government. This is my request and this is my appeal to the House.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I thank the Disinvestment Minister Shri Arun Shourie for having been very successful in motivating the Rural Development Minister with an assurance that all the disinvestment proceeds would go to the Rural Development Fund, which seems to be the reason why Shri Naidu has come to rescue him in the House.

Sir, the Minister who just intervened, my dear friend Venkaiah Naiduji, was very candid in his confession over the plight of the farmers under this regime in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, and his account of the sufferings of farmers in general. The only aberration is, if he had supported the Adjournment Motion on farmers' problems moved by our leader Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, it would have justified his concern.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: If the Adjournment Motion is going to get the desired result of solving all the problems of farmers, I would request my party also to join the Adjournment Motion.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Thank you. If you had done that, at least the farmers would have come to know that you have genuine sympathy for their plight and concern for redressal of their grievances.

Sir, our late lamented leader Rajiv Gandhi, and prior to him the late Indira Gandhi, laid emphasis on rural development and Panchayati Raj institutions for the first time in the history of Indian republic...*(Interruptions)* The late Indira Gandhi and later on the late Rajiv Gandhi made declarations in this House that rural development should get the highest priority in the Budget of a Government. Shri Naidu cannot deny the fact that the benefits of the process that started then percolated down to the Panchyati Raj system. If there are a few omissions and commissions here and there, we could sit across the table and decide.

I am amused to here Shri Naidu's long lecture on the Grants of his Rural Development Ministry. He probably thought that the Grants of his Ministry are never discussed on the floor, that he would never get a chance to speak on them and so he should take this opportunity and intervene. I thank him for doing so. But today's subject matter is not somebody being against or for disinvestment. Our party made it abundantly clear umpteen times that we are not opposed to disinvestment *per se*. Our Deputy Leader just gave clarification on our Bangalore Resolution. We are not here to question the Government as to why it is attempting to disinvest. Our question is just on three counts — (a) transparency, (b) national interest, and (c) interest of the workers working in public sector units.

Sir, Air India should not be treated on par with units like Modern Food and BALCO. Air India is the pride of the nation. It has a long and proud heritage. For several decades, it never sought financial support from the Government, even during the Congress regime. It ran on its own resources. The distinguished Minister Shri Naidu was trying to generalise by saying that public sector

undertakings are a drain on the national exchequer. I will not enter into a debate on that now, but Air India is different. Air India is not going to be a drain on the national exchequer. In 46 out of 53 years of its existence it made profits. It has just turned around this year and posted a net profit for the first quarter. So, Air India should not be treated in the way it is being treated.

I agree with the hon. Minister that the process of disinvestment had been referred to the Disinvestment Commission right in 1996 and prior to that we planned for it in our Government.

In 1998, it was referred to the Disinvestment Commission. There is no dispute about it. We have never said as to why it was referred to the Disinvestment Commission.

Now, I come to the main point. For the last several months through various questions and answers in Parliament I have been trying to concentrate as to what is the direction of the Government.

On Air India, at least 3,000 press clippings are with me from India and abroad on the basic question of transparency. I met the trade unions. I met the workers. I met the Air India personnel, I will not take their names. I met three people from the Government. Many documents came to us even from the companies which tried to contest this bid by post, by newspaper publications and by trade unions also. We studied them objectively.

Then I wrote a letter to the hon. Prime Minister on 2nd July, 2001 where I stated that we never raised any objection, *per se*, to disinvestment. Recently, in our Bangalore Resolution of the AICC, it was made clear as to where we stand on the matter of disinvestment. Sir I wrote to the hon. Prime Minister and a copy of it I referred to ex-Prime Ministers. Most of them have responded to me. This is what I wrote:

"Mr. Prime Minister, do you, as a political soul, can convince yourself that after 51 years of freedom and republic, mighty India's sovereign National Carrier in the globe shall be dictated by Government of Singapore in all practical manner? Can you accept this surrender and compromise? Late Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi, Late Prime Minister Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, Late Prime Minister Shri Morarji Desai, Late Prime Minister Choudhary Charan Singh, Late Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi and ex-Prime Ministers Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, Shri Chandra Shekhar, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda, Shri I.K. Gujaral, could any one of them concede that our national honour, pride and sovereign authority of determining the policy of

our National Carrier which will carry our Flag, shall be subjugated to the whims and dictate, designs and plans of another foreign Airlines, whose Government will scrutinise the operation behind the screen and shall dominate our sky and our space in a manner that they prefer better for them? I wonder how your Government and Ministers can enjoy this surrender in such a manner."

Sir, I further wrote:

"Mr. Prime Minister, having grown with your own style of patriotic devotions through RSS and other activities of Jan Sangh and Swadeshi Manch in the recent times, could you encourage this surrender?"

The hon. Prime Minister was kind enough to acknowledge this letter. Thereafter, where was it referred to I do not know...(Interruptions)

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: You will one day become a *Swayam Sewak*...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I now quote certain lines. I will later on disclose where from I quoted. It says:

"As is well aware, the process of disinvestment of Air India has been facing numerous problems especially in the area of according security clearance to one bidder and thereafter having the process become a single bidder system along with the issue of Investment Advisers role.

It is believed and observed that wherever the Government has tried to observe a single bidder system, there has been a lot of hue and cry for executing the disinvestment in Parliament leading to various allegations. While Modern Foods is an often quoted case, however, the two cannot be compared since Air India is an asset which carries a lot of emotion being the National Carrier of the country. Hence, the argument that a minimum reserve price and single bidder will be appropriate does not hold good in ensuring a smooth disinvestment process through Parliament and Government.

It is proposed that in case the Government does not have more than one bidder, we should review the process, and try to make Air India more profitable by reviewing issues like 38 per cent tax on ATF among others so that viability of the airline can be divested with value having been added to ensure a better price. It is being felt certain sections of Government and Parliament that the Government is engaged in an exercise to give away a valuable asset

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

rather than extract the value from it. We should look at the Aviation Policy as a whole rather than keep changing the policies to either suit the process or the objective that we are trying to accomplish in a transparent manner..."

I used the word 'transparency'. It further says:

"The hon. Prime Minister may like to take a view on how we need to proceed further in this case."

This was written by the Cabinet Secretary on July, 17...(Interruptions) It is the Cabinet Secretary's note. I wrote a letter to the Prime Minister on 2nd July. I did not consult the Cabinet Secretary. I spoke on my own about the emotions attached with Air India, the national security, the value, the pride of India, the process and so on. And the Cabinet Secretary on July 17, I am prepared to authenticate it, drew the attention of the Prime Minister himself. The Cabinet Secretary is not from the Opposition Party. He is a respected bureaucrat. It is his observations, questioning the transparency.

Sir, the Government, while replying to a question in the Parliament, on August 13, 2001, made it clear that the Air India became a loss-making organisation since 1995-96 and prior to this the position in Air India was profitable. In 1992-93, it was Rs. 330 crore, 1993-94 it was Rs. 210 crore, in 1994-95 it was Rs. 040.80 crore and the loss was only in 1995-96. Thanks to the Civil Aviation Minister, Shri Sharad Yadav, who monitored it in such a manner that profit started coming to Air India. Yet, I think the poor Minister is helpless because of the situation he is placed in.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: The former Minister also took a lot of interest. It seems you have forgotten that...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The Disinvestment Minister is placed in a situation where he is also helpless. I do not know from where the direction comes! He has to consult Civil Aviation, Finance or may be the whole Cabinet. I agree. But we demanded a very small thing for transparency. Our distinguished Leader of Opposition wrote a letter than on such important matters of national interest, where disinvestment is there, we ought to have a separate Standing Committee. Rightly or wrongly, now the Finance Committee is looking at it. On such important matters, what is wrong in placing the entire thing before the Standing Committee just as the Budget proposals are placed? Let it peruse the whole matter and report to the Parliament. The Parliament can then react and take a decision. We have nothing against or in favour of anybody. Unfortunately, that was not accepted.

I now come to a very-very vital and important matter, that is the stage-wise-stage development of disinvestment. I will confine to transparency and national interest. Through you, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister who is busy confabulating with others. Would you, please, Sir, give direction to the Minister...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Shri Sharad Yadav was just telling me that when the decision regarding the Air India was taken, he was present and that I was not present because I was not a Minister at that time.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: On the basis of personal information. I want to tell that Shri Sharad Yadav ji is against the disinvestment of Air India.

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): Mr. Speaker, Sir, three to four Members mentioned my Name. I would like to say this much only that we all were a party to the decision of disinvestment in and Shri Anant Kumar was also quite supportive. A long debate had ensued on it. Certainly the difference of opinion persisted over one issue as regards to the equity ratio of Indian Airlines. I and Arunji were in favour of maintaining the current equity ratio of Indian Airlines and it was later supported by other people also. An unanimous decision on it was taken by us. There does not exist any difference of opinion in the government once this issue. It is especially true in case of Arun Shourie ji and myself. Problems should not be created by raising such issues during the debate.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I do not want to embarrass the hon. Minister any more. I will now come to the fact on the point of transparency. The Government appointed a global advisor. Please listen to me. I am talking with facts and if the Government demand these facts, I am prepared to authenticate it and lay it on the Table of the House.* Transparency is the criteria in disposing a national asset.

The first task of the Government was to appoint a Global Adviser. It appointed a Global Adviser called J.M. Stanley Morgan. The Government also has a right to terminate an adviser if it finds that there is a conflict of

*As the Speaker subsequently did not accord the necessary permission, the paper was not treated as laid on the Table.

interest. Is it not a fact that in various committees of Unit Trust, one of the companies who is on the Mutual Fund Board is a nivesh company representing the same unit of Mutual fund allocation? I had quoted it the other day. Is it also not a fact that in the recent UTI scandal, it is the Tata Power who gained Rs. 150 crore from stock market? Is it a fact that the same J.M. Stanley Morgan has been chosen by the Government as an Adviser for the disinvestment process and he had also joined the Indian Hotel Company of Tata Group as a Director? The Minister replied to me that he was not appointed by Tatas and that there is a direction by SEBI that any corporate house or some independent director should be appointed and the Tatas chose him as an independent director when the disinvestment process was on. Is it not fact that the same nivesh company had to resign due the pressure of media and due to the hue and cry of a few MPs? Is it not a fact that the same J.M. Stanley Morgan has now been engaged by Tatas as an Adviser of the VSNL disinvestment process? How do you justify that this is transparent? How do you justify that it is clear? Is it also not a fact that without terminating him, you have terminated the services of another company due to conflict of interest? I know its name and I am going to quote that. You did not terminate him and later on for the public consumption and knowing full well that the Parliament Session is nearing, you chose to appoint another two Advisers. You have appointed very recently two more advisers to make evaluation of assets. How can a bidder who is from Tatas can engage the same Adviser as the Director of the company? Till the matter is not disposed of, how can you engage him as an Adviser for disinvestment of Tata-VSNL? Are these not conflicts of interest? You can say that there is no conflict of interest.

Now, I would come to your general guidelines which you told us in this House while replying to a question. What are the guidelines of the bidders? You said that one of the major guidelines of the bidder is that he should not be involved in the eyes of the Government in any kind of offence or crime or any kind of conviction or anything of this nature. The full guideline is with me. But I do not want to take the time of the House in narrating the guidelines. The guidelines is that if the Adviser is having conflict of interest, his services would be terminated. If the bidder is under clout in any way, he should not be taken into confidence. The Minister of Law knew full well that Videocon was issued strictures by SEBI. Yet on 10th May, the Ministry of Law gave clearance that they can remain in the bidding process.

Did you object to it? At the end of the day, you kept them out? Is your Government not aware of the fact that CBI is investing into the matters of Bofors and prosecution is pending against Hindujas and he is being brought back to India? During the course of time, you allowed Hindujas and everybody to go to the more sensitive sector of the Air India called the data room. You allowed him to go inside the operation data room. You did not object. Is this transparency? Is it fair?

I have no disregard for any individual working in the Government or in any company. In my letter to the Prime Minister, I praised profusely the Tata emperor. Jamshed G. Tata was no less patriot of the country. He has a stake in our fast industrial revolution. Shri J.R.D. Tata is great son of India. I feel proud of him. Take for example his son, Ratan Tata. Nobody is our enemy.

18.00 hrs.

But, as an institution of the Government you did not look into it. The guidelines say you should take someone in the bidding process who is free from clout. Did you do that? I do not think you did that.

I am revealing a very sensitive thing today, Mr. Speaker, for the attention of the Government. Till now, today at 6 o'clock, a company is directly under investigation for FERA violation to the tune of more than \$ 300 million. The investigation is going on. The whole document of the investigation is in my possession now. Which is that company? It is not important to say this; but it is freedom of information...*(Interruptions)* Shri Arun Shourie, I do not intend to explode you, but I want to explode your transparency claim.

Shri R.K. Pandey, Deputy Director, Enforcement Directorate has issued an order on 20.3.2000 in supersession of the order of 13.12.1999 in the case pertaining to IHCL and Cox and Kings. The investigation revelations are terrific. Should I read out the report page by page? I would just say one point about the nexus. The Investigation Officer of the Enforcement, at the Taj International Hotel, Hong Kong, received the following payments on behalf of IHCL in which Nivesh Company joined as a Director and later on resigned. The deposit received on behalf of Singapore Airlines was \$ 49,61,301; deposit received on behalf of Cathay Pacific was \$ 1.5 million; other amounts received were \$ 3,39,90,03,362. Further investigation is being carried out to find out the purpose of these deposits and why these payments were

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

received by this Tata Group. Furthermore, I may reveal that the estimated total deviation and siphoning off of foreign exchange is to the tune of \$ 250 million to \$ 300 million and the estimate further says that it could exceed this figure.

Is it also not a fact that for the last one month the same IFCL is negotiating with Singapore Air Traffic Terminal and Cathay Pacific for another deal with the same advisor called J.M. Stanley Morgan? Can you deny all these facts? When I say this, I speak with authority. The entire Enforcement Directorate report is in my hand. You will be surprised to know that the money taken with the permission of the RBI was \$ 13 million for a particular purpose and without the permission of RBI they utilised \$ 5 million and \$ 8 million has been siphoned off. Where was it taken? To one bank in Switzerland. They opened three accounts in London without the permission of the RBI. The amount of money in the ARRA Group in Hong Kong that has been siphoned off is \$ 20 million and the total siphoned off money is \$ 320 million.

RBI said, you appoint an independent auditor. The independent auditor also said the same thing. Now the investigation is being conducted by the Enforcement Directorate at Mumbai. The latest is of 27.2.2000 on the above subject. Details have come. Where does the Singapore Airline figure in all this?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I would like to seek a clarification just for my own education because you are making some important point. You are referring to the guidelines and trying to say that some method is under investigation about a corporate house. The guideline says:

"In regard to matters other than the security and integrity of the country, any conviction by a court of law or indictment or adverse order by a regulatory authority..."

So, there are two things. You are half-a-lawyer. It is said "conviction by a Court of Law or adverse order or indictment by a regulatory authority" You show me about conviction please and then we will proceed.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I never said 'conviction'. I will quote again.

"Any conviction by a Court of Law or indictment/ adverse order by a regulatory authority for a grave offence against the advising concern or its sister concern would constitute a disqualification."

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: You are reading a wrong guideline.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Shourie, should I not conclude and then you intervene? I have authenticated everything on the Table of the House. I have written a letter to the Finance Minister, Shri Yashwant Sinha. He has acknowledged my letter and he is examining the matter. I have not come here empty-handed. I know how things are operating in the country.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: You are reading the guideline which is for the advisor. You have to read the guideline for the bidder. There is a separate guideline for the bidders.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I quote:

"In regard to matters relating to the security and integrity of the country, any charge-sheet by an agency of the Government/conviction by a Court of Law for an offence committed by the bidding party or by any sister concern of the bidding party would result in disqualification. The decision in regard to the relationship between the sister concerns would be taken, based on the relevant facts and after examining whether the two concerns are substantially controlled by the same person/persons."

Now comes the charge-sheet by the agency of the Government.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: The next paragraph is on matters relating to security.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You kindly read paragraph (b) of the letter dated 13.7.2001. It says:

"In regard to matters relating to the security and integrity of the country, any charge-sheet by an agency of the Government/conviction by a Court of Law for an offence committed by the bidding party or by any sister concern of the bidding party would result in disqualification."

It is said "for an offence".

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: That is about security.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: No. I will again read it out. Let the House judge it. I will read line by line.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: There are two separate paragraphs so that nobody gets misled. One is on security and that is what you have read. The next paragraph is on guidelines other than security like FERA violations which you are talking about. In that second paragraph, it is said conviction by a Court of Law...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Much ado about nothing...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: That too on a wrong issue.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, this is not the way to speak. I will read paragraph (b) again.

"In regard to matters relating to security and integrity of the country, any charge-sheet by any agency of the Government/conviction by a Court of Law..."

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: You are looking into FERA violations.

18.08 hrs.

(DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You listen to me and then you may justify:

"...any charge-sheet by any agency of the Government/conviction by a Court of Law for an offence committed by the bidding party or by any sister concern of the bidding party..."

I draw the attention of the hon. Minister to one point. Was Hinduja, was Sterlite, was Videocon convicted by any Court of Law? They have not been convicted. The Law Ministry took a decision. Since you feel that there is a stricture, you feel that you should not encourage them in that process. There is a general perception that Sterlite got a stricture and now they cannot enter into any bidding of the public sector undertakings. Is it right or wrong?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Let me just clarify so that nobody is in a misunderstanding. I assure you that if your point is right, I will move exactly as you say. But let me tell you what the scheme of guidelines says. There is no difference of opinion between any of us on this matter.

There are three sets of guidelines. One is on security-related issues. On those charge-sheets, anybody who is charge-sheeted - conviction is not necessary - or may be the entire group will go. So, even if the sister concern is charge-sheeted, then the whole group goes.

In matters like FERA, which is in the next para which you are not reading, the scheme is, it has to be not a charge-sheet but a conviction of that particular concern, not of any sister concern.

The third point is about advisors. As far as advisors are concerned, it is a conviction or an adverse order by regulatory authorities, like SEBI, and it is for the group as a whole and not only for the particular concern. That is why, for instance, CSFC has been given the show cause notice. That is exactly why in the case of Hinduja who have not been convicted but charge sheeted, the entire group has been given the show cause notice.

If we are wrong in applying the guidelines, I give you an assurance that we will correct everything. But the case that you were quoting about FERA violation comes in the second step, where you require a conviction by a court of law and you are not answering that question. If you can educate me and lead me to a conviction that has been given, I assure you that we will issue a show cause notice tomorrow.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I think the Minister is trying to misunderstand me or trying to confuse the House.

I have never said that a particular bidder has been convicted. I only asked a question as to whether it is not a fact that Videocon and Sterlite have been indicted by SEBI and, therefore, they are not in the race of bidding. As per the guidelines, they should have been either convicted or charge sheeted.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Videocon withdrew.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister you will get ample time while replying.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, he is assessing us wrongly as to why show cause notice was not given to Videocon. As the videocon had withdrawn, then how the show cause could have been given.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I just quote a news item in *Business Standard* of 6th July. It says:

"DOD has proposed barring companies named by SEBI in its final orders from bidding. The idea was to exclude the kind of company which defrauds small investors. The Law Ministry, however, is of the view that SEBI has issued orders against companies over a wide range of other issues also. These factors do not restrict the ability of these companies to turn around public sector companies."

The Ministry has also said SEBI orders alone cannot be considered for disqualifying companies. Cases slapped against companies by the Enforcement Directorate and Income Tax Tribunal also constitute a serious breach of conduct."

Can you deny that you did not say so?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: No, I have never said so.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Then the newspaper is absolutely wrong. I think the *Business Standard* is telling untruth.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: It is absolutely wrong and I pointed it out to the *Business Standard* also.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I accept it.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: You please go by the guidelines that have been approved by the Cabinet and not by the newspaper reports.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon Minister, you note down the points on paper and clear them while replying.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Is it not a fact that James Morgan Stanley was indicted by the stock market? Is it not a fact that you have terminated one of the global advisors recently on this count? You will say 'no' to that also.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: No.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I take the name. Let the Minister deny. He has not done it. Morgan Stanley and Credit Swiss Cox Boston both have been recently

indicted for their role in major stock market scam by the Security Exchange Commission. Swiss Cox Boston is considered by the Department to have been terminated as advisor. If you say no, it is fine. I will take the Minister's version and I will say this Paper is lying. I would accept the Minister's version only and not anybody else's.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: No.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: This is good. Now the Government's position has been exposed. If there is indictment by the Stock Exchange, till it is convicted, it will not be out of the advisory panel.

There is a FERA violation to the tune of \$ 300 million. It has been siphoned off from India and transferred abroad. It will come into operation. Foreign Exchange is the only element in Air India that will be collected. It is accepted. I put up my letter to the hon. Finance Minister for immediate investigation. The correct agency to look into such a matter of FERA violation is only the Enforcement Directorate and nothing else. The observation of the Enforcement Directorate is that violation has been proved beyond doubt and prosecution has to begin. Shall I quote it? The Office of the Enforcement Directorate sought permission for further action from the Headquarters, Delhi. Shri R.K. Pandey, the Deputy Director, Mumbai Office sought further permission from the Central Office. But permission has not been given till date. I am not talking of any individual. What I say is that it is a scandalous matter. If I read the report and observations of the Enforcement Directorate, it will take whole night. It is scandalous. The Gulf Air Chief Salim Assiyabi transferred \$ one million. There is no account. There is no information from the RBI in this regard. ARRA in Hong Kong transferred \$ 35 million. There is no account. There is the corporate guarantee by IHCL of US \$ 35 million in favour of city Bank to Taj, Hong Kong.

It was done without the permission of the RBI. IHCL transferred US \$ 35 million through Citi Bank to Hong Kong without permission of the RBI. All these have been approved by the Board meeting. It was questioned by RBI and referred to an independent auditor. The independent auditor has also subscribed to this issue. I have with me the report of the independent auditor. This is the status. Mr. Minister, you are saying that the whole thing is done in a transparent manner.

Now, I come back to the national asset valuation. I am not a competent man. I agree with you. I know what is the value. Sometimes statements come and say that the value is 10,000. Sometimes, the media write that the

value is 20,000. I know about it. I congratulate the hon. Minister for one action he has taken. Mr. Minister, I wrote you a letter two months back. You did take action. I am grateful to you. The entire planning was mooted by the Air India man who is now under suspension. It was to present a projection that Air India would make loss. So, the net asset value was reduced to suit the bidder to get it at a cheaper price. I brought it to the notice of the hon. Minister and also to Mr. Mascarenhas. The hon. Minister got it investigated and he took action. I got that projection list which proved to be totally wrong in the existing operation. Let the Minister deny it if I am wrong. It was claimed that IHCL, *James Morgan*, Singapore Airlines etc. have planned these things. The Government is not telling the truth. The Government knows about the role of Hinduja and Videocon. The Government knows everything. I am sorry to say that when Dr. Manmohan Singh and Shrimati Sonia Gandhi said about transparency, they accused them as fools. As a Parliamentarian, I talk to trade unions and companies. I got their papers. I examined them. I produced it to the Minister. Is it right and wrong? I am neither for Reliance nor for the British Airways. I am neither for the Jet Airlines nor for the Reliance; nor for any other company. I am not against the Tatas. I am saying how the Government is disposing of the property of Air India without taking care of all these issues into account. Is it not a fact that the Singapore Airlines is controlled by the Singapore Government? My hon. Prime Minister will fly in a chartered aircraft outside India. Who will control the entire matter? It is at the dictates of the Singapore Airlines. Is it not a fact that you are also thinking of giving the same support to the same company, which you gave to Air India as a public sector undertaking for seven years under the bilateral protection agreement? What for? What my company gave, why should he get? These are the matters which concern the entire nation. It is not against your CRB. You know about it from my letter which you have gone through. I praise the Singapore Airlines because it is a very highly managed professional company. In their country, they are very good. I give one example for your understanding. You can contact your Ambassador just now. I was in Argentina one month back. The then President of Argentina Mr. Mecon, who is now in jail, recklessly disposed of the Aerolina Argentina to Iberia in the name of disinvestment. The entire trade union people point it out and pleaded to protect their roots and business.

Then, another American company, M/s Iberia took part in the process and said that they were not interested in Aerolina. Now, the former Prime Minister, Mr. Mecon is in jail. The Ambassador explained the whole thing to me while I was having lunch with him. I said, it is a good example and we must be cautious in our country.

Sir, I never said that the hon. Minister is indulging in something or any individual is indulging in something. But is this Government taking enough care and caution before disposing of such a property of the nation which is linked with national emotions? How could Shri Sharad Yadav manage the same Air India and give a profit projection in the last eight years and six months? Why does the Government not strengthen his hands by providing him what he wants? What is wrong in it? Why do they not terminate M/s James Morgan Stanley? What is the reason?

I gave him four examples. Can he deny even one example? Can he deny that the recent scam did not benefit M/s Tata Power to the tune of Rs. 150 crore? Can he deny that M/s James Morgan Stanley was not appointed by Tata again as advisor in the VSNL disinvestment process? Can he deny that? Can he deny that IHCL and M/s James Morgan Stanley are not negotiating with Singapore Airport Terminal for another business? There is no transparency in all this. This is my contention. I feel really pained. Tata is not my enemy. In fact, individually I am highly benefited by Tata, as the President of the All India Football Federation. They are very kind towards sports and promote sports. But when I find that these things are going on, as a public representative, it is my bounded duty to draw the attention of the Government. I wrote to the Finance Minister last week and he acknowledged my letter. I requested him to investigate before taking a decision on this matter.

Sir, Air India generates huge amount of foreign exchange to our country, but the Government is placing it to a bidder whose credentials are under a cloud and under investigation in a case involving \$ 300 million. Is it fair? That is why, in my letter to the hon. Prime Minister, I wrote, "awake and respond" and I am glad that the Cabinet Secretary almost echoed the sentiments of the nation, sentiments of the people and the sentiments of all the hon. Members, cutting across party lines, in this House. Therefore, I would request the Minister not to misinterpret the views of the Congress Party. I agree that we have a lot of differences between our party and the Left Parties on many economic issues, but we said, in the Resolution that we passed at our party's Bangalore Session, that we are not averse to disinvestment, provided it is done in a transparent manner and it takes care of the national interests and workers' interests. We said that if a company is trying to grow, the Government should not put any hurdle, but if a company is dooming, the Government should try to protect it.

Sir, just a few minutes before, the Minister of Rural Development gave a lecture and said that the Government requires money. The Minister of Disinvestment has said

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

many times in the House during the debate on disinvestment that the process of disinvestment should be strengthened further and that the sick units should be revived to earn profit so that the revenue of the Government will get a boost. I agree with him on this point. But, if disinvestment process is to give money to national exchequer, as I now understand, I would like to ask one question to the hon. Minister of Rural Development - he is not present in the House now. Where did they get money while the Kargil war was going on and our jawans were giving their lives? The Government was a caretaker Government at that time. It did not have people's mandate or Parliament's authority. But, at that time, the Government allowed migration package for telecom companies, risking an amount of Rs. 50,000 crore. The big shots of this country were supposed to pay licence fee and they went to the court. Under the National Telecom Policy of 1994, they got migration and Shri Jag Mohan had to change his portfolio because of that.

Sir, the present Minister of Rural Development was the spokesman of the BJP at that time. Had he been a Minister of the Government at that time, he would have prevented this from happening. He would have told the Prime Minister that Kargil war is going now, we are not a Government with the mandate of the people and, so, let us not make a hara-kiri. Just two days before the announcement of elections by the Election Commission, the Government announced this package to the tune of Rs. 50,000 crore.

So, let them not accuse us now. We ruled for 50 years and the nation will scrutinise whether we did right or wrong. The nation will continue to scrutinise. It is part of history. I cannot change it. The Minister of Disinvestment was a probing journalist throughout his whole professional career and he is also a Magsaysay Award winner. So, let him take care of all these things, be more vigilant and objective in the disinvestment process. Without casting any aspersions on the Minister and his colleagues in the Cabinet, I tried to defend this matter on my own argument and I am not against any individual. I would like to say that the entire process of disinvestment is non-transparent, which has been echoed by Dr. Manmohan Singh.

The entire arrangement is cloudy. Do not destroy Air India, a national pride, in this shameless deal. Do not try to do it at the cost of the nation and under a cloud.

My other colleagues will deal with VSNL and MTNL.

With these words, I request the Government to reconsider the matter, send it to the Standing Committee

with full Report, and wait for the report till the next Session. If possible, take care of all these things that I told today in this Parliament. Take its cognisance. I will pass on the unfortunate Report to you also for your perusal. Then, you take a decision. Otherwise, hara-kiri will not help you, me or the nation at this critical juncture.

I again look forward to Shri Sharad Yadav, with whom my heart bleeds, to please try to convince the Government. He can put Air India's pride and honour and take a leap towards profit and make it a giant to fly our flag throughout the world. Here is the Air India. Mighty nuclear India is not a subject under the Singapore Government.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: (Visakhapatnam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, either fortunately or unfortunately, I am a Member of the Consultative Committee for Civil Aviation. The other day I pleaded with the hon. Minister that our National Flag should fly high and Air India should be the last one to disinvest. I have made that request to him. That should be the last one in this whole deal. I think, this is a national pride. Because of this, I am not talking about the politics. But I am talking about the national pride, national security and national integrity. All these things are to be taken into consideration. Our Ministers will fly. Our hon. President will fly. Our Prime Minister will fly. So, there should be a national carrier. Our national carrier should be preserved. It is not a difficult thing. Till 1995-96, it was making profit...(Interruptions)

At the time of Kargil War, it had also given a lot of service. Only after 1995-96, it is sliding down gradually. You know, today many people have spoken on several issues. I will take the other dimension. How many public sector undertakings today are having heads? How many have been managed efficiently? How many public sector undertakings are having Chairmen and Managing Directors. A lot of them do not have them. All of them are working on an *ad hoc* basis. You know that business has to be run on commercially viable lines, on a market intelligence basis and taking it under several conditions. Today, our market is open. It is not a protected market like before. Once upon a time, the Indian industry — mostly the public sector undertakings — thrived because they were having a monopoly business. The Indian markets were controlled. We used to buy whatever they produced. Today, the situation is different. You have to compete globally. You have to make your goods competitive. You have to make your services competitive. You have to take this into consideration. How many of them are being managed effectively? Today also, every institution is feeling insecure. They do not know when it would be disinvested. Then, how long will they remain silent? Normally, when there is an amount of uncertainty,

the people feel: "Let us make hay while the sun shines." This is one aspect of the matter. You must control it. I would like to tell the hon. Minister for Disinvestment that there are several theories and still you can be called a Minister for Investment instead of Disinvestment. Investment is also a part of taking money. As hon. Minister Shri Vankaiah Naidu said, invest in the social security system.

How can the hon. Minister be called the Minister for Disinvestment? He can be called the Minister for Investment in the right direction.

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): He should be called Minister for Reinvestment.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Yes, that is the proper word.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Where is he investing the money? Budgetary Gap!

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Our Minister is reinvesting the amount that he is getting in our country.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur): As has been told by Shri Venkaiah Naidu, the money is being invested in the rural areas.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: There are a number of public sector undertakings which are to be streamlined. Once they streamline them, they will get more money. The first task is to streamline them, to put them on the track of profit making, so that the others may come and buy them at higher rates.

Today, if I offer something, which is not worth, I will not get much. If a cow is not giving milk, nobody will buy it. One will have to make the cow to give milk first.

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Learn something from Shri Chandra Babu Naidu.

[English]

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: So, there are issues. Today, there is a field of uncertainty and an hon. Minister says, "do not disinvest public sector undertakings under my Ministry, please push it to somebody else." Instead of making that, there must be a plan of action, which makes these public sector undertakings profitable. If continuously

you cannot make them profitable and if they are loss making industries, why are they making losses should also be taken into consideration? If they are continuously loss making, then something has to be done. If they are potentially sick and loss-making, you will have to adopt another situation. If they are really profit-making you should take another path of action.

Today we are talking about Air India. Yesterday, we talked about BALCO and in between we talked about Modern Bread. There is no other thing we are talking about.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Modern Foods!

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Normally, we call it as Modern Bakery in Hyderabad. It is Modern Foods. Primarily they make bread and nothing else.

If this is the way, then there are so many industries. As and when they come to surface, and as and when somebody asks the hon. Minister, is he going to sell it? He says, 'yes, I am going to sell it.' But where is the situation to make them viable and profitable. The hon. Minister should appoint CMDs for such industries so that they are put on the profit making path. Then if he offers them, naturally somebody will come and give a higher price.

Today, the hon. Minister is making all industries sick because of the uncertainty. He must have a clean and clear image before him as to what he wanted to sell. For how much he wants to sell and all that. One of my friends have pointed out the case of Morgan Stanley. But there are conflicting interests that also we should not take into consideration.

There are several issues. This is a national wealth. Everybody is worried whether our national wealth is protected or not. When once we sell it, whether it could be invested properly or not or in which sector it would be invested. There is also a fear in this House that this money is being utilised to cover the fiscal deficit. That also is to be answered. This is not to cover the fiscal deficit. This money, whatever money that comes by way of wise-disinvestment, by transparent disinvestment, by making it acceptable to everybody, should be invested again for the upliftment of the poorer sections, the less fortunate sector. They are voiceless people of this country.

The Prime Minister was stating the other day that this money should go to them. At least, it should improve their way of life.

[Shri M.V.V.S. Murthi]

There is no point in selling away the milching cows and using them only to cover the fiscal deficit. The hon. Minister must clarify it to this House. This money has to be not only reinvested but also it should be productively reinvested so that it again gives fruits.

Another thing the hon. Minister has said is that they have a target of Rs. 10,000 crore. I read it somewhere...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It is Rs. 12,000 crore...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: What is the question of a target? I am sure that you would not resort to a desperate sale. You cannot have a desperate sale. Unless you get your price and unless you think that it is a wise decision to disinvest, you would not make it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: To achieve the target, there will be a desperate sale...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: He says that there is a target. He wanted to disinvest as and when he is satisfied with the terms of disinvestment...*(Interruptions)* We have discussed this issue time and again. Please do not get angry that we are discussing it time and again because it is a national wealth and it is the national interest. When the national interest is involved and when the national security is involved, we always want to know whether we are doing a wise thing or not and whether we are getting a right type of collaboration or investor to get this investment. So, you should take this into consideration.

The whole thing should be transparent. You have recently sent us a booklet giving the procedures and other things. I have read it. It does not give clarity that is required. What we require is that you must have an assessment of each and every company and also how to improve upon its image. Before you disinvest, unless you take that into consideration, you cannot get the desired results. You must improve the image of each and every company. First of all, you must appoint the CMDs where you do not have the CMD. You must ask them to clear the debris and also ask them to make it running. Once they are in the path of running and once they are in the limelight, you will get a better price. Instead of doing that, towards its closure you do not get anything.

I was asking for the last one year whether we could do something for Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. They require a sum of Rs. 1,700 crore to expand it so that it would become more profitable. I have requested for it time and

again. My Chief Minister, Shri Chandrababu Naidu had also made a request. Shri K. Yerranna also had made a request. In such circumstances, I feel that even today if there is a required investment, you should give it and make it more profitable. Ultimately, the Government will have more money with them. Instead of that, you are keeping them as it is and they are becoming deadwood. If they do not run, nobody will buy. Take the case of our Navaratna companies. What had happened to some of them today? They are no more Navaratnas. Take the example of SAIL. It is not a navaratna any more and it is in the neck deep trouble and incurring loss. We are having some of the best companies like GAIL, IOC, ONGC, and Air India. You should not think of disinvesting them immediately. Those companies are the wealth and health of this nation. How can you disinvest them? Please do not do so. Ultimately, what I would like to say is that you must go in a very discreet manner and in the begging you should disinvest only the loss-making companies, which cannot be revived.

So, you cannot revive them. Once you cannot revive them, at least your money, your wealth will not come down. Somebody else will pump in money and do it. Instead of that, you are coming from the top. You are offering the profit making all Navaratna companies or all the good companies. That way the country will lose. Later, nobody will buy all these loss-making companies. They will go for a song. So, instead of that, make them a little viable and offer them on a platter so that, at least, the country's wealth will improve. Either it is in the Government sector or in the private sector, ultimately the Government will get money by way of employment.

You must also ensure employment. Today the nation's biggest problem is employment. The younger generation is not getting sufficient employment. We are not able to create employment for the youth of this country. Again by way of disinvestment, you may be creating unemployment because in the private sector, they do not ensure employment to all those who are aspiring for employment. In the beginning, they may say or accept that we will give employment to each and everybody. But you talk of two years guarantee. Last time in some cases you were mentioning this. But after two years, what will happen? What will happen to their employment? Can you give them lifelong employment? So, this is an important situation. We are bothered about giving employment to the youth of this nation. We are bothered about the pride of this nation. We are bothered about the infrastructural industries of this nation. In the first instance, they should not be disinvested. Otherwise, you

would not have infrastructure industries like steel, cement and coal. Without these things, you cannot build the nation.

How is the private sector interested in the nation building? It is interested only in money making. So, you must have a very good mix. Before doing all these things, the Government's business is that if you feel you cannot revive those loss-making companies for ever, you can make money out of them. But you cannot make money out of the profit-making companies by disinvesting them.

Also, you are not aware as to how many companies are not having Chairmen and Managing Directors even till today. Everything is done on *ad hoc* basis. So, kindly take this into consideration. We are not against your wishes. But have a proper judgement and take the whole House into confidence. Nobody is against you. But take them along with you, make the nation prosper and make the nation come along with you. With these words, I take leave of you.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I believe this is a matter obviously of great importance to our economy. Our distinguished Minister has already disinvested himself because his entire outlook has changed. Earlier before he joined, he was very active. Before he became an activist of BJP, RSS, he had certain things. We used to read his articles. Now, of course, I do not. He has also no time except making speeches. Every speech he delivers goes for two to three hours. Now, he is there to dismantle this country's very economy. You are being utilised by the BJP and RSS. You do not understand that. Why have you left your own profession? I do not know.

Look here who is sitting by your side. He is one of the most distressed persons, a distinguished member of this Government. I do not know why he is sitting there in that Government. But even now through you, they are dismantling one of the precious jewels of our country. You will be the scapegoat. You are now made to preside over this Civil Aviation Ministry. Through you, they will get this nefarious object fulfilled.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would once more like to know if there is any policy of this Government towards disinvestment. They have published a booklet *Disinvestment: Policy and procedures*. They have tried to trace the policy from the Congress's days. They have mentioned that certain decisions were taken by the UF Government, which could not be implemented — thanks to my friends on this side. Then, their era has started.

What is the policy? What are the main elements of the policy? Nowadays, as you know, phrases like strategic partners, strategic considerations, restructuring, social sector, etc. are being used. What is the policy? First, to restructure and revive potentially viable units. I would like to know which are those potentially viable units and how many of them have been revived. Secondly is, to close down PSEs which cannot be revived. How are they decided? Next is, to bring down Government equity in all non-strategic PSEs to 26 per cent or lower, if necessary; to fully protect the interests of the workers; to put in place a mechanism to raise resources from the market against the securities of PSEs' assets; to establish a systematic policy approach to disinvestment and privatisation; to emphasise increasingly on strategic sale of PSEs; to use the entire receipt from disinvestment and privatisation for meeting expenditure in the social sector, restructuring of PSEs and retiring public debt. All these are jargons and nothing else.

Let us see what their achievement has been. Of course, I am against whatever they have done. Let us see their targets and achievements. Their target for 1999-2000 was Rs. 10,000 crore but they have received only Rs. 1,584 crore... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: They have never achieved their targets in any year.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: So, why do we have a Minister, a Department and all the paraphernalia? Why do we have a discussion in the House on selling away important assets?

Now, Rs. 10,000 crore was the target and only Rs. 1,584 crore was achieved. In 2000-2001, the receipt has been Rs. 1,868 crore. If there were any policy, I would like to know how this target was fixed and why it has not been reached.

What is a strategic PSE? It means, arms and ammunition and allied items of defence equipment, aircraft and warships, atomic energy, except in areas related to nuclear power, railway transport, etc. In each one of them, they are now introducing the private sector. Shri M.V.V.S. Murthi knows that arms are going to be in the private sector. Also, the defence equipment sector is no longer strategic. So far as railway transportation is concerned, they are going to privatise that also. So, what remains? What is strategic in this country? So far as my good friend Shri Murthi is concerned, in spite of all these things,

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

he supports them. If it is for him to support them, what can I do? They said, 'We must have this little prestige of having a national carrier'; now, on the ground that it is non-strategic, they are saying that it should go. VSNL is a profit making institution and one of the best units in the country. It has to be sold because it is non-strategic.

I had the distinction and still have the distinction of being the Chairman of the Committee on Information Technology. Unanimous Reports have been filed; each Report has been unanimous. We said that the Indian Telephone Industry was in doldrums because the Government's assistance was not given.

Some monetary input for working capital was not given. There was hardly any attention paid. Today, I can humbly claim credit as the Chairman, along with all the Members of the Committee, that because of our continued representations, at least some attention was paid by the Ministry to ITI and ITI is now revived. It is now making profit. Now they say since it is making profit, it should be sold now.

You take the case of Hindustan Teleprinters. Today teleprinters have gone out of circulation because nobody uses teleprinters. These are the days of FAX and all that.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: It is not even FAX but it is of e-mail.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: My friend Shri Murthi is an advanced technologist. He does not use even FAX. It is very well. My problem is there.

Therefore, teleprinters have gone. But they are now producing many many items in the telecom sector which have tremendous market. They have increased their turnover. There is a good R&D section as in ITI. Young and bright engineers are there. But suddenly the Government decided that it must be sold away. These young engineers and the technologists whom we met say: 'what is our future? We have been contributing to this country's development in a public sector undertaking. We are trying to do our best to evolve new products.' I am happy and proud to say that these engineers of our country and these young technologists are in extreme difficulty. They do not have even proper laboratories. They do not get enough facility for R&D. But, in spite of all that, they are manufacturing telecom items which can compete on equal terms with anything in this world, anywhere it has been made. We felt proud of it when we had seen them during our Committee visit with all

our Members. We have felt proud. Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, a very distinguished Member of the Committee is here. In spite of repeated requests that the Hindustan Teleprinters Limited should not be privatised or should not be disinvested, they have taken a decision. Even on VSNL they are taking a decision. What are the criteria for this and what are they going to do with the money? Is it for the social sector?

Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to from whatever money they have realised so far, how far they have utilised for social sector and how far they have utilised for meeting the budgetary deficit and how far they have utilised for the benefit of the workers. How much of money has been spent for this and in what areas it has been spent? How much money has been utilised so far from the money that has been realised? There are serious allegations about the method of valuation, about the selection of enterprises also. I think I shall not go into the aspect whether it was transparent or not. I will not go into it as the time is short. Hon. Members Shri Basu Deb Acharia and Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi have mentioned many of those issues.

I would like, first of all, to know as to how the selections are made and what is the method of valuation and how do you select the bidders out of them. As we know, in Air India from 14 or 12 it came down to two and even one of them is disqualified. Why is it so? So far as the Modern Foods is concerned, serious allegations are there. Regarding BALCO there are serious allegations.

By use of your majority here, may try to say that the Parliament has approved or Parliament has sanctioned these sales. You may have that temporary satisfaction. But our country's interests are not being protected. I would like to know as to for whose benefit that this is being done.

If the budgetary gaps are there, kindly see what the hon. Minister has said in his Budget speech for 2001-2002. He said — 'The purpose is restructuring assistance to PSUs'. Mr. Minister, I would like to know as to how many of them have been restructured and what assistance has been given out of these funds and to which PSUs this has been given.

Secondly, it mentions of safety net to workers. Give us the figures. What is meant by 'safety net'? Does it mean only providing VRS? Is that the safety net? In this country, young people between the age of 35, 40 and 45 have nothing to do. They give them some money, ask them to go away, and do whatever they like. Where shall they go? Interest rate is reducing day by day in the

banks and financial institutions. It cuts both ways. For Industry, they need loans with cheaper interest, but so far as people who have to live on their pension fund and gratuity fund are concerned, every day we are receiving letters from senior citizens, from pensioners that their problem is that the interest rate is coming down. Now, what safety net has been provided to the workers? It is the bounden duty of the Government to express their policy.

Then, it talks of reduction of debt burden. Here comes the crunch. Whose debt burden is it? It is the debt burden of the Government. They are taking loan indiscriminately, without any consideration, and go on increasing the national debt and international debt. The country is in a debt trap. For that purpose, they will sell away good undertakings, giving the workers some money and let them go to hell, and their future is not their concern. No new job is created. What has happened to the promise of creation of one crore jobs every year? Where is it being done? Whom are they fooling? Even if there is reduction of debt burden, we would like to know how much debt burden has been reduced, how much interest saving they are making or they have made since they have come to power.

Then, it mentions of additional budgetary support for the Plan, primarily in the social and infrastructure sector contingent upon the realisation of the anticipated receipts. They anticipated receipts of Rs. 12,000 crore. How much has been received? Then, what is the priority they are now giving amongst restructuring assistance to the PSUs, safety net to workers, reduction of debt burden, additional budgetary support for the Plan, primarily the social and infrastructure sector. Therefore, let them give the priority in which the money has been utilised. Then, we will realise what is their priority. What is happening? Is this Government really concerned about the health of our public sector undertakings? They are left at the mercy of financial marauders and all sorts of persons are eyeing upon these valuable public sector enterprises, trying to get them for a song. When Indian entrepreneurs have no money, they go either to our financial institutions which have become sick or to the foreign countries, and anything as foreign as America is very much acceptable to them.

Is this the way the country is to be run? Now, what is happening to major financial institutions in this country? We have seen what has happened to UTI; we have seen what has happened to IFCI. The Government has to give them about Rs. 1100 crore, if I am not mistaken, to bail them out. Then, IDBI is facing problem now. LIC is facing a problem. It will soon face problems. What is happening to our financial institutions is because of the

NPAs. Why are there NPAs? They are there because of these big private monopolists, big industrial houses. These non-performing assets are because of loans and advances given to these private sector undertakings...*(Interruptions)* Dr. Sengupta is a much more knowledgeable man. I do not know why he is sitting there...*(Interruptions)* Some things cannot be understood.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: So many things cannot be understood.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Yes, like your becoming a Minister...*(Interruptions)* Shri Sharad Yadav cannot be understood...*(Interruptions)* Shri Arun Shourie, at one time, I was very great admirer of you.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: And you are not my admirer since I wrote about 1942.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: No. What you wrote about 1942 is an aberration.

19.00 hrs.

Now, Sir may I read one of the great observations of our Finance Minister?

"Given this advanced stage of the process of disinvestment in many of these companies, I am emboldened to take credit for receipt of Rs. 12,000 crore from disinvestment during the next year. An amount of Rs. 7,000 crore out of this will be used for providing restructuring assistance to PSUs, safety net to workers, and reduction of debt burden."

I have no doubt about that because Shri Murthi had thumped the desk at that time when this was said. Each one of them remains unfulfilled. Then, what remains of this Government's policy on disinvestment? Why should we have a Minister for Disinvestment? I had said, it was sought to be a joke though, that every country has a Minister for Investment, but India has a Minister for Disinvestment. It is a unique Government; it is a hotchpotch, motley combination. It has no policies, no programmes, and no concern for the common people. When people are coming and when people are going out, nobody knows. At a particular time, even they do not know who their partners were.

Look at the eyes of this hon. Member, who is fondly waiting. He is hoping that the Prime Minister's attention will be drawn towards him and his leader. The other day, they criticised Shri George Fernandes and demanded his resignation...*(Interruptions)*

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai): We have not criticised him. We only said, "He has submitted his resignation and that should be accepted." We did not criticise him.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Very well, they did not criticise him. In a very friendly manner, they demanded the acceptance of the letter of resignation of Shri George Fernandes. As it was not done, they resigned from the Ministry, again in a friendly manner. In an expression of great friendship for Shri George Fernandes, they resigned and went away, joined hands with the Congress, left the BJP in the lurch...(Interruptions)

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Please stick to the subject.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: The subject matter is that this country's future is doomed in your hands. This is the present situation. Therefore, I am saying that this motley combination of opportunistic parties/people masquerading as a political entity will be finishing this country. The country's security, which is very important, is in jeopardy in every sector — in Defence, Civil Aviation and what not. You have opened the doors. Anybody can come in.

You take great pride in *Navratnas*. You get rid of one of them, come here and say, "Well, here are the Communists. They oppose our great attempt to restore the financial condition of this country. Here, they are objecting; here, the workers are objecting." Why should not the workers object? They are citizens of India. They are working; whatever has happened, they have contributed to this. What is the Government's contribution? How much money has been put in? When the whole world is becoming more and more technology-oriented, what is the amount of money they have spent for providing modern technology in these public sector undertakings? Nobody knows that. We know that the undertakings have become sick because of the Government's apathy.

We demand this Government must explain properly. They must show their real reason for the sale of these undertakings. They have been a complete failure in all fronts. In the name of disinvestment, we cannot allow them to barter away the freedom and self-respect of this country, the real *Navratnas* of this country. The people of this country — the working-class, the common people — will oppose this Government. As their representatives, we shall oppose them here, and outside, the people of this country will oppose them in the streets of the country.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai-North East): Mr. Chairman, Sir yesterday 'Ganesh Chaturthi' was celebrated in the country and the idols of Ganesh which is called Ganpati of one and half day are being emerged in the water. At the time of dipping the idol of Ganesh in the water, all the devotees of Ganesh chant slogan 'Ganpati Bappa Moria, Purcha Barsi Laukaria'...(Interruptions) Such slogans are chanted there. I feel that it is for the seventh time that we are holding discussion on disinvestment and as the devotees of Ganesh say good bye to Ganesh ji every year and again next year celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi, similarly the issue of disinvestment is discussed every year in every session by us. We do: Disinvestment par Charcha Karuwa, purcha satra punah karuwa". It means that as we give message to Ganesh Bappa, similarly the leaders announced that we will once again hold discussion on disinvestment in the next session and the issue of disinvestment will be discussed in each of the sessions...(Interruptions) My submission is that hon'ble Dasmuni ji delivered a long speech on Air India. I felt that he would speak on disinvestment but he kept on discussing one particular bidder which was disqualified by hon'ble Arun Shourie ji or by the Department, and kept on harping the same Air India, Air India. What is difference between leader and an actor? It seemed that there is no difference between the two, he is a leader and he is an actor. Hon'ble Somnath Chatterjee kept on lecturing on disinvestment in every field with the same spontaneity...(Interruptions)

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: All the leaders are actors but not all the actors are leaders.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Hon'ble Members, you invite Ministers from Rajya Sabha to deliver the speech, what is this?

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: There is difference between a leader and an actor. Everytime an actor comes in a new role but what about leader? The saying goes that "old wine in the new bottle". However, in the case of Basu Deb Da and Priya Ranjan Dasji, the bottle as well as the wine both are the same and their arguments are also the same. It seemed to me that they would do some constructive and fruitful discussion but hon'ble Somnath was asking Shri Arun Shourie ji about the details of areas where thousands of crores of rupees that were earned by the disinvestment were invested by the NDA Government? Whether it was spent on procuring drinking water for villages or it was spent elsewhere? I would like to ask him as to how much amount has been generated by the NDA Government by way of disinvestment? In the

year 1999-2000 Rs. 1824 crore and 2000-2001 Rs. 551 crore was generated. As far your figures of Rs. 18,000 crore is concerned I would like to request the Minister of Disinvestment that he should give him (the Member) the account of the expenditure. Out of the Rs. 18,000 crore, Rs. 2-3 thousand crore have come recently, where the rest of the amount was spent? Whether it was spent on drinking water for the village or whether it was spent on restructuring of public sector undertakings, where is that amount? We should also discuss it. There should be limit to hypocrisy. The actor at least accepts that he or she is acting. You have different stand on disinvestment in the state and when you visit FICCI and CII you change your stand...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, is he making an accusation that hon. Members are hypocrites and actors?

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Sir, what is wrong in it? I have talked about people in general. If the hon. Member has done nothing wrong, there is no reason why he should take it personally. I have not named him. I have not taken anybody's name.

[Translation]

You have one stand for the state and other for the Lok Sabha. If you do not have that...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I have the same stand inside the House and outside of it. There is no different stand.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Do you not have different stand for Chhattisgarh?... (Interruptions) On the one hand you raise the issue of BALCO and on the other you talk about disinvestment of Chhattisgarh corporation.

[English]

In Karnataka, the present Government had appointed a commission on the lines of the disinvestment commission, to privatise, to find strategic partner.

[Translation]

They adopt different stand while they visit FICCI, CII and other business organisations. When they go to America, Dasmunsi ji and Mani Shankar ji do not accompany them, rather hon'ble Manmohan ji and hon'ble Jai Ram Rameshji go with them. They present different

stand there. What is obvious is not the ultimate truth. What type of patriotism, national spirit and transparency you are talking about? I felt that today Arun Shourie is going to be knocked out as Dasmunsi ji had come with a bundle of papers for ready reference. He discussed so many things here but it was like much ado about nothing.

[English]

You are talking about Air India. Who recommended disinvestment of Air India? In whose regime was Disinvestment Commission constituted? The Disinvestment Commission was constituted during 1996 and 1998 by the then Government which was supported by the hon. Member's party. That Commission recommended that Air India must be disinvested first. It recommended disinvestment to the extent not of 40 per cent but of 60 per cent of the shares. The hon. Member can go and refer to it. Where was he at that time?

[Translation]

Where were you at that time? At that time the hon'ble Members were opposing the move of disinvestment in the House because it would lead to the bringing down Air India and the national flag from the sky. Where was your patriotism, national spirit and transparency at that time?

[English]

It is a result of the process of privatisation initiated by you, the process of disinvestment started by you, the WTO agreement signed by you and the process of globalisation initiated by you.

[Translation]

If you would not have opened the gate nobody would have come. You have opened the gate. You have mortgaged the people of the country to World Trade Organisation. Bajpayee ji did not do this...(Interruptions) Please first listen to me. You have started the process of globalisation.

[English]

You are talking about profit-making industries. How can MTNL remain a profit-making industry if the entire cellular and communications industry is thrown open for private participation.

[Shri Kirit Somaiya]

[Translation]

What happened to dolphin?

[English]

Just because I wanted to quote, I will quote some lines. Who started disinvestment and opened the sector of communication?

[Translation]

One more public sector undertaking will not be corporatised.

[English]

Till the end, the public sector undertakings were making profits. It is world rule. It is the economy.

[Translation]

The public sector undertaking will make profit in monopoly system. The profit to be made by VSNL till 1.4.2002 is on account of the monopoly, will you open it for private sector participation.

[English]

You are opening the gateway. These are the terms and conditions signed which were signed by the then Government, their hon. Government and not by Shri Yashwant Sinha.

[Translation]

Had you not signed and supported the move that propose to end VSNL monopoly by 2002? Who had started the process of giving licences to private operators to operate cellular mobile service?

[English]

Now, the MTNL has got only 10,000 customers as against the 7 lakh customers in Mumbai as private cellular operators. I am not opposing that. Try to understand that.

[Translation]

About the profit making companies, hon'ble Murthi ji, I would like to quote Shri Chandra Babu Naidu about the disinvestment. Presently Shri Madhavrao Scindia ji is not here. Why do we disinvest profit making companies? Who will buy the company which is going in loss? Is anyone taking interest in investing in such companies? The Public Sector Undertakings have been offered for disinvestment.

[English]

It is not in the State. It is not in the Centre. Forget about the Centre. It is said:

[Translation]

"You have no skill, you are not intelligent, you are not capable."

[English]

Who will do it? Why will they purchase?"...(Interruptions)

I am not asking about your views. You please listen...(Interruptions) I am going to say about Shri Chandrababu Naidu in a positive way. Please listen to me...(Interruptions)

The Air India has got 23 aircraft. What is the number of employees? It is 18,000.

Sir, hon. Chandrababu Naidu at one place mentioned this:

"Over the years, however, degeneration has stepped in the working of the public sector undertakings both at the Centre and State levels. PSUs lose their autonomy and professional management which is subjected to political, bureaucratic interference. The PSUs today suffer from constraints due to delay in decision making."

Sir, he further says:

"With the virtual collapse of Indian economy in early Ninties, we started on the path of liberalisation adopting delicensing, privatisation as an important component of economic reforms programme. Unfortunately, there has been a lack of clarity at all political levels on the privatisation policy. It is unfortunate that the political parties are unable to take clear stand on privatisation and disinvestment."

What I would like to request is that let all the parties sit together. Let us have a uniform policy at both the State and Centre levels.

I was saying about MTNL and VSNL. *The Business World*, a good magazine, has written in its editorial about the curious behaviour of all the political parties. The editor of this magazine has mentioned about three principal factors guiding the price of anything being sold. First factor is 'supplies'. The second is the number of buyers. The third is the freshness, novelty of the product.

[Translation]

Presently our Government is conducting the process of disinvestment, but what is its position? Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to tell you about the security of Air India.

[Translation]

I was listening to the speech of hon. Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunsi.

It was the speech of Shri Dasmunsi ji in which he has asked as to why Hinduja was disqualified?

[English]

Tata Power loss was of Rs. 150 crore in scam but the small investors have lost Rs. 5,000 crore due to disinvestment.

[Translation]

There were fake disinvestment between the year 1991-95. The shares of public sector undertakings worth Rs. 10 thousand crores were sold to mutual funds. Presently the value of the shares of UTI, IDBI and LIC is Rs. 3.5 thousand crore.

[English]

Is this according to you the transparency? Is this the national spirit? Is this the way you talk about the common man?

[Translation]

Thus you robbed Rs. 6.5 thousand crore yet nothing was done. What was position in 1996-1998.

[English]

We appointed a Disinvestment Commission. What did it recommend? The Disinvestment Commission appointed by the Government published a list of 49 companies, out of which 27 were profit-making companies. That Report and that recommendation was given by a Commission appointed by the then Government. Whose Government was it and who supported it?

[Translation]

I would like to draw your attention to one more point.

[English]

The Disinvestment Commission this time also suggested a change in the ownership and strategic sale

of 29 companies; trade sale of 8 companies and different types of disinvestment in case of others.

[Translation]

Who has introduced the idea of strategic sale. I would also like to draw your attention.

[English]

When we are talking about the manufacturing concerns, what is their position? Have you ever tried to study, almost all the profit-making companies are monopolistic companies?

[Translation]

There are PSUs in oil sector, there are PSUs in communications and in Defence Sectors.

[English]

They are making profits. What about the manufacturing companies? Do you want to know the profitability of the public sector enterprises as compared to the private sector enterprises? From 1990 to 1991 it was (-) 450 and it has remained the same ranging from 4 percent to 6 percent. What are you talking about?

[Translation]

Do you know how much money was given.

[English]

About 23 public sector were identified as the sick companies for restructuring. How much money have we spent since 1991? We have spent Rs. 20,946 crore and indirectly Rs. 1358 crore on them. Thus, in total we spent Rs. 34,000 crore on restructuring of these sick PSUs. Out of these 23 companies identified as sick, not a single company has turned around.

[Translation]

If hon. Venkaiah Naidu be here I would have told him that it would have been better if we would have spent Rs. 34 thousand crore on hospital of in rural areas and the construction of roads.

[English]

For whom have we spent this money?

[Shri Kirit Somaiya]

[Translation]

Out of the 23 companies, how many Public Sector got how much of profit.

[English]

How many employees are there in these 23 companies? There are only 1,78,000 employees and we are spending Rs. 34,000 crore on them. We are accountable or responsible to whom? For whom are we going to do all these things.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I can cite several examples.

[English]

Just go and see our neighbour China. What have they done?

[Translation]

What did China do, in one stroke it took decision.

[English]

In 1998, China started the market report and immediately appointed a state-owned Enterprises Commission.

[Translation]

Further they said that 75 percent of the industrial output are coming from private sector.

[English]

I would only request you to see what is happening in the States. Out of 77 States Enterprises in Karnataka, 17 are marked for disinvestment. In Rajasthan out of 24 State Enterprises, 11 are marked for disinvestment. In Andhra Pradesh, out of 51 State Enterprises, 21 are marked for disinvestment.

[Translation]

At the end, I would like to submit that we should not adopt double standard. I will be harmful for the nation if we politicise the issue. For this we should rise above our party interest and discuss the issue about its relative benefit and loss. At last I would like to ask as to how many PSU, are running in loss.

[English]

Out of 361 Central Government PSUs? Account for receipts of 270 PSUs and

[Translation]

The accounts of 34 PSUs have not yet been received.

[English]

Total investment is Rs, 72,000 crore in equitable capital and others by loans and subsidy. The losses are more than that.

[Translation]

I would like to tell you that the number of loss making PSUs in 1997-98 was 104.

[English]

It went to 111. In 1999-2000, it went to 116 and net loss of these PSU amount to Rs. 10904 crore.

[Translation]

I can give much more figures. I can supply the figures of the state also, however I feel that we should think in a rational manner.

[English]

There is not short cut to success. Dr. Manmohan Singh might have started it with a good intention. But he adopted a short cut for public sector undertakings' disinvestment.

[Translation]

What did come out of that? Only the head was changed and the cap remained the same. Shri Somnathji was telling.

[English]

Certainly, sometimes we will have to discuss the performance of financial sector and PSUs like IDBI, IFCI and others. We must discuss them.

[Translation]

I would not like to mention as to who was in power at that time under whose regime NPAs occurred? Forget it, who was in power at that time. However it is the problem of the people of India. There are NPAs amounting to Rs. 23,000 crore.

[English]

How to recover it? How to get it back? We must discuss that also.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to request the hon'ble Speaker that.

[English]

Let us have a debate and an open discussion with good and positive mind about the public sector financial Institutions.

[Translation]

Who did this, who did that, who is going to bear the burden of Rs. 93000 crore, Rs. 1450 crore of IDBI and Rs. 1000 crore of IFCI. If the Government will not provide the money then after all whose credibility is going to be wasted?

[English]

They do not have money to repay as they had invested money in the bonds.

[Translation]

Who did invest money in bond? If IDBI and IFCI will not give that money then the credibility of the Government will suffer a lot.

[English]

At that time, this Government and

[Translation]

The Prime Minister did not say that since it was done by the previous Government, so collect money from them.

[English]

We cannot say this.

[Translation]

So at the end I would like to submit that Ganapati is also called Vidyapati, he is called the God of learning. We all know that while Ved Vyas ji was composing Mahabharat, Ganapati ji was sitting before him. Ganapati

is Vidyapati and we should receive knowledge from him. In our Marathi, Ganapati is called - 'Tu sukh Karta tu Dukh harta'. While a chanting Arti of Ganapati—we say him that he is the source of blessing of we common mortals and remove the sufferings. He protects us from all kind of sufferings and impending dangers. Ganapati may protect the country from sufferings. We remember Ganapati before starting any auspicious work. We start work after remembering the Ganpati, we say Shri Ganeshaya namah.

Let us say Shri Ganeshayanamah and work for making conducive atmosphere in the country and taking the country to the path of progress.

SHRI AKHILESH YADAV (Kannauj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to extend my thanks to you that you gave me time to speak.

The issue of disinvestment is being discussed in the House. It is proper that those companies which cannot be revived, should be disinvested by the Government. But due to wrong policy of the Government in this respect and companies which could have been revived are also being deliberately declared by the Government as loss making companies. In fact it was due to the mismanagement that the companies remained in loss. Either it was carelessness on the part of the Government officials or the unconcerned attitude of the then Government that these companies went into loss.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, presently when the process of disinvestment is going on and the public sector undertakings are being transferred to the private sector, I feel that there is some sort of bungling involved in it. Just now as was being told and one hon'ble Member was telling that if opposition demands the Government will give the entire account of the money regarding the disinvestment but that is the account which is available in the newspapers and is known to the people but what about the kick back that has gone in your account in the process of disinvestment. Who will give that account?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, kickback is very much in existence in the country and undue advantage is given to the few people in exchange of favour. The people of this country had only heard about this and had not seen it. However, after 53 years of Independence, Tehelka.com has exposed this caucus as to how they have enjoyed favour. At the time when BALCO was being disinvested, I was also a Member. There is bungling in the process of selling of BALCO. The Government had assessed the cost of BALCO much lower than its actual cost and thus it was sold at much lower price. Similarly, there was bungling in the process of disinvestment of Modern food Companies

[Shri Akhilesh Yadav]

and not the Air India and ITDC are going to be disinvested. I feel that the Government is not functioning properly and are involved in providing undue advantage to some corporate people.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is being propagated that the Government are going to earn Rs. 12 thousand crore from the disinvestment, I would like to ask the Government whether the amount earned by the disinvestment will be mobilised to the budget deficit or will be invested to revive some industries or it will be spend on the rural development programmes as the Minister of Rural Development was telling. Just now it was being discussed that the amount that will be earned by way of disinvestment will be spent on the rural development. It is good if such thing will be done but I am apprehensive about it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, even after 52-53 years of independence of India the pathetic condition of the villages is known to all. The villages of the country have neither roads nor the facility of drinking water, electricity and irrigation facility. If the money received from disinvestment is spent on the development of the villages then the villages may progress. My submission is that even if the money of the disinvestment is not spent on the village, I feel that the rural development to a great extent can be ensured if the amount allocated for the rural development is properly and honestly spent on the development of the village and misappropriation and bungling of the funds by the Government officials are checked.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as I had said earlier and the Government had also declared that employment opportunity will not decrease and the BJP had also mentioned in its election manifesto that if they form the Government after election, every year one crore employment will be generated, however I do not feel that the employment opportunity will be generated by the way of disinvesting public sector undertakings and encouraging private sector and inviting multinational companies in the country, rather I feel that it will reduce employment opportunities. It is possible that though initially these companies will not retrench but it is certain that at later stage the employment opportunities will be reduced. If the public sector undertakings are disinvested and private companies are promoted than definitely the employment opportunities will keep on decreasing. On the one hand the Government have claimed to generate employment opportunities and on the other hand have declared that 10 percent of the Government services will be cut. Thus on the one hand the Government are cutting 10 percent of the Government service promoting private companies

and on the other hand are claiming to generate more employment opportunities. From the workings of the Government it seems to me, that there is no possibility of generation of employment.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the end I would like to submit that as there were gross irregularities in the disinvestment of BALCO and Modern food, I am smelling rat in the proposed disinvestment of Air India and ITDC.

The Government should maintain transparency in the process of disinvestment and the House and the country should not be misguided by the Government on the issue of disinvestment. White paper should be issued on disinvestment and transparency should be maintained in the entire process and the maximum amount earned on account of disinvestment should be spent on rural development programmes whether it is education or health or in the field of construction of roads.

[English]

SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY (Kendrapara): Sir, this is a subject that has drawn the attention of both the sides of the House with very peculiar views. People talking something some time past are now talking exactly opposing views today and we people who talked something on this particular subject in the past are talking just the reverse. I believe, if people who spoke in the House in 1958 are alive today and watching the television, they would be laughing at us. There was a Resolution passed by this House to create public sector undertakings. Unfortunately, when it started, there was no competition. It was a monopoly and it was a necessity to have State-owned public sector undertakings. But after 1965, they have been mismanaged. Government has never taken care of them. This resulted in huge losses. The Congress Government never discussed it in 1991 when it introduced structural revision of Economic Policy of this country. They never discussed as to why we have failed in this area. Now, the position is that we will be selling the property that has been acquired out of the public sector undertakings which we have invested in the last so many years and will be creating infrastructure in the social sectors. I have my own apprehensions on this point. It might have been the same encouragement and feeling in 1958, when those Members passed the Resolution to create the public sector undertakings and when the country had created huge infrastructure. When they failed to manage those undertakings, nobody pointed it out or nobody pinpointed as to who made these losses. It has never been thought of as to whether professionals who were managing the PSUs were responsible for losses or somebody else. It has been left to the people to decide.

Will those people who are at the moment managing the state of affairs, after investing 26 per cent, represent the Government's interests in those companies? I have got my own apprehensions on that. How the interests of the State and Central Governments be protected there.

I draw the attention of the hon. Minister to one point. You are talking about the money that has been created on disinvestment and if it does not match the requirements of the Government after providing the money to rural sectors for developing the country, then what is left with you to sell? We have experienced that in those years and we have never thought about where we have gone wrong and what steps we should have taken to tackle that problem. Who were the persons who had guided the mismanagement of the PSUs. Is it the workers or the people of India? Is the policy centres which are coming for five years and going away? Is it the professionals who have ever been managing the PSUs? Nobody has questioned on this aspect. And the same people are advising us, after making such huge money from out of the tax payers' contributions. They are advising us that if we sell it out and surrender to the private party and to the foreign countries, then we will be creating a big infrastructure providing social security to our people.

Who knows as to where this money goes? Who knows whether this money goes to the social sector or not. Nobody bothered to see whether it is giving desired results or not. I am not going into the details as to who is at fault. I am only pointing out to the Government as to why the Government is not insisting to find out what mistakes had been committed in the management of the public sector undertakings. How many Chairmen or Managing Directors of public sector undertakings have been punished for their faults? In the year 1993, I raised this question in the other House when I was a Member of that House. At that time nearly fifty per cent of the public sector undertakings were without heads and the Government was managing with the bureaucrats from the Ministries. Nobody questioned it because they were the great people. They were ruling the country for nearly forty years. People who are analysing the situation would know that we are playing ping-pong and we are throwing dirt at each other. It is the fault of the people who have handed over the reigns of administration to these people.

Sir, at the moment, 58 public sector undertakings have been identified by the Government for disinvestment. Out of these, 52 have been sent to the Disinvestment Commission for consideration and preparation of reports. Out of these 52 undertakings, I have got figures for 49 undertakings. The value of their reserve is one lakh crores of rupees. Their annual revenue is Rs. 3,50,000 crore.

They are providing about Rs. 2,000 crore as dividends to the public sector. But the market value of these companies today is only Rs. 95,000 crore. What is the method of valuation? I do not understand that. I belong to a village. There I have seen moneylenders, after getting a decree from the court, started auctioning the assets of those people to whom they have given money at a lesser amount. These public sector undertakings have one lakh crores of rupees as reserve and Rs. 3,50,000 crore as annual revenue. I am not able to even make out the total money involved in this. But that has been assessed only at Rs. 95,000 crore. Is it all? The public sector undertakings used to be the blue-eyed organisations of our country. People used to look up to them for employment and for security. So, we should not think of selling them at a throwaway price. There is still time. Why are we in a hurry to sell them off? Why should we not assess as to what should be our price? Why sickness is forced on public sector undertakings? Due to the 'go stop' policy of the Government for the last four or five years, public sector undertakings have been forced to become sick. In the process, it is going to be sold to the people at a peanut price. Who are the losers? It is neither you nor me. The ultimate losers are the 100 crore people of India. I would like to talk about one public sector unit of Orissa. It is Paradip Phosphates Ltd. It was considered a mini *ratna*. It was considered to be Asia's largest DAP plant.

It had been sent to the Disinvestment Commission. The Disinvestment Commission has made certain recommendations. It was said that 51 per cent shares were said to be disinvested. But I found from the Government's proposal that it has been to the extent of 74 per cent. The recommendation of the Disinvestment Commission has been violated by the Government itself by not restructuring the finances. By not restructuring, what we are going to do is that we are selling it to the bidders at a price of their wish.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister and the Government of India to the fact what we should not be in a hurry. These are our assets. These are not liabilities. Mr. Minister, you do not have a target to achieve or a deadline is there that you must do this or you have to quit. There is nothing like that. The country is not going to fall if you are not going to sell it in this condition. Our feeling is that if you are turning the liability into asset, we are with you. I hope and believe that you must lead the public sector. The public sector should not be sold the parties at a throw away price. It must achieve its desired goal. The people who have set the ball rolling right from 1950 should not be treated as a liability to the country. Rather they are an asset to the country.

With these words, I appeal to you to listen to our plea. I conclude.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): Mr. Chairman, could I make an important announcement? Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi had read a letter ostensibly from the Cabinet Secretary to the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister on Air India. That was one of the main points that he made. He was kind enough to give me a photocopy of the letter that he was reading. I sent it personally to the Cabinet Secretary. He has informed me that he confirmed that it is a forged letter...*(Interruptions)* I sent the Secretary of my Department to first ring him up. He said that he had not written such a letter. I then sent the letter itself to the Joint Secretary of our Ministry saying that a responsible Member of Parliament has said this and read it. He said that he would authenticate it. That is what the phrase he used. He has said it. The Secretary has written to me just now. The Cabinet Secretary confirmed that it is a forged letter. Shri Amitab Bhattacharya, our Joint Secretary, is coming back because he took the letter to the Cabinet Secretary. The Cabinet Secretary is also faxing a letter to this effect here. These are the points I will come to when I reply. But because this is a very important announcement, I would hope that our friends who report Parliamentary proceedings to the Press also will make sure that they carry the facts that the Cabinet Secretary has confirmed that this is a forged letter which has been put in the House and read in the House by such a responsible Member...*(Interruptions)*

I am not attributing any motives...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I think this is my chance to speak, not you...*(Interruptions)* I am not supposed to disclose the source. But the Cabinet Secretary has himself confirmed it to the hon. Minister...*(Interruptions)* Since the Cabinet Secretary has confirmed just now that the purported copy of the letter is a forged one, I accept it for the hon. Minister's sake. But I also make a demand that the signature of the Cabinet Secretary on that letter should be inquired into. I demand an inquiry to find out whether the signature is a forged or a genuine one...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: This is a serious matter. Have a full inquiry...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: In my Parliamentary career, I never involved in such matters...*(Interruptions)* It is my right to reply. It is a serious allegation.

Sir, I repeat that I referred to two matters in my speech. One is related to the Note of the Cabinet Secretary, which I quoted. The hon. Minister came to me and said that he wanted cross-check it. I immediately gave him a copy. He cross-checked and has just now conveyed to the House that the Cabinet Secretary himself admitted that it is a forged one.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: He has not 'admitted'. He said that it is a forged one.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: All right. I will also supply the hon. Minister a copy of the document relating to the Enforcement Directorate which I referred to in my speech and which I have not yet authenticated, but I would request him that he should examine that also and inform the House tomorrow whether that is also forged. Since the Cabinet Secretary himself informed the Minister, I take the Minister's words as it is and I withdraw all my allegations in this regard, but since the signature of the Cabinet Secretary is involved, I demand that this should be inquired into by the hon. Speaker, to find out whether it is genuine or forged...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I have not given it to the Press. This should be inquired into because I referred to it in Parliament...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, for the information of the hon. Member, I would like to say that I did not just check with the Cabinet Secretary. I sent my Secretary to meet the officers of the Prime Minister's Office to whom, he said, the letter had gone. But they also have not received any letter of this kind...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The Minister has said that it is a forged signature. It is a serious matter. So, it must be inquired into. If the signature is a forged one, it must be inquired into...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I agree with him and I will ensure that it is inquired into by the CBI...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I agree. Let it be inquired into by the CBI and let them report whether his signature is forged or not...*(Interruptions)* First of all, I demand that the letter should be referred to the CBI. I would also give a copy of the document of the

Enforcement Directorate, which I referred in my speech, to the hon. Minister...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, I will go into that document also I respect Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi for his fighting qualities, but as I have said earlier also, as a friend, he is receiving information from interested parties. Now, we have come to know that the letter is a forged one. It is a very serious matter because it involves the Cabinet Secretary of India. But he has relied on it as his main point and said that he was prepared to authenticate it. What would he have authenticated?...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I would request the hon. Minister, through you, to refer the letter to the CBI for immediate investigation. Then, I will also give a copy of the document of the Enforcement Directorate to the hon. Minister. He may refer that also to the CBI.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now what do you want to decide here. The Chair should also be given consideration.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your point of order?

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: The letter of Cabinet Secretary has been quoted here and the matter is regarding its authenticity...(Interruptions) It should be expunged from the record...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He raised an issue here, the hon'ble Minister confirmed that, he withdrew the allegation and asked for conducting an inquiry and matter ends. What can be decided in this matter here in the House.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI (Salem): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for allowing me to participate in this discussion. My earnest request is that the serious issue of disinvestment should not be sidelined by a trivial issue and, of course, a letter that is subject to verification. Instead we come to the core issue. Why have we been agitating? As Shri Kirit Somaiya has been pointing it out, we have been discussing this issue in

every Session in one form or the other. Why are we discussing it again and again? There is absolutely no unanimity as far as this issue is concerned. Allegations and counter-allegations are made. It is because of the reason that the Government has not spelt out its disinvestment policy in unambiguous terms and it is still in everyone's mind. The whole country is concerned about it because of the reason that 49 public sector undertakings, which are slated for disinvestment or privatisation, have over rupees one lakh crore as reserves. Why is it concerning us? It is because all these 49 units fetch us the revenue of Rs. 3,50,000 crore and give a dividend of Rs. 2,000 crore to the Government of India. It concerns us because these units employ one million workmen in their units. Can we simply keep quiet on this issue? With all these values, the market value of these companies is estimated to be less than Rs. 95,000 crore. These public sector undertakings have almost been built up over half a century and have got tremendous potential. We, in the Opposition, are not totally against disinvestment *per se*. We are not opposing it *in toto*. But our opposition is about the way in which the disinvestment is being carried out by the present regime.

A separate Department was formed to disinvest. They have the sole agenda. The entire Government is for disinvestment, nothing but disinvestment. We have been demanding transparency in all the deals. Time and again, in all the Government documents and the reply of the hon. Minister, he maintains that there is transparency. My simple query is that there is a separate Department for Disinvestment. By why should there not be a separate Standing Committee for the Department of Disinvestment? This has been demanded on several occasions. Even the hon. Leader of the Opposition had written to the Prime Minister to form a separate Standing Committee for the Department of Disinvestment. If you say that all your deal is transparent, why are you hesitating to form that Committee?

He has extended the Disinvestment Commission. Now, whether the Commission was formed by the previous regime, the erstwhile Congress regime, or now, what is the background of it? If he says that it is transparent, then why is he not giving autonomy to that Commission? Rather the Commission's work is only recommendatory in nature and it is not binding on the Government.

There was an earlier report too. I would like to know whether the Government has carried out the recommendations of the report. The answer is 'No'. There are two serious issues, on Modern Foods and BALCO deal, which were totally against the recommendations of

[Shri T.M. Selvaganpathi]

the Committee. Where once originally they say, 40 per cent equity should be disinvested, later on they decide to disinvest 51 per cent in BALCO. The method of valuation that they carried has been scathingly attacked by the C&AG.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: There is no report of the C&AG. I do not know why the hon. Members go by just the Press reports. I have mentioned it again and again, we have not received any final report from the C&AG on Modern Foods or BALCO as yet.

[Translation]

What should be done in this regard?

[English]

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: That is a fact. There are enough reports in the Press. Why is the hon. Minister not denying the Press reports?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: They are by corporate rivals. I will show him that. When he reads out the Standing Committee report, I will show him the origin of those very words and the illustrations of Korea, Australia and all.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: But it is a fact that BALCO, worth about several hundred thousands crore, has been given like that.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: This Rs. 7,00,000 crore is two and a half times the total value of equity in public sector enterprises.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: This is our point.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, the hon. Minister should reply at the end.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister it is not necessary to respond to every query. You should note down the points and reply to it in the end.

[English]

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: This is basically our point. The precious wealth of the nation is given for a song and BALCO, where there is one of the richest ore mine available, was sold for Rs. 550 crore.

This is basically our point where lakhs and lakhs worth of public sector undertakings have been sold for a song and their market value is estimated to be only Rs. 95,000 crore. What target have they fixed, whether it is the previous regime or the present NDA regime, since 1990-91 to the present day? From 1991-92 to 2001-2002, the total target estimated was Rs. 66,300 crore. What have they achieved? Were they able to realise it? Why is the target time and again fixed? When they have fixed the target for ten years to be Rs. 66,300 crore, they have been able to realise only Rs. 19,184 crore till date. So, they are unable to achieve the target. Sir, neither they are able to get a fancy or favourable price or real price worth of the undertaking, nor are they able to achieve the target. Then why are they fixing the target?

Our apprehension is that this is purely to bridge the budgetary gap. Why has the hon. Finance Minister come out to the Parliament stating that this particular year the target is fixed for Rs. 12,000 crore. If it is not to bridge the budgetary gap, why is this announced in the Budget?

Sir our apprehension is, what are you doing with the proceeds that you get out of it? Now, a sum of Rs. 18,000 crore was received as proceeds from the disinvestment. How was it spent? Have you got statistics on that? Our demand was that you form a corpus and whatever proceeds you get, you put them in that corpus. Your object is to pay the public debt. Is the Government relying only through this disinvestment to pay the public debt? You say that this money is being ploughed into the social sector and these proceeds are utilised for the welfare of the State. How much have you spent on that? There is no data available. You say that this is being utilised for revitalising the existing public sector units. How much have you spent on that? There is no point in saying that this has gone to the Consolidated Fund, whereby it goes back to the welfare of the State. That is not our point.

There is no accountability. Your target is Rs. 66,000 crore, you are realising Rs. 18,000 crore, you are not able to account it, and you say that it has gone to the Consolidated Fund.

Sir, what is the problem now? After the last year...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Sir, you have been gracious enough in giving more time. There are more points to be elucidated. This is the problem with the speakers who come at the fag end. Almost we will have to meet out the points made by Shri Kirit Somaiya and Shri Venkaiah Naidu. Sir, kindly give me some more time.

20.07 hrs.

(SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*)

Since 1989-90, the last normal year of the old closed economy, the share of the Central and State Governments spending on development has fallen from 21 per cent to less than 12 per cent of the GDP. That amount you spend today is only 12 per cent of the GDP. How was it ploughed back? You say that Rs. 20,000 crore are being spent every year for the sick PSUs. This is not the first time you are doing it. This has been a routine affair. Have you taken out any administrative reform with regard to the PSUs? Why are they running at loss? Are we not supposed to go to the root of the problem? Have we concerned about the management of those public sector units? Rather, we have been hurrying up in disinvesting even some of the pride institutions like Air India.

Sir, the hon. Member, Shri Kirit Somaiya was referring to Lord Ganapati. Even Lord Ganapati will not forget this Government.

Mr. Minister, as a person who admire you, if Air India is disinvested, you will become unpopular in the entire nation. This is something a pride of the nation. Tomorrow, even for the Prime Minister leaving the country, you will have to depend on the Singapore Airlines. This is not a business proposal. In calamity and in emergency, these are the institutions, which come to the help of the public, and you want to disinvest them. What is the reason? Why are you hurrying it up? This is our question. Whether the Cabinet Secretary has written a letter or the letter is forged, that is immaterial now. The main issue is that the national carrier like Air India which was incurring a loss of Rs. 200 crore per year, has now been limited to Rs. 29 crore last year. If effective reforms are carried out, Air India would definitely bloom and it may even take the course of profit making industry. Why are you hurrying it up? Our point is to fetch a better price, why can we not wait for a year or two? What is the reason for hurrying it up especially when there is only a single bidder now and also when there is a controversy that the global adviser appointed is alleged to be in connivance or connection or link?

So, these are all the apprehensions. The people of this nation question you. Why are you hurrying up with a single bidder?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Why did the British Airways back out? Why did the other international Airlines back out of this bid? You have altered the agreement. These are all the reports and apprehensions we bring to the notice of the Government. When there is, especially, a demand for a Joint Parliamentary Committee on all these issues, if you say that you are transparent in all these deals, can you assure this House that every deal which you make in your Department gets the approval of this Parliament?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think this is your last point.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Are you not accountable to this Parliament? There is nearly rupees three lakh and fifty thousand crore revenue. Therefore, we demand that every issue, every decision you make on PSUs would get the approval of Parliament and then you decide on the issue. There is no unanimity also among the Ministries. When you take the Maruti Udyog Limited, the Minister of Heavy Industries, Shri Manohar Joshi, is not in conformity with the decision taken by the Disinvestment Ministry. It may be politics. The same thing happened to the Indian Airlines.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Please give me one or two minutes more.

Our apprehension is that the whole thing should be transparent. Therefore, we demand that a Committee should be appointed and a White Paper should be laid. This should be left to the scrutiny of the Parliamentary Standing Committee.

Shri Venkaiah Naidu was here. He was eloquent in pleading for the rural poor and pleading for his own Ministry. But unfortunately he could not answer this House as to whether this Government is going to privatise or disinvest the Visakhapatnam Steel Industry. I will be happy, I will be hailing him and I will be grateful to Shri Venkaiah Naidu if he has asserted that this Government has going to disinvest Visakhapatnam Steel Industry. They cannot do it because that is the politics of convenience, that is the politics of opportunism. If they do it in Visakhapatnam, then they will lose their jobs. That is the condition today. Whereas a step-motherly attitude is being

[Shri T.M. Selvaganathi]

shown to the Salem Steel Plant in Tamil Nadu. That is the Steel Plant which lies in my constituency.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is your last point.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Sir, that is the only stainless steel making industry. If that is also dinvested and given in the hands of the private entrepreneurs, there will not be any stainless steel making industry in the Government. Whoever is bidding for it will hold the monopoly. What are we asking for? We are asking for a revival package of Rs. 350 crore. After all why are you disinvesting? Two years back, Rs.880 crore was ploughed back to Salem Steel Plant for revival, for starting a hot-rolled mill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: I will just take one minute.

Now, the Government has decided to disinvest after spending about Rs. 800 crore. Is this the transparency? Is this the methodology with which you do it? After spending Rs. 880 crore, they have decided to disinvest it to the benefit of the private entrepreneurs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude and take your seat.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: I just conclude. Sir, the whole Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly was unanimous in passing a Resolution that this industry should not be disinvested. That was passed on to the Government also. But the then regime which is a part of the present NDA Government failed to pursue this issue and took no action on the Resolution passed by the Tamil Nadu Assembly. They could not get a favourable reply.

My earnest urge and demand, on behalf of the AIADMK Party, is that Salem Steel Plant is a pride in the entire State.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: If that could be disinvested, we will have no faith in the Ministry...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions) *

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. You have spoken for 20 minutes.

DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI (Peddapalli): Respected Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity today.

We are discussing a very important subject — 'Disinvestment in PSEs'. Whenever we hear the word 'disinvestment', many questions appear in front of us. Why are we going in for disinvestment? What are the various methods? What are the positive points and negative points? What precautions should we keep in mind when we go in for disinvestment?

The Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956 was guided by various problems India was facing in 1947, at the time of Independence, 55 years ago. Then, the agrarian economy with a weak industrial base and infrastructure guided the Industrial Policy. Owing to poverty, inequalities in income, serious regional imbalances and lack of trained manpower, the State was forced to take up the challenge. Thus, it resulted in the intervention of the Government of the day in all sectors as the private sector was not ready to take up responsibilities because of various reasons like lack of technical skills and will to take up the challenge.

The core sectors like nuclear power, defence, railways and telecommunications and the like needed Government control so that multinational private monopolies do not hold the country to ransom. Apart from developing critical sectors, the Government also needed to improve tourism, food processing, pharmaceutical industries, in addition to industries that made available articles of mass consumption. These factors led the Government to develop over 240 PSEs with over Rs. 2,30,000 crore investment. These PSEs had about Rs. 4 lakh crore as source of funds. They have utilised almost the same amount in 1998-99. About 75 PSEs are in the service sector while 160 are in the manufacturing sector.

In the year 1951, there were only five PSEs, with an investment of Rs. 25 crore. In the year 1999, there were about 24 PSEs with an investment of Rs. 2,30,000 crore operating in the country. Out of these, 126 PSEs are profit-making and 106 are loss-making. All of them put together have yielded a profit of Rs. 2,715 crore. This is not even one per cent of profit on the capital employed. What have these PSEs given to the nation? They have given dividend, interest, royalty, know-how fee, professional and consultation fee, sales tax, corporate tax, excise duty, customs duty and so on, put together to the extent of Rs. 46,000 crore. If this had been private sector, they

would not have given even ten per cent of this. They contributed to the creation of jobs, production of power, coal, lignite, petroleum, fertilizer, metals and the like.

When in 1951 the PSEs were created, the managers and the workers of these PSEs were feeling as if they were newly wed sons-in-law of the Government. The sons-in-law of the family, at the appropriate age, shed their newly wed groom *avatar* and behave like one of the family members but even after 40 years, the managers and workers of PSEs are feeling like newly wed grooms.

For various reasons known to us, the PSEs have reached a stage of maturity for private management. The Industrial Policy Statement of 24.7.1991 envisaged disinvestment of a part of the Government's shareholding in select PSEs to improve performance and discipline. The Disinvestment Commission was constituted by the Government *vide* Resolution dated 23.8.1996. The power sector scenario in the country is very dark. The country needs an additional 50,000 MW of power, which demands approximately Rs. 2,50,000 crore investment. This is more than the Government of India's total investment in all the PSEs put together today.

This developing country is not in a position to generate such an investment on its own. There are about 19 lakh employees in the PSEs out of which 2.27 lakh have applied for VRS which again demands a huge financial burden. All this explains the necessity and rationality for the disinvestment.

Under the able guidance of our hon. Chief Minister Shri Nara Chandrababu Naidu garu, the TDP and I personally welcome disinvestment, albeit with caution. The core sectors like nuclear power, defence and others should not be touched now. We are requesting the Government to take all the points into consideration and to give a very appropriate and generous VRS package or as it is publicised as a golden handshake. The employees should not be put to any trouble because of these schemes. The disinvestment process should be worked out with extreme caution. The brand equity should be taken into consideration. The huge inventories should be accounted. The value of real estate which was procured or acquired decades ago should be re-evaluated in the present scenario. Only strategic and dynamic partners and alliances should be encouraged. Known defaulters or companies which created NPAs to financial institutions — that is they have created personal assets to themselves — shall not be allowed to take over the PSEs. Known business groups with business interests in our non-friendly countries should not be allowed to grab our PSEs. The interests of the workers and interests of

the nation should not be jeopardised. The Government should have the power to intervene to direct corrective steps in the process.

The Government should go with caution and every 3 to 6 months assess the impact of disinvestment, learn from the experience, tread with caution, and go ahead steadily applying corrective steps as and when required.

I am satisfied that the Government under the able leadership of hon. Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the able guidance of the hon. Minister of Finance, the hon. Minister of Planning and Disinvestment, and the able advice of our hon. Chief Minister Shri Chandrababu Naidu garu surely will strive into the golden future for the country.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, an hon. Member of the Treasury Benches sought to ridicule us for repeatedly seeking discussion on disinvestment. Perhaps the hon. Minister would also say so. He has been saying so in the past. But I am sorry that the response of the Government to the fact that we are seeking discussion on this important matter repeatedly for a purpose is not what should be the response of a responsible Government.

The public sector undertakings were built up over the years, brick by brick with the sweat and toil of the people of India. Today the Government seems to be demonstrating its congenital dislike for these temples of modern India. Running down the PSEs, every effort is being made to demolish the same.

I heard the hon. Minister of Rural Development, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu dwelling at length about his perspective of disinvestment so that the resources generated thereby could really be deployed for the social sector — that is education, health and what not.

But the Government is not in a position to really point out as to what it has really done so far in those important sectors. I would not really like to go in detail about the philosophy of disinvestment as pursued by this Government.

It has been said on behalf of our party that we do not oppose *per se*, but we have certain serious objections to the way the whole exercise is being conducted, the way the Government is going about it.

Sir, I would like to give only the example of VSNL, Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited and confine myself to that. It was in response to a question on 31.7.2000 that the Minister for Communications had said that the Government

[Shri Raman Kumar Bansal]

did not propose to privatise VSNL. That was on 31.7.2000. Thereafter, Shri Arun Shourie, hon. Minister for Disinvestment in response to another question, just one month after the earlier one, had said that the Government had not taken any decision for further disinvestment in case of MTNL and VSNL. Thereafter again on 1.12.2000, this House was told by the hon. Minister:

"The consideration for proposals of disinvestment in public sector undertakings is a continuing process. No decision has been taken for reducing the Government's holding in VSNL to minority level."

Thereafter, suddenly, in my view, the Cabinet takes a decision on 1.2.2001 to disinvest 26.97 per cent of the shares of VSNL. I refer to this because it is my charge against the Government that while it is the duty of the Government to ensure that if it decides to put a public sector undertaking under the hammer, its all out effort should be to ensure that the particular company earns the maximum amount for us to be ploughed back into the social sector which they repeatedly talk of.

But what really happens? Sir, I would like to again refer to another answer given in this House on 20.11.2000. The hon. Minister for Communications had agreed to the query that the acceleration of reforms in the telecom sector had resulted in the crash of over 50 per cent in the value of shares of VSNL and MTNL. Sir, the reasons admittedly given by the Government was:

"VSNL share price has come down more than 50 per cent during the last six months. The downward price movement is attributed largely to two factors, firstly because of decline in the overall Sensex and secondly because of certain announcements by the Government on premature withdrawal of VSNL's monopoly on international telephony, including cable connectivity."

This is the point. Even according to the WTO Agreement, the monopoly of VSNL over international telephone was to be retained up to 31.3.2004. The reasons are best known to this Government. I do not know at whose bidding it was decided to prepone that two years. Here, the Government is accepting that it is because of this announcement of the Government that the share value of VSNL fell down by 50 per cent. So far, the stand of the Government — which I have pointed out earlier — as put across in the House, was that the Government did not propose to disinvest in the VSNL.

My charge is that the Government had a mind to disinvest. The Government did not share that decision with the Parliament. On the other hand, certain conscious

decisions were taken which have harmed the VSNL immensely. Now, when you sell the VSNL, maybe, 26.97 per cent of the shares, what price will you get for it? Way back in 1997-99, when the Government had disinvested this *Navratna* to some extent through GDRs etc., at that time, an assurance was given that the monopoly of VSNL in international telephony would continue up to 2004. Now, is this the way the Government behaves? Is this what this Government has learnt from the US, which imposes certain conditions on them, but backs out from its own commitments and forces the conditions which it had made them to agree? Is this what this Government is now up to? It had given a solemn assurance to the people all over when it had solicited certain participation in equity a few years back. Now what have they done to those people? What is their reaction? If my information is correct, people who had invested in VSNL earlier are feeling cheated about it because the Government now took a decision to prepone the termination of the monopoly, which has resulted in steep fall in the shares, and the Government now wishes to sell off. This is the approach of the Government on which we have serious objections.

Not only this, after a decision was taken to prepone the termination of monopoly, VSNL thought, "Well, let us try to diversify ourselves into different areas" and, therefore, VSNL decided to apply for the fourth cellular licence. That was understandable. It was a prudent decision. I must say that over the years VSNL because of its professional management of the affairs had done extremely well. In 1999, when certain shares were supposed to be off loaded in the domestic market, the offer was oversubscribed over seven times. That showed the credibility or the worth of this public sector undertaking in the public perception. After the Government had thrust a decision upon VSNL about its preponement of the termination of the monopoly in the international telephony, VSNL thought of diversifying into cellular services. And aghast we were to know that the Government directed VSNL not to apply for it on the most specious, most untenable ground that since there is the Government equity in VSNL and BSNL, that is, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, which is already operating the cellular services, so two Government companies cannot bid for the same sectors in these mobile services. This was a strange argument. The net result of it is that VSNL has been incapacitated to develop, to progress and to improve its worth. Therefore, when it is put under the hammer, as the Minister has decided to do it, the result is before us to see.

Sir, I say that we do not mind, if the Government really wishes to disinvest. But how are they proceeding in these matters? Are they interested in garnering the

maximum possible or is their real obsession is to do away with the public sector undertakings which have been built up over the years? Going by the conduct of the Government, one is only forced to come to this conclusion that they just could not care less as to what the disinvestment really gets.

I was going through the documents. In their documents, they say that, "It is not really important whether the company is making profit or not."

That is not the consideration of the Government. Government has decided to dispose of all these companies. This is what they say. The hon. Leader of the CPI(M) Party in Lok Sabha was referring to some of the Corporations and Companies under the Ministry of Telecommunications to point out the amount of consistent profits made by all these companies. Maybe, their fate would also be the same.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I will sit down. I have not really taken much time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. You continue.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I am always conscious to take the least possible time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, you continue now.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, the first two speakers on the debate had taken almost 50 minutes each. How much have I taken?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am telling you continue.

PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Anyway, I would not be able to complete now.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai): Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the debate. But at the fag end of the discussion I do not really wish to take much of your time. I shall raise only a few issues.

Sir, first of all, disinvestment is not an end in itself. It is a means to an end. The real end is whether Government is going to get out of the tremendous financial responsibility it has, willy nally, assumed for itself in relation to the public sector which does not make it possible to discharge its elementary duties to many other areas. A Government that cannot provide for free primary education in all the villages of the country; a Government

that cannot provide for drinking water in all the villages in the country has no right to waste money on making of bicycles and running of hotels or running Air India. That is the whole point.

Sir, somebody had mentioned that rupees two crore has been invested in the public sector. My estimate — which I made some time ago — is that in the entire public sector of India a sum of rupees six crore has been invested. I have included the Electricity Boards as well as the transport companies in this. It is a big critical money in our economy. Any attempt to improve the economy must concentrate on turning around the public sector. My regret is that sometimes disinvestment is not viewed as a means to an end. If the public sector system were to give a return of five or even ten per cent, then that itself would make the condition of the entire financial system of the Government much better than it was before.

Sir, we must learn from the global experience. Disinvestment, or shall I say Government withdrawing money from the non-critical areas and handing it over to the private sector is a global phenomenon. It is a global movement from Brazil to Bangladesh and from Russia and China to Seychelles and Mauritius. This is taking place all over the world. India has been one of the notable exceptions that has resisted it.

Sir, my regret is that when my friends from the CPI(M) and the Congress were in the Treasury Benches, they did not oppose disinvestment. We can go through all the documents of that time. They supported disinvestment. I appeal to them not to try to settle political scores on the issue of disinvestment but let us view disinvestment dispassionately and not make it a political issue.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, we in the Congress never opposed disinvestment. I made it clear.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: I am only referring to the policy documents which came out during the time when the Congress and the CPI (M) were in the Treasury Benches. Why is the CPI(M) also trying to disinvest in West Bengal? The example of Great Eastern hotel is there before us.

Sir, I personally feel that if a Government has to discharge its responsibilities, then there are certain things which the Government alone can do and others cannot do and there are many other points which could be left to others to do them. Today, Indian economy is much more diversified.

[Dr. Nitish Sengupta]

Sir, the example of Air India was given. How is it that at a point of time Air India was flying so high and now small entities, in comparison to Air India at a point of time, like Singapore Airlines and Thai Airlines are flying above Air India? It is because Air India is a Government undertaking. To get a new aircraft for Air India, they have to first approach the Ministry of Civil Aviation and then the Ministry of Finance and then to the Planning Commission. Having been in the Planning Commission, I can tell you that Planning Commission arbitrates between the needs of Air India and the Urban Transportation system on the basis of the limited funds that they have. They would say that Air India need not have an aircraft at this moment and that the Planning Commission would give money to the Urban Transportation System. So, Air India suffers.

Take it out of the apron strings of the Government. Get shareholding, at least the Government shareholding, reduced to below 50 per cent. It will not be a Government company then. Then, funds will be no problem. In the international market there are any number of financiers who would be willing to give their money to Air India then and Air India will be able to compete much better. Take the example of the companies I mentioned — Thai, Filipino and Taiwanese companies. They were all Government companies. We can see how much better they are performing today after having been handed over to private sector initiative. What has been the experience of the British Airways? So, privatisation or disinvestment is not something to be pooh-poohed or laughed aside. It is inevitable and irreversible. One can say that there is no way the Government can get away, in the near future, from disinvestment or privatisation on a massive scale, if the Government has to discharge its duties.

Having said that, I should say how the conditions now are. Are they right for disinvestment? I do not think so. First of all, the public sector has to be turned around. Otherwise, nobody will be interested in buying many of them. Secondly, what is the condition of the capital market today? For the last one year, there has not been a single case of public issue in the capital market. It is something unheard of. It all started from the time when capital issues control was abolished. I am sorry to say that under the pressure of IMF, the Government in the 90s abolished the capital issues control which was the only control that was working soundly and helping the cause of the common investor. The common investor was driven out then. Even free pricing was introduced. In place of control

of capital issues, guidelines for fixing of prices of shares were issued. To that alone I attribute many of the subsequent ills. The common investor was thrown to the lap of greedy merchant bankers and dishonest company promoters. The common investor burnt his fingers and decided to leave the capital market. It has never happened before. Capital market is like a dead duck now. When primary market is like this, where will the buyers come from? Who are the buyers? Even the secondary market has become a dead duck for the last many months. There is no liquidity. Nobody can buy; nobody can sell. We are in a wonderful position where much as we dream of disinvestment, it will be not be possible. The things are just not right.

First of all the public sector enterprises have to be turned around. Where they have turned around and are making money on a monopolistic basis, it is possible to disinvest. But then, do bring down the Government shareholding to less than 50 per cent so that they get out of the stigma of the Government enterprises of having to approach the Government at any and every stage. Subject the public sector system on the whole to the discipline of the balance sheet and the profit and loss statement. This applies to the loss-making companies also. Once that is done, once they are also turned around, then I can assure that there will be no dearth of buyers. Therefore, this is not the right time to talk about disinvestment very seriously.

The other reason is psychological. We have been giving an impression as if we are making a distress sale and the Government is anxious to dispose of its shares in the public sector. The buyers are also very clever people. How is it that all these people are coming in and going away? They know that Government will have to willy-nilly go to them. I wish the Government spokesman would go a bit slow, a bit quiet, and a bit discreet and not make pronouncements merrily like in the case of VSNL, which Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal pointed out. Basically, disinvestment has to wait for a little more time. This time should be utilised to turn around the public sector enterprise.

There are many public sector enterprises which are in a shocking condition partly because of the wrong investment decisions and partly because the Government willy-nilly took over a lot of private enterprises which were already sick. The National Textile Corporation has been mentioned. Well, it is the then Commerce Minister, who subsequently became the Prime Minister, who went to

Bombay and just announced that all those companies which were on strike were being taken over by the Government. The Finance Ministry was not even consulted at that time. I am talking about the situation in the early 80s. They all came to the Government but they came duds at a time when in the economy there is no need for integrated mills because the technology had changed. We have to assume that technology changed and, therefore, everything was being done through *Bhiwandiwalas*, the powerlooms. There was no need for technological integration any longer. That was the time when the Government, out of political compulsion decided to nationalise those companies.

Ever since we have only been able to meet the case losses. Nothing more. We have never given a proper thought to make them diversified.

So, Sir, the first point should be that attention should be given to turning around the public sector enterprises. In disinvestment, I personally think that the Government should review its shareholding and not think in terms of getting away completely except those enterprises which can be sold on 'as is where is basis' where there is no scope for any revival, which would be a kind of drag on the Government for all time to come.

There was the Rangarajan Committee, which gave a beautiful formula about what should be reduced, and all that. I personally feel that the Disinvestment Commission has not done very much. In any case, when the Ministry has been created, why should there be a Disinvestment Commission at all? It is again for political reasons. Sir, between you and me, Shri Arun Shourie has been a very good friend for three decades now. I am fond of disinvestment idea but I think the setting up of the Ministry of Disinvestment was not a right decision. I think, it should have been left to the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Public Enterprises and the Administrative Ministry to decide on it. I think, the Ministry of Disinvestment can utmost be a fifth wing which will not really help matters. Mind you, they are very sincere people but I think this is not the right time for disinvestment. The capital market factor should have been given.

Sir, my last point is about the share evaluation. They should try to go back to the CCI guidelines. It is being mentioned repeatedly about discounted cash flow. In my experience, I have never seen that discounted cash flow is a very common instrument in evaluating shares. I do not know who introduced it in the Government. Some time in the Nineties it was introduced. But now, it is being followed.

So, I should say that disinvestment is unavoidable in the long run but this is not the right time. A lot more thought should be given to turning around the public sector enterprises to a State when they are profitable and saleable, and the infrastructure should be improved especially the conditions of the capital market.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Disinvestment policy has been discussed here time and again. While replying to the debate the hon'ble Minister will say that this issue is being debated again and again. We have replied several questions in this regard even then this debate is continued. The Government is in haste for selling PSUs. Earlier there was a disinvestment commission which was scrapped and now again Disinvestment commission has been constituted to expedite the process so that the PSUs could be sold at the earliest. Disinvestment, Privatisation, influence of multinationals which will ruin the economy. What is all that. It has been termed as disinvestment but they are encouraging privatisation such step of the Government will affect self sufficiency of economy. When we raised the issue of transparency and opposed disinvestment, the Government told that it was initiated by Congress Party Government and continued during tenure of United Front Government. It may be admitted that there was a proposal of disinvestment and it is a continuous process since long but whether these were sold at throw away prices. The hon'ble Minister had stated in the reply that it would be referred to CAG. What action will be taken or the property will be returned if any scam is detected in CAG investigations. Hon'ble Minister has been a renowned journalist, an intelligent person and favours investigative journalism.

Venkat Swamy Commission was constituted to inquire into *tehlka.com*. Its tapes were leaked which was published in newspapers to which the hon'ble Minister was associated earlier. Hon'ble Minister is present here. Then he made a statement that action will be taken on leakage of the report, wicked means were used. The hon'ble Minister who has been a journalist said that use of wicked means in investigative journalism is not important. The another Minister of Parliamentary Affairs who is also present here said that action would be taken against the investigative journalism. In this way dual policy is being adopted by the Government...(Interruptions)

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

Jansatta and Indian Express both belong to the same group, one is a Hindi daily and other is English daily. It has been published in Hindi daily that C&AG has admitted that scam was detected in deal of Modern Food. This is the heading and whole report was given under it. The Government say that C&AG report has not yet been submitted. Now I would like to say that C&AG report has been put in cold bag...*(Interruptions)* It has been published in newspapers to which you were associated. How that could be denied? The report of comptroller and Auditor General will expose the Disinvestment policy. Now this newspaper is exposing you. You were associated with this group. How it can be termed wrong. They reply given by the Disinvestment Department on the objections raised, reveals that in whose favour the Government is working. Such a detailed report has been published in that newspaper to which you were associated earlier and the Government say that it has not yet received the report. You should accept this situation. What punishment should be awarded if CAG report proves scam in deal of Modern Food Industry. On question of transparency it has been said that the matter was referred to CAG. What will be if scam is proved in C&AG report...*(Interruptions)* There is an economist in Jawahar Lal Nehru University Prof. Shrimati Jayanti Ghosh. It has been published in 'Rashtriya Sahara—Loot Khasot Ka naya tarika - Vinivesh. The Professor of Economics has written...*(Interruptions)* You are an intelligent persons and a journalist...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I never used a paper to quote in my speech. But what has published in Indian Express about tehlaka.com and reactions thereto compelled me to show that what has published in newspapers. He may say that at that time we wrote what is correct...*(Interruptions)* The newspaper published this news. The Professor of Economics has written— It is a bitter truth the people in Government are minting money through privatisation. Earlier it was done through big tenders, quota, allotment of permits and corruption. In the era of liberalization the system of licence, quota and permit was abolished which troubled big officials. Now the Government has got a new and easy way of earning money by selling PSUs at cheaper rates.

Professor Shrimati Jayanti Ghosh, who teaches economics in JNU has written that who framed those guidelines, the God or people in the Government? These guidelines favour capitalists and rich people...*(Interruptions)* Here the Government is seller and capitalists and rich persons are buyers. Then it is said that bid will be invited which causes corruption.

And whatever these rich people want is grabbed by them...*(Interruptions)* The Government is unable to do anything against these people and they can make the Government dance to their tune for their own benefits.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, you conclude please.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: secondly, I would like to tell about Cement Corporation of India as to what is happening there? First of all these rich people make it close down so that the price of cement may fall and they could easily acquire it at cheaper rates. This ways these rich people arrive at a consensus. Now if they make a lowest bid for it then, I would like to know as to who has given you the right to sell it at such cheaper rates...*(Interruptions)* Everything is in the hands of these rich lords who make the Government to take decisions as per their will...*(Interruptions)* The Government needs to give clarification in this regard...*(Interruptions)* He has come from Rajya Sabha. Whatever these persons convey to the Government collectively because they are educated persons...*(Interruptions)* He was assigned a portfolio needing more manouevre to manage but by when they will be caught...*(Interruptions)* The sale of BALCO prima-facie gives the impression that these people are making the Government to sell its big assets at throw away prices...*(Interruptions)* This thing has been written by Prof. Sahiba that the national assets are being sold at cheap rates.

Secondly, the employees and workers in of these undertakings are also apprehensive that they might have to lose their jobs in the name of privatisation. Maruti has equal stakes of 50 percent each of Maruti and Suzuki. The Minister of Heavy Industries also has been working like an ordinary employee of Suzuki...*(Interruptions)* The employees have the right to go on strike in theory, however 40 persons working in the organisation have been dispensed with and other 10 have also been dismissed.

21.00 hrs.

I had raised this issue as to why the employees are being dismissed. Action is being taken against the workers. They are diverting it as per their will. This is jeopardising the cause of the workers. The Government has not given clear reply in both these points. The Government is not serious in this regard. The Government is behaving like an enemy with them. I want to register my objection on it. The disinvestment is a label to deceive

only. In fact it is nothing but privatisation, and tantamounts to selling off the country in foreign hands. His colleague who is a thinker has said that the country is being sold off. I want to know as to what you would like to say in this regard?

[English]

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): Mr. Chairman Sir, before I speak on this matter of disinvestment, after hearing Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, I am inclined to quote from Shakespeare.

"Never did I know that so full of force issues from so empty a heart."

I think that is applicable to his speech and not the person concerned.

When I stand here to speak on disinvestment, after a lot of discussion under Rules 193 and 184, I have a feeling that the Opposition has lost all its arrows from the quiver. Now it is only grunt or ranting. And you would kindly appreciate that many of the leaders of Opposition try to take recourse to one of the beautiful philosophical school of thought in India. That school of thought is "Nyaya Vaisheshikas". Now, "Nyaya Vaisheshikas" means reasoning and arguments are uppermost. But there is one point to be mentioned. It has been indicated that when one does not have any reasoning or logic or argument, he takes recourse to *vitanda*. In Sanskrit, *vitanda* means illogical, unreasonable or without any facts to bring forth the arguments. And the Members of the Opposition have taken recourse to *vitanda* for almost last three hours. In taking recourse to *vitanda*, they have tried to pick holes in the transparency and valuation methods. I am sorry to say that Mr. Dasmunsi had tried to attack transparency by looking into forged letters or letters which had not gone through regular course or channels which are used in official transactions, by reading letters which had not been properly typed and by reading forged letters. By attributing to different types of things on those letters, I think he has developed cataract and once a person has cataract...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I said and I stand by what I said. Let the letter be investigated by a proper agency called the CBI and if the investigation result is that the documents are forged, then as I said earlier, my argument is withdrawn on my point and I will personally come and apologise to the House. But if the investigation proves that the letter is genuine, then let

the Government express its apology. That is all.

I also stand by what I said on the documents related to Enforcement Directorate. I shall refer that to the Minister. He would inquire into it. If he finds that it is forged,...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANADI SAHU: Sir, kindly allow me to speak. Let him not interrupt my stream of thoughts. I was saying that the Members of the Opposition have had an opaque vision and it is opaque vision in the sense that they try to see things which are not existing at all. The NDA Government and the able Minister, Shri Arun Shourie are very transparent as the front windscreen of a motor car and the disinvestment process has been absolutely transparent. I will not go into the details of transparency because I feel that time will be the greatest constraint.

In the booklet that has been provided and in the earlier booklets also, it has been indicated as to how transparency could be obtained by taking into consideration the opinion of Group of Ministers, Group of Secretaries and all other paraphernalia that is there. So, there should be no doubt in the minds of anybody about the transparency so far as disinvestment is concerned. The second vihandha came from no less a person than Shri Somnath Chatterjee regarding Assets Valuation Methods. I would request the Members to kindly go through the papers that have been distributed earlier also. Under the heading Assets Valuation Method, it says:

"This estimates the amount that will be available to the stakeholders if the assets were disposed of or the amount that is required to create a similar asset. But this methodology is rarely used for valuation of business as a going concern, in view of the serious shortcomings of this methodology."

The depth of capital market has to be taken into consideration while thinking of the valuation. I did not go into the other three methods because that would take a lot of time. I will come to the disinvestment part of it. Before I formulate certain facts, I would like to give a brief genesis of the public sector undertakings. In 1956, statesmen of those days, including Jawaharlal Nehru, thought that since funds are not available, since technology is not advanced, since the gestation period is too long, the public sector should come up. To begin with five undertakings came up. That was during the First Plan period. In the second Plan period, there were eight objectives. Of the eight, the third objective is very important for us. The third objective is to earn return on

[Shri Anadi Sahu]

investments and thus generate resources for development. Without going to the other plans, I will come to the Fifth Plan. During the Fifth Plan, a creeping doubt has come into the minds of administrators. The doubt was whether the public sector could be viable and whether private sector should be brought in or not. That is why at that time, the plan envisaged foreign collaboration as well as development of existing indigenous capability and both were viewed as part of one package. The necessity of collaboration and participation outside the public sector was orchestrated after that in 1980. Now, let me come to the Eighth Plan. In the Eighth Plan, it was found that resource mobilisation was a constraint. Now, you would kindly appreciate that in the Budget that were prepared right from 1991 till date, internal and extra Budgetary resources for the public sector undertakings were thought of. But in the last eight to nine years, public sector undertakings could mobilise 47 per cent revenue, in spite of issuing tax free bonds. That were not bought by the people.

Now a proverb comes to my mind. That is, 'Rob Peter to pay Paul'. Peter and Paul were very important holy men of the Christian faith. One holy man is being robbed to pay another holy man. In the last ten years, tax payers have been robbed to ensure that the public sector remains viable. I give you a few instances to show as to how the tax payers are being robbed. Take for example, last three years' Budget performance. See the amount spent on waivers. In 1998-99 the loans and repayments waived was Rs. 572.99 crore.

Interest waived was about Rs. 1360.37 crore. Penal interest waived was Rs. 257.78 crore. Loan repayments on which moratorium was allowed were Rs. 779 crore. Altogether, in one year, the sum of Rs. 2970.65 was only in respect of loan waivers. I am not talking of the funds that have been pumped in. The C&AG has said that funds pumped in are to the tune of Rs. 60,000 crore. The C&AG has very correctly said that had it been put in some other way, it would have brought a lot of dividend. The dividend that the public sector undertakings have brought is only to the extent of 6.1 per cent. How can the economy thrive with such type of public sector undertakings being put into operation by taking the money from the taxpayers to pay the public sector undertakings? That is why, it is necessary that slowly there should be disinvestment.

Sir, there are about 240 public sector undertakings. Out of them, only about 55 or so are viable units. When you see from the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Ninth Plan, you will come to know that they thought that it would be

Rs. 10,000 crore of investment. But nothing has come out of that. Hardly Rs. 1500 crore has come. You will find from the papers that have been given to us how much money is being squandered in 127 public sector undertakings. The loss in one year only has been to the extent of Rs. 9274 crore. How can the economy survive with so much of loss and so much of difficulties? That is why, it is necessary to have disinvestment.

Some hon. Members said why we should not disinvest the loss-making concerns. The point is that nobody would touch with a bargepole a loss-making concern. It is only a profit-making concern that can be disinvested or privatised. I would suggest that it would be better to have privatisation rather than going in for disinvestment. As Shri Venkaiah Naidu Said, why should the Government sell bread or change the linen? It is not at all necessary. Along with liberalisation and globalisation, other things have come. Why should we not go into those things instead of pumping money to these people.

What was the necessity for which disinvestment was thought of? It was thought of because we wanted to put this money into developmental work which has been very clearly indicated by other hon. Members earlier. We wanted to have roads, health measures and all other developmental things which have been very clearly indicated by the Disinvestment Commission. I need not go into them. Once disinvestment takes places, the money that is generated will go for developmental work.

I would conclude now. Before that, I would like to recite a part of a poem from Wordsworth, a Victorian Poet who had very clearly indicated that the money that can be generated can be used for better purpose. Of course, he did not mean disinvestment. He had given an allegory. It says:

"Small service is a true service while it lasts;

of humblest friends, bright creature scorn not one;

The Daisy, by the shadow it casts

Protects the lingering dew-drop from the sun."

The Daisy protects the dew drops. So, you disinvest here and give the money for some other purpose.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Sir, at the outset, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. Due to time constraint, I will conclude my speech before you ring the bell.

First, I would submit that nowhere in the country and nowhere in the world excepting our country, this Department is functioning in the Government. Perhaps, this Department has been created in order to dismantle the public sector undertakings. After Shri Arun Jaitley, Shri Arun Shourie has been entrusted with the job to pay special attention to the question of disinvestment. The possible reason is that the Government is very much anxious about the disinvestment process to be extended not only to public sector units but also to joint ventures which you are now doing.

Sir, the disinvestment of shares of public sector undertakings was proceeding quietly in the first phase, but it appears that the Government was not satisfied with that. Now, they want the whole process to be expedited further. We strongly oppose the policy of the Government because disinvestment is another name for dismantling and demolishing the whole structure of public sector undertakings which has been built up over many years costing thousands of crores of rupees of public money.

The public sector undertakings have played a very important and strategic role in strengthening the whole industrial sector. Of course, our good friend, Shri Arun Shourie will certainly throw some light as to whether the Government is very eager to sell off our country to the foreign business partners and foreign business interests.

Sir, disinvestment may be a very polite word, but it amounts to dismantling the public sector undertakings. They are taking the public sector undertakings one-by-one and transferring them to the private sector. Therefore, I am totally opposed to the policy of this Government. I urge all the hon. Members of this House to be vigilant and resist them, by all means, so that they cannot implement the entire process of disinvestment and thereby sell out our country to foreign business interests.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me the time to speak. The festival of Ramjanamotsav (Rama's birth) is celebrated in my city Nasik. Though those belonging to BJP chant the name of Rama, they never attend these kind of programmes. It is our own partymen

who remain present there. Kirt Somaiyaji eulogised about Lord Ganapati and prayed to him for the welfare of the country. The Lord Ganapati is the epitome of truth and the maxim 'what is obvious is not the ultimate truth' is not apt in case of Lord Ganapati. Lord has got everything magnificent and big. Though he has big ears, big belly, he has got a very keen eyesight. I would like to submit to the Government to look into the matter of disinvestment very minutely.

America is a very big country. Privatisation of the telephone system did not prove fruitful in rural areas of America also. Almost 30 percent of the telephone sector in India has been privatised, however nothing has been achieved in rural areas by these private organisations. Some is the case with STA permit buses. Not only these are unable to stick to the time table but they have also been proving unsuccessful in imparting good service.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, private vehicle does not reach to the destination and drop you at half way mark. I would like to submit the Government to deeply think over this issue of privatisation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, a railway junction in my constituency is at Marwar. Shri Mahajanji is aware of it. 1100 workers have been working in it. Railway has sent a Notice recently wherein the closure of this factory at this junction is mentioned. I would like to tell that the workers of this factory has won five gold medals for their excellent performance, hence Railway has taken a very wrong decision by issuing this notice.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as Shri Raghuvanshji has said that this is not privatisation and liberalisation but the selling off of the country. Hence through you, I would like to submit to the Government to look into this matter closely. Thank you.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Mr. Chairman, Sir today we are discussing on disinvestment. The discussion on this issue has been held in it many times earlier also and the hon. Minister also has given replies after listening the views of the Members of treasury benches as well as those belonging to the opposition. However, the discussions is still continuing for the entire country is watching very closely as to in which direction we are proceeding.

Sir, this House and the Constitution had promised the common man of this country that their personal liberty will be protected and the country will be made self reliant. To achieve this goal, the decision to set up public sector

[Shri Ravi Prakash Varma]

undertakings was taken besides doing away with the regional imbalance. Today, the juncture at which our country has arrived makes us think as to whether or not we have been proceeding in the right direction because it is not one which was shown to us by our forefathers and the great leaders who had made sacrifice for the country and the portraits of whom are beautifying the walls of central hall.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, now the hon. Minister of Rural Development was telling that the implementation of rural development schemes is pending for want of funds. Hence there is a need for disinvestment. Today, a general consensus has been arrived at that it is a method to mobilise resources and funds. However I would like to know as to whether the funds so mobilised would be spent in right direction i.e. to achieve the objectives as enshrined in our Constitution?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, one of our former Prime Minister had accepted that a large portion i.e. almost 80 percent of our resources or funds is spent on establishment and only 10 to 12 percent of the funds remains for the real developmental work. It is an issue to think over as to why no discussion over the need for administrative reforms takes place. When our hon. Minister keeps on talking about the economic reforms and the restructuring of economy etc.

We have today deviated from the objectives that we had set through our Constitution and our Parliament. We have accepted our weaknesses with different angle. But the challenges still remain the same. Today, resources are being developed through the policy of disinvestment. The Government are in a State of confusion, either they are raising internal loans or are selling the undertakings. America has also called India as a 'sleeping giant' which when awakens, shall shake the entire world. I feel that there has been some medley. We had all sorts of resources—physical, intellectual etc. and also had sufficient man-power, but unfortunately today we are at such a juncture where the process of political and social disintegration continues unabated, people have developed differences with each other and these differences are at such scale that the entire society has been divided into compartments. The resources which could have been used by us for new developments, have now become our liability. On the one hand, we are engaged in dividing the society, whereas on the other hand, it is we who think that we do not have resources. We shall have to locate where we have committed mistake. In a country

like India, there is no dearth of resources. As I have told earlier, the constitutional objectives have not been properly achieved in our system or with our administrative machinery. Today, there is a need to make investment in facilities for providing water, power, roads, safety health, education and employment, as told by our hon. Minister...(Interruptions)

[English]

I am coming to the point. I will conclude within a minute.

[Translation]

I have seen that the Successive Governments of our country as also the entire system has not delivered all our objectives properly and therefore, appropriate investment has not been made.

I had once told the hon. Minister of Finance that our entire system has not been able to deliver the objectives in the last fifty years. The Government may give clarifications as to how can they accomplish their new aims and objectives in such a limited time. People have apprehensions regarding the development of resources, or disinvestment carried out by the Government or even the transparency of the Government. The entire country is having an impression that pilferage is taking place, there is some medley and news to this effect is also being reported in the newspapers every now and then. Whether the Government have said that all this is wrong, or whether any steps have been taken to the effect. At least the facts being brought through the newspapers etc. should be based on reality, which may otherwise create any wrong impression amongst the people of the country. Today, a wrong message is being sent all-over the country that the big institutions, which played an important part in making of the country, are now being subjected to distress sales. So, it is the responsibility of the Government to clear the facts regarding such apprehensions...(Interruptions) I wish to finish my speech as there is very short time. Everyone has insisted for transparency on the part of the Government. I, through you, request the Government to adopt hundred percent transparency so that wrong message being sent in the entire country, could be checked. There is a dire need for administrative reforms, as also accountability. If the Government could achieve all this, then the undertakings going in losses, would be running into profit in the future and thereafter all these would be disposed of as per the needs of this times.

[English]

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have been directed by none other than the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to be absolutely brief. So, I will deal with just a few of the points that have been made. Sir, you have made very important points in the beginning...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.) We are sitting here to sincerely listen to the hon. Minister.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): I thought that the hon. Member is sitting here to listen to Ravi ji.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I would deal with all the points as long as you wish me to do so, but as Pramod ji has said to me that during the last one and a half year, disinvestment has been done regarding two companies and this is the ninth debate. During this Period since the Budget Session till date.

[English]

We have answered 529 Questions in Parliament on disinvestment. I would really like to know what is missing in any of these.

Sir, the points that have been made are very serious ones. I also feel that there is progress because if you look around us, you can see the attendance now. This thin attendance shows that the subject has been exhausted and no new points are coming up again and again. Everybody is making the same points. But this time, we have made a further advance. I would like to start with that because there is a very important cautionary tale in what has transpired this afternoon and evening before us.

Sir, I will start by reading the letter that I have received from the Secretary of our Department. This is the letter from the Cabinet Secretary and I would like bring it on record because of the importance of the matter. It is on his letterhead. It is the Cabinet Secretary's letter. It says:

"I have been shown a copy of an alleged note sent from the Office of the Cabinet Secretary to the Principal Secretary to the PM on 17.7.2001 on

disinvestment of Air India. It is clearly a forged document. No such communication has been issued from the Cabinet Secretariat on this subject."

Now, Sir, as Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has rightly said, it is a serious matter. Obviously, none of us doubt his motives. Somebody has planted a forgery on him and I would be writing tomorrow morning itself to the Director of the CBI for a full inquiry into a forgery because if the letters of the Cabinet Secretary of India can be forged, then naturally it is a very serious matter. But I would also like to plead...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Could you yield for half a minute, just for your benefit?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Let me complete please.

I would hope and beseech the hon. Member, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi to completely co-operate with the investigation of the CBI into the forgery...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: May I just help you? Sir, I have gone through the Parliamentary Practice and Procedure and there, I found that on such matters, it becomes the property of the House and it should be referred to the Privileges Committee or to the Speaker. I would like to draw the attention of the Speaker to this matter tomorrow and the Speaker, either will send it directly to the CBI or it will be referred to the Privileges Committee. I have gone through these details from the book...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: As the forged document has come to me, as a Minister I can also act independently on it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: What you claim forged, I may claim not forged...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: That you will establish to the CBI...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: It can be filed before the CBI also. Both the things will go together ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I would urge all of us, in future when such plants are put on us, to at least read what is written. Even a cursory reading would have shown that it was a patent forgery. Just see, how it begins. "As is well aware, the process of disinvestment of Air India..." 'As you are all aware' — what? It says: "As is well aware, the process of disinvestment of Air India has been facing numerous problems."

[Shri Arun Shourie]

Just see the next sentence. It says: "It is believed and observed that wherever the Government has tried to observe..." Is this the Cabinet Secretary of India going to write? At least, the ghost writer, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, should be sacked.

If there is no number...(Interruptions) Yes, as I mentioned to you, I will certainly write to the Director of the CBI tomorrow and I will report to the House and to the people about the findings of this. I appeal to the Member to co-operate fully with the CBI to establish...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I reserve the right to refer the matter to the Privileges Committee and to the Speaker as per the established rules of the House. I will not depend only on the Minister's guidance I will depend on the guidance of the rules of the House.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: You were so insisting...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I will refer that. But I will also refer to Privileges Committee and to the Speaker.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: That you do on your own.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I shall go by the rules of the House.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: You were so insisting on a CBI inquiry. So many Members from your Party were shouting for a CBI inquiry. So, I am all for a CBI inquiry. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rupchand Pal, he is replying.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: The hon. Member has placed something on record on the floor of the House and, you have also placed some other part of the letter or full letter whatever you call it.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: It is the full letter.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: You have placed the full letter and this can be referred to the Privileges Committee. That is the practice. You cannot again and again refer to CBI. The Government can do anything...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Speaker will decide it.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Forgery is forgery...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I shall refer the matter to the hon. Speaker.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: The hon. Speaker has every right to send anything to the Privileges Committee. But that does not prevent the Government to send something to the CBI...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: The Government can do it...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: We do not know who is claiming whose privilege. I do not know who is claiming whose privilege.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Speaker will decide that.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Whatever it may be...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Are we sending our own letters against ourselves to the Privileges Committee?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: That you cannot debate now...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Nobody can debate that. The Government's contention is that the letter is not correct. It is a forged one. My contention is that the letter is correct. Let it be investigated and let the Privileges Committee give its findings. I said it on record. If that Member who used the record is not correct, I am duty bound to apologise to the House. If the Government finds mine right, then the Government will have to apologise. That is the position. It is very clear.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: We are also from the Government. We are very clear. If the hon. Member, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, wants to refer something to the Privileges Committee, he has a right to do and the Speaker will take a decision. As far as the Government is concerned, we will refer it to the CBI.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Kharabela Swain, please take your seat.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Are you doing the same thing for the FERA violation matter?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: What I wanted to bring to your attention is this. Unfortunately I find that in each one of our debates. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh is completely right. I have been cautioning my own friends in the Press also that because of this inter-corporate rivalry, different houses with different interests are using the Pressmen like us and other persons for putting forward half-truths and untruths.

I would urge, irrespective of my very high regard for Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, that all of us should be cautious in this regard. I can tell you that it is one of the most distressing features to me in the last year and a half because an assignment has been given to me. I will get a letter on the definition of NRI. I do not mind naming this person. It is from Shri Ashok Hinduja. Then there are a series of articles making the same point coming in newspapers. Then, a learned Member of Parliament writes an article on that matter. It is exactly the same point. You quoted a report. I do not want to cast any reflection on the Sanding Committee. I can tell you that several Members of Parliament have written to me on this 25 per cent, or 25 per cent by Australia, Canada, Korea, Taiwan, and even the USA. The letters are identical. The semicolons are identical. Unfortunately, it is such a saddening thing that matter has found its way into the reports of even a thing like the Standing Committee.

It is exactly the same. If you want, I will read to you just now the letter of the President, FICCI to the Prime Minister of India. Exactly the same points were made in the same sequence, giving the same countries as examples. It was the then President of FICCI's letter and I read that out in FICCI. They had asked me to give a lecture there. All the big businessmen were there. I said, 'Here is your letter and here is the letter of a Member of Parliament to the Prime Minister. The points in both of them are the same. Here is a second and a third letter from Members of Parliament. It is the same there. All four letters made the same points.' Then, the President, FICCI told me, 'But I just wrote it because it is based on the report of the Civil Aviation Committee.' They have a sub-committee on civil aviation. Who is the head of that Civil Aviation Committee? It is the so-called owner of Jet Airways.

[Translation]

It is they who take advantage of the situation and we are becoming instruments in their hands.

[English]

It is because of your great association with this House that through you I appeal to all of us that we should beware of corporate plants. You have been very vigilant against corporate influence in public life. I have made a collection of these letters and articles so that I can use them at some stage.

The second point that I would make is on the question of FERA violations that Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has talked about on the Indian Hotel Company. Actually, the guidelines are absolutely clear and I assure the House that they have been formulated with great diligence and great internal discussion within the Government so as not to preclude or so as not to reduce the number of bidders that you rule out the whole of corporate India. At the same time, those companies to whom you cannot trust public companies or who are involved in major crimes should not get to participate in the disinvestment process. So, for striking this balance, these guidelines were formulated after great internal discussion and discourse.

As I mentioned to you, in the case of bidders, please remember, it is a particular legal entity that matters — so, if it is the Indian Hotel Company — which is convicted not just under investigation. That is why I kept reading the guideline and there was a difference or altercation at that time. But it is there. It has to be convicted by a court of law or there has to be an indictment by a particular regulatory authority, which could be shown. If Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi or anyone of us could show that any bidder has been convicted by a court of law or indicted by a regulatory authority like the SEBI, I assure that I would apply the guidelines mechanically and blindly.

I do not mind sharing with you some information because I have already had occasion to say this because of a false allegation that was made in public in the case of Videocon. Our interest is that in all companies, there should be the maximum number of bidders. The Videocon people were among the companies indicted by the SEBI for having participated in rigging their share prices. I do not know Videocon from Adam but they sent to me a person I have known for 40 years, who happens to be working with them. He is a very honourable person who was my senior in college by four or five years. They sent him to me. He explained to me that in their view the indictment by the SEBI was wrong and therefore a show-cause notice should not be issued to them. They

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

were kind enough to say that if I issued a show-cause notice, there would be a presumption that I examined their documents and therefore came to a conclusion, which would harm their reputation. So, they requested not to issue a show-cause notice because it would harm their reputation. I said, 'Look here, I will apply these guidelines blindly and by no hearing. It will be applied mechanically.'

They said then that if it was delayed by two or three days, they would like to, in that case, withdraw from the process. They withdrew from the process and that is the only reason on account of which, in the case of Videocon, they are no longer in the process and there is no reason to issue a show-cause notice. Whoever is in the process and is indicted, we felt to issue the show-cause notice, give an opportunity for hearing and the things would be applied. So, on the Indian Hotels case, if anybody finds this indictment by us or an adverse order by a regulatory authority or conviction by a court of law, please bring it to our attention and we will deliver to you the whole thing.

On the third point, the hon. Member from AIADMK is here. I just want to bring one thing to his attention. There is a misunderstanding in regard to the reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. I do not want any confusion to prevail in our minds. What happens is that it goes through three to four stages.

As I had promised in the House, within a week of the conclusion of the BALCO transaction, all papers, every scrap of paper regarding BALCO was handed over to them. They may come to an adverse finding and so on. Similarly, the Modern Foods transaction had taken place much earlier. But we sent all the papers on Modern Foods also to them.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): What did the C&AG observe?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, because you had not been here, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and our hon. friends were quoting from that and that is why I am reporting to you. In the case of C&AG what happens was and it always happens so that they send communications to the Ministry saying 'our preliminary finding is this; what do you say'. They change their opinion. Sometimes the Ministry is asked to give further explanation of what had happened.

In the first communication that we received from the C&AG there were 12 observations. We gave replies. They came down to three observations. We have sent further replies and I talked to the Deputy C&AG three days ago asking could he please finalise his report earlier so that when I get up to speak to you, I could report to you. I would report truthfully to you. But they say — 'No, we go through our internal processes' and they have not finalised the report. They have not sent us any report. I assure you...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

They have said that the report of C & AG would be kept under the carpet. I have given commitment to you. I have asked the C & AG that he may not send it he may send it directly to the parliament, or may produce to before the people through the press.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: It has to be presented to the House.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Yes Sir. It will directly come to the House.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: I want to know whether the report of Comptroller and Auditor General as quoted by Raghuvansh Prasad ji, is right or wrong?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: It is wrong in the sense that the reporter does not know the stages or has ignored them...*(Interruptions)* Shri L.K. Jha was the principal Secretary to the hon. Prime Minister. He is a noted civil servant of Bihar. He had said.

[English]

What began as investigative Journalism, has become inventive journalism'.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Sir, we stand to correct ourselves. On a point of SEBI indicting in the BALCO deal, was Sterlite also indicted or not? That is a fact we want to know.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: It is a very good point. Actually there is a confusion on that also. When the BALCO discussion was taking place, hon. Member Shri

Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi read out at that time an opinion of the Solicitor General of India. That was on a transaction in the Ministry of Communications in regard to purchase of cables. What happened was Sterlite had quoted a particular price. Then they realised that why should they quote on such a low price. So, one hour before the tenders were closed, they said that there was a typing mistake in the previous document and they are giving them a new document. They changed the figure from 123 and they wrote 223. So, the Ministry of Communications rightly said — 'We will hold you to the old price, the lower price.' Then the matter was referred to the Solicitor General of India who said that the Ministry of Communications is right.

The Sterlite must be held to the low price and you are right that the order which had been won by Sterlite should be taken away from them and distributed among other bidders. That was the opinion of the Solicitor-General. I checked with him and he confirmed to me, the Law Minister confirmed to me that opinion applied only to that particular transaction.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Did the Government not know about 1989 indictment and involvement of Sterlite along with BPL and Videocon?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, you do not know. I am coming to that.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I know that. I had myself gone there for inquiry in that project.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: The SEBI indictment is the second indictment that has come now...*(Interruptions)* Because of that indictment, a show cause notice has been issued to Sterlite and if they are not able to satisfy Government on this matter, the guidelines will be applied and Sterlite, like BPL and Videocon, will be excluded from participation in all further disinvestment....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: The Government had full knowledge about all these things. There was only a deliberate delay on the part of SEBI with regard to indictment.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, this is the first time that I have heard this allegation.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Is it also not a fact that SEBI also gave an indictment to James, the Morgan & Stanley in the stock market scam?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: No. We have certainly no knowledge of this at all, but since you have mentioned this and you were actually reading out from a newspaper report...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Is it correct or not?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Certainly not, to my knowledge, but because you read out some newspaper report, I will certainly go and verify.

Now, we have just to recall and see what was said last time and what is being said today. Sir, all sorts of allegations have been made on Modern Foods, and the position today is this. In 2000-2001, sales of bread are 31 per cent higher than they were in the previous year and in the first four months of 2001, sales are 80 per cent higher than they were in the first four months of the last year. Total wages have increased to the same amount of workers and not one worker has been retrenched. They have increased by Rs. four crore and they have increased by Rs. 1,600 per employees. In addition to Rs. 20 crore additional equity being put in, Rs. 29 crore have been put in for modernisation, for product and marketing development. Sir, a VRS more generous than is prevalent in the Government has been instituted at the request of the employees.

The BIFR reference has come about because it was discovered later that there has been an under-provisioning by the public sector unit of Rs. 35 crore, and coupled with a loss of Rs. 13 crore in the previous year, this reduced the net worth of the company by 50 per cent. Therefore, under the law that you have passed, the company was obliged to report Modern Foods to BIFR.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, the basis criticism is on the valuation.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: My friend, your basic criticism always keeps changing.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: It is not that.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, you just keep sitting now...*(Interruptions)* If you are prepared to sit till 12 o'clock, I will answer whatever you ask...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I am here for that purpose only.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: There are various steps that have been taken for training of workers, for modernisation of the plant, for plant hygiene and so on which were not there.

Similarly, in the case of BALCO, it is a great tragedy for our country. If you permit me to say, I sincerely feel that because of absolutely misleading people, a loss on the country, not on that company, of up to Rs. 200 crore on a rough estimate has been inflicted. Nothing was gained. The plant has now been brought back into operation. Four hundred pots froze. All the linings have to be replaced. The blast furnace froze and that has to be relined. In the meantime, it is no secret that one private company benefited because of closure of BALCO by making extortionate profits...*(Interruptions)*

You are all the time getting up. This is not correct....*(Interruptions)* This should not go on record, Sir....*(Interruptions)* When I am on my legs, you go on speaking. You are going to walk-out in any case.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the Minister reply.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: As was just being pointed out by my friend, Shri Somaiya, the very person who was so vociferous at that time has later said that he was going to disinvest 29 public sector undertakings. Not only that, at that time, in this House, it was repeated that a Chief Minister had said, "Oh! Rs. 100 crore have been made by an officer of the Prime Minister's Office, by an officer of the Disinvestment Department, and an officer of the State Government."...*(Interruptions)* What is this? This is a 'Jack in the box' behaviour...*(Interruptions)* The Chief Vigilance Commissioner wrote to the Chief Minister that it was his job to enforce the Prevention of Corruption Act and, therefore, he should send him the names, send him the evidence. The letter was not even answered or acknowledged. The same person was now not talking about the allegation, but it was repeated in the House.

Now, Sir, a very important point was made by three Members on my count that the Shareholders' Agreement has been altered, and in a very forceful speech, the hon. Member from AIADMK also made this point. You see, again, this is a handout put to the Press by a corporate rival. These very words, "Shareholders' Agreement has been altered. Therefore, this is done to favour the single bidder that is left" were used. You have also made that they have now been told, "Bilaterals, we will give you for seven years."

Now, I will draw your attention to the first document sent to all bidders, which is called "The Information Memorandum". In this Memorandum, at pages 46-47, you will find this question of bilaterals that is set out. This is the first document sent to every bidder. The implication is that, "Now, something has been done to favour Tata Singapore or the Government is trying to entice them into a deal". It says:

"Under the Draft Civil Aviation Policy, the rights of Air India and Indian Airlines will be guaranteed at the current level for a period of seven years."

Second, on this question of the Shareholders' Agreement, what was sent out in the first instance was entitled, "Draft Shareholders' Agreement". In this blue book that I have circulated to all Members of Parliament, you will find that we have set out the entire procedure. Here, it says:

"The Draft Share Purchase Agreement and the Shareholders' Agreement are also prepared by the advisors with the help of Legal Advisors and given to the prospective bidders for eliciting their reaction."

Then, it says:

"Based on the response received from the prospective bidders, the Share Purchase and Shareholders' Agreement is finalised and vetted by the Ministry of Law and eventually approved by the Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment. When the bidders come, they are given a thing called 'Request for proposal'."

This 'request for proposal' at page 8 says:

"Bidders to revert with the initial written comments on Draft Shareholders' Agreement and Draft Share Purchase Agreement on or prior to February 9. Shortlisted bidders to revert with additional and final written comments on the Draft Shareholders' Agreement and Draft Share Purchase Agreement on or prior to April 12."

Then, the sixth step is:

"Circulation for final and non-negotiable Draft of the Shareholders' Agreement and Share Purchase Agreement to shortlisted bidders."

This is at page 8. It is repeated at page 20.

22.00 hrs.

It is repeated at page number 25 also. Yet, a corporate rival puts out a story in the Press and the hon. Members swallow it and then vomit it out. I tell you that we are becoming instruments of corporate rivals.

Sir, the third point that I would like to make is that a lot of rhetoric is being used to show as to how wonderful the public sector is. I wish it were so. Big words like 'Pride of India' and 'honour of India' are being used in regard to Air India. I wish Air India were to be so. I would like to ask a question here. Do the hon. Members know the outstanding loan of Air India? Some hon. Members were mentioning that Government has never given any money to Air India. Do you know the outstanding debt of Air India? It is to the tune of Rs. 3,248 crore. In the last seven years the Airlines has not taken a single loan for expansion and for creation of asset. They have been taking loans for working capital and that is for buying fuels and for paying wages...(Interruptions) The interest on working capital loan today amounts to Rs. 100 crore per year. The hearts of the hon. Members, who have been taking about Air India, should bleed for Air India. But this is a comment on our times that they would not know as to what are the accumulated losses of Air India. Let us hear it from the hon. Members here. Do the hon. Members know the accumulated loss of Air India? It is Rs. 930 crore.

Sir, one of the Members was saying it is a question related to the workers, their livelihood' I would like to know which hon. Member has taken the trouble to find out the average earnings and emoluments of an Air India employee. Your heart bleeds for them and thus, at least you should have found that out. It is rupees seven lakhs a year for an average Air India employee. It comes to Rs. 60,000 per month for an average Air India employee...(Interruptions) Please let me finish.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Is it not a fact that net loss rate is coming down? Can you not fetch a better price?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I would only say that if you only knew as to what is happening. If I start disclosing facts then you would start accusing me of lowering the value of Air India. Do you know, as we are talking now, there is a dispute about the balance sheet of Air India? Have you found that out? After due diligence, the prospective bidders have found out, their accountants have shown that there has been an under-provisioning to the extent of Rs. 832 crore...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Who is responsible for that? You should find that out. Since you have disclosed this fact, definitely some people are responsible...(Interruptions) Do you wish this House to book them...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

It might have occurred at any point of time...(Interruptions)

[English]

It might have been any Government...(Interruptions) It might have happened in our regime or your regime...(Interruptions) He has revealed something very serious.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I am giving it to you but you are not reading. The hon. Members are concerned about the public sector. But how many of us have bothered to go to the library and look up for those four volumes of the C&AG Report? You keep talking about the C&AG report. That is available in the library.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, he cannot make a comment like that...(Interruptions)

Many of us have been associated with Public Accounts Committee long before he became a Member of Parliament...(Interruptions) He is trying to mislead the House...(Interruptions) Just because we are listening to him patiently, he should not assume that whatever he says is correct...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Please listen patiently to the reply given by the hon. Minister. Please do not interrupt him...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): What was incorrect in what the Minister has stated?...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the Minister is accusing that the Members of Parliament do not go to the Library and that they do not study...(Interruptions) He is implying that he is the only wise person in Parliament...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: The attitude of the Minister is not correct...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The Minister has been asking us to walk right from the beginning...*(Interruptions)* We consider it an insult to the Members of Parliament...*(Interruptions)* In protest of the Minister's attitude, we walk out.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, the hon. Minister said right in the beginning of his reply, that the Opposition was going to walk out...*(Interruptions)* That is what they are doing now.

22.06 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, Shri Rupchand Pal and some other hon. Members then left the House.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: It is the Minister who has forced us to walk out. He wanted us to walk out. I do not know what is the reason for this. It appears that he does not want to face a volley of questions from the Opposition. His intention seems to be that he can say what he wants to say if the Opposition walks out. I have got the highest regard for Shri Shourie but I am sorry to hear these words coming from him. I protest it.

22.07 hrs.

At this Stage, Shri T.M. Selvaganpathi then left the House.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, I said right in the beginning that they will walk out and that is exactly what has happened. Each time there is a debate, they do this. It is very easy to forecast. No astrologer is needed for it.

Sir, the situation is that out of 361 public sector undertakings, accounts of only 270 undertakings were made available to the CAG. For 34 companies, accounts are not available for three years or more. In 29 companies, profits have been overstated by Rs. 500 crore. Losses have been understated in 20 companies by almost Rs. 300 crore. These are the findings of the CAG on this whole matter. They find excess payments, avoidable payments, and unproductive expenditure.

There was a lot of talk of trying to restructure and revive. Let me give you the example of 77 public sector undertakings. I will give you the findings of CAG in regard to these public sector undertakings I will tell you which are these 77 public sector undertakings. In these units, Rs. 10,600 crore have been invested. What is the dividend paid? The dividend paid on Rs. 10,600 is 0.71 crores. That is the total dividend paid. The rate of return is 0.04 per cent in 1998-99, and 0.02 per cent in 1997-98. In

these, it was found that of 65 companies, only 15 companies have finalised their accounts. Fifty companies are in arrears for different periods. Accounts of these have not been finalised for one year to fifteen years.

Of the 12 corporations, only one corporation has finalised its accounts. Nine corporations have not finalised their accounts from one to ten years. In these cases, 40 PSUs' accounts were test-checked and it was found that 25 of them had understand their losses and eight had overstated their profits. About the accumulated losses, of the 46 PSUs whose paid up capital was Rs. 382 crore, the accumulated losses are Rs. 2,078 crore.

Sir, a lot of things were said about the revival of units. I had reported in this House last time that on 23 revival package, Rs. 40,000 crore sunk and not even a single one turned around. Sir, Rs. 40,000 crore sunk. That is what Shri Venkaiah Naidu's point was.

In the instance of 77 units, in 1973 an Industrial Reconstruction Department was created.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.) I would like to know from the hon. Minister that the said amount for revival of units was given during which period.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: It was given during the last ten years, all Governments have made efforts in this regard. An Industrial Reconstruction Department was constituted in 1971, they worked out package for 20 sick units only.

[English]

Eighteen units continued to be sick. Their paid-up capital was Rs. 65 crore, and their accumulated losses were to the tune of Rs. 703 crore. This is the fate of revival!

The Transport Corporation makes a loss of Rs. 10 per kilometre in the Metros. In the Northern Region, it makes a loss of Rs. 7.73 per kilometre. Do you know which these corporations are? Mr. Chairman, Sir, you will know that these are West Bengal Government's corporations as recounted by the Comptroller and Auditor General's Report on West Bengal.

So, Sir, I feel that the reality of the public sector units is so out of touch with what we keep saying in our speeches and these are reported again and again. It is a comment on what has happened to our Parliament that not even one of these Reports has any effect on anybody.

Such a learned Member like Shri Somnath Chatterjee was just discoursing on Hindustan Teleprinters Corporation. Now should I go by what he says or should I go by an expert body that was set up by the United Front Government? The Hindustan Teleprinters was one of the firms referred to the Disinvestment Commission by the United Front Government. What they say in the Report on ITI in this:

"The bleak financial future of that company has been brought out. HTL is even more vulnerable than the ITI owing to its substantial dependence on important components, low value addition and lack of exercise, R&D of products like switches transmission, equipment, etc. The company is unable to meet its expected obligations of debt owing to severe liquidity problems. In the next one or two years, the net worth of the company is likely to be substantially eroded and the company will most probably come under the purview of the BIFR."

[Translation]

Since then the hon. Member is saying that are doing soon. I am just telling you.

[English]

Sir, the situation is so serious that actually by every week's delay on this matter, we are ensuring the death of these companies.

I will just finish after covering two points, which have been made by hon. Members. I really plead with the hon. Members to look at the facts.

[Translation]

The hon. Member says that foreigners want to buy this, it is being given to the Bidders, I am telling you that no one is ready to take it over. A few minutes back, someone had said as to why did the British Airways withdrew or why did the Quantas airways withdrew.

[English]

I will tell you that one of the legendary figures in Aviation who has turned a company around was one of the bidders.

After they looked at Air India, this person met me. He said: 'Mr. Minister, we cannot find a reason why we should pay you for your head aches' and they withdrew.

The Ministry of Heavy Industries, referred 18 companies to us. Two of them were just returned because they did not come in the purview of the disinvestment at the moment. Of the remaining 16 cases, after one and a half years' work, we have had to return six companies because there was not a single bidder who wants to take them. In the case of Air India, we started with nine bidders, we are left with two — one was issued a show cause notice. In the case of CMC, we started with 14 bidders, we are left with five; in Hindustan Zinc, we started with nine bidders, we are left with six; in HTL, for whom Shri Somnath Chatterjee was saying that it is a shining example, there were six bidders and only two are left; in Indian Airlines, there were six, only one is left; in NEPA, there were four, only two are left; and in Modern Foods, we started with ten, and eventually there was only one.

So, I would plead with the hon. Members to please wake up to the reality of the situation as it is. I can deal with several points but there is really no time and it is not necessary also. I assure you that the Government is not pursuing targets. Sir, it was your personal concern and it was the concern of the others also. Actually, when the disinvestment money was used only for filling targets, it was in the initial period before we went for strategic sale because then Rs. 18,000 crore were used only for filling the fiscal deficit. That kind of disinvestment did not change the character of the companies. It did not change the management or the work culture of the companies and those companies continued to become sick and sicker and now they are at the point of termination.

So, I would certainly feel that Government continues to believe that this is one way to make companies vibrant and revive their health so that they can flourish in a competitive environment. Secondly, this is the only way to safeguard the jobs of the workers for whose welfare everybody's heart bleeds.

Sir, I would have continued to answer other points but it is already 10.15 p.m. So, I think it would be enough. Thank you very much.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 24th August, 2001 at 11.00 a.m.

22.17 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, August 24, 2001/Bhadra 2, 1923 (Saka).

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