

# **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

## **(English Version)**

**Twelfth Session**  
**(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)**



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## LOK SABHA DEBATES

### LOK SABHA

*Thursday, March 6, 2003/Phalgun 15, 1924 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock*

*[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]*

#### OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER RE : UTTAR PRADESH SITUATION

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice for adjournment motion ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : It is a total murder of Parliamentary Democracy. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have raised the issue of the murder of democracy. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : I have received notices of Adjournment Motion regarding the alleged irregularities in the utilisation of MPLADS funds and reported directive by the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh to contribute in the party fund from it, from Shri Ramji Lal Suman, Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, Shri Raghuraj Singh Shakya, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, and Shri Chandranath Singh. These are the notices that I have received.

I have also received a notice from Shri Rupchand Pal regarding disinvestment of HPCL and BPCL. One more notice has been received from Shri Jagmeet Singh Brar.

It is regarding threats of terrorist attack by the Lashkar-e-Toiba.

I have also received three notices from Shri Ramji Lal Suman, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and Shri Raghuraj Singh Shakya. These are regarding suspension of Question Hour on the same subject.

Now, you are all aware that this issue is being discussed for the last two or three days. Whatever they wanted to say, the Government also made a statement yesterday.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan) : No statement was made. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to me. Whatever they wanted to say, they have made a statement here. A letter was given to me. I have received the letter. On that letter, I have to say this.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The question is that the hon. Members wanted to present the letter to the House. Shri Chandra Shekhar also spoke on this. I want my opinion to go on the record. Shri Mulayam Singh also requested me to allow him to speak on this issue. I will allow him to speak on this issue.

Regarding the other notices, I want to say their.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let me complete. Regarding the other notices, I am allowing those Members to speak during the 'Zero Hour.' About the two notices of Shri Rupchand Pal and Shri Jagmeet Singh Brar, I would allow them to make their observations during the 'Zero Hour'.

On this notice of Adjournment Motion, I am allowing Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav to speak. But before he speaks, I want to give my opinion on this. Thereafter, he can speak.

Hon. Members may recall that during the Question Hour on 4th March, 2003, the issue of alleged remarks of the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh regarding the funds under the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme was sought to be raised. On a request being made to me by Kunwar Akhilesh Singh to direct the Government to make a statement in the House on the matter, I had observed:

"The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has heard the sentiments of the Members....the Parliamentary Affairs Minister may try to get the information on this issue. Whatever information you have, you can give it during the 'Zero Hour'."

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs stated during the 'Zero Hour' that day that she had discussed the matter with the hon. Deputy Prime Minister and that after obtaining the full facts, he will make a statement in the House the next day. Yesterday, the hon. Deputy Prime Minister informed the House that he had received a communication from the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh in the matter and sought a direction from me whether it would be proper to share the information contained therein with the House.

On a demand being made by Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi that the communication be laid on the Table of the House, the hon. Prime Minister and the former hon. Prime Minister, Shri Chandra Shekhar, expressed the view that it would not be proper to lay the said communication on the Table of the House. I have gone through the communication, a copy of which was made available to me by the hon. Deputy Prime Minister and I am convinced that its contents are sensitive in nature. I have examined the matter in the light of past precedents. According to Kaul and Shakhder, correspondence between Union and State Governments is normally not laid on the Table of the House. It is also well established that the Government is not bound to lay a document on the Table, if it considers it to be confidential. I have, therefore, decided to treat the matter of this nature as closed. Now Shri Mulayam Singh may speak.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I should be given an opportunity to speak after Shri Mulayam Singhji.

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had given a notice of breach of privilege on 27th February. You had said that you would allow me to speak only after receipt of reply from the State. I would like to now as to what happened to that?

MR. SPEAKER : I am yet to receive any reply. If I do not get any reply by Monday, I would allow you to speak. [English] I am waiting for the reply from the Government. If I do not get the reply on Monday and if Monday is not convenient to you, you can ask for Tuesday. I have no problem.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to express my views. Though, I am not a Member of the legislative Assembly, but some such issues have been raised, about which I need to clarify. The situation in Uttar Pradesh is grim today. The U.P. Government is functioning in a undemocratic manner. The serious situation created there is unprecedented in the history of India.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you might have read in the newspapers that the Leader of Opposition in U.P. legislative assembly was not allowed to speak till two O'clock. Even then I would like to congratulate the Speaker of legislative Assembly for playing an impartial role yesterday. ... (Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what happened in U.P. legislative assembly. [English] Can it be discussed there?... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : The rights of the Members under the Constitution have been thwarted. The Constitution has been thwarted. Read it. ... (Interruptions).

This is worst than a terrorist attack. The Constitution has been thwarted.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : These people have made mockery of dignity of Parliament. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Sir, I am only raising the point of order whether anything happening in the State Assembly can be discussed here?

[Translation]

What was done by the speaker there. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether they will not allow debate even in the UP Legislative Assembly also...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You are not speaker of this House. Please sit down.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I appreciate that the BJP MPs did not indulge in unconstitutional practices on the issue but you please direct Shri Malhotra for what he is saying.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what happened in U.P. legislative assembly – *[English]* do not discuss that issue here.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh is a very senior Member. He will see that the proceedings of the Assembly are not disturbed.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am coming to that. The responsibility of protecting constitution basically lies with the Parliament and not with Legislative Assembly. That is why I had to raise this issue. Mr. Speaker,

hon. Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister said that a debate on the issue is going on in the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly but I cannot speak there as I am not a Member of that House. I would like to tell you that nobody was allowed to speak there and opposition was not allowed to speak there till two O'clock. I am pleased that for the first time hon. Speaker has played his role properly. He said that he could not be a party to such unconstitutional acts. Opposition has asked for 10 hours discussion and he had agreed to it. Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly has never discussed a no confidence motion for less than eight hours. Even in Lok Sabha it has never happened.

That was the only issue. Chief Minister there wanted to avoid debate at all cost. Hon. Speaker replied that he would not occupy chair in that case. It is a very serious issue. Debate on no confidence motion was not allowed and when the Chief Minister insisted on not having any debate, hon. Speaker did not occupy Chair in protest. Instead another person took the Chair, who is called Chairman here. I cannot say whether the news is true or false but it was reported that he tendered his resignation and called for his private car from his residence.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Whether it was Shri Tripathi?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Yes, Sir, Shri Tripathi said that he would resign, but can't be a party to unconstitutional acts nor would he take the Chair. If the Opposition wants a debate and it is such a large assembly, then there should be a debate – if not for 10 hours, for eight or even six hours. How can he prevent debate? The Leader of the Opposition was not allowed to speak till 2 O'clock. This is a serious situation and also unconstitutional. I would like to ask hon. Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister or Shri Malhotra as to where should I raise this issue? We are not being allowed to speak in Legislative Assembly and Shri Malhotra is trying to prohibit it in Lok Sabha. Why is he being a party to such unconstitutional and sinful act? I am pleased that MLAs were not a party

to this act. Only BSP Members were trying to prevent Leader of the Opposition from speaking. No Member of the coalition party prevented him as they were dissatisfied with the Chief Minister. All of them wanted a debate to take place. But Chief Minister was scared and she was rightly scared. I won't take names but Members of various parties were likely to vote against her in support of No-confidence Motion and probably Government would have fell in Legislative Assembly. She knew that.

Thirdly, whether Chief Minister would prove her innocence by levelling allegation against me. The cassette is before everybody. All must have seen that. Our demand is that the Chief Minister be removed and the cassette should be examined by the CBI. My second demand relates to the allegations leveled against me regarding discretionary fund. Inquiry against myself was conducted by the CAG on the directions of Supreme Court. CAG report proved my innocence and I am pleased to say that the case was rejected by the High Court. Thereafter, Shri Kalyan Singh and the same Chief Minister, conducted inquiry against me. That inquiry also proved my innocence. Fourthly that issue was clearly by the Legislative Assembly.

I would like to say that I cannot speak in U.P. Legislative Assembly. With regard to the allegations levelled against me regarding discretionary fund, the country should know as to what was the opinion of the High Court, the CAG and the result of the inquiry ordered by the two Chief Ministers. That matter has already been cleared by the Legislative Assembly. The letter that was written after inquiry was written only with the purpose of maligning my image. Now I would like to know as to what is the objection in holding a CBI inquiry? The question is why hon. Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister are defending a minority Government? We want to speak, but they are preventing us. I would like to assert that this is totally an unconstitutional act.

There is minority Government in Uttar Pradesh. This Government should be suspended and a CBI enquiry should be conducted against the Chief Minister. Whether

CBI investigation would be conducted against Lalooji only and he would only be put behind the bars? Whether Shri George Fernandes would only be asked to resign immediately. We did not ask for that but the hon. Prime Minister accepted it. They, removed the President of Bharatiya Janata Party, Shri Bangaru Lakshman on the same issue. I was Minister of Defence in the National Front Government but we advised Lalooji to resign. That is why we want that first of all, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh should tender her resignation, and if she does not do that then they should take action to suspend the cabinet there, the entire ruling party and the opposition would support them. This matter should be investigated by the CBI and enquiry should be conducted against those people who have been found indulging in corruption and bungling of M.Ps. fund as also the Government exchequer, how can it go on like this? No developmental work is going on in Uttar Pradesh. Everything has come to a standstill. Rupees 70 crore were released for development of Uttar Pradesh which was spent on disbursing salaries, while the remaining was spent on the luxuries of Ministers. Some amount was spent on development of parks. Not even a single rupee was spent on developmental work. There is a burden of Rupees 92 thousand crore as loan on the Uttar Pradesh Government exchequer. Backwardness of Uttar Pradesh means backwardness of entire country. No development work is taking place there. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. I would expunge all that is objectionable from the proceedings. Please sit down.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have full faith on the hon. Prime Minister. ...*(Interruptions)\**

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir whether such type of allegations can be levelled against the hon. Prime Minister in the House? ...*(Interruptions)*

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\*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Prime Minister should take this matter seriously and get it investigated by the CBI and suspend such a Chief Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Comments made by Shri Mulayam Singh against the hon. Prime Minister would be expunged from the record.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I am saying that Malhotraji would also face defeat. Let the next elections come, they would come to know everything in another year or two. They would be badly defeated if congress works intelligently. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mulayam Singhji, please sit down. I have to start the Question Hour.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish that the hon. Prime Minister may act properly and he may not shield such a dishonest and corrupt Chief Minister and may dismiss her Government immediately. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether the Central Government should suspend a Chief Minister or conduct CBI enquiry against her only because Mulayam Singhji considers her corrupt? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, sufficient evidences are there against the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have to listen to the people of other parties too.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the incident that occurred in the Legislative Assembly of Uttar Pradesh yesterday is first incident after India achieved independence. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI (Amreli) : Mr. Speaker, Sir,

he has not been declared innocent so far in the case against him in the Supreme Court. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. I have not given you permission.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, all problem are by the treasury benches. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Censure Motion has been passed in the Chhatisgarh Legislative Assembly under the leadership of Chief Minister there and he is talking of Limited share. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Prahlad Singh Patelji, I have not allowed you to speak. Things regarding Chhatisgarh are not here presently with me. Please take your seat.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, such shameful incidents have never been witnessed in the history of independent India as in Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly. They have made mockery of the Constitution. A discussion was to be held on the motion of thanks on Governor's address. It is a rule in the U.P. legislative assembly that voting should take place four days after discussion on the motion of thanks on Governor's address then Motion of Thanks should be passed. But yesterday, the way presiding officer was asked to preside and Motion of Thanks was passed, is really very shameful.

Sir, U.P. Legislative Assembly had given consent to hold discussion on 'No Confidence Motion' and the discussion was to be held yesterday. In the evening at 5.00 O'clock, all leaders of opposition met the speaker and requested him that atleast eight hours should be fixed for discussion on the said subject. The Speaker assured them that time would definitely be given to them for holding discussion on 'No-confidence Motion' but he did not say anything with certainty whether it would be eight hours or six hours, but this much he said that first discussion would be held, then voting would be done on the 'No Confidence Motion'.

Sir, it is really shameful the way 'No Confidence Motion' was got defeated by voice vote in the evening and Motion of Thanks was passed on the Governor's address and entire budget as also vote on account was passed. What message is being sent to the people of Uttar Pradesh and the entire country, whether democracy in our country would run like this?

I partially agree with the statement of hon. Mulayam Singhji in which he has said that if U.P. Speaker did not agree to it and left the House, then did he tender his resignation. It is different when threat is given. It is correct that he did not let all this happen under his leadership and left but had the U.P. Assembly Speaker tendered his resignation, this brutal Government would immediately have to go and thus democracy could have been saved in this country.

Sir, I fully agree to the comments made by hon. Mulayam Singhji in connection with the MLAs of Bharatiya Janata Party. It is right that the BJP MLAs did not create any pandemonium there although they were disagreeing to it, but had they said that this is unconstitutional and collectively would have said to the speaker that they do not agree to it, then perhaps such a situation would not have arisen.

We could have saved democracy and such a cruel Government would have been dismissed. Sir, it is a very serious matter. It has not only affected the reputation of the ruling party but a wrong message has gone to the whole country. People are talking that perhaps the dignity of the constitution would not be saved in the years to come. Therefore, I demand to dismiss this Government. The dignity of country's constitution cannot be saved until the present Government is dismissed. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jaiswal, let me make it clear that the No-Confidence Motion of the Assembly cannot be discussed in this House.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to me. Your adjournment motion is not related to whatsoever happened in the Assembly.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Yes Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Your Adjournment Motion is not on this issue.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Sir, hon'ble Prime Minister had assured me that discussion will take place there. ...*(Interruptions)* That is why we remained silent on the issue.

MR. SPEAKER : It does not mean that whichever happened in Assembly.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have permitted you to speak on your Adjournment Motion, please speak on that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Sir, we neither get the opportunity to speak in Assembly nor in Lok Sabha. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I am allowing you to speak on your Adjournment Motion.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Sir, please understand the seriousness of the issue ...*(Interruptions)* The entire country is being affected by it. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, the whole system will collapse. A right message will not go to the country until the present Government of Uttar Pradesh is dismissed. Dignity of the Constitution would not be saved. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri P.H. Pandian.

*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sumanji, please sit down. I am allowing you to speak on this issue for the last three days.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sumanji, will you please let the House to function. I allowed leader of your party to speak and he has expressed his views on this issue. The issue has been placed before all the members. Shri Shivraj V. Patil also wants to speak on this issue. What is important – the issue you want to raise or your speaking in the House. Please sit down.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (Tirunelveli) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Jayalalitha was dismayed, distressed and expressed her anguish on 3rd March 2003 when 23 boats with 76 fishermen from Rameshwaram base were attacked on the high seas. The Sri Lankan fishermen attacked the Tamil Nadu fishermen on the high seas and later they were detained by the Sri Lankan Police. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : One minute Shri Pandian. I am going to permit you. Shri Shivraj V. Patil and Shri Somnath Chatterjee would like to speak on the issue raised by Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav. I will permit them to speak and thereafter you can speak.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY (Ramanathapuram) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I hail from that constituency, Rameshwaram Base. So I should speak. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Therefore, I am going to permit you to speak on that. Please sit down.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me the floor. I am very well aware of the fact that what happens in the State Legislature need not be discussed on the floor of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, I will bear that in mind and I will make my submission.

Sir, the Governor's Address was presented to the House. It should have been discussed and the Motion thanking the Governor should have been passed. If the Motion is not passed, then the Government has to resign. The Budget was represented. Then, the cut motions can be given. If one rupee cut motion is passed, the Government has to resign. Then, there was No-confidence Motion moved by one of the Opposition parties there and that No-confidence Motion should have been discussed. It should have not only been discussed but also it should have been put to the vote. Then, by division, it could have been found out as to whether the No-confidence Motion was supported by sufficient number of Members in the House or opposed by sufficient number of members in the House. All these issues are the issues which go to the root of the Constitution. If the constitutional provisions are not observed on the floor of the House, is it not the breakdown of the Constitution? ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Absolutely.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : If it is a breakdown of the Constitution, are we, sitting in Parliament, not entitled to ask the Government to impose the President's Rule there?

On technical ground, what is happening there should not be discussed here. If we are not discussion the breakdown of the Constitution in UP also and that too in the State Legislature, we will not be able to protect our Constitution, we will not be having a rule of law there, and we will be having a rule whereby arbitrary decisions are taken by those who are in power over there.

Now, this is the moot point. This is the most important point and if the Parliament, which is at the apex, is not taking note of these facts, it would be very difficult to maintain law and order in any of these States. If the Executive commits a mistake, or if a legislature commits



a mistake and if they go against the Constitutional provisions that issue should be discussed on the floor of the House and this Government should be asked to take appropriate action to see that the Constitution is protected. This is the only submission that I want to make.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Shivraj Patil, will you please advise me on a device that is to be used for this?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, the Motion would be that there is a Constitutional breakdown in Uttar Pradesh and that Motion shall be discussed on the floor of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : Let somebody move a Motion. Let the Business Advisory Committee fix up a date. Then I can understand. But, by bringing in an Adjournment Motion and taking the time of the Question Hour may not be proper.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : That is right, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : You can bring in a Motion and let the Business Advisory Committee accept it.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : May I have the attention of the hon. Ministers? Sir, I have myself been raising every time about the danger of crossing the line. But Sir, here I am only referring to what happened in this House. Sir, you have, in your kind wisdom requested the Government or suggested to the Government that if they have anything to say, they should come and tell in response to what has happened yesterday or day before yesterday regarding the utilisation of funds.

Now, the hon. Deputy Prime Minister came, in the presence of the hon. Prime Minister, and he stated that the letter that he has received from the Uttar Pradesh Government contains certain things which should not be read out. Therefore, he did not read out that. But, what is the Government's response to the situation that has developed there or is developing there? There has been no statement from the Government. What does the Central Government propose to do in this matter? The money

allocated by the Parliament of India is not being – allegedly – utilised properly, allegations and counter allegations have been made.

A very respected hon. Member of the Parliament of this very House, Leader of our esteemed friend Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, against him allegations are being made. Shall we sit here completely quiet because it pertains to some State? I am not going into the State's activity, but the Parliament has already got itself involved. Therefore, it is the duty of the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Deputy Prime Minister to come and tell us, pursuant to your earlier directions as to what is the Government's response to the situation that has developed there. Therefore, I am not asking to pass our judgement on what has happened there. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav has said that. What he has said, even if that is correct – and I take it to be correct when it is coming from him – that the hon. Speaker there even refused to preside over the House, that is a matter to be discussed there. But, I demand that a statement should come from the Government with regard to the whole issue including the issue of Constitutional breakdown, issue of breakdown of Constitutional machinery, which Shri Shivraj V. Patil has raised. Therefore, it is vital that the Government should take the House into confidence.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : I also rise to speak:

MR. SPEAKER : you rise on each and every issue.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you said that a structured debate can take place if a motion is moved on this issue. It is appropriate to have a structured debate on such issues. Discussion also took place on the tape issue. Every member has a right to put forth his views in this regard. Members are mentioning about constitutional breakdown but there must be some way to check it. We have sent three MPs from our party to West Bengal to

assess the situation as incidents of rape have taken place there. They submitted the report that constitutional break-down is there, therefore, the State Government should be dismissed.

[English]

Can we dismiss the Government?

[Translation]

The State Government imposed Section 144 against those three members.

[English]

I am only answering on the procedure about which you are asking.

[Translation]

The State Government filed the case against those three MPs...(interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Did you move the No-Confidence Motion against the Government of West Bengal at that time...(interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : There is total constitutional break-down in Bihar. The issue may be of Bihar or any other State, I would like to ask the opposition that as to whether they are prepared to say that the case may be handed over to CBI directly for holding an inquiry if there are corruption charges against any Chief Minister, even if it is Shri Veerbhadra Singh or any other Chief Minister.

[English]

Are they prepared for it?

[Translation]

They want the action which suits them, ....(interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : The same thing they you have done in Bihar. ...(interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : It is a very serious issue. There are sufficient evidences in this regard. Despite that Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra is talking like this. We are demanding CBI inquiry in this regard. All facts are placed before you....(interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sumanji, please listen, I am on my legs.

(interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sumanji, I would like to tell both you and Shri Akhileshji that Shri Malhotra has also the right to speak as you. What is wrong in the point he is raising that law should be equal for all?

[English]

The point that he is raising is correct. Let there be a rule for all the Chief Ministers.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : I am only asking the major opposition party. ...(interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : That is the rule of law.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now, Shri Shivraj V. Patil has stated that if constitutional break-down is there in a state, will the House remain silent on it. I am asking you whether the matter should be forwarded to CBI when court's proceedings are going on against the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, whether we are empowered to do this and whether we should do it?

If there or at some other such thing happens then the Government should do what they find suitable. You decide in consultation with all leaders as to what should be discussed and what should not be discussed in the House.

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha) : I would also like to speak on this subject.

MR. SPEAKER : I have told you that I will give you the permission. If you all desire then the discussion over this subject will continue, however I don't want to give permission to those who have not given the notice. They can speak during Zero Hour.

*(interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : Sir, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had expressed her anguish on 3rd March, 2003.

*(interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pandian, I am permitting him to speak. *(Translation)* I will start Question Hour only after disposal of this matter.*[English]* Those who have not given the notice can speak in the Zero Hour.

*[Translation]*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Question of Uttar Pradesh is being raised for the last three days. The Chief Minister of U.P. has given a statement, which is also reserved in tape, that all hon'ble Members should contribute this much. By saying this she has lowered the dignity of the House. It should be considered here. In this regard the hon'ble Home Minister has said that he will give statement and yesterday itself he came with a letter like a post-office and read that same statement. He acted like a postmen *...(interruptions)* The Government should give its decision in this regard *...(interruptions)* He assured in the House that it will be discussed in the Legislative Assembly, therefore there is no need for discussion here. But it could not be discussed in the Legislative Assembly also and it resulted in constitutional breakdown. Are we not floating with the constitutional provisions by not raising this issue in the House or in the Lok Sabha. If it is not discussed in the House then where this issue can be discussed. It's a matter of contempt of the House, corruption and constitutional breakdown. Either the Government should give decision or a full-fledged discussion should be held in the House.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have given notice for adjournment motion. *...(interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : First you please sit down. I have given permission to Shri Rashid Alvi, you listen to him.

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I don't want to speak much over this issue. Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra has said a very right thing that some provisions should be made to check unconstitutional work. But just now Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav has praised the Speaker of Assembly for yesterday's incident.*...(interruptions)* The Speaker, with regard to U.P. Assembly, has given a statement that I have ordered to replace the existing loud-speakers and microphones with small ones and to remove the glass tables so that no one is able to create pandamonium in the Assembly. All these arrangements have been made so as to avoid pandamonium in the Assembly. It is the statement of Speaker only. We should have asked the speaker as to from which MLAs, he was apprehensive that they would create pandamonium *...(interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : This may be asked. *...(interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI : As per my information, the Chief Minister of U.P. has said that she was willing to have discussion and also the voting but such an atmosphere has been created as if no one is interested in running the assembly *...(interruptions)* I would say only one thing that from his attitude, the way he behaves in the Lok Sabha; from that we can imagine how he might be behaving in the Assembly *...(interruptions)* I don't want to say anything more than this.*...(interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Let me tell him.

*(interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER : I would like to tell Shri Mulayam

Singhji that his party has expressed his viewpoints. When he was not here two of his party members were speaking for full 3 days and today also they will discuss same subject. I want that some rules and regulations should be made. Both of them want to speak. Both of them have given notice. I am ready to give permission to them in Zero Hour. But let the Question Hour be over.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Alright.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : Thank you, Speaker, Sir. It is the third time I have been called. Sir, both the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and I was dismayed and distressed to learn that on 3rd March, 2003 that 23 boats with 76 fishermen from Rameswaram base were attacked by the Sri Lankan police. The Sri Lankan fishermen attacked Tamil Nadu fisherman on the high sea, and later they were detained by the Sri Lankan Police.

Sir, about 58 fishermen are in the Mannar Police Station, and remaining 18 fishermen who sustained injuries in the attack by the Sri Lankan fishermen have been admitted in hospitals in Sri Lanka. We all know that the Sri Lanka Government had lifted the ban on fishing by the Sri Lankan fishermen in the Northern Sri Lanka Water.

Sir, the Sri Lankan fishermen have been taking the law to their own hand and attacking the Tamil Nadu fishermen. Fishing is the livelihood of the Tamil Nadu fishermen.

Sir, on receipt of this disturbing reports, on behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu, particularly, Dr. Jaya Lalitha took up the matter with the Government of India and also with the Indian High Commission at Colombo to take up the matter with the Sri Lankan Government. Sir, she has written a letter also to the Prime Minister yesterday to intervene in the matter, and to see that all the fishermen, arrested, detained by the Sri Lankan police are released immediately.

It is high time that the Sri Lankan Government should heed to the request of the Tamil Nadu Government. In this regard, the Sri Lankan High Commissioner has not responded to till date.

So, she has requested the Ministry of External affairs, Government of India, to take up the issue with the Sri Lankan Government.

Sir, on behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu, especially fishermen, and through the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, I appeal to the Government – through she has written a letter yesterday to the Government of India to ask the Sri Lanka Government to release them immediately, to create a conducive atmosphere – to release these fishermen immediately.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Vijayan, I have received Zero Hour notices on this. I along with other Members permit you during 'Zero Hour'

(interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You can associate with him.

(interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Only one sentence, only one sentence.

SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN (Nagapattinam) : Sir, more than 42 fishermen from Rameshwaram in Tamil Nadu were kidnapped. A large number of fishermen from Nagapattinam district are also arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy. More than 100 fishermen have been arrested and detained by the Sri Lankan Navy. The detention of fishermen and seizure of vessels had created tension in the coastal area.

We, the DMK Members are having a strong feeling in that regard. Therefore, I request the Government of India to take appropriate action for permanent solution in this issue.

MR. SPEAKER : Your name will also be associated.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai) : Fisher from Nagapattinam district have also been arrested in very large numbers by the Sri Lankan Authorities.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Aiyar's name will also be associated with it.

*(interruptions)*

SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN : Sir, I request the Government to take necessary action to find a permanent solution to this issue. ...*(interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : Sir, give him a chance. ...*(interruptions)*

He claims to be the fittest person. I say, all hon. Members are the fittest persons. So, please do not speak like that. We are all equals. ...*(interruptions)*

SHRI K. MALAISAMY : Sir, I will just take one minute and finish off. ...*(interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Your name would also be associated with this. We have to take up the Question Hour. I am going to permit you in the 'Zero Hour'. You will be the first person to speak.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the samples of 'Railneer' have been cleared by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS);

(d) whether the Railways have seen the reports published in the newspapers about the detection of extremely harmful pesticides in the BIS certified popular brands of bottled water being sold in Delhi and elsewhere;

(e) the steps being taken by the Railways with regard to food items which are being prepared in their base kitchens to maintain quality and hygienic conditions;

(f) whether the Railways propose to take any action against Zonal Catering Managers who are not preventing purchase and sale of bottled water in trains and at platforms; and

(g) the measures taken by the Railways to ensure supply of clean and safe drinking water to its passengers?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) :

(a) to (g) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### Statement

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Not so far. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has carried out inspections and have collected water samples for testing at their end.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Indian Railways have taken steps to ensure good quality of food supplied by them on trains from base kitchens and at railway stations. Some of these include use of quality raw material and branded products, setting standards of hygiene and cleanliness, training of staff,

11.41 hrs.

#### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*[English]*

#### Packaging and Marketing of Railneer

\*221. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI :

SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have started packaging and marketing of 'Railneer';

frequent surprise checks and inspections etc. Moreover, with a view to upgrade and professionalise catering services on trains as well as at railway stations, Ministry of Railways have set up the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation.

(f) Only BIS approved packaged drinking water are supplied in the trains and at platforms on the railways.

(g) As per extant policy packaged drinking water which conforms to specifications from Bureau of Indian Standards' is supplied to passengers. Inspections are undertaken and quality control is made by sample checks. In instances of sample analysis found not conforming to specifications, action is taken.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Sir, the people of this country have got the right to have high quality water which is safe and hygienic in all respects. There are reports that 3.5 million people die annually of water-related diseases.

As far as India is concerned, the rail users are using almost 20 per cent of the total production of bottled mineral water. Almost about 30,000 used bottles of mineral water are dumped in the New Delhi railway station alone. Therefore, the Ministry has got to do something about this. A project called 'railneer' was started.  
...(interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have to put a straight question.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Yes, I am coming to the question.

Now, the statement says that the packaging and marketing has not started on this project worth about Rs.1,000 crore. Why is it delayed? Why do you continue to allow private parties who are supposed to be supplying bad quality water?

There are reports in the Press that the Centre for Science and Environment has come out with a startling

revelation that all these bottles of water contain pesticide residues which are very harmful. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister when they are going to start this project.

What are all the brands you have approved in the Ministry of Railways that are meant for the rail users? I would like to know whether these brands include those brands produced by units which have recently been banned. I think, the Directorate-General of the Bureau of Indian Standards has banned eight units but some of them find a place in the water supplied by the Railways. What are the steps that the Ministry is going to take in this regard?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, first I would like to thank hon'ble Member for showing interest in 'Railneer'. While presenting the budget for 2002-2003, I had mentioned that for providing quality drinking water to rail users, the Railways have decided to set up 'Railneer' plant through its PSU – the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Development Corporation which will supply 'Railneer' in railway and this 'Railneer' would be the exclusive brand of railways. This I had said in my Railway budget speech 2002-2003 and in its compliance we are proceeding further. On of our plant, which has been set up near Delhi, is ready and its water sample has been supplied to Bureau of Indian Standards for testing. Bureau of Indian Standards has carried out its inspection also and have collected water sample for testing but so if they have not given any response about that. We are making continuous efforts from our side. We are fully ready for its marketing as soon as we receive the clearance. Infact we wanted to launch this in the month of February. Meanwhile, some facts have been revealed by the Centre for Science and Environment that all drinking water bottles in the country contain high level of pesticides. Grave concern is expressed in the country over this. It seems that Bureau of Indian Standards would be considering over many issues. But as far as the Question of 'Railneer' is

concerned, we got our water sample tested in many reputed laboratories. We are making effort from our side so as to ensure that our water conform to specifications similar to that of European standard norms and for this purpose we have contacted one foreign agency and sought their advice as to how we can reduce pesticide content. On the basis of their advice, we are making further improvement in it. Before BIS say something to us, we intent to provide best quality water to rail users through 'Railneer'. We will not make any delay in this regard from our side. As soon as we will get certificate from BIS, we will provide it immediately. We wanted that there should be 'Railneer' on every table in the Central Hall on the first day of Parliament session i.e. on 17th February.

MR. SPEAKER . Why BIS is delaying it?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : BIS have collected our water sample but has not sent its report. We are having continuous contact with them.

[English]

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : I congratulate the hon. Minister that he is taking all possible steps to release the Railneer as soon as possible. There are reports that water used for this bottling is contaminated. It is because of the groundwater source and because of the pesticides widely used in the field that this particular water is contaminated. This is the report, which we have received. Now there is a contradictory report from the BIS as well.

Earlier, a Seminar was held in which 12 Toxicologists and many scientists had said that almost all the norms and standards which are fixed by the BIS are genuine and sufficient. But why did they revise it again? If that is so, is your project in consonance with the upgraded standards? What is the attitude of the Government? To suit the European Union specifications and to suit the international standards, you need a method called 'Capillary method'. I would like to know whether this project has the Capillary method to suit the present specification?

It is because your groundwater is totally contaminated which would definitely contain pesticides and would be harmful.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have told that we have got our water samples tested by SGS lab which is an internationally recognised lab and which has a certificate of International Accreditation Board of Laboratories and it is an internationally acclaimed institution. European norms about which all are aware that.....

[English]

The European norm for total pesticides residues is 0.5 microgram per liter while the value for individual pesticide residue is 0.1 microgram per liter.

[Translation]

It is European norm, we have got our water sample tested on this basis. Our water is of first class quality and there is no problem whatsoever at one point of time it seemed that it has 1.5 microgram pesticides residue and that is called chlorofidipas. It requires an activated carbon column and our plant has these activated carbon column. On the basis of it we also contacted foreign experts having international acclaims regarding the removal of pesticide residues. It is known by the name Messers Nerito Holland. They asked us to raise the no. of Carbon Columns and we are following it. Hence whenever Railneer launches in the market, it would be able to compete with the best quality water of the world. It is not so that if the water that we are taking water from the source of ground water had been contaminated, the result of water test conducted by the internationally recognised laboratories would not have been so good. It has been done by us on our own and we would depend on the results of the BIS and we are awaiting its decision. As soon we receive it, we will comply with it. On our own we have been following European norms.

[English]

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Sir, there are certain brands which were banned by BIS. The hon. Minister has not answered the question. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister of Railways has said that plant of 'Railneer' has been proposed to be set up and I welcome it. As you must be aware that the licences of several bottling companies had been cancelled because the water being sold by them was of substandard quality. I would like to tell you that even today the same bottles are sold on the railway platforms and trains. I would like to know whether or not the supply of such bottles would be stopped as the Railways has already purchased such bottles.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Railways looks after two kind of work – one is a tendering process for departmental catering units which is approved by BIS. As far I remember we purchased 14543 ISI marked bottles and we have been purchasing water by floating tenders. Besides, the vendors and others are permitted to sell any brand approved by BIS. It is the practice that is being followed till date.

SHRI BHASKAR RAO PATIL : BIS had not cancelled the licences of these bottling companies at the time of floating the tenders. This question has only arose after floating the tenders.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Minister has replied the question.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am at my first sentence till now. The railway follow the procedure of departmental units through tenders and we procure the units of the company making lowest bid and having BIS clearance. All others have the permission to sell the BIS marked commodities. We do not permit to sell the commodities which are not approved by BIS. Despite, we ensure the quality check up from our side. We have made

all these arrangements. Even then it was found that the quality of bottled water is not up to the mark. Hence, we decided that we should set up our own plants to supply good quality water. All the problems should be solved once the sale of Railneer is started.

SHRI BHASKAR RAO PATIL : All right it would be seen at that time but what about the existing arrangements. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : It cannot be sold in the Railways until it is certified by BIS....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think you have replied.

[Translation]

#### Adulteration in Petrol and Diesel

\*224. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of petrol pump owners found guilty for adulteration of diesel and petrol alongwith the action taken against them;

(b) whether the Government are satisfied with the testing-method for detection of adulteration;

(c) whether the main reason attributed to such adulteration has been the low profits of petrol and diesel pumps as compared to their costs;

(d) whether the Government have conducted any study in this regard; and

(e) if so, the percentage of profit in comparison to the cost as per the prescribed rules?

[English]

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



### Statement

(a) The percentage of petrol pump owners found guilty of adulteration of diesel and petrol is as follows:-

Year	Total No. of Retail Outlets	Total No. of Cases of adulteration detected	Percentage (%)
2000-2001	18366	257	1.4
2001-2002	18687	294	1.6
April to December, 2002	19148	257	1.3

Action has been taken by the oil companies in terms of Marketing Disciplines Guidelines and/or Dealership Agreements. In addition to this, the State Governments can also take action under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, and the provisions of various Control Orders, issued thereunder.

(b) Yes, Sir. However, adulteration in small quantities cannot be detected easily by usual laboratory tests which are outside its sensitivities.

(c) to (e) With the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in the petroleum sector effective 01.04.2002, the Government is no longer fixing the dealer's commission on petrol and diesel, which is now being fixed by the oil companies. The oil companies have last revised the dealer's commission with effect from 01.11.2002. As per this revision, the dealer's commission on petrol was increased from Rs. 613/KL to Rs. 639/KL and on diesel from Rs. 365/KL to Rs. 385/KL.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am satisfied to a certain extent with the reply of the hon. Minister. It has been stated in the reply of part (b) of my question that "the adulteration in small quantities cannot

be detected easily by usual laboratory tests which are outside its sensitivities". In this connection I would like to submit that as you have stated that adulteration cannot be detected by usual laboratories and now Petroleum companies would decide it. As such, I would like to know as to whether it would not encourage the practice of adulteration. Secondly, there would be no other alternative of the adulterated petrol or diesel in the country. I would like to know the steps to be taken by the Government to check the adulteration?

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are making best possible effort to check adulterations. Hence I would like to apprise the House that a total of 886 cases of adulterations were detected in the country during the year 1999-2000.

Having taken action in this direction, we have detected 2192 cases of adulteration in the year 2001-2002. Only one person was terminated in the year 1999-2000 while we have terminated 30 persons during 2001-2002. In this way, we are taking stringent action in this regard. 297 persons were served explanation show cause notices three years ago and today this number stands at 1484. We have been looking into as far as we come to know about it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, secondly hon. Member has talked about sensitivity. We had 23 mobile labs for this purpose and now this number has been increased to 50. We are trying to curb the cancer of adulteration in petroleum sector and I would like the co-operation of the House in this regard.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the laboratories are not equipped with sensitive devices adulteration cannot be detected and those indulged in, it cannot be brought to the book. Second thing I had mentioned was that the per litre profit margin on petrol and diesel is minimum and they have no way other than black-marketing and adulteration. The sensitivity of the laboratories should be increased to detect any theft. There is no use of registering cases be they are 20 thousand

or 25 thousand unless the number of laboratories is increased. Through you I would like to urge upon the hon. Minister that merely placing the responsibility of fixing the dividends on the companies instead of Government would not solve the problem. The problem would only be solved if the laboratories are made sensitive. I would like to know as to whether the Government will itself monitor the situation or will it have this matter on the oil companies. It is not so necessary to increase the number of the laboratories rather than their sensitivity. I would like to know as to what steps are proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the sensitivity of the laboratories.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government are trying to do the same. As far commission is concerned, companies are increasing it adequately. In 1999 commission in petrol was Rs. 413 per thousand kiloliter. It has been increased to Rs. 639 per kiloliter. Hence an increase of 23 paise has been made. Similarly the commission on diesel has also been increased by 14-15 paise per litre. I would like to tell the hon. Member that not only this commission but selfishness and greed of the owners is also responsible for that theft. Merely punishment to them is not going to serve the purpose. We are improving the area in the vicinity of petrol pumps. However, we are also trying to provide the facilities like additional services, maintenance, repair and foodstuff etc. to the consumers at the petrol pumps. It can be beneficial to them.

[English]

#### Allocation of Natural Gas to Power Plants

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\*225. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT :  
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

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

(a) the details of gas based power plants for

which natural gas quota was enhanced during last three years;

(b) the criteria adopted to increase quota of natural gas to various gas based power plants;

(c) whether the Government of Delhi has urged the Union Government to allocate more natural gas to meet its additional demand for power plants; and

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

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

#### Statement

(a) The details of the power plants which have been allocated additional quantity of gas during the last three years i.e. 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03 are given in the annexure.

(b) The increase in quota of natural gas to various gas based power plants was made by the Government, based on requirement of the power plants, availability of gas, economic use of natural gas, recommendations of the respective State Governments and the Ministry of Power.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Natural gas is supplied in Delhi from Hazira-Bijaipur-Jagdishpur (HBJ) Pipeline System. Presently, at Hazira and through HBJ pipeline system, as against allocation of 48.7 Million Standard Cubic Meters Per Day (MMSCMD) the actual supplies are about 39 MMSCMD. Therefore, additional gas is not available for allocation to power plants in Delhi. However, Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) would be available for supply from the first quarter of 2004 from Dahej LNG Terminal of Petronet LNG Limited. LNG would be supplied at market determined prices by GAIL (India) Limited to the consumers including power plants in Delhi.

*Details of the Power Plants which have been  
Allocated Additional Quantity of Gas during  
the last three years i.e. 2000-01,  
2001-02 and 2002-03*

(In MMSCMD)

Sl. No.	Name of Consumer	Previous Allocation	Additional Allocation
1.	Konaseema Power, Andhra Pradesh	0.900	1.100
2.	Lanco Kondapalli, Andhra Pradesh	1.120	0.630
3.	Pondicherry Power Corporation Limited (PPCL), Pondicherry	0.200	0.300
4.	Arkey Energy, Tamil Nadu	0.125	0.125
5.	PPN Power, Tamil Nadu	0.750	0.710
6.	Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB) Kuttalam, Tamil Nadu	0.320	0.130
7.	Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB), Narimanam, Tamil Nadu	0.030	0.033
8.	North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited (NEEPCO), Tripura	0.750	2.000

[Translation]

DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, time is less. Therefore, I only want to say that Delhi Government is demanding more natural gas but this matter relates to power and is not under direct control of the hon'ble Minister, even then he has supplied 39 MMSCMD in place of 48.7. I would like to know that in case of places such as Madhya Pradesh where there is scarcity of power.

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask the question. [English]  
Question hour may get over.

[Translation]

DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question is whether Union Government would provide natural gas to states such as Delhi, Chattisgarh which want to establish power plants?

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we will provide natural gas only if it is available. LNG which is going to be introduced from December, 2003, will be available in abundant quantity through HBJ pipeline from January, 2004. Please inform this to your Government so that they may book their order.

12.00 hrs.

DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT : Sir, I only want to know the number of such plants in the country which are generating power on the basis of natural gas. Whether any study has been undertaken to test their profitability? If so, the details thereof and if not, by what time it would be done?

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, the cost of power generated through gas is cheapest as on date. I do not have the figures to show their exact profitability. If the hon'ble Member so desire, I will provide him the figures.

[English]

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Sir, the questions have already been asked. I would like to ask the hon. Minister that in case of the American war that they are thinking of waging on Iraq, whether we have made sufficient alternative arrangements for taking care of generation of power during this phase.

SHRI RAM NAIK : I have already replied to that, but I may reiterate that we are fully conscious of the difficulties and we will ensure that there is no break-down in any of the supplies in case the war comes. However, let us hope that the war does not come.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

### More Powers to Press Council of India

\*222. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH :

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

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

(a) whether the Union Government have accused media of negative and vulgar portrayal of women and decided to provide more teeth to Press Council to take action against errant newspapers;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that most of the newspapers are brazenly splashing obscene photographs of nude women flouting all norms of decency;

(c) if so, whether the Press Council of India has sent proposal to expand and enhance its powers;

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

(e) the steps taken/likely to be taken by the Government to see that the Press Council functions more effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) The Government is committed to uphold the freedom of the press. The Press Council of India, a statutory autonomous body has been set up with the purpose of preserving the freedom of the Press and of maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and news agencies in the country. The Government follows a policy of non-interference in the functioning of the Council. The Council, which is in the nature of a self-regulatory body of the Press has built norms of journalistic conduct. A

proposal to amend the Press Council Act of 1978 has been received from the Press Council, which is under examination.

### Wagons for Transportation of Coal

\*223. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether railways had refused to supply rail wagons for transporting of coal from Talcher to various points;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have received complaints about malpractices in allotment of rail wagons for coal movements;

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

(e) the steps proposed to provide rail wagons to transport coal as per requirement?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) :

(a) and (b) No, Sir. Railways did not refuse to supply rail wagons to transport coal from Talcher to various points which are in conformity with extant rules and instructions.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. No complaint has been received about malpractices in allotment of rail wagons for coal movement from Talcher area in recent past.

(e) Coal constitutes about 47% of revenue earning freight traffic loading on Indian Railways. Due to huge volumes involved, loading and movement of coal is done on the basis of rules and guidelines specifically framed keeping in view availability of coal in the various coal fields as well as optimum utilization of railway infrastructure created over the years.

Based on projections of coal industry regarding production and availability of coal, railways have been

creating/strengthening infrastructure for coal transportation. However, depending on changes in availability of coal vis-a-vis requirement of industries, duly taking into account railway's infrastructure, rules and guidelines are reviewed from time to time.

### Special Component Scheme

\*226. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the salient features of the Special Component Scheme formulated for various States;

(b) the target fixed by the Government to achieve its main objectives;

(c) the details of the funds allocated for the said scheme to each State during the current financial year; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken to promote development of women in different States?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) The Special Component Plan (SCP) was evolved in 1979-80 as one of the instrument for the economic development of Scheduled Castes to channelise funds and benefits from various sectors of the Annual Plans of the States/UTs. It envisages formulation of specific schemes within each sector keeping in view needs/situations of SCs and utilization of the funds specially earmarked for these schemes.

(b) Target is to facilitate that economic development of SCs by ensuring that all States/UTs provide SCP allocation and utilize it accordingly.

(c) Allocation of the funds is made by the State Governments/UT Administrations out of their Plan allocation. The details are given in the statement enclosed.

(d) The States/UTs formulate specific schemes

under Special component Plan for the development of SC women in the field of education, housing, drinking water supply facilities and also ownership rights on assets created under SCP.

### Statement

*Statement showing the details of Special Component Plan Outlays and expenditure during 2002-2003*

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	State Plan Outlay	Flow to SCP*
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10082.75	870.00
2.	Assam	15070.35	69.78
3.	Bihar	2724.13	572.48
4.	Chhattisgarh	2025.73	150.99
5.	Gujarat	7600.00	252.18
6.	Goa*		
7.	Haryana	2034.00	404.82
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1900.00	187.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir*		
10.	Jharkhand*		
11.	Karnataka	8610.61	667.40
12.	Kerala	4326.00	402.55
13.	Madhya Pradesh	4821.00	611.79
14.	Maharashtra	4150.00	530.27
15.	Manipur*		
16.	Orissa	3100.00	276.25

1	2	3	4
17.	Punjab	2793.00	392.33
18.	Rajasthan	5622.91	895.73
19.	Sikkim	133.35	9.49
20.	Tamil Nadu	5751.52	1103.73
21.	Tripura	631.93	65.36
22.	Uttar Pradesh	7250.00	1540.00
23.	Uttaranchal	1533.63	255.89
24.	West Bengal	6307.00	586.89
25.	Chandigarh	165.42	10.07
26.	Delhi	4700.00	250.67
27.	Pondicherry	421.00	59.86
Total		88191.33	10165.53

\*4 States not reported.

### World Bank Aided Power Projects

\*227. SHRI C.N. SINGH :

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of power projects under construction in the country with the assistance from the World Bank and other International agencies, State-wise;

(b) the amount allocated to each project by these agencies with the terms and conditions thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) to (c) Nine Power generation projects are under execution with external financial. Details are given in the statement enclosed.

### Statement

*Details of Externally Aided on-going Power Projects during  
2002-03 (As on 31.01.2003)*

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Executing Agency/State	Funding Agency	Loan Amount Donor Currency In Million	Date of completion
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	IDP-107 & 129 Dhauliganga HEP	NHPC / Uttaranchal	JBIC (JY)	21981	March 2005
2.	IDP-119 Turial HEP	NEEPCO	JBIC (JY)	11695	June 2009
3.	IDP-94/128 Srisaillam Left Bank HEP	APGENCO	JBIC (JY)	37066	Oct' 2003
4.	IDP-53 Ghatghar Pumped Storage Project	Maharashtra	JBIC (JY)	11414	Sept 2004

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	IDP-98 Purulia Pumped Storage Project	WBSEB	JBIC (JY)	20520	March 2007
6.	Nathpa Jhakri HEP	NJPC	Wori Bank	485	Dec. 2003
7.	Dulhasti HEP	NHPC	French	190	Dec. 2003
8.	Chamera HEP	NHPC	EDC	175	May 2004
9.	Teesta – V HEP	NHPC	Deutsche Bank & other banks in Tokyo under NEXT, Japan cover	18240	Feb. 2007

**Liberalisation Policy for PSUs**

228. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether many Public Sector Undertakings are facing stiff competition following liberalisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof particularly with regard to Navratna PSUs; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to equip these PSUs to sustain competition?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) After economic liberalisation the public sector undertakings including Navratna PSUs are facing increased competition. The Government have taken various steps to equip public sector undertakings to sustain competition. These include grant of enhanced autonomy and delegation of powers under the Navratna and Miniratna Schemes, greater operational autonomy, professionalisation of Board of Directors and extension of purchase preference policy for products and services of central public sector enterprises up to 31.3.2004.

**LPG Through Pipelines**

\*229. DR. MV.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL :

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

(a) the details of the schemes to provide LPG through pipelines to domestic customers in various cities and towns;

(b) whether the areas of NCR towns and Delhi would be covered by the scheme; and

(c) if so, the time by which all the areas of National Capital Region and Delhi are likely to be covered by pipelines?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have no immediate plans of marketing LPG through pipelines to domestic users. However, OMCs have introduced LPG reticulated system to supply LPG through pipelines to domestic customers in individual housing complexes in certain cities like Visakhapatnam, Mumbai, Chennai, Pune, Madurai and Noida.

The scheme of LPG reticulated system is not envisaged to cater to the requirement of entire township from a common supply source and laying of pipeline through public roads and utility services. In the deregulated scenario, OMCs would be free to adopt different modes of supply of LPG to the consumers keeping in view their market interest and customers' needs.

#### **Task Force to Boost Exports**

230. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the task force constituted to boost exports has since submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the main recommendations of the task force; and

(c) the follow up action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The Task Force, constituted by the Department of Heavy Industry on 09.08.2002 for recommending measures for facilitating Exports of Capital Goods, has yet to submit its report.

#### **Railway Officials Involved with Touts**

2401. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH :  
DR. M.P. JAISWAL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the railway officials at the major railway stations hand-in-glove with the touts involved in blackmarketing of railway tickets as a result of which train passengers are facing difficulties in getting tickets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons arrested including the

railway officers and staff during the last three years in this regard; and

(d) the action being taken by the Government and the result achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) During the last three years commencing from 1999-2000, the number of persons apprehended for touting activities was 8548. The possibility of connivance of some Railway officials with touts cannot be ruled out. Regular checks are being conducted in the area of reservations by Commercial, Vigilance and RPF Departments to detect and prevent various malpractices therein. The number of railway officials taken up under disciplinary rules for various irregularities detected during the course of these checks during the last three years was 2484.

Railways have taken various measures to discourage touting activities some of which are mentioned below:-

- (i) Intensive checks by Vigilance, Commercial and Railway Protection Force (RPF) Departments.
- (ii) Substantial increase in accommodation in the trains by introducing new trains, increasing frequency of existing trains, running longer trains from 20 coaches to 24 coaches, attaching extra coaches in the trains, running special trains during rush periods, etc.
- (iii) Opening of 257 computerised Passenger Reservation locations during last three years.
- (iv) Introducing reservation of tickets through internet.
- (v) Display of reservation status and availability of accommodation on Railway's website, electronic and print media, etc.

#### **Publications on Military History**

\*232. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :



(a) whether History Division exists in his Ministry since April, 1992;

(b) if so, the expenditure incurred in maintaining this Division since its inception;

(c) the number of books published by this Division since its inception;

(d) whether the Government plans to make available publications on military history to public;

(e) if so, the time by which these are likely to be made available; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Since 1992, an expenditure of about Rs. 1,77,74,018 was incurred.

(c) Six books.

(d) Already six books have been published.

(e) These have already been made available.

(f) Question does not arise.

### Cost Escalation in the Power Projects

\*233. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of power projects in the country which are lagging behind, their time schedule for completion alongwith the reasons for delay;

(b) the cost of these power projects estimated at the time of approval and the cost escalation due to delay; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government for completion of these projects expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) and (b) Details of projects under execution which are delayed are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) Two tier monitoring system has been evolved. Central Electricity Authority (CEA) reviews the progress of projects under implementation on a monthly basis. Secretary (Power) conducts a similar review every quarter. Besides for each project nodal officer has been designated in the CEA who monitors the projects under his charge on day to day basis with a view to facilitating resolutions of bottlenecks through interactions with the concerned agencies at appropriate levels.

### Statement

#### A. Thermal Power Projects

Name of project	State	Capacity (MW)	Comm. Sch. Original/ Latest	Estimated Cost Original/ latest (Rs. in crore)	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
Aknota Lignite Based Thermal Power Plant, Unit-I&2,	Gujarat	2x125	12/2002 06/2003 03/2003 09/2003	1338.42/ 1395.00	Due to non-committal of funds by IDBI. Project authorities have now approached Power Finance Corporation for funds.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Dabhol Combined Cycle Gas Turbine Ph. II, Block I&II	Maharashtra	1444	Uncertain	5804.00 / —	95% works completed. 4 Gas Turbine already synchronized. 1 Steam Turbine rolled. Work held up since 6/2001 due to dispute between Maharashtra State Electricity Board and DPC.
Neyveli Thermal Power Station-I Expansion, Unit-2	Tamil Nadu	210	02/2001 7/2003	1590.58 / 1423.47* (For unit 1 & 2)	The sunchronization of unit is delayed supply of critical materials.

#### B. Hydro Power Projects

Name of Scheme	State	Capacity (MW)	Comm. Sch. Original/Latest	Estimated cost Original/latest (Price level) (Rs. crore)	Reasons for Delay
1	2	3	4	5	6
Dhauliganga (NHPC)	Uttaranchal	280.00	1998-99 / 2004-05	601.98 (12/89)/ 1578.31 (8/99)	Delay in tying up of funding, acquisition of land and resettlement problems.
Dulhasti (NHPC)	Jammu & Kashmir	390.00	July, 1994/ Dec., 2003	1262.97 (10/88) / 3559.77 (11/96)	Law and order problem, withdrawal of French consortium, poor geological strata encountered in Head Race Tunnel (Upstream) and rock burst leading to burial of Tunnel Boring Machine.
Purulia PSS	West Bengal	900.00	2002-03/ 2006-07	1456.56 (9/91)/ 3188.90 (4/94)	Due to filing of Writ Petitions by the bidders and consequential legal impediment and also the delay in diversion of forest land for the Purulia Pumped Storage Project, the commencement of Lot-4 main civil works was delayed.
Nathpa Jhakri	Himachal Pradesh	1500.00	Dec.2001 to March, 2002/ March, 2003 to December, 2003	1578.02 (12/88) / 7666.31 (6/98)	Landslide and need for rock stabilisation work, flash floods in July/Aug.2000, rock fall in desilting chamber no 3&4 during, May, 2000 and rock falls in the desilting chamber no. 4 during Sept-Oct.2002.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Tehri St.I (THDC)	Uttaranchal	1000.00	1997-99/ Dec.2004	3391.40 (3/93) / 5690.64 (8/99)	Resettlement Problems.
Larji	Himachal Pradesh	126.00	2002-03/ 2004-05	796.98 (3/99)/ 908.64 (8/2001)	Delay in award of contract packages. Rock fall in Power House area.
Sardar Sarovar	Gujarat/Madhya Pradesh/Maharashtra	1450.00	1994-96/ 2003-07	1551.86 (1986-87)/ 3267.25 (1996-97)	Resettlement problems, court cases and withdrawal of World Bank funding.
Bansagar Tons PH IV	Madhya Pradesh	20.00	1996-97/ 205-06	51.06 (9/90)/ 84.97 (2000)	Funds constraints, delay in finalising the executing agency and relief and rehabilitation problems.
Ghatghar PSS	Maharashtra	250.00	1995-96/ 2004-05	485.96 (1992)/ 1184.60 (1999-2000)	Delay in land acquisition and delay in award of major works etc.
Srisailem LBPH	A.P.	900.00	1993-95/ 2000-03	418.00 (1985-86) / 2620.00 (2001-02)	600 MW commissioned. Delay in award and slow progress of civil works, etc.
Pykara Ultimate	Tamil Nadu	150.00	1994-95/ 2003-04	70.16 (1987-88)/ 373.06 (1998-99)	Delay in award of civil and mechanical works.
Karbi Langpi (Lower Borpani)	Assam	100.00	1985-86/ 2004-05	36.37 (1979)/ 470.86	Delayed due to frequent changes in executing agencies, fund constraints.
Baspa St.II	H.P.	300.00	2001-02/ 2002-03	949.23 (12/23)/ under revision	One unit successfully rotated on 24.1.03. Delayed due to flash floods in July/ August, 2000.
Maheshwar	M.P.	400.00	2001-02/ 2005-07	1569.27 (1996-97) 1673.00 (4/2000)	Delayed due to withdrawal of foreign promoters of the project developers. Fresh financial closure required.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

Improvement in Operation of  
Trains and Punctuality

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to  
state :

\*234. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :

(a) the action taken by the Government so far for

improving the operations of trains and ensuring punctuality alongwith the outcome thereof;

(b) the number of trains reaching their destinations on time from January 1, 2002 till date, alongwith the number of trains reaching late;

(c) the reasons for late arrival of trains;

(d) whether any accountability has been fixed for the trains arriving late; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) :

(a) The following steps are being taken by Indian Railways to improve operations and the punctuality of passenger carrying trains:-

- (i) Intensive, round the clock monitoring of trains at all the three levels viz. Divisional, Zonal Head Quarters and Railway Board.
- (ii) Punctuality drives are conducted from time to time.
- (iii) Running of trains at maximum permissible speed subject to observance of safety limits and speed restrictions.
- (iv) Improvements in Time tabling to provide a clear path.
- (v) Improvement in standard of maintenance of assets to reduce equipment failures.
- (vi) Counselling and motivating staff to ensure punctual running.
- (vii) Liaison with State Government to tackle law and order problems and miscreant activities.
- (viii) Up-gradation of technology of track, rolling stock and signalling.

- (ix) To further strengthen the monitoring of punctuality introduction of a Coaching Operations Information System (COIS) has been proposed in the Railway Budget 2003-04.

As a result, despite constraints punctuality performance of various passenger services has been satisfactory.

(b) The punctuality performance is maintained in terms of the percentage of trains reaching their destination on time. During the year from January to December 2002, the punctuality performance achieved was 91.3% for Mail/ Express trains, 96.5% for Passenger trains and 93.3% for Suburban trains.

(c) The reasons for late running of trains include various factors which are beyond the control of railways such as miscreant activities, public agitations, Law and Order problems, bad weather, cattle run over and electricity grid failures. Some trains also lose punctuality on account of reasons attributable to the Railways such as asset failures, accidents, extra time taken for loading and unloading of parcels and poor traffic control.

(d) and (e) Responsibility is being fixed against Railway staff, where necessary, for detention to trains. During the period from January to December 2002, 5967 staff were taken up.

[English]

#### Failure of Grid in North India

\*235. SHRI Y.V. RAO : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether in January, 2003 the power grid failed in North India including Delhi intermittently;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the failure of the grid; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to prevent such failure in future?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) No, Sir. There was no case of failure of the Northern Grid including Delhi during January, 2003.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply at (a) above.

### **Power Through Renewable Energy**

\*236. SHRI MANSINH PATEL :

SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to provide power connection to all villages through renewable energy sources to attain sustainable development goals; and

(b) if so, the details of efforts and investments made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) There are about 80,000 unelectrified villages in the country of which about 18,000 villages are in remote and difficult areas where it would not be cost effective to provide electricity through conventional grid. Providing electricity to all villages through renewable energy sources would not be a practical option in the foreseeable future. A new programme for providing electricity to the 18,000 remote villages was initiated in 2001-02 during which an expenditure of Rs. 20 crores was incurred. About 800 villages have been electrified through renewable energy in 2001-2002 and 2002-2003. A target of electrifying 5,000 such villages has been fixed for the 10th Plan period with an outlay of Rs. 735 crores.

Renewable energy systems like solar photovoltaic systems and power plants, small hydro units and biomass gasifiers, which use locally available renewable energy resources, have been identified as the most suitable options for electrification of remote villages and hamlets. Such systems have already been developed indigenously and are being deployed under the Ministry's programme. By their environment - friendly nature, they contribute to

sustainable development. Recently, the Ministry of Power has also constituted a Rural Electricity Supply Technology (REST) Mission to evolve a strategy based on technology for low cost generation and delivery of power in rural areas.

### **Release of Funds for APD and Reforms Programme**

\*237. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH :

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have released funds to various State Electricity Boards to implement the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme during each of the last two years and current financial year;

(b) if so, the details of funds released during the above period, State-wise;

(c) whether the work of Electricity Boards is being closely monitored;

(d) if so, the impact of this programme on the efficiency and profitability of State Electricity Boards; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government for proper timely implementation of the programme?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) and (b) Under the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) an amount of Rs. 978.13 crores was released to the States in the year 2000-01 and an amount of Rs. 1087.59 crore during the present financial year so far. No releases were made for projects sanctioned under APDRP during the year 2001-02. Details of the releases are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (e) Yes, Sir. To bring about commitment towards distribution reforms, State Electricity Boards/Utilities have been asked to sign a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) as a prerequisite for release of APDRP funds. The MoA,

inter-alia, stipulates constitution of a State level Distribution Reform Committee, within one month of signing of the MoA. The Committee shall comprise of the State Government, representative, head of the State Electricity Boards, a representative from National Thermal Power Corporation or Power Grid Corporation of India Limited and a representative from Central Electricity Authority or Ministry of Power. The Committee shall meet once in two months and review:-

- (i) Progress of APDRP project implementation.
- (ii) Compliance to MoU conditions.
- (iii) Compliance to MoA conditions.
- (iv) Performance against APDRP targets and Benchmarks.

In addition to the above, an APDRP Monitoring Committee as well as Steering Committee under the Chairmanship of Minister of Power and Secretary (Power) respectively has been constituted to formulate guidelines, approval of projects under APDRP schemes as well as to monitor project implementation and reform milestones agreed with different States.

(d) The impact of the APDRP has been mixed. While several utilities could not fully utilize the funds sanctioned an account of delay in release of funds by the concerned State Governments, some states like Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana and Maharashtra have achieved cash loss reduction as compared to the previous year.

#### Statement

##### Status of Fund Release under APDP/APDRP

Sl. No.	State	2001-01	2002-03
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	97.45	111.82
2.	Bihar	21.44	16.1

1	2	3	4
3.	Chhattisgarh	10.26	10.00
4.	Delhi		
5.	Goa		15.52
6.	Gujarat	13.62	75.42
7.	Haryana	49.62	37.28
8.	Jharkhand	21.97	12.00
9.	Karnataka	81.50	87.46
10.	Kerala		30.43
11.	Madhya Pradesh	40.32	51.35
12.	Maharashtra	134.44	91.74
13.	Orissa	38.00	14.72
14.	Punjab	37.70	41.72
15.	Rajasthan	45.00	90.64
16.	Tamil Nadu	65.54	76.57
17.	Uttar Pradesh	101.46	30.12
18.	West Bengal	43.50	19.02
19.	Assam	20.02	96.97
20.	Arnachal Pradesh	6.32	0.00
21.	Himachal Pradesh	25.32	33.04
22.	Jammu & Kashmir	6.99	
23.	Manipur	0.72	2.67
24.	Meghalaya	1.81	6.57
25.	Mizoram	1.06	3.78
26.	Nagaland	1.89	13.14

1	2	3	4
27.	Sikkim	6.38	17.20
28.	Tripura	5.00	2.67
29.	Uttaranchal	4.80	99.63
	Bhuj	96.00	
Total		978.13	1087.59

**Investment Through Non-  
Traditional Sources**

\*238. SHRI N. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in order to plan flow of investment from non-traditional sources of revenue, a task force was set up by the Railways;

(b) if so whether the said task force has submitted its report;

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

(d) whether Empowered Committees were formed to expedite issue of guidelines; and

(e) if so, the details of their guidelines issued to zonal Railways?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) :

(a) to (e) Yes, Sir. A Task Force was set up for generating additional resources through non-traditional sources. The Task Force submitted its report in December, 1999 and recommended generating revenues through non-traditional means like commercial utilization of land and air space, BOLT (Built-Own Lease Transfer) Scheme, use of Right of Way for laying optical fibre cable, commercial publicity, Own Your Wagon Scheme and other financing packages, including joint Ventures with private organization. As a

result, Committees were set up and the following action was taken :-

- (i) Guidelines have been issued to all the Zonal Railways for improving earnings from commercial Publicity. The guidelines cover station premises, trains, level crossings, approaches to the major stations, etc. In each area of activity, the action to be taken by the Zonal Railways have been spelt out.
- (ii) For commercially exploiting the Right of Way of the Railways along railway track for laying of optical fibre cable. Rail Tel Corporation of India Limited, has been set up. This Corporation has since started functioning.
- (iii) The methodology for commercial use of railway land/air space has been issued to all Zonal Railways and the Railways have been asked to take up the sites identified.

[Translation]

**Compensation to Persons Killed/  
Injured in Rail Accidents**

\*239. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of compensation in respect of the persons killed/injured in rail accidents pending with various railway claim tribunals as on date and the amount of compensation claimed therein;

(b) the period from which such claimed cases are pending;

(c) the reasons for delay in disposal of these cases;

(d) the average time generally taken to dispose of such cases; and

(e) the time by which the above cases are likely to be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) :  
(a) and (b) The age-wise pendency of 622 train accident

cases as on 1.1.2003 in different benches of Railway  
Claims Tribunal is as under:-

Bench	Less than one year old	One year old	2 year old	3 year old	4 year old	5 year old & above 5 years	Total
Delhi	4	0	0	0	2	0	6
Lucknow	10	15	20	7	0	0	52
Chandigarh	5	5	2	0	0	0	12
Gorakhpur	28	2	1	0	0	0	31
Jaipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chennai	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Ernakulam	262	2	2	1	2	0	269
Secunderabd	11	0	0	10	0	0	21
Bangalore	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
Calcutta	39	6	2	1	0	0	48
Guwahati	4	2	0	0	0	0	6
Patna	92	10	3	2	2	0	109
Bhubneshwar	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
Mumbai	0	11	3	0	0	0	14
Nagpur	0	1	0	0	1	0	2
Bhopal	9	2	2	1	2	0	16
Ahmedabad	6	0	0	0	0	0	6
Ghaziabad	9	3	9	1	0	0	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>622</b>

The total amount of compensation claimed in the above cases is Rs. 24.44 crores.



(c) The reasons for delay in disposal of these cases are as under:-

- (i) Non attendance by the applicants or their counsels;
- (ii) Adjournments sought by the applicants for various reasons;
- (iii) Non-availability of heirship title with the claimants;
- (iv) Transfer of claims cases from one Bench to the other, sought by the claimants; and
- (v) Vacancy in benches.

(d) During 1997-1998 to 2001-2002, the average time taken for disposal of train accident cases is one year.

(e) Railway claims Tribunal is a quasi-judicial body. The Tribunal has been requested to dispose of the rail accident claims cases as early as possible.

[English]

**Armed Forces Personnel killed  
due to Terrorist attacks**

\*240. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of armed forces personnel killed/injured due to terrorist attacks in J&K and other parts of the country during each of the last three years till date;

(b) the number of armed forces personnel killed due to insurgent activities led by NSCN and other groups in North-Eastern States;

(c) whether the families and dependents of all those personnel have been taken care of and necessary compensation, reward or award paid to their families by the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA) : (a) to (d) The number of armed forces personnel killed/injured due to terrorist action in Jammu & Kashmir and other parts of the country during the last three years till 25th February, 2003 is given below:

Year	Army		Air Force		Navy	
	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured
2000	351	787	—	—	—	—
2001	364	1020	1	3	—	—
2002	253	62	—	—	—	—
2003	14	38	—	—	—	—
(Upto 25.2.2003)						
Total	982	2507	1	3	—	—

The number of armed forces personnel killed due to insurgent activities in North-Eastern States is given below:-

Year	Army Killed	Air Force Killed	Navy Killed
2000	25	—	—
2001	20	—	—
2002	20	—	—
2003	—	—	—
(Upto 25.2.2003)			
Total	65	—	—

Casualty figures for latter part of 2002 and 2003 may be subject to minor modification.

A comprehensive welfare package for the armed forces personnel, which includes ex-gratia lump sum compensation in a graded scale, liberalized special family pension on the basis of last pay drawn by the deceased personnel, death gratuity and family gratuity as per specified rates as applicable and insurance cover as applicable, has been worked out and implemented for the next of kin of those killed in terrorist action. Payment of dues is a continuing process and all benefits as applicable to the next of kin of deceased personnel are being paid on completion of necessary documentation and on meeting of legal requirements.

**Dealership of IOCL to Kerala State  
Warehousing Corporation**

2232.SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received representation from Kerala State Warehousing Corporation, a public sector undertaking to take up dealership of Indian Oil Corporation Limited for the supply of Servo (Auto) Lubes in Kerala State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Kerala State Warehousing Corporation (KSWC) had applied for Servo Stockists (Auto) [SS(A)s] in 4 locations viz. Trivandrum, Ernakulam, Palakkad and Kannur. They were called for interview for all four places and were shortlisted as number 2 candidate at Trivandrum, Palakkad and Kannur. Since, M/s. KSWC has no experience in marketing either lubricants or any Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) products, which was the essential qualification for the selection, M/s. KSWC could not be selected as dealer for supply of Servo Stockist (Auto) Lubes.

[Translation]

**HBJ Pipeline**

2233.DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to extend the HBJ Pipeline to cover Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The availability of natural gas along HBJ pipeline is much less than the demand. In view of shortage of gas it would not be a viable proposition to extend the HBJ pipeline to Bihar.

[English]

**Rehabilitation of Orphaned and Destitute  
Children in Gujarat**

2234.SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of children orphaned and rendered destitute during the earthquake and the communal carnage in Gujarat;

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

(c) the welfare measures being taken by the Government for rehabilitating such orphaned and destitute;

(d) whether the Government has received any external assistance in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Incident-wise details are given below:-

	Orphaned Children	Single Parent Children
(i) Earthquake	449	1309
(ii) Communal riots	38	172

(c) The requisite information is given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Assistance in the form of clothing, tents, communication equipment, medical equipment etc. was received from individuals, NGOs, foreign governments and international organizations following the devastating earthquake in Gujarat. While some cash donations were made through the Prime Minister's Relief Fund, Gujarat Chief Minister's Relief Fund and other similar corpus, some donations from abroad were sent to Relief Organizations working in the State directly.

#### Statement

The Welfare measures taken/being taken by the Government for rehabilitating children orphaned and rendered destitute by the earthquake and communal riots, inter-alia, are given below:-

#### Earthquake Affected

- (i) The State Government decided that the compensation to be paid to a child against the death of parent will be kept in the Joint Account of Collector/D.D.O. and orphaned and single parent child.
- (ii) The Foster Parent Scheme, which was earlier implemented in six cities viz., Ahmedabad, Baroda, Surat, Jamnagar, Rajkot and Bhavnagar,

is now extended to earthquake affected area and monthly assistance of maintenance revised from Rs. 350 per child to Rs. 500 per child.

- (iii) Childline service, which is a toll free service that can be accessed by a child in distress or an adult on his behalf was established at various places of the State affected by the earthquake.
- (iv) Ministry of Social Justice & empowerment sanctioned a grant-in-aid of Rs. 156.85 lakhs during 2000-01 to reputed Non Government Organizations for setting up of Ashraya Grehs in earthquake affected areas of the State.

#### Communal Riots Affected

- (i) A rehabilitation project for orphaned and single parent children under the Prime Minister's Package was assigned to Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA). An amount of Rs.2.02 crore was sanctioned by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment for the project under its Scheme "General Grant-in-Aid Programme for Assistance in the field of Social Defence". An amount of Rs.60 lakhs has so far been released to SEWA for this purpose during the current financial year (2002-03).
- (ii) Department of Women & Child Development has sanctioned a project for rehabilitating 170 minor children in Gujarat under "Swadhar" Scheme during the current financial year (2002-03).

#### Gauge Conversion Projects in Madhya Pradesh

2235.SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the details regarding the narrow gauge railway lines being converted into broad gauge lines in the State of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the progress so far made in this regard, project-wise; and

(c) the time by which these project are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (c) The work of conversion of Jabalpur-Gondia including Balaghat-Katangi line from narrow gauge to broad gauge is in progress. In the first phase, work on Gondia-Balaghat has been taken up where conversion block has started from 17.1.2003. This section is targeted for completion during 2003-2004. Earthwork on detoured alignment near Jabalpur has also been taken up. No target date has yet been fixed for completion of the entire project.

[Translation]

#### Withdrawal of Jan Shatabdi Express Trains

2236.SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of Jan Shatabdi Express trains are not profitable;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering to withdraw some of these loss making trains;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (d) Train-wise figures of earning and expenditure are not

separately maintained, therefore, details regarding profitability of Jan Shatabdi trains are not available.

However, due to poor patronage, 2071/2072 Tatanagar – Ranchi Jan Shatabdi Express has been replaced by 307/308 Tatanagar – Muri and 307A/308A Muri – Ranchi MEMU trains with effect from 10.2.2003.

[English]

#### FOB in Mumbai Division

2237.SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether various projects of Foot Over Bridges in Central Railway, Mumbai Division has been delayed due to lack of co-ordination in Mumbai Division of Central Railway;

(b) if so, whether the FOBs at Govandi, Kanur Marg, Kurla, Ghatkopar, Dombivilli since long agreed upon, not started yet;

(c) the details of all the FOBs planned in these areas alongwith sanction date, plan date, amount for starting work, etc.; and

(d) the time by which the work of these FOBs is likely to be started and completed, FOB-wise?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Details are as under:-

Sl. No.	Station	Details of work of FOB	Status
1	2	3	4
1.	Govandi	Extension of FOB sanctioned in 2001-02 at a cost of Rs. 30 lakh.	Tender invited. (Work likely to be started in June, 2003 and target date of completion is September, 2004.)

1	2	3	4
2.	Kanjurmarg	Work of FOB with over head booking office sanctioned in the Works Programme, 2003-04 at a cost of Rs. 3.80 crore.	No target fixed.
3.	Kurla	Work of 6m wide Additional FOB sanctioned in 2002-03 at a cost of Rs. 1.75 crore.	Tender invited. (Work likely to be started in May, 2003 and target date of completion is December, 2004).
4.	Ghatkopat	Work of 12 m wide additional FOB sanctioned in 2001-02 at a cost of Rs. 2.32 crore.	Tender invited. (Work likely to be started in June, 2003 and target date of completion is March, 2005).
5.	Dombivilli	Work of 12 m wide additional FOB sanctioned in 2001-02 at a cost of Rs. 2.81 crore.	Tender invited. (Work likely to be started in June, 2003 and target date of completion is March, 2005).

### Looting of Trains

2238.SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of trains looted by the armed persons, during the last three years State-wise;

(b) the number of arrests made in each case;

(c) the compensation paid to the persons injured/ looted and families of deceased, if any, in such cases of train robberies; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) "Policing" being a State subject, prevention and detection of crime on Railways, including running trains, is the constitutional responsibility of the State Governments. The cases of crime on Railways are reported to, registered and

investigated by the Government Railway Police. Therefore, information asked for in the Question is not available with the Ministry of Railways.

(c) Compensation amounting to Rs. 12.97 lakhs has been paid in 5 cases during the last three years.

(d) Though maintenance of law and order and control of crime on Railway premises including Railway Stations and running trains is the responsibility of the State Government concerned, the Railways coordinate with the State Governments for ensuring better security to the passengers. Following steps have been taken to prevent the recurrence of such incidents:-

(1) Anti-social elements are being removed from Railway premises and trains by RPF.

(2) Coach Attendants/TTEs is keeping proper watch on the passengers' entering/detraining from the coaches and the coaches are properly locked during their run especially in night hours.

- (3) FIR forms are made available with the Trains Guards/Station Master/RPF to facilitate the travelling public to lodge their reports immediately.
- (4) Sharing of Special Intelligence and Crime Intelligence between RPF and GRP is being done at all levels.
- (5) Announcement through public address system and CCTV at important Railway Stations to alert the travelling passengers against theft of their belongings and not to accept eatables from strangers etc.
- (6) GRP and Local Police are being conducted to analyse the crime position on Railways with a view to take suitable preventive measures.
- (7) Special Intelligence and Crime Intelligence are shared between RPF and the GRP at all levels.

#### **Smuggling of Timber**

2239.DR. JAYANT RONGPI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards a news item captioned "Railway Driver Arrested" published in "The Sentinel" on December 30, 2002;

(b) if so, whether any departmental enquiry has been conducted by the Government to ascertain the allegation made in the said news item; and

(c) if so, the outcome of that enquiry alongwith action taken thereon?

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

(b) Forest Department of Assam has registered a case against one Assistant Driver of N.F. Railway for violation of 24, 25, 40 and 41 of the Assam Forest Rule, 1891.

(c) The enquiry report has not been received from the Assam Forest Department.

[Translation]

#### **FM Stations for Residential Schools in Gujarat**

2240.SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to install FM station in the residential schools in the country, including Gujarat;

(b) if so, the number and name of such schools and the time by which this facility is likely to be provided; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) The Government has decided to grant Community Broadcasting Licenses to well established educational institutions/organizations, recognized by the Central Government or the State Government. These will include the Universities and Institutes of Technology/Management and residential schools.

(b) and (c) These stations are required to be put up and operated by the institutions themselves, from their own funds and resources.

[English]

#### **Setting up of TV Relay Centres in Orissa**

2241.SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :

SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI :

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

(a) whether some proposals are pending with the Union Government for setting up of TV Relay Centres of different capacities in the State of Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have also a proposal to set up some HPTs/LPTs/VLPTs in KBK districts in Orissa during Tenth Five Year Plan period;

(d) if so, the places identified for this purpose; and

(e) the time by which the proposed transmitters to be set up by the Government in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) A low power TV transmitter is presently under implementation at Bahalda in Orissa.

(c) Twenty seven TV transmitters are presently functioning in KBK districts viz. Koraput, Balangir, Kalahandi, Malkangiri, Navrangpur, Rayagada, Sonapur and Nuapada. There is no other proposal, at present, to set up any other transmitter in these districts.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

#### **Grievances of Retired Railway Employees**

2242. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of complaints have been made by the retired railway employees of the South Eastern railway with regard to their genuine grievances viz. payment of pension etc.;

(b) if so, whether the grievances of the retired railway employees have been examined by the Government; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to solve the grievances of retired railway employees?

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

(b) and (c) The grievances are attended to expeditiously and settled as per rules and regulations applicable at the relevant time.

[Translation]

#### **Allotment of Petrol Pumps and LPG Agencies**

2243. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the decision taken by the Government with regard to allotment of petrol pumps and LPG dealership in pursuance of the verdict of the Supreme Court on cancellation of petrol pumps and LPG dealerships by the Government;

(b) whether Union Government are again starting the process of appointing agents for the agencies sanctioned earlier in various areas of the country;

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be started;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Union Government propose to provide the reservation facility to the people of scheduled caste/scheduled tribe in the agencies of private institutions and companies like Reliance etc.; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) The Supreme Court of India, in its judgement dated the 20th December, 2002, has

quashed the order of the Government dated the 9th August, 2002, cancelling allotments of retail outlet dealerships (petrol pumps), LPG distributorships and SKO-LDO dealerships made on the recommendations of the Dealer Selection Boards (DSBs) since January 1, 2000, except in respect of certain cases which were reported in the media. The Court has also appointed a Committee comprising a retired Judge of the Supreme Court of India and a retired Judge of the High Court of Delhi and has referred these media-reported cases to this Committee for its examination. The Court has asked the Committee to submit its report to the Court within a period of three months. In respect of the remaining cases of selection, which are not being examined by the aforesaid Committee, the Government have advised the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to take further action.

(b) to (d) Consequent upon dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism in the petroleum sector with effect from 1.4.2002, the selection of retail outlet dealers/LPG distributors/SKO-LDO dealers will not be made by the OMCs themselves as per the guidelines to be adopted by them.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. The private institutions and companies set up agencies based on commercial considerations and reservation policy of the Government does not apply to them.

[English]

#### **Oil Refineries by Private Sector**

2244.SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to allow private sectors to set up oil refineries in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of norms prescribed for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The refining sector was delicensed in June, 1998. Following this, refinery can be set up anywhere in the country by any private company.

#### **Regularisation of Services of EIL**

2245.SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Engineers Indian Limited (EIL) had regularized services of many employees on its rolls as daily wager employees with qualifications such as Diploma in Engineering, ITI, draftsman etc.;

(b) if so, the criteria adopted for adoption in regularizing the services of these employees; and

(c) the number of such employees still working in the EIL and the number of employees released on superannuation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) No daily wager with technical qualifications such as Diploma in Engineering, ITI, Draftsman, etc. has been regularised by Engineers India Limited (EIL), as there is no provision in the Company to employ such persons on daily wages. Presently no daily wager employee with such technical qualifications is working in EIL.

#### **Construction of Ring Railways at Nagpur to Ease Traffic**

2246.SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for construction of Ring Railway at Nagpur and other cities in various States to ease traffic problem;



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

(c) the reaction of the Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) No proposal has been received from any State Govt. regarding construction of a ring railway. However, a demand for construction of ring railway at nagpur had been received from an Hon'ble M.P.

(c) Proposal will be examined as and when it is received from a State Govt.

[Translation]

#### Pending Power Projects

2247.DR. BALIRAM :

SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether some proposals for power generations from Government of Uttar Pradesh and Delhi are lying pending with the Union Government for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which said pending proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The question do not arise.

#### Functioning of E.P.I.

2248.SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any efforts

for reducing the size of heavy divisions of the Head Office after conducting enquiry into the functioning of the Engineering Projects (India) Ltd. (EPI); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Review and rationalization of manpower in public sector enterprises under the Department of Heavy Industry including EPI is a continuous process. In the current year 2002-2003 upto February, 150 employees have availed of benefits under Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS).

[English]

#### Private Sector Power Policy

2249. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether keeping in view the situation arising out of power shortage in the country, Government propose to review the private sector power policy as it has failed to take off in a significant manner; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The policy to encourage private sector participation in the power sector was announced in 1991. The main objective of this policy was to bring in additionality of resources in view of the growing gap between the demand and supply of power and the serious resource crunch being faced by the State Electricity Boards (SEB) and Central / State Sector generating stations. Though a number of power projects have been envisaged for development through the private sector, the majority of the projects have been unable to achieve financial closure in spite of progressing well on other fronts. The foremost problem due to which

many projects have been unable to achieve financial closure has been the poor financial health of the SEBs, who do not have the financial capability to support the projects in terms of regular reimbursement of bills, opening of letters of credit and escrow accounts. Other reasons include the following:-

- (i) Delay in finalization of various contracts such as Power Purchase Agreement, Fuel Supply Agreement and Fuel Transportation Agreement etc.
- (ii) Court cases in the form of Public Interest Petitions etc.
- (iii) Increase in the prices of liquid fuels, particularly naphtha, which has made these States reluctant to pursue naphtha based generation.
- (iv) Withdrawal by EPC contractors.

Government has, therefore, initiated the process of reforms with a view to improving the financial condition of the various power utilities in order to make them commercially viable. The States have accepted the need for power sector reforms. A consensus was reached in the Conference of Chief Ministers/Power Ministers held in March, 2001 on the need to depoliticise power sector reforms and speed up their implementation and that the real challenge of reforms lay in the distribution sector. It was also resolved that State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) would be made functional and tariff petition filed and subsidy would be given, if required, to the extent of State Government's capacity to pay the subsidies explicitly through budget.

The Ministry of Power has launched the Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP), now known as Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) in the year 2001-01 as an important step towards reduction of Aggregate Technical and Commercial losses and restoring commercial viability of

the power sector. Twenty Six States have signed Memoranda of Understanding for undertaking reforms and restructuring in a time bound manner and linking the support of Government of India to achievement of predetermined milestones. To bring about commitment towards distribution reforms, State Electricity Boards / Utilities have been asked to sign a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with Ministry of Power as a pre-requisite for release of APDRP funds. Till now Twenty Five States have signed the MoA.

As per the MoA, the beneficiary States are required to agree to systematically improve their financial viability by benchmarking their performance and periodically monitoring the same. The existing benchmarks shall be compared with the expected level to be achieved within the agreed time frame. These bench-marks, inter alia, apply to SEB/Utility level as well as Circle levels covering the following parameters:-

- Input energy to circle Vs metered energy sale to consumers (energy billed on flat rate / assessed basis is not to be included).
- Transmission & Distribution losses in Million Units (MU) (flat rate sales and unmetered sales are not to be included).
- Gap between Average Revenue Realisation and Average Cost of Supply (ARR & ACS) per unit of energy (ARR - ACS) - Average revenue realization - ARR (Ratio of Gross Revenue sales in crores of Rupees and Net Energy Input in MU) for entire state, ACS (Ratio of cost of supply [including generation cost, purchase and overhead cost] in crores of Rs. and Net energy Input in MU for entire State).
- Productivity - Ratio of Metered energy sale to consumers and total Manpower strength in the circle (executives plus supervisors plus support staff).

[Translation]

**Construction of ROBs at  
Palam and Bijwasan**

2250. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to construct overbridges at Palam and Bijwasan railway crossings in view of the heavy rush there;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said overbridges are likely to be constructed; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Road over bridge and a Road under bridge are under construction near Palam Railway Station at Km. 18.02 and near Bijwasan at Km. 23.18 respectively as deposit works of Delhi Development Authority for which contracts have been awarded and works have commenced.

(c) Both these works are targeted for completion by June 2004.

(d) Does not arise.

**Expansion of Civil Areas in  
Jabalpur Cantonment**

2251. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total civil area in Jabalpur Cantonment at present;

(b) the date on which civil area was expanded in Jabalpur Cantonment along with the total areas thereof;

(c) whether the Cantonment Board has submitted any proposal for expanding civil area at Jabalpur Cantonment; and

(d) if so, the time by which the Government are likely to dispense it of by according its approval?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The total civil area at present is 104 acres.

(b) The civil area was extended vide Gazette Notification No. 388 dated 20.10.1957 from 77 acres to 104 acres.

(c) No proposal for expanding the civil area has been received by the Government.

(d) Question does not arise.

[English]

**Wasteful Expenditure in Government  
Departments**

2252. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1820 dated November 29, 2001 regarding Wasteful Expenditure in Government Departments and state :

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) The Assurance given to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.1820 dated 29th November, 2001 was fulfilled on 19.2.2003. The Implementation Report was also laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs on 20.3.2002. However, a copy of Implementation Report is enclosed as statement enclosed.

## Statement

8th Session, 2001 of the 13th Lok Sabha

Ministry of Power

Date of Fulfillment 19.2.2002.

Question No. & Date	Subject	Promise made	When & How fulfilled	Remarks for Delay
1820 dated 29.11.2001 by Shri Brahma Nand Mandal, M.P.	Wasteful Expenditure in Govt. Departments asking : (a) whether he is aware that Ministry of Finance has already identified some departments in which wasteful expenditure is maximum; (b) if so, the details of such wasteful expenditure identified therein during each of the last three years ; and (c) the steps taken so far by his Ministry to stop such wasteful expenditure?	(a) to (c) : The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.	It is Government's constant endeavour to contain non-plan, non-developmental expenditure. It is in this context that, along with other measures, instructions to avoid wasteful expenditure are issued from time to time by the Ministry of Finance to all the Ministries/Departments. These measures include ban on the creation of posts, reduction in the number of sanctioned posts, restrictions on the filling up of vacant posts, reduction in office expenses, restrictions on foreign travel and on entertainment/hospitality expenses etc. The instructions are scrupulously followed by each Ministry/Departments of the Govt. of India and their attached/sub-ordinate offices, etc.	Assurance has been fulfilled within the stipulated three months' time

## Setting up of A.I.R In Bodh Gaya

2253.SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any All India Radio Station located at Bodh Gaya, South Bihar;

(b) if not, whether there is any proposal to locate

a unit A.I.R. at Bodh Gaya in Bihar; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the A.I.R. Station is likely to be set up at Bodh Gaya?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) One 10 KW FM Radio Centre of AIR has been proposed at Gaya during the 10th Five Year Plan. However Gaya is at present receiving adequate radio coverage from the 100 KW MW AIR Stations at Patna and Ranchi.

#### **Educational and Economic Development of Minorities**

2254. SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to formulate a comprehensive plan for the educational and economic development of minorities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) and (b) National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) is providing loans to individuals belonging to minority communities living below double the poverty line for self-employment ventures at concessional rate of interest. A new scheme of Educational Loans has been introduced by NMDFC with effect from 1st January 2003. Under this scheme, a loan of up-to Rs.75,000/- is available to poor students belonging to minorities for pursuing short-term professional courses at concessional interest rate of 3% per annum.

The Ministry is implementing a scheme of coaching for weaker sections among minorities and other backward classes to enable them to compete on equal terms with other candidates in competitive examinations for various jobs, and admission to professional/technical institutions. The Maulana Azad Education Foundation is formulating and implementing schemes for benefit of educationally backward minorities. Ministry of Human Resource Development is implementing Area Intensive and Madrasa Modernisation Programme for educationally backward minorities.

Besides, benefits of all the schemes being implemented

by the government for economic and educational development are available to minorities also.

[Translation]

#### **Railway Hospital in Danapur**

2255. PROF. RITA VERMA Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present strength of the doctors in various departments of the Danapur Railway Hospital under Central-East Railways as compare to the requisite strength thereof;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the patients do not get proper treatment due to shortage of doctors and outdated machines and equipments in Danapur Hospital;

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

(d) the details as to how old these important equipments such as X-Ray Machines, Colour Dopler, Ultrasound Machines etc.;

(e) the new machines and equipments purchased for this hospital during the last three years;

(f) whether any proposal regarding modernisation of the hospital is under consideration; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) As against a sanctioned strength of 22 Medical Officers at Danapur Railway Hospital, 20 are in position. The Chief Medical Superintendent of Railway Hospital passed away recently and an anesthetists post is vacant.

(b) No, Sir. Patients get adequate treatment at Danapur Railway Hospital and there are no such reports.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Some important items of equipment are

- (i) Ultra Sound Machine, 1997
- (ii) Multiformat Camera for Ultra Sound Machine, 1999
- (iii) 300 MA X-Ray Machine, 1987
- (iv) 20 MA Portable X-Ray Machine, 1999

All the above items are in satisfactory working condition.

(e) Details of machines / equipment procured during last three years are given in the statement enclosed.

(f) and (g) No, Sir. However, a work costing Rs 72.93 lakhs, for improvement of infrastructure at Railway Hospital/Danapur, was sanctioned in the year 2002-03 and tenders for Civil Engineering Works have been invited.

#### Statement

1. Surgical Operating Microscope for Eye Surgery received on 02.11.2001.
2. Shadowless ceiling suspension OT Light received on 14.9.2002.
3. Boyle's Anesthetic Machine received on 19.12.2001.
4. High Pressure Steam Steriliser (Horizontal) received on 28.6.2002.
5. Streak Retinoscope for eye received on 13.11.2000.
6. Upper G-I Endoscope received on 11.4.2000
7. Foetal Dopler Machine received on 27.9.2002.
8. Baby incubator received in August 2002
9. Dental Chair received in October 2002.

10. Wax Bath received in October, 2002.

11. Compound Microscope received in 2002.

12. Water Bath for Biochemistry lab tests received in 2002.

#### Shortage of Officers and Employees in Commercial Department

2256 SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the yardstick under which serious charge are levelled against the commercial officers and employees of the Railways;

(b) whether the commercial employees are not assigned any work due to petty charges and they are paid their full salary;

(c) if so, whether this has led to acute shortage of officers and employees in the commercial department of the Railways which is affecting the work adversely; and

(d) if so, the steps to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) Charges are levelled against commercial staff in accordance with The Railway Services (Conduct) Rules.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

#### Cancellation/Restoration of Petrol Pumps and LPG Agencies

2257 SHRI C. GREENIVASAN :

SHRI AMBAHEESHA

**SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA :**

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

(a) the number of petrol pumps and LPG agencies cancelled in the country during the last three years, year-wise, State-wise;

(b) the charges on which petrol pumps and LPG agencies were cancelled; and

(c) the details of petrol and LPG agencies which have been restored after cancellation during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) The year-wise details of Retail outlets and LPG distributorship cancelled (terminated) during the last three years and April to December, 2002 all over the country are as follows:-

Year	Retail outlets	LPG
1999-2000	53	28
2000-2001	107	14
2001-2002	122	24
April-Dec. 2002	80	09

(b) The Retail outlets and LPG distributorships were cancelled (terminated) due to various reasons viz., malpractice/irregularities, resignation, non performance, benami operation, unauthorized reconstitution, violation of dealership agreement and dishonor of instruments etc.

(c) 17 Retail outlets and 3 LPG distributorship have been restored during the above period.

#### **Setting up of Bio-gas Plants**

2258.DR. N. VENKATASWAMY : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Bio-gas plants set up in the country during the year 2002, State-wise;

(b) the size and capacity of these plants and total power generated by them.

(c) the amount of subsidy given for setting up these bio-gas plants;

(d) whether the subsidy-component would be increased so as to make the scheme more attractive; and

(e) the total amount sanctioned and spent under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) State-wise information on 91,894 family type biogas plants set up under the National Biogas Programme (NBP) and three bio-methanation projects installed under Waste to Energy Programme (WEP) during 2002-03 (April, 2002 – January, 2003) is given as statement-I and II.

(b) Information in respect of the bio-methanation projects, including one project set up for power generation, is given in statement-II. The size or capacity of family type biogas plants, which are mainly used for meeting cooking energy needs, varies from one to six cubic metres gas production per day.

(c) The amount of subsidy for bio-methanation projects given up to February, 2003 is indicated at statement-II. Details of the amount of the Central subsidy given for a family type biogas plant are mentioned at statement-III.

(d) At present, no proposal is being considered for increasing subsidy component under National Biogas Programme (NBP) and Waste to Energy Programme (WEP).

(e) Information is given below:-

Scheme	Sanctioned Budget for 2002-03	Amount spent (April, 2002 to February, 2003)
NBP	Rs.59.50 crore	Rs.22.60 crore
WEP	Rs.20.00 crore	Rs.5.52 crore

**Statement-I**

*State-wise details of family type biogas plants  
set up so far during 2002-03 under  
National Biogas Programme*

Sl. No.	State	Number of plants (April, 2002 – January, 2003)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12214
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	78
3.	Assam	2676
4.	Bihar	1309
5.	Chhattisgarh	3856
6.	Gujarat	4389
7.	Goa	32
8.	Haryana	1095
9.	Himachal Pradesh	214
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	22
11.	Jharkhand	155
12.	Karnataka	17536
13.	Kerala	6506
14.	Madhya Pradesh	5393

1	2	3
15.	Maharashtra	4888
16.	Manipur	16
17.	Mizoram	76
18.	Nagaland	87
19.	Orissa	6079
20.	Punjab	2740
21.	Rajasthan	167
22.	Sikkim	492
23.	Tamil Nadu	1598
24.	Tripura	93
25.	Uttar Pradesh	7870
26.	Uttaranchal	700
27.	West Bengal	11613
Total		91894

**Statement-II**

*Waste to Energy Programme: State-wise details of  
number of bio-methanation project set up so far  
during 2002-03; size/capacity of projects and  
the amount of Central subsidy given/released  
upto February, 2003*

State	Number of projects	Rated size/ capacity of project for biogas generation/ power generation	Amount of subsidy given/ released up to February, 2003
1	2	3	4
Madhya Pradesh	One	300 cubic metres per day	Rs.43.25 lakh



1	2	3	4
Maharashtra	One	1000 cubic metres per day	Rs.31.00 lakh
Tamilnadu	One	0.50 MW	Rs.170.72 lakh

### Statement-III

*Amount of Central subsidy given for setting up of a family type biogas plant for the year 2002-03 under National Biogas Programme*

Category	Amount of Central subsidy per plant
North Eastern Region States and Sikkim (except plain areas of Assam)	Rs.11,700/-
Plain areas of Assam	Rs.9,000/-
Jammu and Kashmir; Himachal Pradesh; Uttaranchal (excluding terai region); Nilgiris of Tamil Nadu; Sadar Kursoong and Kalimpong sub-divisions of the Darjeeling district and Sunderbans (West Bengal) and Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Rs.3,500/-
Scheduled Castes; Scheduled Tribes; desert districts; small and marginal farmers; landless labourers; terai region of Uttaranchal; Western Ghats and other notified hilly areas	Rs.2,300/-
Others	Rs.1,800/-

### Completion of Power Projects

2259. SHRI AMBAREESHA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state

(a) the details of power projects completed by different public sector power corporations during the last three years and upto February 28, 2003, State-wise;

(b) the details of power projects which are running behind time schedule, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for delay in respect of these power projects; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to complete these power projects expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The details of thermal and hydro power projects completed in Central and State during the last three years and current year upto 28.02.2003 State-wise are given in statement-I.

(b) and (c) The details of power projects in Public Sector lagging behind their schedule, along with reasons for delay are given in statement-II.

(d) Effective monitoring mechanisms have now been put in place to ensure timely completion of the targeted projects. Monthly reviews are being undertaken by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and quarterly reviews are being undertaken by Secretary (Power).

The system of having a nodal officer for each on going project has been introduced. The nodal officer is required to keep track of and facilitate resolution of problems which may delay the project by escalating the issue to appropriate levels for immediate resolutions.

For hydro power project, the three stage development system has been introduced with the objective of reducing time and cost overruns by ensuring that before main contract packages are awarded :-

(a) necessary infrastructure is developed;

(b) land is acquired; and

(c) Detailed Project Report are prepared after thorough investigation.

## Statement-I

*A. Details of thermal power projects completed (synchronized) by different Public Sector Power Corporations during the last three years and current year upto 28.02.2003*

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)	Name of Public Sector Power Corporation	Date of synchronization
1	2	3	4	5
<b>1999-2000</b>				
1.	Haryana		NTPC	
	Aridabad CCGT			
	GT-I	143		29.06.99
	GT-2	143		18.10.99
2.	Kerala		NTPC	
	Kayamkulam CCGT			
	ST	119.4		30.10.99
3.	Madhya Pradesh		NTPC	
	Vindhyachal STPS			
	St-II			
	U-8	500		26.02.00
4.	Uttar Pradesh		NTPC	
	Unchahar TPS St-II			
	Unit-4	210		22.10.99
5.	Karnataka		KPCL	
	Raichur TPP			
	Unit-6	210		22.07.99

1	2	3	4	5
6.	West Bengal		WBDCL	
	Bakreshwar TPP			
	Unit-I	210		18.07.99
7.	Gujarat		GPCL	
	Surat Lignite			
	Unit-I	125		16.01.00
	Unit-2	125		06.11.99
8.	Pondicherry		PPCL	
	Karaikal CCGT			
	ST	9.6		15.10.99
9.	Rajasthan		RRVUNL	
	Suratgarh TPS St-I		(RSEB)	
	Unit-2	250		28.03.00
<b>2000-2001</b>				
10.	Haryana			
	a) Faridabad CCGT ST			
	b) Tau Devi Lal TPS	144	NTPC	31.07.00
	St- IV Unit--6	210	HPGCL	31.03.01
11.	West Bengal			
	Bakreshwar TPP		WBDCL	
	Unit-2	210		20.05.00
	Unit-3	210		31.03.01
<b>2001-2002</b>				
12.	Delhi		PPCL	
	Pragati CCGT			
	GT-I	104.6		15.03.02

1	2	3	4	5
13. Rajasthan			RRVUNL	
	Suratgarh TPS- St-II			
	Unit-3	250		29.10.01
	Unit-4	250		25.03.02
14. Gujarat				
	Hazira CCGT		GSECL	
	GT-I	52		30.9.01
	GT-2	52		16.10.01
	ST	52.1		31.3.02
15. Andhra Pradesh			NTPC	
	Simhadiri TPS			
	Unit I	500		22.2.02
	<b>2002-2003</b>			
16. Delhi				
	Pragati CCGT			
	GT-2	104.6	PPCL	9.11.02
	ST	121.18		31.1.03
17. Rajasthan			RRVUNL	
	Ramgarh CCGT			
	GT-2	3.5		7.8.02
18. Andhra Pradesh				
	Simhadari TPS U-2	500	NTPC	24.08.02
19. Karnataka			KPCL	

1	2	3	4	5
	Raichur TPP U-7	210		11.12.02
20. Tamilnadu			NLC	
	Neyveli TPS I Exp. Unit-I	210		21.10.02
<i>B. Details of hydro power projects completed by different public corporation during last three years and upto 28.02.2003</i>				
Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)	Name of Public Sector Power Corporation	Date of synch-ronization
1	2	3	4	5
	<b>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</b>	35.0	JKPDC	9.7.2000
1.	Upper Sindh-II	35.0		11.9.2001
2.	Chenani-III	7.5	JKPDC	6/7-2000
3.	Upper Sindh Extn	35	JKPDC	29.3.2002
4.	Sewa III	9	JKPDC	19.3.2002
	<b>Gujarat</b>			
5.	Sardar Sarovar Canal Head Power House	2x50	SSNNL	4.9.02 (Rotated)
	<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>		APGENCO	
6.	Singur	7.5		6.12.99
		7.5		31.3.2000
7.	Srisaillam LBPH	4x150	APGENCO	26.4.2001 12.11.2001 19.4.2002 29.11.2002

1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Karnataka</b>					<b>11. Sikkim</b>				
8.	Kalinadi-II (Kodasalli)	40	KPCL	28.8.99		Rangit, NHPC	3x20	NHPC	5.2.2000
9.	Sharavathy Tail	4x60	KPCL	20.2.01 15.5.01 1.11.01 30.3.02	12.	<b>Nagaland</b>			
						Doyang	3x25	NEEPCO	29.6.00 5.7.00 8.7.00
10.	<b>Orissa</b>				13.	<b>Arunachal Pradesh</b>			
	Upper Indravati	4x150	OHPC	5.9.99 23.12.99 30.9.00 16.4.01		Ranganadi	3x135	NEEPCO	26.1.02 29.1.02 29.3.02

**Statement-II**

Name of Project	State	Capacity (MW)	Comm. Sch. Original/Latest	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5

**A. Thermal Power Projects Under Construction having time overruns**

Akrimota Lignite Based Thermal Power Plant, Unit-I&2	Gujarat	2x125	12/2002 06/2003 03/2003 09/2003	Due to non-committal of funds by IDBL. Project authorities have now approached Power Finance Corporation for funds.
Neyveli Thermal Power Station-1 Expansion, Unit-2	Tamil Nadu	210	02/2001 12/2002	The synchronization of unit is delayed due to delay in supplies.

**B. Hydro Power Projects Under Construction having time/cost overruns**

Dhauliganga (NHPC)	Uttaranchal	280.00	1998-99 / 2004-05	Delay in JBIC funding
Dulhasti (NHPC)	J&K	390.00	July, 1994/ Dec., 2003	Due to poor geological strata encountered in Head Race Tunnel (Upstream) and Law and order problem.

1	2	3	4	5
Purulia PSS	West Bengal	900.00	2002-03/ 2006-07	Due to filing of Writ Petitions by the bidders and consequential legal impediment and also the delay in diversion of forest land for the Purulia Pumped Storage Project, the commencement of Lot-4-main civil works was delayed.
Nathpa Jhakri (NJPC)	Himachal Pradesh	1500.00	Dec., 2001 to March, 2002/ March, 2003 to December, 2003	Due to flash floods in July/Aug. 2000, rock fall in desilting chamber no. 3&4 during May, 2000 and rock falls in the desilting chamber no. 4 during Sept-Oct. 2002 etc.
Tehri St.I (THDC)	Uttaranchal	1000.00	1997-99/ Dec., 2003	Due to relief and rehabilitation problems and Uttrakhand agitation.
Larji	Himachal Pradesh	126.00	2002-03/ 2004-05	Delay in award of contract packages.
Sardar Sarovar	Gujarat/Madhya Pradesh/Maharashtra	1450.00	1994-96/ 2003-07	Court cases, cancellation of World Bank loan and suspension of JBIC loan etc.
Bansagar Tons PH IV	M.P.	20.00	1996-97/ 2005-06	Funds constraints, delay in finalizing the executing agency and relief and rehabilitation problems.
Ghatghar PSS	Maharashtra	250.00	1995-96 / 2004-05	Delay in land acquisition and delay in award of major works etc.
Srisaillam LBPH	A.P.	900.00	1993-95 / 2000-03	Delay in land acquisition and delay in award of major works etc.
Pykara Ultimate	Tamil Nadu	150.00	1994-95/ 2003-04	Delay in award of civil and mechanical works.
Karbi Langpi (Lower Borpani)	Assam	100.00	1985-86/ 2004-05	Delayed due to frequent changes in executing agencies, fund constraints.

**Modification in Selection Procedure  
for Retail Outlets**

2260.SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has directed the Oil PSUs to again modify their new Dealer Selection Process and site selection process;

(b) whether the Directions shall also be applicable

on such locations/sites/dealers where huge investments have been made;

(c) if so, whether the Government/oil companies shall compensate this loss;

(d) if not, whether this decision shall not be applied for the old cases/pipeline case where the investments have already been made; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (e) Consequent on the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism in the petroleum sector with effect from 1.4.2002, the selection of locations for dealerships/distributorships of petroleum products will be made by the Public Sector Oil Companies, provided that the locations meet certain norms like commercial viability and non-encroachment of the existing dealerships/distributorships. The selection dealers/distributors will be made by the Oil Marketing Companies themselves as per the guidelines to be adopted by them.

[Translation]

#### **MPs Visit to the Site of Train Accidents**

2261. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of MPs visiting the site of train accidents from January, 2002 to till date;

(b) the number of train accidents occurred from year 2002 to till date;

(c) the reasons for increasing number of train accidents;

(d) the steps being taken to check the increasing number of train accidents;

(e) whether Parliamentary Committee on Railways have submitted its report on the subject to Union Government; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) Figures in this regard are not maintained.

(b) 324\* consequential train accidents have taken place during the year 2002-03 (April 2002 to February 2003). \*Figures are provisional.

(c) and (d) The number of consequential train accidents has shown a declining trend over the last few years. From 473 during 2000-01, they have come down to 414 in 2001-02, showing a decline of 12.5%. However, efforts are made on a continuous basis to prevent accidents by improved maintenance practices, intensified training of staff and regular safety audits etc.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

#### **Vacant Posts of SC/ST/OBC**

2262. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :  
SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN :

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

(a) whether a few posts of SC/ST and OBC in various categories are lying vacant in various departments and undertakings under the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether employees working in these departments and undertakings have been given promotion on new recruitments have been made during last three years;

(d) if so, the year-wise and category-wise details of

new appointments made in various categories during the above mentioned period and current year, till date;

(e) whether prescribed norms have been followed in respect of recruitment and promotion of SC/ST and OBC candidates; and

(f) If not, the remedial measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

#### Mejia Thermal Power Project

2263. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the loss of Mejia Thermal Power Project is basically material loss which comes by rail transportation from E.C.L. and B.C.C.L.;

(b) if so, the time of extraneous material alongwith Coal received by MTPP for E.C.L. and B.C.C.L.;

(c) the quantum of theft and pilferage of coal; and

(d) the step taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) There is occasional loss of coal during transit by rail from Eastern Coalified Limited (ECL) and Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) but the same is well within reasonable limit. The extraneous material is approximately 0.25%. The quantum of theft and pilferage is meager.

(d) The steps taken are as under :-

(i) Reduction of coal price equivalent to the quantity

of extraneous material is made from the bills of the coal companies.

(ii) Regular interaction with Quality Control Department of the Coal Company to improve the quality of coal; and

(iii) Regular interaction with the District Administration.

[Translation]

#### Privatisation in Railways

2264. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have privatised some of the railway services;

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

(c) the work handed over to the private companies in the first phase alongwith the date thereof, company-wise;

(d) whether the Government have received complaints against favouritism adopted while assigning computerised railway reservation counters to private parties;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) No passenger services have been privatized.

(c) and (e) Do not arise.

(d) to (f) Computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS) terminals have been allotted to three Rail Travellers' Service Agent (RTSAs) in Mumbai area of Central Railway on an experimental basis. After finalisation of the names of these three RTSAs by a selection committee, a Writ

Petition was filed in the Hon'ble High Court of Mumbai against this decision. Hon'ble High Court has disposed off the petition directing the Railway to decide representation made by the petitioner. The representation of the petitioner was disposed off as per Hon'ble High Court's directives. The petitioner has again filed a writ petition before Hon'ble High Court, Mumbai, which is subjudice.

[English]

### **Hydel Potential in Orissa**

2265. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the tremendous Hydel potential in Orissa;

(b) if so, the steps taken to exploit the hydel potential in that State;

(c) the details of the hydel projects presently under execution in the State; and

(d) the details of the hydel projects presently under execution in the State; and

(e) the details of assistance provided by the Union Government to Orissa for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) had identified 18 schemes with an estimated hydro power potential of 2999 MW in Orissa from studies carried out during 1978-87.

(b) 7 hydro power projects with an installed capacity of 1843.5 MW have already been developed and 2 hydro projects of 210 MW installed capacity are under development.

(c) and (d) Balimela Dam Toe (2x30 MW) and Balimela Extension (2x75 MW) are presently under execution. Jalaput Project (3x6 MW) has been cleared by CEA for execution in Orissa. Power Finance Corporation has

sanctioned a loan of US\$ 21.21 million and Rs. 29.04 crores for Balimela Extension Project Unit 7 & 8 (2x75 MW).

### **Subsidy on Electricity for Agriculture**

2266. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have planned extensive guidelines in the field of electricity supply for agriculture for adoption by various State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have also opposed the heavy subsidies in electricity/free electricity for agriculture sector;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government have a proposal that the tariff structure on both irrigation and energy are likely to be reviewed and revised every five year; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) to (f) Distribution of electricity is the responsibility of the State Government. Retail tariff for supply of power to the various consumers is determined by the State Government or State Electricity Regulatory Commission, wherever in operation.

Section 29(2) (c) of the Electricity Regulatory Commissions (ERC) Act, 1998 requires the State Commission to ensure inter alia that the tariff progressively reflects the cost of supply of electricity at an adequate and



improving level of efficiency. Section 29(3) of the Act, provides that State Commission while determining the tariff under this Act, shall not show undue preference to any consumer of electricity, but may differentiate according to the consumers load factor, power factor, total consumption of energy during any specified period or the time at which supply is required or the geographical position of any area, the nature of supply and the purpose for which the supply is required.

The State governments, however, have the powers to grant subsidy to any class of consumers in the tariff determined by the State Commissions, Section 29(5) of the ERC Act provides that if the State Government requires the grant of any subsidy to any consumer or class of consumers in the tariff determined by the State Commission, the State Government shall pay the amount to compensate the person affected by the grant of subsidy in the manner the State Commission may direct.

The Chief Ministers Conference held on 3rd March, 2001 resolved that "it is necessary to move away from the regime of providing free power. The past decision of CMs of a minimum agricultural tariff of 50 Paise may be implemented immediately".

Under the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP), actual reduction of the gap between revenue and cost in the State is to be incentivised through grants.

The Tenth Five Year Plan adopted by Government of India envisages increase in irrigation charges. Accordingly, the allocations under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) has been linked with Water Tariff Reforms. The reforming states agreeing to revise their water rates within a period of five years for full recovery of O&M costs would be entitled to have better terms of loan under a special dispensation of the programme and are to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of India for this purpose. So far four States namely, M.P., Rajasthan, Orissa and Maharashtra have signed MOUs with Governments of India agreeing to revise the water charges within five years.

[Translation]

### **Pollution Control Equipments in Thermal Power Plants**

2267. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have directed the Thermal Power Stations for installation of pollution control equipments with the aim of controlling pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

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

(b) The Government has notified environmental protection rules under the Environmental Protection Act, 1986. These rules provide for norms to limit the suspended particular matter discharges, ambient air quality standards and water quality discharge standards. While according Environmental Clearance to Thermal Power Projects the conditions of installation of Pollution Control Equipments are imposed. In case of old Thermal Power Stations where pollution control equipments are unable to meet the regulatory norms specified by Ministry of Environment & Forests/Central Pollution Control Board, the equipments are refurbished or replaced under the Renovation and Modernisation programme.

(c) The expenditure on these measures is projects specific.

[English]

### **Outstanding Dues of Employees in BSCL**

2268. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Refractory and Ceramic Group of units of Burn Standard Company Limited at Raniganj were closed by separating its employees through VRS on October 31, 2000;

(b) if so, whether 156 employees out of 356 have not yet received their outstanding dues;

(c) if so, whether the employees whose settlement claims were cleared from 2000-01 onwards in phases received reduced interest rates on P.F. than that prevailed in earlier years;

(d) if so, whether Government are planning to liquidate the outstanding payment on account of P.F. of 156 employees left over @11.237% interest on an emergent basis;

(e) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government to ensure that the employees whose claims were settled at lesser rate of interest on PF dues, receive back their legitimate claim of higher interest entitled for; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) Only Provident Fund (PF) dues of 156 employees were outstanding for which an amount of Rs.3.66 crore has been released by the Government to the Company on 20.2.2003. The rate of interest on PF is fixed by the PF Trust whose trustees are representatives of the employees and employers. The Government has no role in this matter. The rate of interest varies from year to year. The deposits in PF carried lower rate of interest after 1999-2000. All the employees are paid interest on PF at the same rate in a given year.

#### Identification of FM Stations

2269. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the names and number of stations have been identified for establishment of FM stations in the country during 2002-2003;

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

(c) whether Moradabad in West Uttar Pradesh find place on that list;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for ignoring such a commercially important town?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) During the year 2002-03, one FM Station of All India Radio at Bhadarwah in Jammu & Kashmir was targeted for completion and the station was commissioned on 13th July, 2002.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Moradabad falls in the primary grade coverage zones of 100 KW and 200 KW MW transmitters of AIR Delhi and 20 KW MW Transmitter of AIR Rampur. Some parts of Moradabad district are also covered by 100 KW MW Transmitter of AIR, Najibabad.

#### Independent Head for MES

2270. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Military Engineer Services is not having any independent head whereas other Engineering Services are having independent heads;

(b) whether Fifth Pay Commission has strongly recommended that MES should have independent head;

(c) whether Director General Married Accommo-

ation Projects which was carved out of MES has been provided with an independent head recently;

(d) if so, the reasons for not providing Independent Head to MES; and

(e) the time by which the same will be done?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir. Engineer-in-Chief is the head of Military Engineering Service.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. Director General Married Accommodation Projects has been provided with independent head.

(d) Does not arise in view of answer to (a) above.

(e) Does not arise in view of answer to (a) above.

#### **Biographical Film on "Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj"**

2271. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to produce biographical film on "Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) Presently there is no such proposal. However, a sponsored serial on Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj entitled "Lok Raja Rajshri Shahu" is already being telecast by Doordarshan every week on Sahyadri Terrestrial Network of Mumbai for 52 episodes.

#### **Replacement of Old Road Crossing Gates**

2272. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that railway-road crossing gates installed by the railways 50-60 years ago are of no use, keeping in view the increase in population; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government for replacement of these railway crossing gates with gates of bigger size?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) Level crossing gate widths are provided commensurate with the requirement of road widths. The upgradation of level crossing is done based on TVUs (Train Vehicle Unit is the figure arrived at by multiplying the number of Road vehicles and number of trains passing on the level crossing during the 24 hours). Census of traffic at level crossings is taken once every five years. Further to improve operation of gate opening and closure, gate leaves at level crossing gates are replaced by lifting barriers in a programmed manner.

#### **Filling up of Vacancies of Disabled People**

2273. SHRI SUBODH ROY : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the concrete steps taken to give employment to the disables after enacting the Disabilities Act, 1995;

(b) whether the Government is considering to launch a special employment drive to fill the backlog vacancies of 3% reservation in all services earmarked for disabled people; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) to (c) An Expert Committee constituted by the Government has reviewed the identification of posts done in 1986 and a revised list of over 1900 posts in all Groups in the establishments of Government of India and Public Sector Undertakings have been notified as suitable for persons with different disabilities in June, 2001. Special drives for filling up the vacancies reserved for persons with disabilities are undertaken by the recruitment agencies from time to time. Besides, all the Ministries/Departments have been requested to furnish a certificate to the recruiting agencies that the policy relating to 3% reservation for persons with disabilities has been taken care of. As per information provided by Department of Personnel & Training (DOPT) in March, 2001, the reservation for persons with disabilities in various Ministries/Departments with reference to the identified posts in Group A,B,C,&D, is more than the statutory provision of three per cent.

### Power to Kerala

2274. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the quantity of power brought from PSUs outside State and the mode by transmission to Kerala;

(b) whether there is a proposal to avail more power from Eastern Region through Central Grid in the Southern Region of Kerala; and

(c) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) As per the regional energy accounts of January, 2003 Kerala has procured scheduled power from Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) outside the State as given below:-

Central Public Sector Undertaking	Power Station	Million Units
National Thermal Power Corporation	Ramagundam STPS	205
Neyveli Lignite Corporation	TPS II Stage-I	46
Neyveli Lignite Corporation	TPS II Stage-II	64
Neyveli Lignite Corporation	TPS I (Expansion)	03
Nuclear Power Corporation	Madras	07
Nuclear Power Corporation	Kaiga	11
National Thermal Power Corporation	Stations in Eastern Region	87
Total		423

Presently Kerala State receives its share of power from various Central Sector Generating Projects located outside the State mainly through 400 kV Udumalpet-North Trichur D/C line interconnecting

Kerala with Southern Regional grid. In addition, it also receives its share through following 220 KV lines interconnecting Kerala with other neighbouring States:-

**With Karnataka**

- (i) Mysore-Kozikode 220 kV D/C

**With Tamil Nadu**

- (i) Edamon-Kaithar 220 kV S/C  
 (ii) Iduki-Udumalpet 220 kV S/C  
 (iii) Sabargiri-Theni 220 kV S/C

**From Eastern Region**

- (i) Jeypore-Gazuwaka HVDC back to back line.  
 (ii) Talcher-Kolar HVDC bipole.

(b) and (c) Kerala would be availing power from Talcher Stage II (4x500 MW) located in Eastern Region to be commissioned by 2004-05. Kerala has a share of 14% (280 MW) in Talcher Stage-II.

[Translation]

**Handing Over of Land in Una to Western  
Command Headquarters**

2275. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Army's Western Command Headquarters, Chandimandir has requested the Himachal Pradesh Government for handing over few hundreds acres of selected land at Una district in the State so that a military station could be set up there;

(b) if so, whether the Himachal Pradesh Government has given permission for handing over the said land; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Himachal Pradesh Government

had indicated willingness to offer land in Una to the Army in two pockets separated by a strip of land. The Army Authorities while accepting the offer in principle, for locating their units and establishments, requested the State Government to offer land in one pocket, therefore, indicated 790 acres of land in Una. The Board of Officers has been ordered to ascertain the suitability of the land and the issue will be further examined on receipt of the Board proceedings.

[English]

**Direct Investment in Power Projects  
of Gujarat**

2276. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any direct investment in power projects located in the State of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof and amount of investment made during the last three years, project-wise; and

(c) the share of State Government in these power projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) No investment has been made in Central Sector in Gujarat during the last three years.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Uniform Law/Guidelines Adoption  
of Children**

2277. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :  
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is no uniform law/guidelines for adoption of children in the country;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to make uniform guidelines/law for adoption of children; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) to (c) The Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956 and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 provide for adoption of children in India. Guidelines on in-country adoptions were issued to States for the first time in 1998 to streamline the procedure involved in adoption.

#### **Forcing Orders and Technical Assignments to PSUs**

2278. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have provided any facilities and relaxations for PSUs to set up foreign establishments to execute their foreign contract commitments;

(b) if so, whether the Government have provided any sops for the PSUs to get the foreign orders and technical assignments; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the orders along with nature of work and value got at present?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The Navratna PSUs have been given enhanced powers to open offices in India and abroad and also to establish financial joint ventures and wholly owned subsidiaries in India or abroad subject to certain stipulation. The details of orders, nature and value of work are not centrally maintained.

#### **Funds to States for Imparting Education to Handicapped Child**

2279. SHRI RAGHURA. SINGH SHAKYA :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received proposals from the State Governments and various NGO's seeking permission to release grant-in-aid for the upliftment of orthopedically handicapped children, hearing impaired and home for aged during 2002-2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise particularly from Maharashtra and Karnataka;

(c) the amount sought as grant-in-aid and the amount released so far by the Government under such schemes; and

(d) the details of reasons of the proposals received from Maharashtra and Karnataka rejected by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 1512 proposals from different states including 164 from Maharashtra and 100 from Karnataka have been received.

(c) Under the schemes for upliftment of orthopedically handicapped, hearing impaired and home for aged assistance to the extent of 90% of the eligible amount of grant sought is considered for release. During the year 2002-03, a sum of Rs. 88.27 crores has been sanctioned for release in the country as a whole.

(d) Proposals not found in accordance with the norms of the schemes and guidelines have been rejected.

### Modern Signalling System

2280. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the All India Loco Running Staff Association has blamed the faulty system for Ghatnandur, Maharashtra accident on 3rd January, 2000;

(b) if so, whether signalling system used there, is an out dated and it gives scope for many errors; and

(c) if so, the action being taken to instal modern signalling system to avoid accidents in future?

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

(b) Track circuiting is not available from Fouling Mark to Fouling Mark on main line, as the station was on 'E' route. In the absence of track circuit, the trains are received after the manual verification of the clearance of the main line.

(c) Provision of track circuiting from Fouling Mark to Fouling Mark on the main line of this station to prevent reception of trains on occupied main line has been sanctioned during 2002-03. The work is targeted for completion by Dec., 2003.

[Translation]

### Cost of Power Generation from Different Fuel

2281. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether water, atomic energy, coal, Naphtha, Oil, Gas and Bagasse are used as fuel to generate power in the country;

(b) if not, the other forms of fuel used to generate power during each of the last three years; and

(c) the average cost of production of power generated through each of the above forms of fuel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Yes, Sir. However, hydroelectric power generation does not involve the use of water as a fuel.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) According to the Central Electricity Authority the average cost of generation of Power from various sources for the year 2000-01 is given below :

Sources	Cost of Generation (paise/kWh)
Hydro	63*
Coal	151*
Naphtha	506*
Gas	220*
Nuclear	82-295
Small Hydro	200-250
Biomass Power/Bagasse Co-generation	150-275

\*All India weighted average.

### Reform in Power Sector

2282. YOGI ADITYA NATH :

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :

DR. N. VENKATASWAMY :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the government have formulated any scheme to reform in the power sector;

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

(c) the funds proposed to be allocated by the Government for implementation of this scheme;

(d) the number of States which have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Union Government for undertaking reform in power sector; and

(e) the total amount of financial assistance extended to these States and also additional power supplied to them as on December 31, 2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) In order to upgrade the sub-transmission and distribution network with the objective of accomplishing reduction of transmission and distribution (technical and commercial) losses, reduction in cash losses by State Electricity Boards/Utilities and supply of reliable and interruption free power, the Government of India introduced the Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) in February, 2001 now rechristened as Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme.

Funds under APDRP will be provided for measures like metering of 11 kV feeders, replacement of defective meters, replacement of conductors and transformers, bifurcating power loaded conductors and transformers, renovation of sub-station and information technology, etc.

(d) 26 States have signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Power for undertaking reforms and restructuring of the power sector in a time bound manner and linking the support of Government of India to achievement of predetermined milestones.

(e) An amount of Rs. 978.13 crores was released to the States in the year 2000-01 and an amount of Rs. 1087.59 crores has been released till date in present financial year under APDRP scheme. Under the provisions of the MoU signed with the various States, as on 31.12.2002, Karnataka has been allocated an additional 80 MW power from the unallocated quota of Neyveli Lignite Thermal Power Station Stage-II and Madhya Pradesh has

been allocated an additional 50 MW power from the National Thermal Power Corporation Stations in Eastern Region.

[English]

#### Rehabilitation Schemes for Handicapped Persons

2283. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :  
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :  
SHRI RAMESHETH THAKUR :

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of handicapped persons at present in Karnataka and Maharashtra and the details of the rehabilitation schemes initiated by the Government;

(b) the funds allocated for these schemes during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to provide special assistance to ease the hardships faced by the handicapped in daily walks of life?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) to (c) Based on the sample survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in 1991, approximately 8.76 lakh and 18.19 lakh persons in Karnataka and Maharashtra, respectively are estimated to be suffering from some kind of physical or sensory disability. There are six National Institutes/Apex level Institutions setup in each major area of disability which work inter-alia towards manpower development through long term and short term training programmes, provide rehabilitation services, undertake functional research etc. The artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), a public sector undertaking under the aegis of this Ministry manufactures and promotes availability, supply and distribution of quality aids and appliance for persons with disabilities. The National Handicapped



Finance & Development Corporation (NHFDC), set up in 1997, provides financial assistance to persons with disabilities on soft terms for self-employment and income generating activities. Schemes are also under implementation for providing support to non-government organizations working for various programmes for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

The Government has also taken initiatives for improving outreach with a view to ensuring wider coverage and holistic rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. Over hundred districts have been identified for setting up District Centers with the objective of providing comprehensive rehabilitation services. Schemes are also under implementation for setting up Composite Regional Centres for providing composite rehabilitation services and Regional Rehabilitation Centres (RRCs) for persons with spinal injuries and other orthopaedic disabilities. The National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities has become functional.

A total amount of Rs. 2374.59 lakh and Rs. 1504.66 lakh has been released to Karnataka and Maharashtra respectively in the last three years for this sector.

#### **Recommendations of Khanna Committee Report**

2284. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Khanna Committee Report recommended that 35000 km rail track are to be replaced;

(b) whether the said committee also emphasized that out of 12000 rail bridges half of them are of 19th century;

(c) if so, whether the committee recommended that the rail track is to be replaced within 5-7 years and bridges to be reconstructed;

(d) if so, the kilometre track so far replaced by the

railway and number of projects constructed in lieu of old bridges of railways;

(e) whether keeping in view the recent rail accidents, the Governments have taken any specific and speedy steps to implement recommendations of the Khanna Committee;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Khanna Committee (Aug.'99) had recommended to wipe out arrears to the extent of 12.260 km on Broad Gauge (as of 1.4.99) and fresh accruals @ 3250 km per year for next 7 years which works out to 35010 km of renewal.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Committee mentioned that 51340 nos. of bridges on Indian Railways are of 19th century vintage.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Committee had recommended to replace over due and fresh accrual of track renewal within next 7 years and that the rehabilitation of distressed bridges should be completed in a time span of 5 years along with fresh accruals.

(d) The progress of track renewal/bridges during last two years is as under:-

Year	Total Track Renewal in Km	Total Bridge rehabilitation/ rebuilding/regirdering etc. done (nos)
2001-02	3620	725
2002-03 (Targeted)	4000	999
2002-03 (Progress upto Jan. 03)	3817	754

(e) to (g) The Railway Safety Review Committee has made 278 recommendations in both the parts of the report.

214 of them have either been accepted 'fully' or 'partially'. 28 recommendations have not been accepted and 36 are under examination. 47 recommendations have been implemented.

Action to implement the accepted or partially accepted recommendations is at various stages depending upon availability of resources and success of trials, in few cases.

#### **Expansion of Kayamkulam Power Project**

2285. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government intend to expand Kayamkulam Power Plant in Kerala into a Super Thermal Power Plant of 2000 MW with LNG as fuel during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has prepared a plan to expand the existing 350 MW naphtha fired combined cycle power plant of NTPC at Kayamkulam by adding 1950 MW capacity in Stage-II based on Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)/natural gas as fuel. The implementation of Kayamkulam Stage-II is envisaged to yield benefits in 11th Plan period and would be subject to availability of fuel at reasonable and firm prices and commitment from the beneficiary utilities to take power from the project with signing of Power Purchase Agreement.

#### **National Trust for Welfare of Disabled Persons**

2286. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO :  
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Trust for the welfare of persons suffering from Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and multiple disabilities has been set up;

(b) if so, the steps the Government is taking to put it right to promote development and safeguard the interest of these groups;

(c) whether the Government have issued guidelines for issue of identity cards to persons of disabilities to the States and Union territories;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The steps being taken for the welfare and care of persons with autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation and multiple disabilities include setting up of Local Level Committees to address guardianship issues, providing financial support to run day care, respite care and residential care centres, training of special teachers and home based care givers, establishment of information centres, development and dissemination of information booklets for parents and families, organizing awareness campaigns and seminars etc.

Government of India has contributed Rs. 100 crores for the corpus of the National Trust and the income from this is being utilized to implement the schemes/programmes of the Trust.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. In order to have uniformity in the identity cards for persons with disabilities so as to ensure that various legitimate concessions/benefits are available to persons with disabilities, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, in August 2000 has circulated guidelines in this regard to all States/Union territories with a request to adopt the same for the purpose. As per Guidelines, State Government/U.T. Administration, prescribe the

appropriate authority and procedure for issue of Identity Cards keeping in view the convenience of persons with disability who should not have to travel for the card. All those who are certified by the appropriate authority to have disability as per the definitions given in the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act 1995 will be eligible to obtain the Identity Card. Medical Certificate is a necessary pre-requisite. In case of any dispute, the appropriate authority will be the State Commissioner for Disabilities.

(e) Does not arise.

#### Rehabilitation of Sick PSUs

2287. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have plans to take the sick PSUs out of the purview of the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) to enable their liquidity and faster rehabilitation;

(b) if so, whether under the proposed company Law Amendment the BIFR would be scrapped; and

(c) if so, the quantum of liability of outstandings of potentially sick PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The proposed setting up of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), as envisaged in the Companies (Second Amendment) Act, 2002, takes the sick PSUs out of the purview of BIFR in the sense that PSUs will be able to approach only NCLT for rehabilitation once the relevant provisions in this regard are notified, after the Sick Industries Companies Act, 1985 (SICA) is repealed.

(c) The total outstandings with the CPSUs registered with BIFR as on 31.12.2002, in terms of outstanding statutory dues and outstanding salary and wages were Rs. 1627.62 crores as on 30.6.2002.

#### National Rail Vikas Yojana

2288. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister has launched Rs. 15,000 crores National Rail Vikas Yojana on December 26, 2002;

(b) whether the Prime Minister has stressed the need for infrastructures like the railways to mobilise funds from non-conventional sources;

(c) whether the funds/resources available under Special Safety fund, would be utilised to help replace aging assets and modernise the entire railway system;

(d) if so, the target fixed for completion of this National Rail Vikas Yojana and the source of required funds and proposed annual release of funds for this Yojana;

(e) whether the Government propose to ensure completion of this vital ambitious project on scheduled time and the Ministry of Finance has given Okay for the required funds; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) It has been decided that the National Rail Vikas Yojana will be funded through a mix of budgetary and non-budgetary resources.

(c) The funds/resources available under Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF) are being utilized for replacing identified overaged assets of track, bridges, signalling and telecom equipment, rolling stock and for other safety enhancement measures which would contribute towards greater safety in Railway operations. Modernisation is a continuous ongoing process which is effective over a course of time depending on the availability of budgetary resources.

(d) The National Rail Vikas Yojana will be completed in a period of five years. The funds will be sourced from a mix of budgetary and non-budgetary resources.

(e) Yes, Sir. The Government plans to complete the project in the scheduled time. The mobilization of resources is being done in consultation with the Ministry of Finance.

(f) A first loan of US\$ 313.6 million has been tied up with ADB. Rs. 1500 crores are expected as budgetary support. It is planned to avail World Bank funding for the Mega Bridges included under the National Rail Vikas Yojana. A preliminary dialogue with the World Bank has been held. Efforts are being made to secure public and private participation for executing Port Connectivity works.

[Translation]

#### Gas and Oil Reserves In Himalayas

2289. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps for the exploration of gas and oil reserves in Himalayas on the basis of reports of geo-scientific survey etc.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and expenditure likely to be incurred thereon and the time by when success is likely to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Government have awarded one exploration block, namely HF-ONN-2001/1 in Himalayan Foothill area in the State of Himachal Pradesh, to Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) under the third round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) for which Production Sharing Contract has been

signed on 4.2.2003. In addition, ONGC is holding two Petroleum Exploration Licenses (PELs) one each in the States of Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh, on nomination basis. Oil India Ltd. (OIL) is also holding one PEL in Kashipur block, on nomination basis in the Himalayan Foothill area in the States of Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh.

During the X Plan period (2002-07), the total expenditure envisaged on exploration by ONGC and OIL is Rs. 77.30 crores and Rs. 53.20 crores, respectively, and there is no fund constraints for taking up any additional work programme which may arise during the above period.

The National Oil Companies (NOCs), namely ONGC and OIL are vigorously pursuing exploration activities to get a break-through in Himalayan areas, although no commercial success has been achieved so far. Since exploration is input deterministic and output probabilistic in nature, no time frame can be laid down for the same.

#### New Rail Projects

2290. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently sanctioned new rail projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated by the Government for these projects; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (c) The following projects under plan head New Lines and Doubling have been recently approved by the Government and included in the budget 2003-2004. The details of these projects, funds proposed for 2003-2004 is as under :

Name of the project	Anticipated cost	Proposed allocation 03-04
1	2	3
<b>New Line</b>		
Kosi bridge	323.41	10.00
<b>Doubling</b>		
Pakni-Mohol	42.73	15
Mansi-Maheshkhunt	15.32	1.00
Rohtak-Jakhal	47.79	1.00
Hapur-Kankather	97.74	1.00
Sahibabad-Anand Vihar 3rd and 4th line	49.22	10.00
Ambaturai-Kodaikkanal	22.95	0.96
Chennai Beach-Korukkupet	59.57	5.00
Kataiya Dandi-Lohgara	64.46	1.00
Shujalpur-Akodia	31.36	1.00
Barauni-Tilrath	13.85	1.00
Barharwa-Tinpahar	40.00	2.00
Kayankulam-Cheppad	21.48	5.00
Kayankulam-Mavelikara	21.84	5.00
Jahanabad-Bela	75.00	1.00
Chandpara-Bangaon	27.48	1.00
Raichur-Guntakal	136.62	20.00
Cuttack-Barang	127.13	10.00
Khurda-Barang 3rd line	133.41	10.00

1	2	3
Aligarh-Ghaziabad 3rd line	230.73	30.00
Naini shunting neck	0.83	0.83
<b>Metropolitan Transport Project</b>		
Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP)	3125.2	295.00

(d) The works would be taken up once the budget is passed by the Parliament.

#### **Approval to Power Generating Projects**

2291. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether 13 projects of private sector have been approved during 1999 to 2002 for power generation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and production capacity of these projects, project-wise;

(c) whether these projects are being constructed as per schedule;

(d) if so, the time by which power generation at each project will be started;

(e) whether the construction work of each project completed;

(f) if not, reasons therefor; and

(g) the details of the projects whose construction work yet to be started?-

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Yes, Sir; 13 private sector power generation projects have been accorded Techno-Economic Clearance (TEC)

by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) since April, 1999.

(b) The required details are given in the statement enclosed.

(c), (e) and (g) Construction work on the power plants generally starts only after all the required inputs/ clearances have been tied up and financial closure has been achieved. So far, none of the projects mentioned in the annexure have been able to achieve financial closure and due to this, activities on these projects have either not been initiated or are not in full swing.

(d) The project-wise time schedule for commissioning of the power plants/ units from date of financial closure is indicated in the statement enclosed.

(f) One of the main reasons the private power projects not being able to achieve financial closure is the inability of the respective State Electricity Boards (SEBs) or their successor entities to provide acceptable payment security, to meet the requirement of the lending institutions. The other issues are generally project specific issues such as non finalization of contracts viz., Power Purchase Agreements and implementation agreements etc., fuel related issues, inability of the respective SEB to off take the power, etc.

### Statement

#### Approval to Power Generating Projects

Sl. No.	Name of Project and executing agency	Capacity (MW)	Date of clearance	Commissioning schedule original/now expected
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Jamnagar TPP M/s. Reliance Power Ltd.	500 (2 x 250)	20.4.1999	36/39 months from FC
2.	Vemagiri CCPP M/s. Ispat Industries Ltd.	492	14.1.1999	GT:12/04ST:3/05/GT 2/05 ST:5/05
3.	Nagarjuna TPS M/s. Nagarjuna Power Corpn. Ltd.	1015 (2x507.5)	29.4.1999	35/39 months from FC
4.	Kaniniminke CCPP M/s. Peenya Power Co.	107.6 (2x35.3) + (1x 37)	29.9.1999	17 months from FC
5.	Kannur CCPP M/s. Kannur Power Projects Pvt. Ltd.	513 (3x111.9) + (1x177.3)	16.2.2000	25 months from FC
6.	Cuddalore TPP M/s. Cuddalore Power Co. Ltd	1320 (2x660)	13.8.1999	39/44 months from FC

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Vembar CCGT M/s. Indian Power Projects Ltd.	1873 (5 modules of 374.6 MW each)	2.9.1999	38 months from FC for 1st module and balance at inter- val of 3 months
8.	Ib Valley TPS Unit 5 & 6 M/s. AES Ib Valley Corpn.	500 (2x250)	26.2.1999	33/36 months from FC
9.	Dubri TPP M/s. Kalinga Power Corpn.	500 (2x250)	29.4.1999	33/36 months from FC
10.	Gouripore TPS M/s. Gouripore Power Co.	150 (1x150)	19.4.1999	no longer being developed through private sector
<b>Hydro</b>				
11.	Shrinagar M/s. Duncans North Hydro Power Co. Ltd.	330 (4x82.5)	14.6.2000	2006-07/2006-07
12.	Dhamwari Sunda M/s. Dhamwari Power Corpn. Ltd.	70 (2x35)	6.7.2001	2005-06/11th Plan
13.	Allain Duhangan M/s. Rajasthan Spinning and Weaving Mills Ltd.	190 (2X95)	20.8.2002	2008-09/2008-09

**Abbreviations:**

FC : Financial Closure

TPP : Thermal Power Project

TPS : Thermal Power Station

CCPP : Combined Cycle Power Project

CCGT : Combined Cycle Gas Turbine

GT : Gas Turbine

ST : Steam Turbine

MW : Mega Watts

[English]

**Power Generation, Consumption,  
Transmission and Distribution**

2292. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Rural Electrification Corporation has undertaken a number of projects covering power generation, power conservation, power transmission and power distribution in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the projects undertaken in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) supplements the resources of State Electricity Boards/State Power Utilities by providing loan assistance for eligible rural electrification projects including power generation, power transmission, power distribution and power conservation in the country on normal commercial terms.

(b) Loan assistance sanctioned by the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) for such projects in Tamil Nadu during the last three years and in the current year is given as under :

Year	No. of System Improvement Project (T & D) sanctioned	Loan amount sanctioned for System Improvement Projects (Rs. in crore)
1999-2000	40	194.47
2000-01	—	—
2001-02	4	244.90
2002-03 (upto January, 2003)	42	546.73

**Privatisation of Power Generation  
and Distribution**

2293. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT :  
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the power projects in the country which were proposed to be privatized but have not been privatized so far during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the details regarding the privatisation of power generation and distribution in country, State-wise;

(c) whether it has enabled States to reduce the power loss in transmission and distribution; and

(d) if so, the decrease in transmission and distribution losses, for the last two years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) No privatisation of any power generation project during the last three years has been reported. Electricity is a concurrent subject and distribution is the responsibility of the State Governments. As per information available, 18 companies are engaged in the distribution of power in the public sector and 11 in the private sector. Details are given in statement-I.

(c) and (d) A Statement showing Transmission & Distribution (T&D) losses for the period 1997-98 to 1999-2000 is enclosed as statement-II. It has been noted that reforming States, after detailed studies conducted into their operation, have reported higher T&D losses compared to figures before restructuring. The apparent increase in reporting of T&D losses by most of the State Electricity Boards (SEB) is on account of a more realistic assessment of losses within the network. Since a large number of consumers were unmetered, e.g. agricultural pumpsets, it was customary in the past to ascribe part of the losses, particularly commercial losses (i.e. theft), to consumption by the unmetered segment. With State Regulatory



Commissions insisting on sample metering of unmetered segments of consumers, energy audit, etc. the T&D losses now being reported are closer to actuals. Even now, the figures being reported are estimates on account of the continued existence of unmetered categories of consumers.

Central Electricity Authority have issued Guidelines for reduction of transmission and distribution losses in February, 2001. The steps taken to reduce the transmission and distribution losses include energy auditing, 100% metering, elimination of power theft and strengthening/upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution system. Comprehensive Guidelines have also been formulated by a Steering Committee of Experts to streamline the sub-transmission and distribution systems and ensure more reliable figures of energy generated and supplied.

During the present financial year, under the Accelerated Power Development & Reforms Programme (APDRP), sub-transmission & distribution projects worth Rs. 8484.27 crores have been sanctioned for 284 towns. Under this programme, 50% assistance is being provided for upgradation of the sub-Transmission & Distribution and the remaining 50% as cash incentive to utilities to reduce cash losses.

#### Statement-I

#### I. Public Distribution Companies

##### Andhra Pradesh

1. Central Power Distribution Company
2. Eastern Power Distribution Company Ltd
3. Northern Power Distribution Company Ltd
4. Southern Power Distribution Company Ltd

##### Haryana

5. Dakshin Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam Ltd
6. Uttar Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam Ltd.

##### Rajasthan

7. Ajmer Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd
8. Jodhpur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd
9. Jaipur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd

##### Uttar Pradesh

10. Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd
11. KESCO

##### Uttaranchal

12. Uttaranchal Power Corporation Ltd

##### Karnataka

13. BESCOM
14. MESCOM
15. HESCOM
16. GESCOM

##### West Bengal

17. Durgapur Projects Ltd
18. Disergarh Power Supply Company Ltd

##### Madhya Pradesh

19. Madhya Pradesh Madhya Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Co.Ltd. (Central)
20. Madhya Pradesh Poorva Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Co.Ltd. (East)
21. Madhya Pradesh Paschim Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Co.Ltd. (West)

#### II. Private Distribution Companies

##### Gujarat

1. Ahmedabad Electricity Company Ltd

## 2. Surat Electricity Company Ltd

**Maharashtra**

## 3. Bombay Suburban Electric Supply Co. Ltd.

**West Bengal**

## 4. Calcutta Electric Supply Company Ltd

**Uttar Pradesh**

## 5. Greater NOIDA Power Company

**Orissa**

## 6. NESCO

## 7. WESCO

## 8. SOUTHCO

**Delhi**

## 9. North Delhi Power Company Ltd.

## 10. BSES Yamuna Power Ltd.

## 11. BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd.

**Statement-II**

*Percentage Transformation, Transmission and Distribution losses (including commercial losses such as pilferage etc.) in SEBs/EDs.*

Region/SEB/ED	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000*
1	2	3	4
<b>Northern Region:</b>			
Haryana	34.04	35.33	38.28
Himachal Pradesh	20.13	26.11	22.41
Jammu & Kashmir	49.95	47.64	44.90
Punjab	18.94	18.11	18.40

1	2	3	4
Rajasthan	26.41	29.53	30.44
Uttar Pradesh	26.18	30.23	39.83
Chandigarh	22.38	22.48	24.70
DVB(Delhi)	47.91	43.71	46.29
<b>Western Region:</b>			
Gujarat	21.57	20.83	21.59
Madhya Pradesh	19.58	19.87	32.38
Maharashtra	18.75	18.41	32.28
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	12.90	15.37	31.69
Goa	31.02	30.40	27.56
Daman & Diu	14.69	21.83	11.33
<b>Southern Region:</b>			
Andhra Pradesh	32.14	34.09	37.13
Karnataka	19.31	30.45	38.22
Kerala	18.73	17.18	17.05
Tamil Nadu	17.29	17.22	16.83
Lakshadweep	15.70	12.78	10.13
Pondicherry	13.56	10.44	12.25
<b>Eastern Region:</b>			
Bihar	16.26	24.80	21.43
Orissa (GRIDCO)	50.10	36.72	5.62
Sikkim	22.87	12.44	12.07
West Bengal	19.67	23.73	27.79
A&N Island	20.59	20.03	16.52

1	2	3	4
<b>North Eastern Region:</b>			
Assam	27.32	38.72	38.96
Manipur	21.09	59.55	62.06
Meghalaya	12.28	19.66	27.66
Nagaland	29.79	26.52	32.32
Tripura	31.11	26.82	29.63
Arunachal Pradesh	34.10	30.60	47.12
Mozoram	46.84	44.79	47.63
All India (Utilities)	24.79	26.45	30.93

\*Provisional

for 1999-2000 in case of Orissa the losses are for GRIDCO only.

#### Acquiring of Auto-Pilot System

2294. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA :

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Auto Pilot System: IAF upgradation projection hangs fire" appearing in the Indian Express dated February 5, 2003;

(b) if so, whether CAG in last report blamed the Air Headquarters for the failure to speed up acquisition of auto pilot system for Jaguar aircraft;

(c) if so, the reason for delay in acquiring the Auto-Pilot system;

(d) whether price negotiations committee has submitted its report in regard to Jaguar upgradation programme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) Report No. 8 of 2001 of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has pointed out delay in procurement of Auto Pilot system.

(c) A contract was signed for procurement of a suitable Auto Pilot system in 1999. This could not be implemented in practical terms due to non-availability of adequate space for the Auto Pilot Electronic Unit (APEU) in the aircraft. Suitable reconfiguration and certification by Original Equipment Manufacturer is required for the installation of the APEU. The price negotiation for the procurement of the Auto Pilot has been concluded and a supplement to the previous Contract will be signed shortly.

(d) and (e) In regard to the Jaguar Upgradation Programme, the price negotiation has been completed and Government has approved the upgradation programme by Hindustan Aeronautic Limited at the negotiated cost. Action is being taken to negotiate and conclude the Contract with HAL.

[Translation]

#### Kasganj-Mathura Gauge Conversion Work

2295. SHRI KISHAN LAL DILER : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of the Kasganj-Mathura gauge conversion work; and

(b) the time by which the conversion work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) The work of gauge conversion of Kasganj-Mathura as part

of Kanpur-Kasganj-Mathura, Kasganj-Bareilly project is in progress. Earthwork and bridge works have been taken up. No target has yet been fixed for the conversion of this section.

[English]

#### Acquisition of DSRV

2296. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Navy is yet to have a Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel (DSRV) which is of vital importance to rescue the trapped personnel in the disabled submarines;

(b) if so, the reasons for not acquiring the submarine rescue kits so far; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to equip the Navy with DSRV?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) All Indian Navy submarines have the capability to allow escape of crew from about a depth of 120 meters, using escape suits. Submarines have rescue hatches, which are standard fit and are designed to mate with Deep Submergence Rescue Vessels (DSRVs)/diving bells. Action is being taken to acquire two DSRVs and Rescue Kits for the Navy.

[Translation]

#### Muzaffarpur TPS on Lease

2297. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :  
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the decision to take the Muzaffarpur Thermal Power Station on lease by the NTPC in the final stage;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which

the above said task is likely to be executed;

(c) the scheme formulated by the NTPC for utilization of the installed capacity;

(d) the percentage of the power generation capacity being utilised at present; and

(e) the additional expenditure likely to be incurred on implementation thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) In pursuance of discussion with Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB), the National Thermal Power Corporation has submitted a proposal to BSEB for taking over of their Muzaffarpur Thermal Power Station. Further action is dependent on the response of the BSEB.

(b) to (e) In view of (a) above, do not arise at this stage.

#### Save of Electricity

2298. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have done any work under the save electricity programme during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to encourage the save electricity programme and to execute it strictly; and

(d) the extent to which the Government has been successful in its efforts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) During the last two years, the Government have organised many mass awareness programmes through public interaction, road shows, audio-visual and print media.

Every year, the Government of India celebrates 14th December as "National Energy Conservation Day" and on this occasion awards are given to selected industrial units for their exemplary work done in the field of energy conservation. 17 sub-sectors of the industries participate in the Award Scheme. The participating units, in the last 2 year schemes i.e. 2001 and 2002 have been able to collectively save 1126 million kWh of electrical energy at the end of 2001-02 which is equivalent to the energy generated from a 212 MW of thermal power station at a PLF of 60% as per the details given below :

Award Year (Financial Year)	Electrical Energy	
	Million kWh	Equivalent Avoided Capacity in MW
2002 (2001-02)	*1126	*212
2001 (2000-01)	485	90

\*Includes recurring saving of 2000-01.

(c) and (d) The Government of India, in recognition of the importance and benefits of energy efficiency has enacted "The Energy Conservation Act, 2001". The Act has come into force on March 1, 2002. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) has been established in March, 2002 as a national nodal agency to initiate and coordinate energy efficiency activities in the domestic, commercial, industrial and agricultural sectors through various regulatory and promotional instruments. The Bureau is to institutionalize energy efficiency services and establish delivery mechanisms for these activities, with the prime objective to reduce intensive and wasteful use of energy in the Indian economy. Bureau of Energy Efficiency has prepared an Action Plan which gives thrust on energy efficiency in industrial sector, standard & labeling for appliances, demand side management, energy efficiency in commercial buildings, energy conservation building codes, capacity building of energy managers and energy auditor, energy performance codes & manual preparation and awareness creation, etc.

To achieve energy efficiency in the industrial sector which consumers over 50% of all commercial energy, the Bureau has initiated action to develop capacity and capability among the energy managers in the designated consumers so that they are able to establish energy management system in the industry and creation of professional energy auditors who will provide quality energy auditing services. Benchmarking, fixation of energy consumption norms, waste heat recovery and process integration together with adoption of best practices will result in significant energy saving.

To introduce energy efficiency in buildings, the Bureau has undertaken the work of energy audit in 9 Central Government Buildings. It is hoped that the Central Ministries and Departments would be able to effect energy saving of about 30% during the next five years. The State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have also been advised to implement energy conservation measures in their Government Buildings and Establishments.

#### Gas Distribution Schemes of GAIL

2299. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of gas distribution schemes of the Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) on which work has already been started by GAIL to meet the gas requirements of the country;

(b) the number of gas distribution schemes of the GAIL which are pending with the Government for clearance; and

(c) the time by which the pending schemes are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL) has started work on 7 gas pipeline projects across the country as a part of Gas Grid. In addition, GAIL has also regional

pipeline networks in Gujarat, Mumbai, K.G. Basin, Cauvery Basin, Assam and Tripura. GAIL has also started work on Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and city gas distribution projects in 5 cities.

(b) No project of GAIL is pending with Government for clearance.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

#### **LNG Pipeline from Visakhapatnam to Secunderabad**

2300. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) is planning to convert its LPG pipeline into a Natural Gas Transportation pipeline which runs from Visakhapatnam to Hyderabad and Secunderabad; and

(b) the steps taken to develop gas distribution network in Visakhapatnam Amlapuram, Bhimavaram, Rajamundry, Kakinada and Secunderabad cities in A.P.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL) is examining the possibilities of use of a part of the Vizag-Secunderabad LPG pipeline for natural gas transportation.

(b) GAIL has approximately 716 Km. of pipeline network in Andhra Pradesh and is supplying about 7.74 Million Standard Cubic Meters Per Day (MMSCMD) natural gas in the State through the Krishna-Godavari (KG) Basin Pipeline network and Tatipaka Lanco Pipeline. This includes the recently completed 69 Km. pipeline at a cost of Rs. 113.5 crore under KG Basin Phase-II. These pipelines cover Rajamundry, Vijayawada, Kakinada, Amlapuram and Bhimavaram regions in Andhra Pradesh. Presently, there is no gas pipeline to supply natural gas

in Vizag and Hyderabad-Secunderabad. In a phased manner pipeline network may be expanded to supply natural gas to these cities also.

[Translation]

#### **Contract Workers in ONGC**

2301. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether highly educated employees are working as skilled/semi-skilled contract/society workers in different projects of ONGC in Assam, West Bengal and Maharashtra for more than ten years;

(b) if so, the number of employees from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes/most backward classes community out of them;

(c) whether the Government have not issued any guidelines for making the contract labourers permanent in the establishments of ONGC Limited;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to appoint the labourers permanently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

#### **World Bank Funds for Power Reforms in Karnataka**

2302. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has committed to give funds to the Karnataka's power sector reforms;

(b) if so, the amount so far released by the World Bank for this purpose;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have taken steps to ensure that the amount is released by the World Bank for the above purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) There is no World Bank Power Reform Project in Karnataka.

(b) to (e) The question do not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Cancellation of Old Projects**

2303. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have cancelled the old railway projects;

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

(c) the total expenditure incurred on the survey works etc. in regard to these projects?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

#### **Construction of Railway Underbridge at Mansa**

2304. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the difficulties faced by the people of Mansa in Punjab in crossing the railway track;

(b) whether the various representations from different bodies were received by the railway authorities for constructing an underbridge at Mansa;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government for construction of an underbridge at Mansa; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Representations have been received for construction of Road underbridge in replacement of level crossing No. 206 at Mansa.

(c) State Government has been advised to sponsor firm proposal duly fulfilling certain preliminary pre-requisites required under extant rule to take up the work on cost sharing basis. Plan and estimate had also been sent to them for acceptance but State Govt. has not yet responded. However a Road overbridge near Mansa at Km. 245.92 in lieu of existing L.C. No. 208 B has been included in the Railway Budget of 2003-04.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Setting up of Air Centres in Orissa**

2305. SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the numbers and names of Radio Centres are functioning in Orissa at present;

(b) the names of places, identified for setting up of new Radio Centres in the State during the next financial year;

(c) whether the Government decided to make the Soro Radio Centre functional in the near future;

(d) if so, the time by which the said centre to be functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) At present there are 11 Radio Centres at Cuttack, Jeypore, Sambalpur, Keonjhar, Baripada, Berhampur, Bolangir, Bhawanipatna, Rourkela, Puri and Joranda, functioning in the State of Orissa.

(b) 4 (Four) New Radio Centres of AIR at Bhubaneswar, Deogarh, Raygada and Rairangapur, have been proposed during the 10th Five Year Plan.

(c) and (d) The Radio Station at Soro will be functional as soon as the staff is available for which efforts are being made.

[Translation]

#### Non-Governmental Organisations

2306. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

DR. M.P. JAISWAL :

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Non-Governmental Organisations have earned a bad name;

(b) the details of NGOs functioning in the country; and

(c) the number and names of NGOs out of these funded by both Government and foreign countries and amount funded thereto alongwith the ratio of foreign and domestic assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) By and large the NGOs are doing a good job in delivery of project based services at the grass roots level. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment extends financial assistance to over 2600 Non-Governmental Organisations. The information regarding location, nature of project and grant released is voluminous. However, it is available in the

Ministry's Annual Report and on its website ([www.socialjustice.nic.in](http://www.socialjustice.nic.in))

(c) The Ministry does not maintain this information.

#### Power Generation by NTPC in Madhya Pradesh

2307. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a shortfall of electricity in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the government to meet the shortage of power in Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) the quantum of power being generated by Madhya Pradesh from its own sources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) During the period April, 2002-January, 2003, the power supply position in Madhya Pradesh was as under:

	Energy (MU)		Peak (MW)
Requirement	26270	Peak Demand	5738
Availability	22381	Peak Met	4157
Shortage	3889	Deficit	1581
Percentage (%)	14.8	Percentage (%)	27.6

(c) Electricity is a concurrent subject. Supply and distribution of electricity in a State is the responsibility of the State Government/State Power Utility concerned which decides the priorities of power supply to various category of consumers/areas in the State. Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments by setting up power projects through Central Public Sector



Companies to augment availability of power in the region. Besides firm allocation of 1140 MW in Central Generating Stations in Western Region, Madhya Pradesh has been provided following assistance:

- (a) 27.5% (224. MW) from unallocated quota of CGS in Western Region.
- (b) 300 MW from unallocated quota of NTPC stations in Eastern Region.
- (c) 50 MW from unallocated quota of NTPC stations in Eastern Region via Northern Region.

In addition, the following steps are being taken in order to mitigate power shortage in the country including Madhya Pradesh:

- (i) Besides capacity addition of 595 MW in State Sector and 978 MW in Private Sector in Madhya Pradesh, generation capacity of 5367 MW is planned to be set up in Central Sector in Western Region during 10th Plan in which Madhya Pradesh will have entitlements.
- (ii) Implementation of Renovation, Modernization and Life Extension (R&M & LE) Schemes for old and inefficient generating units for overall improvement in generation performance. Power Finance Corporation disburses loan with interest subsidy of 3% under Accelerated Generation and Supply Programme for this purpose.
- (iii) Enhancement in evacuation of surplus power from Eastern region to other regions including Western Region of which Madhya Pradesh is a constituent by setting up of inter-regional links.
- (iv) Promoting energy efficiency and energy conservation measures.
- (v) Government of India is striving for achieving financial turn around-around of State Electricity,

Boards/Utilities so as to enable them to become commercially viable. To bring about reforms in distribution, Ministry of Power in Government of India has launched Accelerated Power Development & reforms Programme (APDRP) as a major step towards reduction in aggregate transmission and commercial losses and attaining commercial viability of the power sector.

- (d) During the period April, 2002-January, 2003, electricity generated by own sources in Madhya Pradesh was 13,775 Million Units.

[English]

### Passenger Trains

2308 SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the total number of passenger trains being run in the country;
- (b) the total number out of those trains running on western railways;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to provide a passenger train from Hapa to Bandra to meet the long outstanding demand of the people;
- (d) the time by which this train will be ready; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) The average number of Passenger trains run daily on Indian Railways during 2001-02 is 8702 and the corresponding figure for Western Railways is 1640.

- (c) No, Sir. Not at present.

- (d) Does not arise.

(e) Operational and resource constraints.

### Malpractices at Loading Points

2309. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of various malpractices at various loading points in the movement of coal from Assam to North Indian Stations; and

(b) if so, the action taken to check the same?

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

(b) Does not arise. However, Railway vigilance conducts regular preventive checks from time to time in order to detect various malpractices wherein some cases of overloading of coal from Assam to North Indian Stations were detected when re-weighment of rakes were undertaken. Due undercharges including penal charges were realized from defaulters besides taking up the Railway officials found responsible in those cases. To prevent the malpractices on this account, electronic in-motion

weighbridges at Rangapani and Jogighopa were commissioned to detect cases of overloading.

[Translation]

### Funds to States for Power Crisis

2310. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of State Governments sought assistance from the Union Government to get rid of power crisis; and

(b) the nature of assistance provided to State Governments to overcome this crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) According to information available, the details of requests received from various States in the recent past (9 months) for providing assistance by allocation of additional power from the unallocated pool of Central Sector Generating Stations for mitigating power shortages are given in Statement enclosed.

### Statement

*Details of requests received from various States for additional allocation of power from Central Pool*

Sl. No.	Reference received from	Quantum of power requested from central pool (in Month/Year)	Action taken
1	2	3	4

### Southern Region

#### Kerala:

1.	Minister of Electricity, Govt. of Kerala	Additional allocation of 300 MW power from Eastern Region (July, 2002)	Kerala was allocated approximately 90 MW by increasing allocation from 4% to 25% in unallocated power of Central Generating stations of Southern Region w.e.f. 17.08.2002.
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1	2	3	4
2.	Chief Minister, Kerala	Raising share of State from unallocated power of Southern Region to 100 MW(July, 2002)	(i) Additional import from Eastern Region was not possible due to transmission constraints. (ii) Enhancement of allocation by re-appropriation of available Eastern Region power was not possible in view of the power situation prevailing in other States.

Andhra Pradesh :

1.	Chief Minister, AP	Restoration of share of AP in unallocated power of central generating stations in Southern Region to 40% from 28% and also its share in Eastern Region (May, 2002)	Share in unallocated power in Southern Region and Eastern Region could not be restored as enhancement in allocation to Karnataka was necessary to help tide over its power crisis prevailing in the State at that time. On the other hand, power situation improved in AP after commissioning of units at Simhadri TPS of NTPC.
2.	Chief Minister, AP	Request for restoration of AP share to 40% which was reduced to 28% (July, 2002)	Restoration of allocation was not found feasible due to following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Poor monsoon resulted into high shortage conditions in Karnataka and Kerala which are predominately dependent upon hydel generation.</li> <li>(ii) AP was under drawing from central sector stations in Southern Region since May, 2002.</li> <li>(iii) Commissioning of additional generation capacity at Simhadri TPS (NTPC) fully dedicated to AP.</li> <li>(iv) Stoppage of drawal by AP from GRIDCO (Orissa) on 220 KV Upper Sileru-Balimela line w.e.f. 16.04.2002.</li> </ul>

Karnataka:

1.	Chief Minister, Karnataka	100 MW from unallocated share of CGS in Southern Region and additional 100 MW from Eastern Region (May, 2002)	Allocation to Karnataka was enhanced as under: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) From 28% to 40% (about 60 MW) from unallocated share of Central Generating stations in Southern Region.</li> <li>(ii) Additional 50 MW from Eastern Region.</li> </ul>
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1	2	3	4
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**Tamil Nadu:**

1. Minister for Electricity, Tamil Nadu	Allocation of additional 335 MW from the unallocated quota	Tamil Nadu was advised to avail 100 MW from Kayamkulam CCGT of NTPC which was under utilized. It was not possible to allocate additional power from unallocated quota due to shortages prevailing in other States of the region.
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**Pondicherry:**

1. Chief Secretary, Govt. of Pondicherry	(i) Extension of 45 MW allocation from unallocated power of Southern Region for six months from 01.07.2002 (ii) Enhancing allocation from unallocated power of Southern Region to 55 MW from 45 MW (May, 2002)	Allocation of 45 MW from unallocated power of Southern Region was extended for six months from 1.7.2002.
2. Chief Minister, Pondicherry	Enhancing allocation from unallocated power of Southern Region (September, 2002)	Due to fire in conveyor system of Neyveli Ther- mal Station-II on 4.9.2002, 50 MW additional power was allocated to Pondicherry w.e.f. 19.9.02 till restoration of generating units at Neyveli TS-II.

**Northern Region**

**Delhi:**

1. Chief Minister, Delhi	Request of Delhi made during meetings with Minister of power and Secretary (Power) (January, 2003)	Allocation from unallocated quota enhanced by 100 MW during peak periods on 7.01.2003 and further increased by 50 MW on 16.01.2003.
2. Chief Minister, Delhi	Request for enhancement of Delhi's share in unallocated quota for summer season (Feb., 2003)	Allocation from unallocated quota is reviewed from time to time keeping in view relative power shortage in the States in a region and next review for Northern Region is likely to be made by CEA in 1st week of April, 2003.

1	2	3	4
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**Haryana:**

1.	Chief Minister, Haryana	Additional allocation of 20 LU/day from unallocated quota (May, 2002)	Allocation to Haryana from unallocated*quota was increased from 22% (around 173 MW) to 26% (around 205 MW) i.e. 0.7 LU/day w.e.f. 25.05.2002.
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**Punjab:**

1.	Member, Transmission, PSEB, Patiala	Allocation of 35% from unallocated quota during 24.07.2002 to 31.08.2002 to meet enhanced agricultural requirement (July, 2002)	Allocation from unallocated quota increased to Punjab from 10% to 15% i.e. about 39 MW w.e.f. 17.08.2002 to 31.08.2002. Besides, 15% (33 MW) unallocated quota of RAPP-3 (220 MW) was also allocated to Punjab during off-peak hours w.e.f. 16.08.2002.
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**Himachal Pradesh:**

1.	Chairman, HPSEB	Allocation of 20% unallocated power and 50 MW from Eastern Region for the period 01.11.2002 to 31.03.2003 (September, 2002)	HPSEB has been allocated 12% (i.e. about 95 MW) during peak hours and 15% (i.e. about 118 MW) during off-peak hours from 01.11.2002 from unallocated quota of Northern Region.
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**Jammu & Kashmir:**

1.	Principal Secretary, Govt. of J&K	Allocation of 350 MW during Ramjan period (November, 2002)	Allocation from unallocated quota varying bet- ween 162 to 209 MW was made to J&K in November, 2002 which was increased to 189 to 213 MW in January, 2003 during different parts of the day was made to J&K.
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**Western Region**

**Maharashtra:**

1.	Chief Minister, Maharashtra	Request for 100% availability as per	The allocation is made on installed capacity of the station. However, the entitlement in actual
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1	2	3	4
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share allocation  
(February, 2003)

in actual gets reduced on account of auxiliary consumption, transmission losses, and level of generation. Accordingly, share entitlement is being fully made available to the State.

#### Madhya Pradesh:

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| 1. Chief Minister,<br>MP,<br>Pr.Secy. (Energy),<br>Govt. of MP and<br>Chairman, MPSEB | Enhancement in<br>allocation from<br>Central Sector power<br>to the tune of 500<br>MW and 300 MW out<br>of CSEB's share<br>during Rabi season<br>(September, 2002) | MP has been allocated additional power as<br>under :<br>(i) Additional 50 MW from Eastern Region via<br>Northern Region.<br>(ii) 90 MW out of 498 MW share of CSEB<br>w.e.f. 12.11.2002 upto March, 2003.<br>(iii) 50 MW from Eastern Region in February,<br>2003.<br><br>It was not possible to allocate more power due<br>to shortages prevailing in other States of the<br>region. |
|---|--|---|

#### Chhattisgarh:

- |                                    |   |  |
|------------------------------------|---|--|
| 1. Chief Minister,<br>Chhattisgarh | Restoration of 90<br>MW power allocated<br>to M.P. (Nov., 2002) | Considering the requirement of M.P. the temporary allocation of 90 MW from Chhattisgarh has been continued till March, 2003. |
|------------------------------------|---|--|

#### Daman, Diu and DNH

- |                                    |   |  |
|------------------------------------|---|--|
| 1. Administrator of<br>Daman & Diu | Request for allocating<br>additional 25 MW<br>from Central Stations<br>in Western Region<br>(April, 2002) | Allocation of additional 25 MW from Eastern<br>Region has been made in February, 2003. |
|------------------------------------|---|--|

#### Eastern Region

#### Bihar:

- |                   |   |   |
|-------------------|---|---|
| 1. Power Minister | 184 MW additional to<br>present allocation of<br>700 MW from NTPC<br>stations in Eastern<br>Region (Dec., 2002) | 80 MW power has been restored to the State<br>in merit order of NTPC stations in Eastern<br>Region. |
|-------------------|---|---|

### Pending Power Projects In Chhattisgarh

2311. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal to set up certain thermal and hydel power projects in Chhattisgarh are pending with the Union Government;

(b) If so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the level at which this proposal is pending; and

(d) the time by which these proposal are likely to be cleared by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) There is no H.E. schemes from State of Chhattisgarh whose DPR is pending for Techno-Economic Clearance in Central Electricity Authority (CEA). However, four schemes, namely Bhopalapatnam (8x125 MW), Kutru-I (3x50 MW), Kutru-II (3x50 MW) and Matnar (3x20 MW) respectively were returned to Project authorities for resubmission for TEC after complying with the comments of CEA/Central Water Commission.

DPR for installation of 2x250 MW Thermal Power Project has been received in January, 2003 from Chhattisgarh State Electricity Board (CSEB) for installation of the project at the de-commissioned site of 100 MW Korba (East) TPS. CSEB has been informed on 27.01.2003 by the CEA that certain essential inputs/clearances viz. water allocation (State & Centre), SPCB clearance, MOE&F clearance, land availability for ash disposal, tentative financial package, compliance of Section 29(2) & (3) of Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 are pending and need to be tied up for further examination of DPR.

[English]

### Collaboration with CII

2312. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the

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

(a) whether the Government in collaboration with the confederation of India Industry are working together to target foreign manufacturing companies with the objective of substantially increasing the outsourcing requirements of these companies from India;

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

(c) whether the Government had set up an Inter-ministerial Group focusing on growth of capital goods industry; and

(d) if so, the modalities worked out so far in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) An Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) has been constituted under the Department of Heavy Industry to coordinate matters relating to development and growth of the capital goods industry. The IMC consists of representatives from different Ministries/Departments. It also provides for co-opting members from concerned Industry Associations/Bodies/Institutions. So far two meetings of the IMC have been held to identify and evaluate the problems and set out the course of action.

### Increase In Speed of Long Distance Super Fast Trains

2313. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have undertaken any study on the possibility of increasing the maximum speed of long distance super fast expresses in the country to cut travel time;

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

(c) the present average maximum speed of Indian trains; and

(d) the time by which the Railways will be able to double the present maximum speed of the trains?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) Improving the working of Railways including speeds of trains is an ongoing process subject to availability of resources and operational feasibility.

(c) 2001 Bhopal-New Delhi Shatabdi Express is having maximum average speed of is 87.625 kmph.

(d) There is no such proposal at present.

#### Uplinking of Foreign News Channels

2314. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering any proposal to allow wholly-owned or partly-owned foreign channels to enter the news television segment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any such TV network have applied for permission to uplink from India for its news channels;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (e) Applications have been received from wholly owned foreign companies for India-focussed 24 Hour News Channels to be uplinked from India. This has necessitated a re-look at the existing policy, which permits uplinking of channels from India irrespective of ownership, equity structure or management control, which is aimed at Indian viewership. Necessary consultations have been held with various Ministries and the matter is proposed to be taken to the Cabinet for consideration, shortly.

#### Work on NCES in Rajasthan

2315. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the works carried out in the non-conventional energy sources sector in Rajasthan during the last three years and the achievements made in this regard;

(b) whether the Union Government are satisfied with the achievements made; and

(c) If not, the reasons therefor and steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) to (c) Details of achievements made under various non-conventional energy programmes during the last three years, i.e., 1999-2000 to 2001-02 in Rajasthan are given in the statement which are satisfactory.

#### Statement

*Details of achievements made under various non-conventional energy programmes during last three years, i.e., 1999-2000 to 2001-02 in Rajasthan*

Sl. No.	Programme	Achievements made during last 3 years
1	2	3
1.	Wind Power (MW)	16.10
2.	Solar Photovoltaic Power (kW)	50
3.	Small Hydro Power (MW)	0.55
4.	Biogas Plant (Nos.)	2321
5.	Community/Institutional/Night-Soil based Plant (Nos.)	18



1	2	3
6.	Improved Chulha (Nos. in lakh)	1.31
7.	Solar Photovoltaic Pump (Nos.)	28
8.	Solar Cooker (Nos.)	100
9.	Solar Photovoltaic	
	Street Lighting System (Nos.)	680
	Home Lighting System (Nos.)	19642
	Solar Lantern (Nos.)	4664
	Power Plant (kWp)	25.80
10.	Energy Park (Nos.)	6
11.	Integrated Rural Energy Programme (No. of Blocks)	36

MW = Megawatt, kW = Kilowatt, kWp = Kilowatt peak.

#### Use of NCES

2316. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of population using non-conventional energy;

(b) the sources of non-conventional energy being utilized on large scale;

(c) the amount spent by the Government on the development of non-conventional energy during the last three years; and

(d) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) Biomass, solar, wind and small hydro are the major sources of non-conventional energy. While major applications of wind and small hydro pertain to generation of grid quality power, biomass and solar energy are used mainly in decentralized stand-alone applications for meeting the energy requirements of households. A major percentage of the population uses biomass for cooking purposes.

(c) and (d) A total amount of Rs. 1151.98 crores has been utilized by the Ministry for the development and promotion of various non-conventional energy programmes during the last three years, i.e., 1999-2000 to 2001-02. Details of achievements made under various programmes during last three years are given in the statement.

#### Statement

*Programme-wise Cumulative Physical Achievements During Last Three Years,  
i.e., 1999-2000 to 2001-02*

Sl.No.	Programmes	Unit	Achievement
1	2	3	4
1.	Biogas Plant	No. in lakhs	5.05
2.	Community/Institutional/Night Soil based Biogas	Nos.	1229
3.	Improved chulha	No. in lakhs	51.8
4.	Integrated Rural Energy Programme	No. of Blocks	860

1	2	3	4
5.	Energy Park	Nos.	108
6.	Solar Phtovoltaic Programme (SPV)		
	SPV Home Light	Nos.	115298
	SPV Lantern	Nos.	206076
	SPV Street Lighting System	Nos.	8772
	SPV Power Plant	kWp	354
7	SPV Pump	Nos.	1533
8.	Solar Thermal Energy Programme		
	Solar Water Heating System	Sq.m. collector area	83100
	Solar Cooker	Nos.	41000
9.	Wind Pump	Nos.	224
10.	Hybrid System	kW	74.8
1.	Wind Power	MW	604.4
12.	Small Hydro (upto 25 MW)	MW	229.08
13.	Biomass Power	MW	210.3
14.	SPV Power	MW	0.975
15.	Biomass/Gasifier	MW	20.92
16.	Waste to Energy Programme	MW	15.2
17.	Village Electrification Programme	No. of villages	341

MW = Megawatt; kW = Kilowatt; kWp = Kilowatt peak.

Setting up of New Power Plants

2317. SHRI SURESH PASI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set

up new power plants in view of the increasing requirement of power in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of Thermal and Hydel Power Plants

existed in the country at present alongwith the per day power generated therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) A capacity addition target of 41,110 MW has been set for the 10th Plan, of which 22,832 MW capacity will be coming from Central Sector. Details of projects identified are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) The number of Power Houses in the country and their daily generation as on 27.2.2003 is given below :

Type	No. of Power Stations (More than 20 MW and above capacity)	Actual daily generation in MU as on 27.2.2003
Thermal	138	1297.04
Nuclear	6	59.45
Hydro	96	132.99
Total All India	240	1489.48

**Statement**

*Capacity addition during 10th Plan-  
Central Sector*

Name of the Project	Hydro (MW)	Thermal (MW)	Total (MW)
1	2	3	4

**NTPC**

Simhadri (A.P.)		500	500
Talcher (Orissa)		2000	2000
Rihand (U.P.)		1000	1000
Ramagundam (A.P.)		500	500
Sipat-I (Chhatisgarh)		1320	1320

1	2	3	4
Kahalgaoon (Bihar)		660	660
Barh (Bihar)		660	660
Vindhyachal (M.P.)		500	500
Dadri (U.P.)		490	490
Unchahar (U.P.)		210	210
Sipat-II (Chhattisgarh)		660	660
N. Karanpura (Jhark.)		660	600

**THDC**

Tehri HEP (Uttarachal)	1000	1000
Koteshwar (-do-)	400	400
Tehri PSP (-do-)	1000	1000

**NHPC**

Dulhasti (J&K)	390	390
Chamera -II (H.P.)	300	300
Dhauliganga-I (Uttaranchal)	280	280

Teesta-V (Sikkim)	510	510
Indirasagar (JV)(M.P.)	1000	1000

Sewa-II (J&K)	120	120
---------------	-----	-----

Bav (Mah)	37	37
-----------	----	----

Purulia PSS (JV)(WB)	900	900
----------------------	-----	-----

Omkareshwar (JV)(MP)	520	520
----------------------	-----	-----

Teesta low dam-III, WB	132	132
------------------------	-----	-----

Teesta low dam-IV, WB	168	168
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1	2	3	4
<b>DVC</b>			
Mejia - 4, WB		210	210
Mejia - 5, WB		250	250
Maithon (Jharkhand)		1000	1000
Chandrapur (do)		500	500
<b>NJPC</b>			
Nathpa Jhakri (H.P.)	1500		1500
Rampur (HP)	400		400
<b>NEEPCO</b>			
Kopilli-II, Assam	25		25
Tuirial (Mizoram)	60		60
Tripura (Tripura)		500	500
<b>M/o Coal - NLC</b>			
NLC Extn.-I (TN)		420	420
NLC Extn.-II (TN)		500	500
Barsingsar (Rajsthan)		250	250
<b>Nuclear</b>			
Tarapur, NPC, Mah.			1080
Kaiga, NPC, Kamataka			220
Total including Nuclear	8742	12790	22832

**Publication of Newspapers/Journals from  
Gujarat, Mumbai and Delhi**

2318. SHRI ADHI SANKAR :  
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :  
SHRI G.J. JAVIYA :

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

(a) whether any application for registration of new daily, weekly, fortnightly and monthly newspapers/journals to be published from Gujarat, Mumbai and Delhi have been received since December 1, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of journals registered under consideration for registration and the number of applications for registration of journals rejected;

(d) the number of daily, weekly, fortnightly and monthly journals being published from Delhi, Mumbai and Gujarat as on till date with their name and address;

(e) the number of advertisements given alongwith the value thereof to each journal since January 1, 2002 to till date; and

(f) the criterion for issuing advertisements to journals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) to (e) Details of applications received, approved, remaining under consideration for registration and the number of applications rejected by the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) for daily, weekly, fortnightly and monthly newspapers/journals to be published from Gujarat, Mumbai and Delhi for the period from 01.12.2002 to 28.02.2003 are given in Statement-I.

The number of newspapers/journals being published from the above places and registered with the RNI as on 28.02.2003, is given in Statement-II.

The list containing the name and addresses of all these newspapers/journals is quite voluminous and information sought is not commensurate with the efforts involved in compiling it.

The total number of advertisements issued by the Directorate of Advertising & Visual Publicity (DAVP) to

newspapers/journals being published from Gujarat, Mumbai and Delhi during the period 01.01.2002 to 27.02.2003 was 8,532, 11,770 and 42,721, respectively and the quantum of advertisements released in terms of amount was Rs. 4,29,08,853/-, Rs. 791,09,426/- and Rs. 37,52,33,991/-, respectively.

(f) DAVP issues Government advertisements to newspapers/journals keeping in view the contents, the target audience, availability of funds and recommendation of the client Ministries/Departments and the 'Advertisement Policy of the Government of India and Guidelines for Empanelment of Newspapers with DAVP'.

### Statement-I

*Details of Applications received/approved for Registration/under consideration (Pending)/Rejected by the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) during the period 1.12.2002 upto 28.02.2003*

State/ Place	Daily				Weekly				Fortnightly				Monthly			
	Appl. Recd.	Appr.	Pend	Rejc.	Appl. Recd.	Appr.	Pend	Rejc.	Appl. Recd.	Appr.	Pend	Rejc.	Appl. Recd.	Appr.	Pend	Rejc.
Delhi	7	7	0	0	30	21	9	0	25	18	7	0	90	58	32	0
Mumbai	4	3	1	0	27	2	25	0	13	0	13	0	17	1	16	0
Gujarat	4	4	0	0	40	19	21	0	7	6	1	0	20	8	12	0
Total	15	14	1	0	97	42	55	0	45	24	21	0	127	67	60	0

### Statement-II

*Statement showing the number of Newspapers/Journals registered with the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) as on 28.02.2003*

State	Daily	Weekly	Fortnightly	Monthly	Total
Delhi	389	1354	1020	3291	6054
Mumbai	148	469	181	1696	2494
Gujarat	207	1213	246	619	2285
Total	744	3036	1447	5606	10833

[English]

#### Rail Line between Nanjangud and Nilambur

2319. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to connect Nanjangud and Nilambur in Kerala by railway line;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Railways has undertaken any survey in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (e) A survey for construction of new rail line between Nilambur Road and Nanjangud has been ordered. The survey is in progress.

[Translation]

#### Rehabilitation of People of Weaker Section

2320. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any national level programme has been started for rehabilitation of people of weaker sections of the country particularly of Bihar State State-wise;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the areas identified for this purpose and number of targeted beneficiaries; and

(c) the State-wise amount released for this purpose during the current financial year, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has launched two National Level programmes for rehabilitation of weaker sections:

- (i) National Scheme of Liberation & Rehabilitation of Scavengers (NSLRS) in 1991-92.
- (ii) National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (NPRPD) in 1999-2000.

These programmes are implemented throughout the country.

(b) NSLRS is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and funds are released to the States. The scheme was launched with the objective of assisting scavengers for their training and rehabilitation in alternative occupations. 6,76,008 scavengers have been identified for training and rehabilitation in alternative occupation throughout the country as a whole.

Under the Scheme of NPRPD, 82 districts are to be covered in different States of the country for providing comprehensive Rehabilitative Services to persons with disabilities especially those living in rural areas.

(c) During the current financial year, under the scheme of NSLRS, the proposals have been received from the following State Governments and funds have been released:-

Andhra Pradesh – Rs. 27.38 crore

Himachal Pradesh – Rs. 2.40 crore

The NPRPD is a State Sector Scheme, which was launched in 1999-2000 and during the IXth Plan Period, funds releases were made by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India. However, in the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07), the States have to fund the programme through their own resources and as such there is no budgetary allocation under NPRPD in the current year.

[English]

#### Status of Colonel and Superintending Engineer

2321. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Colonel and a Superintending Engineer of IDSE on posting as CSEW become colleagues and equivalent to each other but on posting to staff appointments the relationship changes to that of a superior and a subordinate;

(b) whether his Ministry has asked Engineer-in-Chief's Branch to establish equivalence as given to AFHQ and CSS vis-a-vis MES civilians;

(c) whether the Engineer-in-Chief's Branch is not responding to above direction; and

(d) if so, the action is intended to establish the equivalence?

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

(b) No, Sir. The E-in-C's Branch have been requested to examine the issue of equivalence.

(c) No reply has been received so far from E-in-C's Branch.

(d) As the issue under consideration is complex in nature, Army Headquarters may take some time to

examine and submit a report with a proposal. It would not be possible to lay down a time frame for this.

### Tamluk-Digha Rail Project

2322. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of construction work of Tamluk-Digha railway line;

(b) whether the work on the project is being delayed;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay; and

(d) the time by which the work of the said project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) The work on Tamluk-Deshpran has been completed. Earthwork, bridgework and other works are in progress on Tamluk-Kanthi section.

(b) and (c) The work is being progressed as rescheduled. Minor delays, whenever occurring, are being made up.

(d) The work of track linking up to Nachinda Passenger Halt (46.4 Km) is likely to be completed by 31/03/2003 and up to Kanthi by 30/06/03.

### Theatre In Kurla Express

2323. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has decided to attach compartment with theatre facility in Kurla Express;

(b) if so, the details of the expenses to be incurred on it;

(c) whether this decision would be enlarged to other long distant trains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

### Expansion of Thermal Power Plants in Orissa

2324. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal for the expansion of the Thermal Power Plant at Kaniha in Angul district, Orissa;

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

(c) the time by which the third unit of that power plant start generation of power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) have already taken up expansion of Talcher Thermal Power Project from 1000 MW (2x500 MW) capacity under Stage-I to 3000 MW (6x500 MW) capacity in Angul district of Orissa. The 3rd unit of the project has been commissioned on 21.2.2003 and the generation of power has already commenced.

### Expansion of Vindhyachal Power Project

2325. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal for the expansion of Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Plant in Madhya Pradesh was under the consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the present capacity of the plant;

(c) the capacity proposed to be added after expansion; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) have set up coal based Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Plant in Sidhi district of Madhya Pradesh with a generating capacity of 2260 MW under Stage-I (6x210 MW) and Stage-II (2x500 MW). NTPC is taking up expansion of the project by implementing Stage-III having a capacity of 2x500 MW. This project is scheduled for commissioning in the 10th Plan.

[Translation]

#### **Rail Projects**

2326. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :  
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of the railway projects of more than Rs. 5 crore which have not been completed on due date together with the due date of these projects;

(b) whether the Government have made any assessment of the work under these projects; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (c) The time schedule of completion of the project can be fixed when there is matching availability of resources. There is a heavy throwforward of ongoing projects with limited availability of resources. The targets are fixed on year-to-year basis based on availability of resources.

[English]

#### **Misuse of Travel Concession Given to MPs**

2327. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Rail Travel Concession meant for Member of Parliament is being misused by others;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (c) A few cases of misuse of reservations made on the basis of Identity Cards issued to Members of Parliament have come to notice during the course of ticket checking but no separate statistics or details are maintained for the same. Besides the normal checks on trains, additional checking is undertaken by the various squads of Commercial and Vigilance Departments to prevent misuse of various kinds of travel authorities.

[Translation]

#### **Special Team of Railway Officers**

2328. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a special team of railway officers has been selected for getting rid of the hold of brokers at Railway Reservation Centres;

(b) if so, (i) the number of stations raided, (ii) the number of brokers involved and caught during the last three years and (iii) action taken against them and (iv) the measures taken to make it more active; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) In order to curb the menace of unauthorised sale of tickets, regular and surprise checks are conducted by the Commercial and Vigilance Departments under the general supervision of their officers both in and around reservation offices at all



important stations. Police/Railway Protection Force are also associated from time to time.

(b) and (c) Checks against touts is a regular feature and no separate statistics are maintained regarding the number of stations raided. However, during the checks conducted during the financial years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 & 2001-2002, the number of persons apprehended was 3112, 2857 & 2579 respectively who were dealt with under the relevant provisions of the law. Besides, during peak rush periods, monitoring at important locations is stepped up and campaigns are launched through various media for educating the general public to desist from purchasing tickets from unauthorised persons.

[English]

#### **Kachiguda-Bangalore Express Accidents**

2329. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU :

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY :

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether report of inquiry into the accident of Kachiguda-Bangalore Express on December 20, 2002 in Andhra Pradesh, submitted by the Commissioner of Railway Safety has been examined by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the cause of the accident;

(c) the action taken against the persons found to be responsible for this accident;

(d) the number of persons died/injured in the accident; and

(e) the financial assistance provided to the next of kin and to the persons injured etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (c)

Commissioner of Railway Safety, South Central Circle has submitted preliminary inquiry report into the derailment of 7685 Kachiguda-Bangalore Express on 21.12.2002, wherein he has concluded that the train derailed 'due to tampering with the track' and the accident falls under the category of "tampering with track by persons other than Railway Staff." Detailed examination of final inquiry report, when received, will be undertaken by the Zonal Railway

(d) 19 persons died and 78 persons were injured in this unfortunate accident.

(e) Compensation for death or injury of Rail passengers in train accidents are decided by Railway Claims Tribunal. Compensation will be paid soon after the claims are decreed by the Tribunal. However, ex-gratia amounting to Rs. 22.90 lakhs has been paid to the victims of the accident to take care of their immediate needs.

#### **Identity Cards to Persons with Disabilities**

2330. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether uniform guidelines for issue of identity cards to persons with disabilities have been circulated to States/Union Territories;

(b) whether any action plan has been initiated for issue of identity cards to them;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) In order to have uniformity in the identity cards for persons with disabilities so as to ensure that various concessions/benefits are available to persons with

disabilities, guidelines in this regard were circulated to all States/Union territories in August, 2000 a request to adopt the same.

(b) to (d) The matter regarding issue of Identity Cards to persons with disabilities comes under the purview of State Governments/U.T. Administrations.

[Translation]

### Power Generation In Rajasthan

2331. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of power being generated in Rajasthan presently alongwith its demand in the State; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to bridge the gap between demand and supply of power in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The electricity generation in Rajasthan during April, 2002-January, 2003 was 17,979 Million Units including Central Generating Stations located in the State. Power supply position during the same period in the State is given below :

Energy (MU)	April-January, 2003	Peak (MW)	April-January, 2003
Requirement	21815	Peak Demand	3880
Availability	21354	Peak Met	3820
Shortage	461	Deficit	60
Percentage (%)	2.1	Percentage (%)	1.5

(b) Electricity is a concurrent subject. Supply and distribution of electricity in a State is the responsibility of the State Government/State Power Utility concerned which

decides the priorities of power supply to various category of consumers/areas in the State.

However, in order to mitigate power shortage in the country including Rajasthan, the following steps are being taken :

- (i) Besides capacity addition of 660.32 MW in State Sector in Rajasthan, generation capacity of 7340 MW is planned to be set up in Central Sector in Northern Region during 10th Plan in which Rajasthan will have entitlements.
- (ii) Implementation of Renovation, Modernization and Life Extension (R&M & LE) Schemes for old and inefficient generating units for overall improvement in generation performance. PFC disburses loan with interest subsidy of 3% under Accelerated Generation and Supply Programme for this purpose.
- (iii) Enhancement in evacuation of surplus power from Eastern region to other regions including Northern Region of which Rajasthan is a constituent by setting up of inter-regional links. Recently, Sasaram HVDC back-to-back station has been commissioned which has facilitated transfer of 500 MW from Eastern Region to Northern Region in asynchronous mode. Rajasthan is also a beneficiary of Eastern Region Power.
- (iv) Promoting energy efficiency and energy conservation measures.
- (v) Government of India is striving for achieving financial turn around of State Electricity Boards/Utilities so as to enable them to become commercially viable. To bring about reforms in distribution, Ministry of Power in Government of India has launched Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) as a major step towards reduction in aggregate transmission and commercial losses and attaining commercial viability of the power sector.

[English]

### Generation of Power by NCES

2332. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the target capacity of generation of non-conventional energy fixed for the Ninth Plan;

(b) the quantum of actual generation during the said Plan; and

(c) the target fixed for the Tenth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) The Ministry fixed a target capacity addition of 1241.90 MW for power generation from various non-conventional energy sources against which a total of 1340.33 MW capacity addition of power generation was achieved during the Ninth Plan period.

(c) The Ministry has fixed a target capacity addition of 3075 MW for power generation from various non-conventional energy sources during the Tenth Plan period.

[Translation]

### Purview of Kurdukar Commission

2333. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra have consulted the Union Government while deciding the purview of Kurdukar Commission looking into the failure of Dabhol Power Project;

(b) if not, whether the Union Government have given any suggestion to State Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government of Maharashtra thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Power, Government of India has addressed a communication to the Government of Maharashtra (GOM) advising them that appointment of the Commission of Inquiry by the Government of Maharashtra to the extent that it purports to empower the Commission to make an inquiry, inter-alia, into the validity of various agreements, statutory clearances/concurrences, etc. (which would include statutory clearances given by Central Government Agencies), and failure of governance, is beyond the power and competence of the State Government. It has been pointed out to the GOM that where the Central Government, has, in exercise of various statutory/executive powers conferred by various laws regarding electricity, environment, etc. given certain clearances/approvals, State Governments cannot exercise any executive power regarding such statutory clearances/approvals. GOM were accordingly requested to delete the relevant provisions relating to the Central Government from the Terms of Reference of the Commission as contained in their notification dated 7.11.2001. Pending amendment of the notification, GOM were requested to ask the Commission of Inquiry to defer its ongoing proceedings/hearings. It was also mentioned in the said communication that Government of Maharashtra should have consulted the Government of India before drafting the Terms of Reference.

(d) In response, GOM have conveyed that they are examining the issues raised by Government of India and that in the meanwhile, the Commission of Inquiry has deferred its ongoing hearings till 13.3.2003.

[English]

### Interest Rate on Solar Water Heater

2334. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the interest rate on Solar Water Heater has not been revised for the last two years;

(b) whether in spite of general reduction in interest rates the same has not been reflected;

(c) if so, the details of the interest rate Government is paying to the banks;

(d) the subsidy and actual interest paid by the customers;

(e) whether the Government have asked nationalized banks to revise and reduce the interest rate of 11.5% charged by them;

(f) if so, the details thereof, and

(g) the details of the subsidy actually paid by the Government during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) Under the soft loan programme on Solar Water Heaters being implemented by the Ministry through the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) and designated public sector banks, the following interest rates are currently being charged from the customers :

- (i) 5% for individuals, institutions, hospitals, nursing homes, small business establishments, housing cooperative societies, developers, nonprofit organizations etc. No change has been made in this rate.
- (ii) 7% for commercial organizations. The rate being charged earlier for commercial organizations was 8.3% and was lowered to 7% during 2002-03 keeping in view the general reduction in interest rates.

(c) and (d) According to the arrangements concluded with the banks, the Ministry provides assistance to the banks to cover the difference between their normal rate of interest for financing such systems and the rate of interest actually charged under the scheme. At present the normal rate of interest of most banks is close to their prime lending rate or priority sector rate. Customers pay an interest rate of 5% or 7% as mentioned above.

(e) and (f) No, Sir.

(g) The amount of interest subsidy released by the Government during the period is as follows :

2000-01	Rs. 0.80 crore
2001-02	Rs. 1.00 crore
2002-03	Rs. 5.89 crores (till Feb. 2003)

[Translation]

#### Achievements by I.I.M.C.

2335. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Institute of Mass Communication has achieved its objectives;

(b) if so, the details of the achievements made during the last three years;

(c) the number of curriculum and diploma programmes organised by the Institute during the last three years; and

(d) the details of amount provided to the said Institute and the expenditure incurred by it during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Institute has been achieving its objectives, inter alia, of education, research and training in the field of mass communication and journalism.

(b) and (c) A statement showing the number of programmes and achievements during the last three years is given in statement-I.

(d) The details of amount provided by the Ministry of I&B to the Institute and the expenditure incurred during the last three years is given in statement-II.

## Statement-I

Sl No.	Training Programme	Target 1999-2000	Achievement 1999-2000	Target 2000-2001	Achievement 2000-2001	Target 2001-2000	Achievement 2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>A. Regular Courses</b>							
1.	Post-graduate Diploma course in Journalism (Delhi and Dhenkanal) (English)	2 Courses (40+40)*	2 Courses (40+37)**	2 Courses (40+40)	2 Courses (38+37)	2 Courses (40+40)	2 Courses (38+33)
2.	Post-graduate Diploma course in Advertising & Public Relations	1 Course (40)*	1 Course (40)**	1 Course (40)	1 Course (40)	1 Course (40)	1 Course (39)
3.	Post-graduate Diploma course in Journalism (Hindi)	1 Course (40)*	1 Course (36)**	1 Course (40)	1 Course (37)	1 Course (40)	1 Course (33)
4.	Post-graduate Diploma course in Radio & TV Journalism	1 Course (25)*	1 Course (24)**	1 Course (25)	1 Course (25)	1 Course (25)	1 Course (24)
5.	Post-graduate Diploma course in Journalism (Oriya at Dhenkanal)	-	-	-	-	1 Course (15)	1 Course (15)
6.	Diploma in Development Journalism for working journalists from Developing Countries	2 Courses (25+25)*	2 Course (22+18)**	2 Courses (25+25)	2 Courses (23+20)	2 Course (33+38)	2 Course (28+21)
7.	Broadcast Journalism (including short courses)	8 courses	4 courses	-	-	-	-
8.	Foundation Course in Communication for IIS Officers (Group 'A') Jan. 10, 2000 to August 31, 2001 (1999 batch)	-	11 participants	-	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	Foundation Course in Communication for IIS Officers (Group 'A') Dec. 18, 2000 to 31 August 2002 (Batch 2000)	-	-	-	14 participants	-	-
10.	Foundation Course in Communication for IIS Officers (Group 'A') (2001 Batch)-Dec. 26, 2001 to continue	-	-	-	-	-	4 participants
11.	Orientation course for IIS Officers (Group 'B') Jan. 3, March 31, 2000	-	18 participants	-	-	-	-
B	SHORT COURSE/WORKSHOP/CONFERENCES/ SEMINARS	30 courses	22 courses courses	21 courses courses	21 courses courses	32 courses courses	23 courses

\* Total number of students' strength in each course.

\*\* Total number of students completing the course.

**Statement-II**

*Amount provided by Ministry of I&B to Indian Institute of Mass Communication for last three years*

(Rs. in lakhs)	
Year	Total
2001-2000	507.20
2000-2001	584.81
1999-2000	777.56
<b>Total</b>	<b>1869.57</b>

*Expenditure incurred by the Indian Institute of Mass Communication for last three years*

(Rs. in lakhs)	
Year	Total
2001-2002	654.38
2000-2001	660.55
1999-2000	853.24
<b>Total</b>	<b>2168.17</b>

[English]

**Expansion of AIR in North Eastern States**

2336. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have undertaken expansion of AIR network in the North Eastern States;

(b) if so, the projects undertaken/to be undertaken under the said programme in Assam particularly in the Karbi, Anglong and North Cachar regions of Assam; and

(c) the time by which the proposed AIR stations likely to be expanded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) The following AIR projects are proposed to be implemented in Assam during the 10th Five Year Plan :-

- (i) Jorhat – 10 KW FM Transmitter
- (ii) Silchar – 5 KW FM Tr. and Refurbishing of Studios
- (iii) Karimganj – 1 KW FM Tr.
- (iv) Lumding – 1 KW FM Tr.
- (v) Golpara – 1 KW FM Tr.
- (vi) Guwahati – Upgradation of existing uplink facility to Digital mode.

Proposed FM Transmitter at Lumding will cover some of the uncovered areas of Karbi district also.

[Translation]

**Agreement with Iranian Companies for Exploration of Petroleum**

2337. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to make an agreement with the Iranian Companies for exploration of petroleum;

(b) if so, whether the Government have any action so far in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) A consortium of Indian companies, namely, ONGC-Videsh Limited (OVL), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) signed an Exploration Service Contract with National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) on 25.12.2002 for the Farsi offshore Block in Iran. The participating interest of three consortium members OVI, IOC and OIL is 40%, 40% and 20% respectively. The projected investment by the consortium in the Block is of the order of US \$ 38 million (Rs. 186 crore approximately) and initial work has already started.

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

#### **Separate Budget for DRDO**

2338. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have approved creation of a separate head in the budget for Defence Research and Development Organisation in view of the importance of research and development in the field of sophisticated arms capacity; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir. A new budget head has been created for the Department of Defence Research and Development.

(b) The budget of Department of Defence Research and Development was earlier combined with that of Army under "Major Head 2076". A new "Major Head 2080" has now been created for the Department of Defence Research and Development. The budget for the year 2003-2004 will be provided from the new Major Head. Related minor/sub heads have also been finalised to enable proper compilation of the expenditure incurred from the Grants under this head.

[English]

#### **Loan by PFC to Loss Making SEBs**

2339. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Power Finance Corporation (PFC) have decided to give loans to loss incurring State Electricity Boards against bonds;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the loans given by the PFC to the State Electricity Boards during the last six months and how far this additional amount of loans are likely to help the State Governments to clear their accumulated arrears?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Power Finance Corporation (PFC) Ltd., has not decided to give loans to loss incurring State Electricity Boards against bonds. PFC, however, provides medium term loans (more than one year and upto five years) to State Power Utilities against pledge of State Government guaranteed bonds. A loan of Rs. 213 crores has been extended to APGENCO in the current financial year for meeting their medium term working capital requirements.

(c) The details of loan given to various State Power Utilities during the last six months is given in statement. The assistance was provided to Power Utilities for the Power Projects under various categories viz. Generation, Transmission Capacitors, Renovation & Modernisation, Urban Distribution, System Improvement, Studies, Computerization etc., and also to meet short/medium term requirement of funds for their working capital. However, the objective of these loans is not to enable to State Governments to clear their accumulated arrears.



**Statement***Details of Loan Given to Various State Utilities During the Last Six Months*

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	State	State Power Utility	Disbursement during 1.09.02 to 28.02.03
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh Generation Corporation	291.78
		Andhra Pradesh Transmission Corporation	156.20
		Central Power Distribution Company A.P.	20.00
2.	Assam	Assam State Electricity Boards	2.19
3.	Delhi	Pragati Power Corporation Ltd.	104.42
4.	Goa	Government of Goa	17.08
5.	Gujarat	Gujarat Electricity Board	90.25
		Gujarat State Electricity Corporation Ltd.	34.65
6.	Haryana	Dakshin Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam Ltd.	3.80
		Govt. of Haryana	0.03
		Haryana Power Generation Corporation Ltd.	227.68
		Haryana Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Ltd.	105.23
		Uttra Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam Ltd.	20.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board	129.95
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	J&K State Power Development Corporation Ltd.	8.07
9.	Karnataka	Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation	267.40
		Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd.	25.61
		Visvesvaraya Vidyuth Nigam Ltd.	6.17
10.	Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board	25.04
11.	Maharashtra	Maharashtra State Electricity Board	134.03

1	2	3	4
12.	Nagaland	Nagaland Power Development Department	2.67
13.	Orissa	GRIDCO	150.00
		Orissa Hydro Power Corporation Ltd.	0.00
14.	Punjab	Punjab State Electricity Board	3.57
15.	Rajasthan	Ajmer Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd.	78.11
		Government of Rajasthan	0.09
		Jaipur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd.	75.85
		Jodhpur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd.	81.42
		Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd.	631.32
		Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Ltd.	196.88
16.	Tamil Nadu	Tamil Nadu Electricity Board	4.36
17.	Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur Electricity Supply Company	50.00
		U.P. Power Corporation Ltd.	285.19
		U.P. Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd.	33.11
18.	Uttaranchal	Uttaranchal Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd.	68.15
19.	West Bengal	Durgapur Projects Ltd.	8.97
		West Bengal State Electricity Board	16.96
Total			3356.23

[Translation]

**Kerosene Outlets in Delhi,  
UP and Rajasthan**

2340. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to open retail Kerosene outlets in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan;

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

(c) the time by which these outlets are likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) After the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) with effect from 1.4.2002, the oil companies are free to choose locations

and set up SKO-LDO dealerships in various parts of the country, including Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, depending upon economic viability.

**Electrification of Bokaro Steel  
City-Muri-Hatia Rail Line**

2341. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the present status of the Railway Electrification Project between Bokaro Steel City-Muri-Hatia;
- (b) whether the completion of the project has been delayed;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether contractor is responsible for delay of the project;
- (e) if so, the action taken against the concerned contractor; and
- (f) the losses incurred by the Railways due to the delay in the project and the escalated cost of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) The electrification of Bokaro Steel City-Muri-Hatia has already been completed and electric traction introduced.

- (b) Yes, Sir.
- (c) Apart from other factors, the project was also delayed partly due to failure of the Contractor.
- (d) Yes, Sir. Partly.
- (e) The work was awarded to another agency at risk and cost of the contractor who failed.
- (f) In view of (c) above, the losses are not exactly quantifiable. The anticipated cost of the project is now Rs. 291.81 crores.

[English]

**Petrol Pumps on Highways**

2342. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Union Government propose to remove petrol pumps located on National Highways and relocate them;
- (b) if so, the details thereof with reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Union Government have received representation from some State Governments against this move; and
- (d) if so, the details of representations sent by each State Government in this regard and the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) The Government has no proposal to remove retail outlets (petrol pumps) located on National Highways and relocate them.

**Permission from T&CPO on Construction  
of Petrol Pumps**

2343. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Oil Corporations are required to obtain the permission from Department of Town and Country Planning and National Highways Authority of India before starting the actual construction of the petrol pumps as per the approved plans and drawings;
- (b) if so, whether the concerned District Magistrates can also initiate action arbitrarily for cancellation of NOC when the violation is detected;
- (c) if not, the Appellate Authority for the Arbitrary Actions/Decisions of respective District Magistrates in

this regard and time prescribed for deciding such appeals; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken in case some irregularities of District Magistrates are detected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) The Oil Companies apply to the District Magistrates for 'No Objection Certificates' (NOCs) before starting the construction of retail outlets.

The District Magistrate, in turn, seeks NOCs from various authorities like the Police, the Fire Service, the Department of Explosives, etc. and also from the Town and Country Planning Department or the National Highway Authority of India depending on the location of the proposed retail outlet before issuing the final NOC to the Oil Company for construction as per the approved plans and drawings.

The District Magistrate can initiate action for cancellation of the NOC when any violation of the terms and conditions of the NOC is detected.

#### **Quality Manufacturing of Artificial Joints**

2344. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :

SHRI C.N. SINGH :

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether better quality of artificial joints are not being manufactured in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether large quantities of such joints are still imported from abroad; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve the quality of artificial joints so as to reduce the expenditure on their imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) to (d) Aids and appliances for persons with disabilities including joints are being manufactured by Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), a Corporation under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The Corporation is manufacturing 1,25,000 joints every year, in house, from stainless steel materials that are of international quality. However, some import of joints takes place as per requirement of individuals. 5756 artificial joints were imported during 2001-02 as per the report of Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, 'Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India' (Annual Number for 2001-02).

#### **Committee to Look Into Demands of Physically Handicapped Persons**

2345. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a committee has been constituted to look into the very long pending genuine demands of the physically handicapped persons viz., (i) 100% duty exemption for the imported appliance (ii) income tax exemption limit to be raised upto 1 lakh rupees (iii) and others;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not the time by which this committee would submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) to (c) A Committee was constituted in December 2002 to draft proposals for concessions/exemption in customs/excise duties applied on aids and appliances for persons with disabilities. The Committee has submitted its report in January, 2003. This Ministry while accepting, in principle, the need to exempt aids and appliances meant for persons with disabilities from the

purview of customs/excise duties, has made a recommendation to the Department of Revenue to take action on the proposals for providing relief in duties and taxes levies on aids and assistive devices used by persons with disabilities.

### Construction of Houses

2346. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to construct lakhs of houses for the armed forces personnel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have fixed any time frame to complete these houses; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the estimated cost?

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

(b) The Government have finalised the modalities of construction of 1,98,881 dwelling units of married accommodation in four Phases. Phase-I of the work to construct married accommodation consisting of 61,658 dwelling units for Defence Service Personnel at 81 stations beginning with the year 2002-03 has been approved. It would cater to 7484 officers, 6809 Junior Commissioned Officers and 47365 other ranks. A list of stations alongwith details of dwelling units in each station is enclosed as statement.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The construction of houses of Phase-I is proposed to be completed by 2005-06. The total estimated cost is Rs. 5478.73 crores.

### Statement

#### *Constr of MD ACCN (Phase-I)-2002-03*

#### SOUTHERN COMMAND

#### MD ACCN

Sl. No.	Station	Officers				JCOs	OR	Remarks
		Majs & above	Cpts	Lt	Total			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Alwar	16	8	0	24	48	60	
2.	Ahmedabad	20	4	0	24	36	40	
3.	Ahmednagar	22	0	2	24	0	400	
4.	Aurangabad	8	14	2	24	12	300	
5.	Bangalore	0	0	0	0	300	3	
6.	Belgaum	14	10	0	24	48	48	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7.	Baroda	8	4	0	12	0	0	
8.	Chennai	18	6	4	28	26	250	
9.	Deolali	40	8	0	48	48	800	
10.	Gandhinagar	8	8	0	16	12	400	
11.	Golconda	8	0	4	12	32	108	
12.	Jaipur	24	4	0	28	48	800	
13.	Jodhpur	62	58	0	120	68	1100	
14.	Jaiselmer	24	16	8	48	48	400	
15.	Jamnagar	8	4	0	12	12	300	
16.	Kirkee	32	16	0	48	48	800	
17.	Kamptee	24	0	0	24	48	200	
18.	Mumbai	12	8	4	24	24	150	
19.	Nasirabad	16	8	0	24	12	400	
20.	Pune	84	12	4	100	40	250	
21.	Secunderabad	90	36	10	136	84	550	
22.	Trivandrum	0	0	0	0	0	180	
Total		538	224	38	800	994	8439	

EASTERN COMMAND

*MD ACCN Project : (PH-I) 2002-2003*

Sl. No.	Station	Officers				JCOs	OR	Remarks
		Majs & above	Capts	Lt	Total			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Binnaguri	0	0	0	0	0	96	
2	Gangtok	0	0	0	0	0	132	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3.	Guwahati	6	10	0	16	38	268	
4.	Kolkata	72	0	0	72	51	650	
5.	Shillong	38	8	0	46	117	544	
6.	Sukna	0	0	0	0	0	200	
Total		116	18	0	134	206	1890	

*MD ACCN Project-Central Command*

*Phase-I 2002-03*

Sl. No.	Station	Officers				JCOs	OR	Remarks
		Majs & above	Cpts	Lt	Total			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Agra	71	24	0	95	45	906	
2.	Allahabad	60	40	8	108	24	996	
3.	Bareilly	76	13	8	97	37	1186	
4.	Bhopal	162	28	6	196	152	1154	
5.	Dehradun/Clement Town	35	5	0	40	76	1172	
6.	Danapur	23	0	0	23	8	12	
7.	Jhansi	100	46	10	156	224	1608	
8.	Lucknow	138	62	10	210	459	1488	
9.	Mathura	84	28	0	112	120	1076	
10.	Pithoragarh	36	20	0	56	48	1220	
11.	Shahjhanpur	24	8	0	32	0	654	
Total		809	274	42	1125	1193	11472	

**Constr of MD ACCN (Phase I)-2002-03**

**WESTERN COMMAND**

**MD ACCN**

Sl. No.	Station	Officers				JCOs	OR	Remarks
		Majs & above	Cpts	Lt	Total			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Abohar	12	0	0	12	0	48	
2.	Amritsar	124	15	5	144	76	948	
3.	Bathinda	299	42	13	354	342	2236	
4.	Bikaner	124	15	5	144	212	1048	
5.	Chandimandir	125	19	6	150	100	1019	
6.	Delhi	2090	330	80	2500	500	2500	
7.	Faridkot	12	0	0	12	18	60	
8.	Fazilka	40	6	2	48	85	426	
9.	Ferozepur	24	0	0	24	24	72	
10.	Hissar	184	27	9	220	330	1980	
11.	Jalandhar	208	27	9	244	300	1132	
12.	Lalgarh Jattan	18	0	0	18	18	60	
13.	Patiala	162	21	6	189	194	708	
14.	Subathu	0	0	0	0	15	100	
15.	Sangrur	37	6	2	45	34	260	
16.	Sriganganagar	42	6	2	50	50	400	
17.	Suratgarh	84	12	4	100	100	800	
Total		3585	526	143	4254	2398	13797	



*Constr of MD ACCN (Phase-I)-2002-03*

## NORTHERN COMMAND

## MD ACCN

Sl. No.	Station	Officers				JCOs	OR	Remarks
		Majs & above	Cpts	Lt	Total			
1.	Jammu	38	38	0	76	106	676	
2.	Janglot	0	0	0	0	0	128	
3.	Mamun	65	65	20	150	68	2300	
4.	Pathankot	30	25	5	60	61	304	
5.	Sanjuwan	0	0	0	0	30	100	
6.	Yol Cantt	0	0	0	0	39	124	
Total		133	128	25	286	304	3632	

*Constr of MD ACCN (Phase-I)-2002-03*

## NAVY

## MD ACCN

Sl. No.	Station	Officers				JCOs	OR	Remarks
		LtCDr & above	Lt	S/Lt	Total			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Kochi	0	40	0	40	220	940	
2.	Vizag	33	9	44	86	68	500	
3.	Mumbai	102	20	0	122	180	750	
4.	Goa	18	28	0	46	5	175	
5.	Port Blair	28	0	0	28	4	61	
Total		181	97	44	322	477	2426	

AIR FORCE

CONSTR OF MD ACCN (PHASE-I)-2002-03

MD ACCN

Sl. No.	Station	Officers				JCOs	OR	Remarks
		LTs & above	S/L & above	F/LT & FG above	Total			
1.	Ambala	0	14	12	26	178	794	
2.	Agra	0	44	46	90	0	1007	
3.	Gwalior	0	0	3	3	0	318	
4.	Jodhpur	0	15	38	53	53	588	
5.	Baroda	0	59	42	101	100	438	
6.	Kanpur	0	0	0	0	361	342	
7.	New Delhi	0	53	80	133	355	1329	
8.	Thane	0	0	0	0	36	127	
9.	Mumbai	0	24	10	34	36	41	
10.	Kanharihills	0	0	2	2	14	29	
11.	Madhislands	0	4	0	4	5	51	
12.	Sulur	0	34	2	36	25	312	
13.	Bangalore	0	44	5	49	72	217	
14.	Yelhanka	0	32	0	32	2	116	
Total		0	323	240	563	1237	5709	

Implementation of Recommendations of  
Fifth Pay Commission

2347. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of recommendations of Fifth Pay Commission relating to the Military Engineering Services

implemented so far;

(b) the reasons for not implementing the remaining recommendations inspite of assurance given to the House for more than two and half years back; and

(c) the time by which the orders for gradual civilianisation of MES were issued?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Two recommendations of Fifth Pay Commission have been accepted and orders issued.

(b) No assurance for implementing other recommendation of Vth Central Pay Commission has been given.

(c) There is no proposal for issuing orders for gradual civilianization of Military Engineering Service.

[Translation]

#### **Facilities for Handicapped Persons at Railway Stations**

2348. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :  
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the various NGOs have suggested to the railways to improve the facilities and access for handicapped persons at railway stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Railways have sought the help of the National Institute of Orthopaedically Handicapped, Kolkata to design modern stations for the use of physically handicapped person;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the response of the National Institute of Orthopaedically Handicapped, Kolkata in this regard;

(f) the names of the railway stations selected for providing facilities to handicapped in the country;

(g) the time by which the said facilities are likely to be provided to the handicapped at the railways stations; and

(h) the funds allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) Various representations are received from NGOs, VIPs and general Public for providing facilities for the handicapped persons. The demands made therein include provision of ramps for barrier free entry, non-slippery walkway, disabled friendly drinking water taps, toilets etc. suited to the needs of handicapped persons.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) National Institute of Orthopaedically Handicapped (NIOH) was approached by the Railways' research wing—Research, Design & Standards Organisation, Lucknow, for sharing their reports and guidelines on new schemes for implementation of Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of rights and full participation) Act, 1995. The response of NIOH was positive and information was collected.

(f) Zonal Railways have been directed to provide the facilities for handicapped persons at all 'A' category station in the 1st Phase. These include all major stations like Delhi Jn., New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Howrah, Sealdah, Allahabad Jn., Jammu Tawi, Lucknow, Gwalior, Bangalore, Secunderabad, Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Vasco-da-Gama, Rourkela, Visakhapatnam, Bhubaneswar, Jaipur, etc.

(g) and (h) No separate funds are allocated for these works and these works are financed from the provision made under the Plan Head "Passenger Amenities" (The funds allotted under this Planhead is Rs. 205 crore for the year 2003-04). Railways have been directed to provide these facilities at the earliest within the available resources.

[English]

#### **Assistance Provided to Deaf and Dumb**

2349. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the assistance provided to the poor and physically handicapped, deaf and dumb persons living in the rural areas of the Uttar Pradesh and other States and the name of such agencies through which assistance is being provided to them;

(b) whether the poor and physically handicapped, deaf and dumb persons are actually getting this assistance; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to provide direct assistance to the poor, physically handicapped, deaf and dumb persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) to (c) A number of schemes and programmes are being implemented for the education, training and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities through the National Institutes, Composite Rehabilitation Centres, Regional Rehabilitation Centres, Regional Rehabilitation Centres for Persons with Spinal Injuries, District Rehabilitation Centres, District Disability Rehabilitation Centres and Non-Governmental Organizations throughout the country. In the State of Uttar Pradesh, these services are provided through the Composite Rehabilitation Centre and Regional Rehabilitation Training Centre at Lucknow, Regional Rehabilitation Centre for Persons with Spinal Injuries at Bareilly, District Rehabilitation Centres at Sultanpur and Jagdishpur and District Disability Rehabilitation Centres at Allahabad, Farrukhabad, Jhansi, Pilibhit, Agra, Meerut, Gonda, Gorakhpur, Varanasi, Balia and Mau. Lists of Non-Governmental Organisations assisted in Uttar Pradesh under the Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities (Umbrella Scheme) and Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP) during 2002-2003 so far are at statements I and II. Also under the latter scheme, Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi and Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India, Kanpur have organized composite camps for assistance to the poor disabled in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

### Statement-I

*Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for persons with Disabilities-NGOs assisted in Uttar Pradesh during 2002-03 (as on 03/03/2003)*

District	Name of the Agency
1	2
Agra	Sur Smarak Mandal
Aligarh	Prag Narain Mook Badhir Vidya;aya Samiti
Allahabad	Allahabad Gram Swasthya Seva Samiti Israji Devi Shikshan Sansthan National Fellowship Rehabilitation Centre for the Blind Noor Mohammad Memorial Charitable Society Jahangir Memorial Charitable Hospital Uttar Pradesh Mook Badhir Vidyalaya Viklang Kendra (Rotary Sponsored Crippled Youth & Welfare Society)
Azamgarh	Badhit Bal Vikas Samiti Bharatiya Chauhan Samiti Kaifi Azami Education & Welfare Society Kishan Mahila Gramodyog Sansthan Viklang Seva Samiti
Bagpat	Jan Jagran Shiksha Prasar Samiti
Bareilly	Disha Viklang, Asahay Mahilaon, Vridh Evam Bachhon Ke Kalyanarth Samiti
Bijnor	Jan Vikas Sansthan

1	2
Deoria	Vivekanand Yuva Mahila Avam Bal Seva Sansthan
Faizabad	Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Jan Seva Sansthan
Faizabad	Akhil Bharatiya Viklang Kalyan Samiti
Farrukhabad	Swami Atmadev Gopalanand Shiksha Sansthan
Ghaziabad	Bhagirath Sewa Sansthan
Ghazipur	Paohari Smriti Parishad
Gorakhpur	Madhukar Viklang Vidyalaya Samiti
JP Nagar	Adarsh Khadi Gramudyog Vikas Samiti
Kanpur	Goonge Behron Ka Vidhayalaya
	Sri Kanchilal Shastri Smarak Sansthan
Kushinagar	Deo Saraswati Shiksha Parishad
	Jan Kalyan Shiksha Samiti
Lucknow	Drishti Samajik Sansthan
	Handicapped Child Welfare Society (SAVERA)
	N.C. Chaturvedi School for Deaf
	Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Shiksha Vikas Samiti
	Ambedkar Shiksha Samiti
	Ashoka Public School
	CHETNA
	Mangalam
	Saraswati Badhir Sewa Samiti
	Shaheed Memorial Society

1	2
Mathura	Shri Vrindaban Andh Mahavidyalaya
Meerut	Deaf and Dumb School
	VAANI (Friends of Handicapped)
Mirzapur	Bhartiya Vikalang Kalyan Society
Moradabad	K S J High School
Pratapgarh	Pratapgarh Mahila Kalyan Evam Shiksha Samiti
Varanasi	Chitragupta Shikshan Sansthan
	Jeevan Jyoti School for the Blind
	Pradeshik Alpasankhyak Harijan Evam Pichhra Varg Sangathan
	Pt. Deendayal Viklang Kalyan Samiti
	B C G School for the Deaf
	Integrated Institute for the Disabled
	Nav Vani School
	Sri Hanuman Prasad Poddar Andh Vidyalaya

#### Statement-II

*Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for purchase/fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP Scheme) – NGOs assisted in Uttar Pradesh during 2002-03 (As on 3/3/2003)*

Sl.No.	Name of the Agency
1	2
1.	Bharatiya Anusuchit Jati Evam Janjati Vikas Samiti, ED-505, Sector-D, LDA Colony, Kanpur Road, Lucknow, U.P.

1	2
2.	Artificial Limbs and Manufacturing Corporation of India, G.T. Road, Kanpur, U.P.
3.	Navada Gramodhyog Vikas Samiti, Mohalla-Bagala, Amaroha, J.P. Nagar-244 221, U.P.
4.	Lohia Public School Samiti, 3, Patel Nagar, Star Colony, Indira Nagar Extension, Lucknow-226 016, U.P.
5.	Mangalam, Manglam Sadan, Indira Nagar, Lucknow, U.P.
6.	Sarswati Educational Society, Harthala, Sonakpur, Moradhabad, U.P.
7.	Sarvodaya Viklang Seva Sansthan, VIP Canal Road, Lucknow, U.P.
8.	Vikalp, B-205, Rajaji Puram, Lucknow, U.P.
9.	Upkaar Pratishthan, HIG-150, Pritam Nagar, ADA Colony, Sulem Sarai, Allahabad-211 001, U.P.
10.	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Jan Seva Samiti, Vill-Puttha, PO-Khatouli, Distt.-Muzaffarnagar, U.P.
11.	Chitragupta Shikshan Sansthan, Vill+PO-Sakalpur, Varanasi, U.P.
12.	Samata Sewa Samiti, B-49, Sector H, Aliganj, Lucknow-226 024, U.P.
13.	Viklang Shikshan Prashikshan Sansthan, 551-JHA/38, Kanpur Road, Alambagh, Lucknow, U.P.
14.	Mayadevi Samaj Kalyan Sansthan, 68-A, Snehnagar, Lucknow, U.P.
15.	Bhavani Gramodhyog Seva Sansthan, Paratawal Bazar, Distt.-Maharajganj, U.P.
16.	Gram Vikas Sansthan, Vill-Belwa, PO-Bishkohar, Distt.-Sidharinagar, U.P.

1	2
17.	Dr. Ambedkar Shikshan Sansthan, Maharajganj District, U.P.
18.	DRC-Jagdishpur, Community Health Centre Campus, Jagdishpur, Sultanpur-227809, U.P.
19.	Janaki Gramothan Mahila Bal Vikas Sansthan, Vill-Poore Devidutt, Dakhinwara, Krishna Nagar, PO-Goriabad, Distt.-Sultanpur, U.P.
20.	District Rehabilitation Centre, Sitapur, U.P.
21.	Madhyamik Vidyalaya Purab Goan Saresar Sansthan, Vill+PO-Saresar, Block-Jagdishpur, Distt.-Sultanpur-227809, U.P.
22.	Samajik Nyay Evam Manav Kalyan Samati, 154-G, Phool Wali Gali, Chowk, Lucknow, U.P.
23.	Grameen Pragati Sansthan, Near New India Assurance, Road No.3, Village+PO Kamrauli, District Sultanpur (U.P.)
24.	Viklang Kendra, 13, Lukerganj, Allahabad, U.P.
25.	Kalyanam Karoti, Kalyan Dham, Saraswati Kund, Masani, Mathura-281003, U.P.
26.	Swamy Parmanand Dandi Jan Kalyan Samiti, Mangoli, Shahbad, Rampur, U.P.
27.	Dr. Kshetrapal Manav Seva Sansthan, Holy Shelter, Mohalla-Kayasthan, Chandpur, Bijnor, U.P.
28.	The Chairman, Ujala Society, 316, Mandi Railway Road, Pilakhuwa, Distt.-Gaziabad, U.P.
29.	Meenu Sharma Viklang Relief Society, Kuraol-205 265, Distt.-Mainpuri, U.P.
30.	Bal Bani Avom Nirbal Seva Nari Kala Kendra Samiti, PO-Dangauli, Distt.-Mau, Pin-275 306, U.P.

1	2
31.	Indian Red Cross Society, District Branch Allahabad, 53, Bahadur Ganj, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh
32.	Sanchit Vikas Sansthan, Village Hasnapur, PO Bargadwa, Dist, Basti, U.P.-272190.
33.	Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Shiksha Vikas Samiti, 20-New Market, Nishatganj, Lucknow, U.P.

#### **Ban on PTV**

2350. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL :

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

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

(a) whether there is a proposal to put a ban on Pakistan TV which has of late launched a hatred campaign against India,; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal at present to ban Pak TV.

[Translation]

#### **Rail Projects Lying Closed Due to Fund Constraints**

2351. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of rail projects in the country are lying closed for want of funds;

(b) if so, the names of the projects out of the above which are not considered essential at present; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for completion of the essential projects and winding up of the non-essential projects?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **Re-Appointment of Daily Wagers in Eastern Railways**

2352. SHRI SUBODH ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have implemented the decision of the Hon'ble Kolkata High Court for re-appointment of daily wagers by Young Bengal Cooperative and North-Cooperative who worked from 1970 to 1989 in the Eastern Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the Government propose to appoint all the daily wagers alongwith the time frame set out for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) The Judgement of Hon'ble Kolkata High Court in respect of contract labourers of Young Bengal Cooperative and North Calcutta Cooperative, has been implemented by Eastern Railway.

(b) The Judgement of Hon'ble Kolkata High Court was for the Railway authorities to take steps to scrutinize the list of candidates submitted by the two Societies for the purpose of ascertaining the eligibility of the persons concerned to be considered for absorption in the vacancies said to have been declared in Group 'D' post under the Railways and upon such scrutiny, the Railways shall consider and dispose of the claims of the said candidates.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

**Different Service Rules for  
Similar Posts**

2353. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Military Engineering Service personnel from two streams working in similar posts are governed under two different sets of service rules;

(b) if so, the reasons for not changing the rules to deal with both the streams of personnel at par under common rules for smooth administration and to establish equity and parity;

(c) whether at command level senior civilian officers of SAG grade are working under army officers of the same grade but junior to the civilian officers; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not separating work services from combat duties and placed under civilian officers working directly under head of the MES?

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

(b) Different rules governing the service conditions do not, in any way, hamper the smooth administration or equity and parity among Military Engineering Service personnel owing to different service conditions of their respective services.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Computerised Booking Office in Kullu  
in Himachal Pradesh**

2354. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a computerised booking office in the district head quarters of Kullu in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) Yes, Sir. A work for provision of a computerised reservation facility at Kullu has been sanctioned in the Annual Budget 2002-03.

(b) and (c) As per the extant policy, for providing computerised reservation facilities at non-railhead District Headquarters, State Government provides the built-up space free of cost. In this regard, till date, State Government has not provided the built-up space for opening of computerised reservation centre at Kullu.

**Ban on Sale of Grama/Ground Nuts,  
etc. in Trains**

2355. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :  
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have imposed ban on the sale of eatables like grams/ground nuts etc. in the trains;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the number of families likely to be deprived of their livelihood on account of this decision;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide alternative jobs to such people; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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



(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

**Development of Planes and Jets  
for Civil Aviation**

2356. SHRI Y.V. RAO : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the policy of the Government in regard to developing and manufacturing planes and jets for civil aviation;

(b) the present status of developing and manufacturing the planes and jets for civil aviation; and

(c) the time by which 100 seated jets and higher capacity planes could be developed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL), Bangalore has developed an all composite two-seat training aeroplane "Hansa-3" and is in the process of developing a 14-seat Light Transport Aircraft "SARAS". Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is preparing jointly with its Russian partners a detailed project report for co-design, development and production of a multi-role transport aircraft of 100 seater passenger/15-20 ton cargo capacity. After preparation of a detailed project report, this will be submitted to Government for consideration. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited has no programme for development of higher capacity jets for civil aviation.

**Installation of Solar Water Heaters  
in Gujarat**

2357. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of solar water heaters installed in the State of Gujarat during the last two years;

(b) the total amount earmarked for installation of

solar water heaters during the current financial year in the State;

(c) whether the Government propose to educate the people about the installation of solar water heaters through intensive publicity; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) Solar water heaters are currently being promoted by the Ministry through an interest subsidy scheme being implemented by the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) and seven public sector banks. The interest subsidy allotted for the programme during the current financial year is Rs. 7.5 crores. No funds are earmarked for any state. The approximate collector area installed for solar water heating in the state of Gujarat under the programme is 234 sqm. during 2000-01 and 661 sqm. during 2001-02. In addition, under an incentive scheme of the Government of Gujarat for government and nonprofit organizations for installing solar water heaters, around 1700 sqm. of collector area was installed during 2000-01. Manufacturers are also selling such systems directly to users without any incentive from Government.

(c) and (d) Several activities have been taken up to educate the people about the installation of solar water heaters. These include publishing of brochures and pamphlets, issuing advertisements in newspapers, sanctioning programmes for awareness creation, business development, training etc. through state agencies; training of bank officials; promotional incentive to banks for publicity including advertisements, posters, brochures etc.; and organization of workshops, business meets and training programmes by the Technical Back-up Units of the Ministry. The Ministry is also implementing a special demonstration scheme for supporting the installation of solar water heating systems in the North-Eastern States, Islands and Jammu & Kashmir.

**Unauthorised Passengers Embarking  
on Express Trains**

2358. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether unauthorised passengers embark on Express trains in Second Class Sleeper bogies at New Delhi Railway Station;

(b) whether as a result thereof genuine passengers with reservation tickets are unable to get the benefits of reservation;

(c) if so, the reasons for the in-difference of the Railways and the RPF and other agencies to the plight of genuine passengers at New Delhi Railway Stations;

(d) whether the Government propose to launch a campaign to apprehend such unauthorized passengers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) Some cases of unauthorized entry of passengers, on account of short distance daily passengers forcibly entering in Second Class Sleeper Bogies have come to notice.

(c) to (e) The ticket checking staff have instructions to check and penalise unauthorised travellers in reserved coaches. Apart from manning of reserved coaches by ticket checking staff, intensive drives are also conducted by the Railways to prevent unauthorised entry in reserved compartments. The Railway Protection Force/Police and Railway Magistrates are also associated in these drives from time to time.

[Translation]

**DD/AIR Facilities in Jharkhand**

2359. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

PROF. RITA VERMA :

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

(a) the cities/towns of Jharkhand where broadcasting facilities of Doordarshan/Akashvani have not been provided so far especially in Bokaro, Giridih and Dhanbad districts;

(b) the time by which the facilities will be provided there;

(c) whether its broadcasting capacity of some stations is also not upto the mark; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/likely to be taken to upgrade the facilities of DD/AIR in Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The districts of Bokaro, Giridih and Dhanbad and the rest of Jharkhand State is fully covered with respect to area and population by All India Radio. Signals in satellite mode cover the entire state of Jharkhand. In addition, 27 terrestrial transmitters (DDI-22, DDII-5) of varying power are also presently functioning in the state. TV transmitters functioning in the districts of Bokaro, Giridih and Dhanbad are as under:-

Bokaro - LPT (DDI) and LPT (DDII)

Giridih - LPT (DDI)

Dhanbad - LPT (DDI) and LPT (DDII)

(c) and (d) Projects for upgradation of Doordarshan facilities in Jharkhand, presently under implementation, are as under:-

(i) Augmentation of Studio Centre, Ranchi.

(ii) Upgradation of LPT, Giridih (100W to 500W)

(iii) VLPT, Ramgarh hill (Replacement of existing transposer by VLPT)

[English]

**Withdrawal of Sales Tax Exemption  
from CSD**

2360. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :  
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state .

(a) whether several State Governments have urged the Union Government to permit withdrawal of tax exemptions on sale of items through CSD route;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether misuse of CSD facility by non-defence personnel has increased in various parts of the country;

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

(d) whether the Union Government also propose to check rampant leakages in the CSD mechanism since most of the products from canteens are availed by the people outside the defence services; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) There is no misuse of CSD facilities.

(c) Not applicable in view of answer at (b) above

(d) Checks already exist to ensure that there is no leakage of stores.

(e) Not applicable in view of answer at (d) above.

**Facility of Doordarshan in Hilly and  
Inaccessible Areas**

2361. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA :  
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :

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

(a) the number of LPT and ULPT targeted to be set up during the current financial year to provide Doordarshan facility in the hilly and inaccessible areas of the country; State-wise;

(b) whether some broadcasting centres could not be set up due to non arrival of the equipments on time.

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

(d) the steps taken to achieve the target and progress made in this regard as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) Seventy one (71) LPT and VLPT projects, including those in hilly and inaccessible areas, have been targeted for completion during 2002-03. Out of these, sixty (60) projects have since been completed. State-wise details are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) to (d) The remaining eleven (11) projects are at different stages of implementation and are expected to be completed, in phases, during the next few months. Completion of none of the projects is pending for want of availability of equipment.

**Statement**

*LPT/VLPT projects targeted to be completed  
during 2002-03*

Sl. No.	State/U.T.	No. of LPT/ VLPT targeted to be completed	No. of LPT/ VLPT projects already completed (till Feb. 2003)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5	6
2.	Assam	1	1
3.	Bihar	2	—

1	2	3	4
4.	Chhattisgarh	1	1
5.	Gujarat	3	3
6.	Haryana	1	1
7.	Himachal Pradesh	3	—
8.	Jharkhand	1	1
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	22	21
10.	Karnataka	4	3
11.	Kerala	3	3
12.	Maharashtra	9	9
13.	Meghalaya	1	1
14.	Sikkim	1	1
15.	Tamil Nadu	4	4
16.	Tripura	1	—
17.	Uttaranchal	5	3
18.	West Bengal	1	—
19.	A. & N. Islands	2	2

#### Export Business by BHEL

2362. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the working of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited especially in export front;

(b) if so, whether the BHEL has decided to enter power distribution business in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the BHEL is well equipped to venture in this business; and

(e) if not, the measures to be taken before entering in this field?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Based on its strength and experience in power sector, BHEL is examining the opportunities in Power distribution area, and depending on the market feasibility and viability of the business, a decision will be taken.

#### ROBs in West Bengal

2363. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of overbridges sanctioned for construction in West Bengal during the last three years, location-wise,

(b) the details of the new/on-going ROB/RUB projects in West Bengal, project-wise;

(c) the funds allocated therefor; and

(d) the target fixed for completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (c) A statement is enclosed.

(d) Railways execute its portion of work (over tracks) and the State Govts. do the work on approach portion. The over all completion of the work, therefore depends on completion of approaches by State Govt. Railways shall complete its portion of work along with or before the work of approaches is completed.

**Statement**

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of work	Year of Sanction	Funds allocated during 2002-03	Status
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Rebuilding of ROB No. 533 at Burnpur-Asansol	1995-96	95.87	Phase I part of the work completed balance work of approaches yet to be started by N.H.
2.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 14 at Nalikul	2000-01	200	State Govt. has not yet accepted proposal of cost sharing.
3.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 100/Spl. at Panagarh	1988-89	10	Bridge proper and approaches completed.
4.	Re-girdering of ROB No. 66-A at Naihati-Halisahar	2002-03	200	Estimate and GAD being prepared.
5.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 33 at Memari	2000-01	2.00	State Govt. not accepted proposal of cost sharing.
6.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 57/T at Ranaghat	2000-01	2.00	-do-
7.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 21B/T at Baruipara	2000-01	2.00	-do-
8.	ROB in lieu of LC No.19 at Simalagarh	2000-01	2.00	-do-
9.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 38 at Rasulpur	2000-01	2.00	-do-
10.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 15A/3T at Barrackpore	2000-01	1.00	-do-
11.	Rehabilitation of Bankim Setu ROB over Howrah Yard	2002-03	200	Estimate & GAD being prepared.
12.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 21B/T at Baruipur	2000-01	2.00	State Govt. has not yet accepted proposal of cost sharing.
13.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 113B/T Durgapur	2000-01	1.00	-do-

1	2	3	4	5
14.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 59 at Jaugram-Masagram	2001-02	30.00	State Govt. has not yet accepted proposal of cost sharing.
15.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 14 at Samudragarh Nabadwipdham	2001-02	30.00	-do-
16.	ROB at Mourigram	1997-98	152.59	Work in progress. Railway portion 77% Approaches 76%.
17.	ROB at Bouria	2001-02	1.20	State Govt. showed inability due to paucity of funds.
18.	ROB at Kharida	2000-01	1.13	-do-
19.	ROB at Balichak	2000-01	1.20	General Arrangement drawing modified and approved. Soil investigation goes on.
20.	ROB at Rangamati	2000-01	50.00	-do-
21.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 5/T at Birati	1999-2000	150	State Govt. has not diverted the traffic and provide shifting of utility services underneath.
22.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 1/1A at Liluah	1988-89	150	Work in progress on one side for bridge proper and approach.
23.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 8 at Dankuni	2001-02	30	State Govt. has not yet accepted proposal of cost sharing.
24.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 4 at Rishra-Srirampur	2000-01	30	State Govt. has not yet accepted proposal of cost sharing.
25.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 27 at Baruipara	2001-02	30	State Govt. has not yet accepted proposal of cost sharing.
26.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 2-B/2-T at Belgharia-Agarpara	2001-02	20	State Govt. has not yet accepted proposal of cost sharing.
27.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 9-B/3T at Sodepur-Khardah	2001-02	20	State Govt. has not yet accepted proposal of cost sharing.

1	2	3	4	5
28.	ROB at Bondal Gate	1992-93	150	Work for 1st span completed for 2nd and 3rd piers site yet to be handed over by State Govt.
29.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 7-A/E at Ballygunj	2001-02	50	State Govt. has not yet accepted proposal of cost sharing.
30.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 9/T at Madhyamgram	2000-01	100	Tender awarded but State Govt. could not divert traffic to start work.
31.	ROB at Lake Garden	1992-93	50	Piers work completed, one side approach also completed other side to be started by State Govt.
32.	ROB in lieu of LC No. NS/2-A at Siliguri	2000-01	50	Approved GAD still awaited from State Govt.
33.	ROB at Jhargram	2001-02	60	State Govt. has not yet finalised GAD.
34.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 13/ST at Sonarpur	1998-99	20	Railway portion completed in Dec. 2000 one approach also completed, 2nd approach yet to start.
35.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 12/T at Dum Dum-Barasat	2000-01	225	Estimate for approaches recently received from State Govt.
36.	ROB at Tikiapara	2001-02	60.00	State Govt. has shown inability due paucity of funds.
37.	ROB at Ramrajtala	2001-02	61.17	State Govt. has desired it to be done on BOT.
38.	ROB at Andul	2001-02	1.00	State Govt. shown inability due paucity of funds.
39.	ROB at Contai Road-Nikurseni	2001-02	1.00	-do-
40.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 50 at Barddhaman-Kalna	2000-01	2.00	State Govt. has not yet accepted proposal of cost sharing.
41.	ROB at Bagnan	2000-01	100.00	GAD approved. Soil investigation also completed.

[Translation]

**Giridih-Koderma and Koderma-Ranchi  
Rail Line Project**

2364. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the present status of Giridih-Koderma and Koderma-Ranchi new rail line projects;
- (b) the expenditure incurred on these projects so far; and
- (c) the target date fixed for completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (c) The details of the present status, expenditure incurred and target date fixed for completion of Giridih-Koderma and Koderma-Ranchi rail line projects are as under:-

(i) Giridih-Koderma

Final Location Survey has been completed. Land acquisition is in progress. Earthwork and bridgework are in various stages of progress. An expenditure of Rs. 8.06 crore has been incurred on the project upto 31.3.2002 and outlay of Rs. 15 crore has been provided during 2002-2003. State Government is also providing funds for the project, their share being two third. The project is targeted for completion during 2006-2007.

(ii) Koderma-Ranchi

Final Location Survey has been completed. Land acquisition is in progress. Earthwork and bridgework are in various stages of progress. An expenditure of Rs. 54.35 crore has been incurred on the project upto 31.3.2002 and outlay of Rs. 35 crore has been provided during 2002-2003. State Government is also providing

funds for the project, their share being two third. The project is targeted for completion during 2006-2007.

**Small Hydro Power Projects**

2365. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether local people are being associated with the operation and maintenance of small hydro-electric projects in various States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the extent of power in Megawatts being generated at national level under the small hydro-electric projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In 63 decentralized small hydro power projects set up in Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttaranchal and West Bengal, local people have been involved in the operation and maintenance of these projects. The State-wise details are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) An aggregate installed capacity of 1463 MW has so far been set up in the country from 445 small hydro power projects.

**Statement**

Sl. No.	State	No. of Projects	Aggregate Installed Capacity (in KW)
1	2	3	4
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	4	20
2.	Bihar	5	50
3.	Himachal Pradesh	15	200



1	2	3	4
4.	Jammu & Kashmir	5	25
5.	Uttaranchal	29	1792
6.	West Bengal	5	50
Total		63	2137 KW or 2.137 MW

KW = Kilowatt ; MW = Megawatt.

[English]

#### **Overhaul Facilities for BMP**

2366. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :  
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to set up the overhaul facility for BMP;

(b) if so, the progress achieved so far in the field;

(c) whether the Union Government approached the Government of Russia for assistance for establishment of overhaul facility for BMP; and

(d) if so the reaction of the Russian Government thereto? .

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Union Government have decided to set up the overhaul facilities for ICV BMP at 512 Army Base Workshop, Kirkee, Pune under Project White Lily.

(b) Since the commencement of the overhaul, (Qty) 269 ICV BMP-I and (Qty) 388 engines have been overhauled by the workshop. Pilot overhaul of ICV BMP-II is under progress.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Russian Government has provided the requisite assistance in terms of training, plants, machinery, test equipment, technical literature and spares.

#### **Assistance for Energy Parks**

2367. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have provided assistance to the State Governments to set up energy parks;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, during the last three years;

(c) the extent to which these energy parks have been helpful in creating awareness among the people about the benefits of renewable energy;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up more such parks to give boost to awareness programme about renewable energy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State-wise financial assistance provided by the Government during the last three years is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) The latest Evaluation Study of Energy Parks was taken up by the Government through four independent agencies, in 12 States, in the year 2001-2002. This evaluation has revealed that the awareness created about the renewable energy systems and devices has been good, particularly, among the students and teachers in majority of the State covered under the study.

(d) and (e) The Government has a proposal to set up district level energy parks at the rate of one park per district during the remaining period of the Tenth Five Year Plan. Besides, the government has a proposal to set up State

level energy parks at the rate of one park per State during the Tenth Plan.

Statement

State-wise Financial Assistance Provided by the Government for Energy Parks during last three years i.e. from 1999-2000 to 2001-2002

Sl. No.	State/UT	Financial Assistance provided (Rs. in lakh)		
		1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	17.34	1.83	5.46
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	39.38
3.	Assam	3.96	0.80	27.25
4.	Bihar	—	1.10	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	42.95
6.	Delhi	2.62	—	47.13
7.	Goa	—	2.57	0.75
8.	Gujarat	5.78	3.45	5.45
9.	Haryana	8.93	4.21	14.29
10.	Himachal Pradesh	7.54	—	7.54
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	3.26	8.37	—
12.	Jharkhand	—	—	—
13.	Karnataka	1.82	—	3.34
14.	Kerala	—	—	46.59
15.	Madhya Pradesh	—	5.92	11.69
16.	Maharashtra	8.50	—	24.74

1	2	3	4	5
17.	Manipur	4.56	—	4.56
18.	Meghalaya	—	17.75	34.28
19.	Mizoram	5.10	3.44	—
20.	Nagaland	3.98	3.47	7.45
21.	Orissa	—	4.32	34.34
22.	Punjab	—	3.22	15.63
23.	Rajasthan	—	5.03	12.25
24.	Sikkim	—	8.21	8.21
25.	Tamil Nadu	5.64	2.43	18.42
26.	Tripura	1.23	12.09	15.27
27.	Uttar Pradesh	3.86	4.89	24.26
28.	Uttaranchal	—	—	12.81
29.	West Bengal	—	8.06	40.15
30.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1.24	3.05	—
31.	Chandigarh	1.53	—	3.13
32.	Pondicherry	0.79	—	0.75

In addition to above releases, an amount of Rs. 31.62 lakh has been released to Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi for setting up 10 Energy Parks in Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in various States.

NABARD Assistance for Power Projects

2368. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the government have initiated steps to consider NABARD assistance for various power development projects in rural areas of the State including Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken steps for additional allocation of low cost power from the eastern region to Kerala;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) NABARD sanctions System Improvement and mini hydel

projects prioritized by State Governments under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF). NABARD has already sanctioned projects relating to System Improvement in power sector and mini hydel projects to seven States. The details are given in the statement enclosed. No proposals have been received by NABARD from the Kerala Government.

(c) to (e) Kerala has been allocated 100 MW power from un-allocated quota of NTPC stations, in the eastern region, Kerala is also entitled to avail 100-200 MW infirm power during off-peak periods from the Eastern Region.

### Statement

#### Sanction to Power Sector under RIDF System improvement in Power Sector

(Rs. in crores)

State	RIDF VI		RIDF VII		RIDF VIII		Total	
	No.	Sanc.	No.	Sanc.	No.	Sanc.	No.	Sanc.
Arunachal Pradesh	6	12.98					6	12.96
Haryana	2	6.95	50	34.03	21	10.42	73	51.4
Karnataka			70	99.87			70	99.87
Tamil Nadu			4	34.42	4	30	8	64.42
Uttaranchal			1	10.67			1	10.67
Wsst Bengal	16	100.4	26	63.41	67	147.8	109	311.6
Total	24	120.3	151	242.4	92	188.2	267	550.9

#### Mini Hydel

State	RIDI VII		Total	
	No	Sanc.	No	Sanc
Arunachal Pradesh	2	32.8	2	32.8
Madhya Pradesh	1	37.71	1	37.71
Uttaranchal	5	43.29	5	43.29
Total	8	113.8	8	113.8

[Translation]

### Trade Unions under Railways

2369. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of trade unions functioning under the Indian Railways alongwith details thereof;

(b) whether the Railways has recognised all these trade unions;

(c) if not, the number of trade unions recognised till date; and

(d) the number of unrecognised trade unions and the time by which the Government are likely to recognise them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (d) There is a large number of trade unions functioning on the Indian Railways. Out of these only twenty two have been recognised as per the list given in statement enclosed. As regards the vast number of unrecognised unions, the Railways do not have any interactions with them by way of any correspondence or direct negotiations. Therefore, no details of unrecognised trade unions are maintained on the Indian Railways. Their recognition is also dependent on fulfilment of the basic conditions laid down for this purpose. As such, there is no time frame for their recognition.

#### Statement

Central Railway	(1) National Railway Mazdoor Union
	(2) Central Railway Mazdoor Sangh
Eastern Railway	(1) Eastern Railwaymen's Union
	(2) Eastern Railwaymen's Congress

Northern Railway (\*) (1) Northern Railwaymen's Union  
(2) Uttariya Railway Mazdoor Union

North Eastern Railway (1) North Eastern Railway Mazdoor Union  
(2) North Eastern Railway Employees Union

Northeast Frontier Railway (1) Northeast Frontier Railway Mazdoor Union  
(2) Northeast Frontier Railway Employees Union

Southern Railway (1) Southern Railway Mazdoor Union  
(2) Southern Railway Employees Sangh

South Central Railway (1) South Central Railway Mazdoor Union  
(2) South Central Railway Employees' Sangh

South Eastern Railway (1) South Eastern Railwaymen's Union  
(2) South Eastern Railwaymen's Congress

Western Railway (1) Western Railway Employees' Union  
(2) Western Railway Mazdoor Sangh

North Western Railway (1) Uttar Paschim Railway Mazdoor Sangh  
(2) North Western Railway Employees Union

East Central Railway (1) East Central Railway Karamchari Union

(2) East Central Railway Men's Congress

(\*) Note: One more Railway union viz., Uttar Railway Karamchari Union was granted recognition by Northern Railway on 12.10.2002. However, the union has not started functioning on the Railway in View of the stay granted by the Hon'ble High Court of Chennai. The matter continues to be subjudice.

[English]

### Disaster Management Institute

2370. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether railway has set up Disaster Management Institute for training the railwaymen on the various aspect of disaster management;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No independent Disaster Management Institute has been set up. However, disaster management modules

at 3 Zonal Training Centres and Indian Railway Institute of Transport Management, Lucknow, are proposed to be set up, as a follow-up action on the basis of recommendation of Railway Safety Review Committee-1998.

### ICDS Training Programme in KBK Region

2371. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of achievement under the scheme UDISHA which is an ongoing ICDS training programme in the KBK region of Orissa and the country as a whole; and

(b) if so, the number of girl child belonging to below poverty line groups in the Balika Samridhi Yojana in the districts of KBK region of Orissa and country as a whole?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) and (b) The District level information is compiled by the State Governments and aggregates for the States provided to the Department of Women and Child Development in the Ministry of Human Resource Development which is implementing these projects/schemes. Accordingly, the information in respect of Orissa as a whole and the All India percentage of achievement is given in the Statement enclosed as statement enclosed. The number of girl child belonging to below poverty line groups in the Balika Samridhi Yojana is 2,34,886 in the State of Orissa and 19,34,205 in the entire country.

### Statement

Sl. No.	Designation of Functionaries	In Position in Orissa	Project Implementation Plan (PIP) Target for Orissa	Number of Functionaries Trained in Orissa	Percentage (%) of Trained Functionaries in Orissa	All India Percentage of Trained Functionaries
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Angan Wadi Workers (AWWs)	24857	9436	5904	62.57%	45.39%

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	Supervisors	1517	791	85	10.75%	44.38%
3.	Child Development Project Officers (CDPOS)	279	103	32	31.07%	68.41%

### Community Radio Stations to Rural Areas

2372. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have drawn up guidelines for the proposed Community Radio Stations;

(b) if so, whether the Government would allow educational institutions and universities to set up such facilities in rural areas;

(c) if so, whether the content of the transmissions would conform to the existing programme code of the All India Radio;

(d) if so, whether any commercial promotions would be accepted on this new channel; and

(e) if not, the sources for its sustenance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A copy of these guidelines is enclosed as statement.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The licensee would not be permitted to air advertisements or sponsored programmes. The applicants are required to mobilize their own resources for setting up a Community Radio Station.

### Statement

#### *Guidelines for Applying Licenses for Setting up Community Radio Station*

### PREAMBLE

the Union Government has decided to grant Commu-

nity Broadcasting licenses to well established educational institutions/organizations recognized by the Central Government or the State Government. These will include the Universities and Institutes of Technology/Management and residential school.

The salient features of eligibility criteria, basic conditions/obligations and procedures for obtaining license to set up and operate Community Radio service are briefly described below:- For further details reference may be made to Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

### 2. Technical parameters:

2.1 Licence will be granted for FM transmitters for power of 50 Watts or less.

2.2 Licence will be issued in the shared frequency band from 87.5 to 100 Mhz. However, in the event of frequency not being available in this band, the exclusive broadcast band of 104 to 108 Mhz may also be considered, as in case of private FM broadcasters. The frequency band from 100 to 104 Mhz. earmarked exclusively for the use of AIR, Prasar Bharati will not be disturbed.

### 3. Procedure to be followed:

#### Application:-

3.1 Any eligible institution/organization desirous of setting up of Community Radio broadcasting service may make an application to the Ministry of I&B in the prescribed proforma. (Download application from)

3.2 The Ministry of I&B immediately on receipt of an application will consult the Wireless Advisor in WPC ,

wing of Ministry of Communications and also Prasar Bharati to determine the availability of frequency at the place requested by the applicant.

3.3 The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting will refer the eligible applicant case to the Ministries of Home Affairs, Defence, Human Resources Development and External Affairs and letter of intent and/or license will be issued only after getting the requisite clearances from these Ministries. The licensee will be required to sign a licence agreement after allotment of frequency by WPC. The license agreement shall specify detailed terms and conditions under which the licence is to be operated.

3.4 Within any year from the date of signing of licence agreement, the applicant will complete all necessary formalities such as obtaining SACFA clearance etc., set up the necessary broadcast facilities and obtain a Wireless Operating Licence from the Wireless Advisor in the WPC Wing of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.

3.5 In the event of more than one claimant for a single frequency at a given place, the licensee will be selected by a Committee constituted by the Ministry of I&B on the basis of standing, commitment, objectives and resources of the applicant organization.

3.6 Licensee will be charged only the spectrum usage fee as determined by the WPC. The Ministry of I&B will not levy any other licence fee.

#### **4. Terms and Conditions**

4.1 The basic objective of the Community Radio broadcasting would be to serve the cause of the community in the service area of the licensee by involving members of the community in the broadcast of their programmes. For this purpose community would mean people living in the coverage zone of the broadcasting service of the licensee.

4.2 The licence shall be for a period of three (3) years.

4.3 The licence shall not be transferable.

4.4 An applicant will not be permitted more than one licence.

4.5 The licensee shall provide its services on free to air basis.

4.6 The licensee shall not use its channel/broadcast services in whole or part for commercial purposes.

4.7 The programmes on the community radio service will focus on issues relating to education, health, environment, agriculture rural and community development. The content must be confined to social, cultural and local issues and the format, subject, presentation and language must reflect and exude the local flavour and fragrance.

4.8 The licensee shall not be permitted to broadcast any news and current affairs programmes and shall not air election and political broadcasts.

4.9 The licensee shall not air any advertisement or sponsored programmes.

4.10 The licensee shall ensure that nothing is included in the programme of the licensee which :

- a. Offends against good taste or decency;
- b. Contains criticism of friendly countries;
- c. Contains attack on religions or communities or visuals or words contemptuous of religious groups or which promote communal attitudes;
- d. Contains anything obscene, defamatory, deliberate, false and suggestive innuendos and half truths;
- e. Is likely to encourage or incite violence or contains anything against maintenance of law

and order or which promote-anti-national attitudes;

- f. Contains anything amounting to contempt of court;
  - g. Contains aspersions against the integrity of the President and Judiciary;
  - h. Contains anything affecting the integrity of the Nation;
  - i. Criticises, maligns or slanders any individual in person or certain groups, segments of social, public and moral life of the country;
  - j. Encourages superstition or blind belief;
  - k. Denigrates women;
  - l. Denigrates children; and
  - m. May present/depict/suggest as desirable the misuse of drugs including alcohol, narcotics and tobacco or which may stereotype, incite, vilify or perpetuate hatred against or attempt to demean any person or group on the basis of ethnicity, nationality, race, gender, sexual preference, religion, age or physical or mental disability.
- 4.11 The licensee shall ensure that due care is taken with respect to religious programmes with a view to avoiding:-
- (a) improper exploitation of religious susceptibilities; and
  - (b) offence to the religious views and beliefs of those belonging to a particular religion or religious denomination.
- 4.12 That the licensee shall ensure that due emphasis is given in the programmes to promote values of national integration, religious harmony, scientific temper and Indian culture.

4.13 The licensee shall follow the Programme Code of All India Radio.

4.14 The licensee shall pay spectrum usage fee as determined by the Wireless Advisor in WPC Wing.

4.15 Though the licensees will operate the service under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Govt. of India, the licensing will be subject to the condition that as and when any regulatory authority to regulate and monitor the broadcast services in the country is constituted, the licensees will have to adhere to the norms, rules and regulations prescribed by such authority.

4.16 The licensee shall provide such information to the Government on such intervals as may be required. In this connection, the licensee is required to preserve tapes of programmes broadcast during the last six months failing which the Government will be at liberty to revoke the license.

4.17 The Government or its authorized representative shall have the right to inspect the broadcast facilities of the licensees and collect such information as considered, necessary in public and community interests.

4.18 The Government reserves the right to take over the entire services and networks of the licensee or revoke/terminate/suspend the licence in the interest of national security or in the event of national emergency/war or low intensity conflict or similar type of situations.

4.19 All foreign personnel likely to be deployed by way of appointment, contract, consultancy, etc. by the licensee for installation, maintenance and operation of the licensee's services shall be required to obtain security clearance from the Government of India.

4.20 The Government reserves the right to modify at any time the terms and conditions if it is necessary to do



so in the interest of the general public or for the proper conduct of broadcasting or for security considerations.

- 4.21 Government may revoke the licence at any time in public interest or for breach of any terms and conditions of the licence by giving a notice of 15 days.
- 4.22 Notwithstanding anything contained anywhere else in the licence the Government's decision shall be final and conclusive.
- 4.23 The licensees shall furnish a bank guarantee for a sum of Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees fifty thousand) only to ensure timely performance of the licence agreement.
- 4.24 If the licensee fail to commission services within the stipulated period, he shall forfeit the amount of bank guarantee to the Government and the Government would be free to cancel the licence awarded to the licensee.
- 4.25 A license will be subject to such other conditions as may be determined by the Government.

#### **Allocation of Power from Central Generating Power Stations**

2373. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Rajasthan for revision of allocation formula for power from Central Generating Power Stations to the States;

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

(c) whether the Government are considering to provide additional power to Rajasthan to meet the power demand for Flood Lightening; and

(d) if so, the time by which additional power are likely to be supplied to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) According to the formula, power from central sector power stations among the States/UTs of a region was allocated in accordance with the Central Plan Assistance and actual energy consumption in the State of the region for previous five years, the two factors given equal weightage. The said formula was reviewed and it has been decided by the Government in April, 2000 to treat the "formula" as "guidelines" so as to link the allocation of power with the need and capacity to pay. Under the "guidelines" power from the new central sector power stations will be made to the States/UTs as per their entitlement subject to the power purchase agreements (PPAs) to be signed by them with the CPSUs concerned.

(c) and (d) As per information available, no specific proposal for additional power has been received from Rajasthan to meet the demand for flood lighting.

#### **Investments in Power Plants**

2374. SHRI AMBAREESHA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the investment made by the government in the power plants in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the total power generating capacities of each power project which are under construction in different States;

(c) whether acute power shortage in most of the states and particularly in Karnataka is going to hit the industrial growth very badly; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make up for the shortage of power in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The details of expenditure incurred on various thermal and hydro projects in Central Sector during the last three years are given in the statement.

(b) At present thermal power projects of 7300.36 MW capacity and hydro power projects of 13444 MW are under construction in the country.

(c) During April-January, 2003, Karnataka faced an energy shortage of 2653 MUs (10%) and peaking shortage of 526 MW (9.9%).

(d) A capacity addition target of 41,110 MW has been fixed for 10th Plan. Effective mechanisms have been put in place to ensure timely completion of the projects and achievement of the targeted capacity during 10th Plan.

In addition to the benefits from new generating capacity, the power supply position is expected to further improve through :

- An additional capacity of 3000 MW is expected to come from renewable sources of energy.
- Undertaking energy conservation measures for which the Energy Conservation Act has been

enacted and the Bureau of Energy Efficiency constituted.

- Reducing technical losses in distribution. The Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) is designed for the attainment of this objective.
- Undertaking Renovation and Modernisation (R&M) of existing power stations which combined with improved Operation and Maintenance practices would lead to higher availability and generation.
- Export of power from surplus to deficit region through the gradual development of a National Grid to optimize utilization of generating capacity on an all India basis.
- Installation of captive generating plants. The new Electricity Bill provides for a liberal framework for construction of captive power plants freely.

### Statement

*Expenditure incurred on various thermal and hydro projects in Central Sector during the Last Three Years*

(Rs. in Crore)				
Name of the project	Impl. Agency	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
1	2	3	4	5
Faridabad CCGT (1x143+144 MW)	NTPC	124.76	326.13	28.04
Unchahar TPS St. II (2x210 MW)	NTPC	203.96	70.67	9.03
Rihand STPS St. II (2x500 MW)	NTPC	—	2.08	294.06
Vindhyachal STPP St. II (2x500 MW)	NTPC	297.53	217.65	114.15
Simahadri TPP (2x500 MW)	NTPC	624.16	896.88	772.52
Ramagundem STPP St. III (1x500 MW)	NTPC	Nil	0.65	182.58

1	2	3	4	5
Kayamkulam CCGT (2x115.3 GT+119.4 St.)	NTPC	107.52	51.08	44.65
Neyveli TPS Exp-I (2x210 MW)	NLC	118.59	468.00	294.40
Talcher STPS St. II (2000 MW)	NTPC	368.20	653.81	1106.82
Meija TPS Extn. (210 MW)	DVC	—	0.45	70.03
Dulhasti (3x130 MW)	NHPC	299.60	380.92	386.64
Chamera-II (3x100 MW)	NHPC	288.30	334.58	420.80
Parbati-II (4x200 MW)	NHPC	18.68	52.19	72.68
Nathpa Jhakri (6x250 MW)	njpc	767.86	794.57	1068.92
Dhauliganga (4x70 MW)	NHPC	132.67	154.98	241.08
Tehri-I (4x250 MW)	THDC	337.51	426.30	993.88
Koteshwar (4x100 MW)	THDC	—	50.00	14.39
Sardar Sarovar (6x200+5x50 MW)	SSNNL	166.22	188.35	250.94
Indira Sagar (8x125 MW)	NHDC	377.30	82.69	186.37
Omkareshwar (8x65 MW)	NHDC	6.90	2.27	—
Teesta V	NHPC	29.23	124.33	177.54
Loktak D/S	NHPC	2.22	6.06	4.01
Kopili St.II	NEEPCO	14.75	19.63	24.26
Ranganadi	NEEPCO	177.33	230.40	122.12
Doyang	NEEPCO	172.42	48.88	21.33
Tuiria.1	NEEPCO	13.49	15.06	30.89

**Control over Regional Channels**

2375. SHRI A. VENKATHESH NAIK : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the various State Government have requested the Union Government to allow them to have control over the regional channels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government on the proposal;

(d) whether the Prasar Bharati has not shown any interest to hand over the control over the regional channels to State Governments; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Tripura and West Bengal have requested that they be permitted to have their own Regional T.V Channels.

(c) to (e) The subject 'Broadcasting' is included in the Union List under the Constitution. With the setting up of the Prasar Bharati Corporation, Doordarshan and AIR enjoy autonomy in programme matters. Prasar Bharati is a national entity and its mandate is defined under Section 12 of Prasar Bharati Act, which inter-alia include organising and conducting public broadcasting services to inform, educate and entertain the public of the country as a whole.

Prasar Bharati has informed that besides providing coverage to State Governments in programmes and news, time slots are given on specific requests from them for programmes from time to time.

[Translation]

### Power Generating Units under Power Sector Reform Scheme

2376. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have identified those power generating units which have produced less than 50 per cent of their installed capacity under Power Sector Reform Scheme during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

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

(c) the number of units run by State Electricity Boards and Public Sector Undertakings out of these, separately; and

(d) the target fixed for additional power generation by the Government from these units by utilizing their installed capacity during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) 59 Thermal Units, which are operating at less than 50% Plant Load Factor (PLF) have been identified for carrying out Life Extension (LE) works during the 10th Plan. The state-wise details are enclosed as statement. Out of the 59 Thermal Units, 49 Units are run by State Electricity Boards and remaining 10 Units by Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC). With Life Extension work the PLF of these units is expected to go up to 75% and additional capacity of 220.5 MW is expected to be created.

### Statement

Sl. No.	Name of Station	Unit No.	Present rated capacity (MW)	Capacity expected after Life Extension Programme (LEP)	Average Plant Load Factor(PLF) of last five years
1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>Haryana</b>					
1.	Panipat	1	110	110	34.60

1	2	3	4	5	6
		3	110	110	33.21
		4	110	110	48.06
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>					
2. Obra		1	40	50	0.00
		2	40	50	29.10
		3	40	50	30.11
		4	40	50	33.45
		5	40	50	33.76
		6	94	100	23.66
		7	94	100	24.84
		8	94	100	25.60
		9	200	200	41.93
		10	200	200	36.58
		11	200	200	37.84
		12	200	200	37.36
		13	200	200	52.29
3. Panki		3	105	110	38.61
		4	105	110	48.78
4. Hardua Gunj		1	40	50	13.00
		3	60	60	28.29
		4	60	60	34.47
		5	60	60	22.72
		7	105	110	30.43
<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>					
5. Amarkantak		1	30	30	47.57

1	2	3	4	5	6
		2	20	30	38.71
		3	120	120	25.66
		4	120	120	31.32
<b>Gujarat</b>					
6. Gandhinagar		1	120	120	48.97
		2	120	120	48.14
7. Ukai		1	120	120	38.07
		2	120	120	44.88
<b>West Bengal</b>					
8. Santaldih		1	120	120	34.57
		2	120	120	11.62
		3	120	120	36.40
9. Bandel		1	80	82.5	36.70
		2	80	82.5	42.38
		3	80	82.5	43.38
		4	80	82.5	36.59
10. Durgapur-DVC		3	140	140	49.93
<b>Bihar</b>					
11. Chandrapur DVC		1	130	140	36.72
		2	130	140	25.66
		3	130	140	44.43
		4	130	120	28.46
		5	120	120	20.91
		6	120	120	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
12. Borakro-DVC	1	45	57.5	40.97	
	2	45	57.5	44.80	
	3	45	57.5	7.76	
13. Barauni	4	50	50	0.68	
	5	50	50	10.68	
<b>Jharkhand</b>					
14. Patratu	4	40	50	0.00	
	5	90	100	37.97	
	6	90	100	0.00	
	7	105	110	15.05	
	8	105	110	14.68	
<b>Assam</b>					
15. Chandrapur	1	30	30	7.91	
16. Namrup	1	23	23	39.61	
17. Bongaigoan	1	60	60	0.00	
	2	60	60	10.57	
Total :		59			

[English]

**Job Opportunities to Disabled  
In Private Sector**

2377. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether disabled are not being provided adequate job opportunities in Government as well as, private sector;

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

(c) whether a delegation of Disabled Right Group has staged a dharna and demanded to take effective steps in this regard; and

(d) if so, the response of the Government and industrial sectors in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) to (d) The Persons with Disabilities Act,

1995 provides for 3% reservation in employment in the establishment of Government of India and Public Sector Undertakings against posts identified as suitable for persons with disabilities. As per information provided by Department of Personnel & Training (DOPT) in March, 2001, the reservation for persons with disabilities in various Ministries/Departments with reference to the identified posts in Group A, B, C & D, is more than the statutory provision of three per cent. Information regarding employment opportunities for the disabled in the private sector is not available. The Ministry is not aware of dharna staged by the Disabled Rights Group in this regard.

#### **LPG Agencies/Retail Outlets in Orissa**

2378. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of public sector oil companies marketing their products in Orissa;

(b) the details of the petrol pumps/diesel and LPG outlets set up by various oil companies in Orissa;

(c) whether any of these outlets have been opened by any of these oil companies in the KBK districts in that State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd., Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. and IBP Co. Ltd. are marketing their products in the State of Orissa.

(b) to (d) There are 246 retail outlets and 147 LPG distributorships in operation in various districts of the State of Orissa. Out of these, 11 retail outlets and 1 LPG

distributorship are located in the district of Kalahandi, 12 retail outlets and 5 LPG distributorships in the district of Bolangir and 14 retail outlets and 6 LPG distributorships in the district of Koraput.

#### **Handing over Civilian Discipline Matter to Civilian DG (Personnel)**

2379. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether prior to creation of the DG (Pers) all personnel matters of civilians of MES were assigned to ADG (Pers) an Army officer;

(b) if so, the reasons for not handing over of discipline and training matters of civilian DG (Pers); and

(c) the time by which the discipline and training matters of civilian personnel of MES are likely to be handed over to civilian DG (Pers)?

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

(b) Keeping in view the need for equitable distribution of work between Director General (Personnel) and Additional Director General (Personnel), the matters of discipline and training were entrusted to Additional Director General (Pers). Besides, for training and discipline matters a composite approach to both civilian and service personnel is necessary.

(c) There is no proposal to hand over the training and discipline matters of civilian personnel to civilian DG (Pers).

[Translation]

#### **Construction of ROB on Hathras- Mathura Railway Line**

2380. SHRI KISHAN LAL DILER : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :



(a) whether the Government propose to construct an overbridge in Hathras city near Hathras-Mathura Railway line on Muradabad-Agra National Highway No. 93;

(b) if so, the time by which the work is likely to be started; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### Setting up of New Power Plants in Bihar and Jharkhand

2381. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Governments of Bihar and Jharkhand have made any proposal to the Union Government for setting up of new power plants in these States to overcome the power crisis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present position of the demand and power generation capacity available in both of these States; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure adequate/proper availability of power in both of these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has not received any proposal for setting up of thermal power plants from Government of Bihar. The following proposals for setting up of thermal power plants have been received in CEA from the Government of Jharkhand :

Name of the project	Capacity (MW)	Commissioning proposed
1	2	3
Jojobera TPP	1x120	10th Plan

1	2	3
Tenughat TPS	3x210	10th Plan
Chandil TPP	2x500	11th Plan

No hydroelectric schemes of Bihar and Jharkhand are under examination in CEA.

(c) and (d) The details of power supply position prevailing in Bihar and Jharkhand during the month of January, 2003 are as under :

#### Peak demand/Peak met

State	Peak Demand (MW)	Peak Met (MW)	Shortage (MW)	% shortage
Bihar	916	769	147	16
Jharkhand	488	474	14	2.9

#### Energy requirement/availability

State	Energy requirement (MU)	Availability (MU)	Shortage (MU)	% shortage (MU)
Bihar	641	536	105	16.4
Jharkhand	297	295	2	0.7

In addition to the generation from their own sources, the power supply in the States of Bihar and Jharkhand is met from shares in Central generating stations of Eastern Region as well as Chukha HEP of Bhutan. The State can also avail power from mega power projects being set up in the country.

[English]

#### Training Under International Military Education and Training

2382. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH :  
SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian defence personnel are undergoing or about to undergo training in different countries under the International Military Education and Training Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which this training would help India to combat terrorism and other evils confronting our nation and its borders?

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

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) The aim of sending defence personnel for foreign courses is to enhance their knowledge in current international tactics and defence strategies. There is rapid development of technology in the fields of communications, computerization and target acquisition systems and this training helps in adapting these developments into the specific tactical needs for dealing with terrorism and defending our borders. These defence personnel who undergo foreign training are then deployed to further train other personnel in India as required.

#### Statement

*Statement showing details of the courses being availed/to be availed in other countries*

#### Army

Details of courses being availed :

- (i) Army War College Course, USA.
- (ii) Army Command and General Staff College Course, USA.
- (iii) Command and General Staff Course, Germany.
- (iv) Joint Services Defence College Course, France.
- (v) Staff Course, Thailand.

(vi) Staff College Course, Indonesia.

(vii) Armoured Officer Basic Course, France.

(viii) National Military Security and Commanding Course, China.

(ix) Armed Forces Staff College Course, Malaysia.

(x) Royal College of Defence Studies Course, UK.

(xi) Command and General Staff Course, Philippines.

(xii) National Defence Course, Bangladesh.

(xiii) Command and Staff College Course, Thailand.

(xiv) Mid Career (Air Defence) Course, Bangladesh.

(xv) Officers Gunnery Staff Course, Bangladesh.

The courses proposed to be availed:-

- (i) Military Work Dog Handling Course, USA.
- (ii) International Officer Intelligence Captain Career Course, USA.
- (iii) Army Command and General Staff Course, USA.
- (iv) National War College Course, USA.
- (v) Marine Corps Command and Staff Course, USA.
- (vi) Target Acquisition Radar Technical Basic Course, USA.
- (vii) Army War College Course, USA.
- (viii) Defence Service Command and Staff College Course, Bangladesh.
- (ix) Defence Forces International Liaison Course, Israel.

- (x) Unit Command and Staff Course, Bangladesh.
- (xi) Junior Command and Staff Course, Bangladesh.
- (xii) Advance Infantry Officer Course, France.
- (xiii) Joint Service Defence College Course, France.

- (xv) National Military Security and Commanding Officers Course, China.
- (xvi) Command and Staff Course, Australia.
- (xvii) Midshipman Sea Training Deployment with Republic of Singapore Navy, Singapore.
- (xviii) General Staff Course, Germany.

## Navy

Details of courses being availed :

- (i) National Defence University International Fellow Programme, USA.
- (ii) Amphibious Warfare School Course, USA.
- (iii) Naval Command College Course, USA.
- (iv) System Management International-Master of Science Course, USA.
- (v) Naval Staff College Course, USA.
- (vi) College of Security Studies Executive Course, USA.
- (vii) International Defence Management Course, USA.
- (viii) Amphibious Plan Senior Officer-International Course, USA.
- (ix) Staff Course, USA.
- (x) Afloat Training On Board French Naval Ship Jeanne d' Arc, France.
- (xi) Naval Command and Staff College Course, Indonesia.
- (xii) Combined Staff College Course, Indonesia.
- (xiii) Advanced Command and Staff Course, UK.
- (xiv) Intelligence and International Relations Course, UK.

The courses proposed to be availed :-

As and when an offer regarding training is received from any country personnel are deputed after assessing the relevance and professional utility of the course to the Indian Navy.

## Air Force

Details of courses being availed :

- (i) Air War College Course, USA.
- (ii) Air Command and Staff Course, USA.
- (iii) Information Technology Management Course, USA.
- (iv) Advance Aerospace International Medical Officers Course, USA.
- (v) Asia Pacific Centre Strategic Studies Course, USA.
- (vi) Defence and Strategic Studies Course, Australia.
- (vii) 62nd Junior Command and Staff Course, Bangladesh.
- (viii) Air Command and Staff Course, Thailand.

The courses proposed to be availed :-

- (i) Communication and Information Officer Course, USA.
- (ii) Weapon Safety/Ground Safety Course, USA.

- (iii) Air Command and Staff Course, USA.
- (iv) International Air Weapon Controller Course, USA.
- (v) Combined Strategic Intelligence Course, USA.
- (vi) Electromagnetic Spectrum Course, USA.
- (vii) Air War College Course, USA.
- (viii) Flight Safety/Engine Mishap Course, USA.
- (ix) Staff Course, France.
- (x) Flight Safety Officer Course, Bangladesh.
- (xi) Command and Staff Course, Bangladesh.
- (xii) Junior Command and Staff Course, Bangladesh.
- (xiii) International General Staff Course, Germany.
- (xiv) Advance Command and Staff Course, UK.
- (xv) Flight Safety Officer Course, Bangladesh.
- (xvi) Junior Command and Staff Course, Bangladesh.

[Translation]

#### **COCO Petrol Pumps in Delhi**

2383. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA 'GAVIT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Public Sector Oil Companies are operating COCO petrol pumps in Delhi and in the neighbouring States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether such pumps are running in losses;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and whether the Government propose to lease out these petrol pumps for 11 months to private parties; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) The Public Sector Companies are operating 211 Company, Owned Company Operated (COCO) retail outlets in Delhi and in the neighbouring states, viz., Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. None of these COCO retail outlets is running in loss. The Oil Companies have no proposal to lease out any of these retail outlets to private parties. The COCO retail outlets are operated with an officer of the Oil Company concerned over-all in charge of the outlet till the selection of regular dealers.

[English]

#### **Repairing of Railway Tracks**

2384. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have allocated Rs. 32,000 crores for taking up repairs to railway tracks all over the country;

(b) If so, the amounts allocated from Railway Safety Fund and Rati Vikas Yojana;

#### **Coast Guard HQrs**

Details of courses being availed :

- (i) International Maritime Officers Course, USA.

The courses proposed to be availed :-

- (i) Maritime Search and Rescue Course, USA.
- (ii) Perspective Command/Executive Officer Boarding Member Team, Maritime Port Operation and On Job Training Course, USA.

#### **Director General Armed Forces Medical Services**

International Advance Aerospace Medical/International Medical Officer Course, USA.

(c) the number of railway bridges to be repaired and changed, zone-wise and state-wise;

(d) whether there is a proposal for laying of 12 km. railway line from Mirzapur to Medak via Akkannapet and another line from Nizamabad to Bolaram;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the other new railway lines which are being considered, State-wise?

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

(b) The allocation for track renewals decided was Rs. 7670 crores, from within the Special Railway Safety Fund. Under National Rail Vikas Yojana (NRVY), about Rs. 3,000 crores are expected to be spent on upgradation of tracks.

(c) Data regarding Railway Bridges is maintained zone-wise and not state-wise. The total number of Railway Bridges over Indian Railways is 1,19,984. Rehabilitation/regirdering/strengthening/rebuilding etc. of Railway Bridges is a continuous process. As on 1.4.2002, 2700 number of Bridges are sanctioned under Special Railway Safety Fund while 2203 number of Bridges are to be funded from Depreciation Reserve Fund. Zone-wise detail of target and progress as on 31.01.2003 are as under:-

Railway	No. of bridges targeted for Rehabilitation/regirdering/strengthening/rebuilding etc. during 2002-03	Progress upto 31.01.2003
1	2	3
Central	170	102
Eastern	20	14
Northern	12	50

1	2	3
North Eastern	26	23
Northeast Frontier	41	24
Southern	57	23
South Central	35	7
South Eastern	13	17
Western	79	24
East Central	8	10
North Western	4	11
Total	465	305

(d) and (e) A proposal has been received to connect Medak with Secunderabad – Mudkhed line which is under examination.

(f) The details are being collected.

#### **Outstanding against Badarpur Thermal Power Station**

2385. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Badarpur Thermal Power Station owe crores of rupees to the Railways for long;

(b) whether the Railways is also to recover huge sums from other State Electricity Boards and power houses; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to recover the long outstanding amounts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) Yes, Sir. An amount of Rs. 946.42 crore is outstanding at the end

of December' 2002 against Badarpur Thermal Power Station (BTPS).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A statement containing the details of outstanding dues against State Electricity Boards/Power Houses (SEBs/PHs) at the end of December 2002 is attached.

The steps taken to recover the long outstanding amounts are as under :-

- (i) The matter of recovery of outstanding dues from SEBs/PHs including BTPS has been followed up with the Ministry of Power, Ministry of Finance and with the Chief Ministers of various States.
- (ii) Ministry of Power has also given clear instructions to BTPS to ensure full payment of current freight dues to Railways.
- (iii) Pursuant to the Government's decision on 07.02.1997, that the outstanding dues from SEBs/PHs as on 31.12.1996 would be adjusted from the Central Plan Assistance of the State Governments subject to certain limits prescribed by Ministry of Finance, an amount of Rs. 159.23 crore has been received so far.
- (iv) Gradual clearance of outstanding dues is expected as per formula evolved by the 'Expert Group for Settlement of SEB dues', which has been accepted by the Government of India and the various State Governments.
- (v) Implementation of various schemes of 'Pre-payment of Freight' for carriage of coal to Power Houses.
- (vi) The outstanding dues from SEBs/PHs to the Railways are also being adjusted against traction bills, wherever feasible.

### Statement

*The position of outstanding dues against State Electricity Boards/Power Houses including Badarpur Thermal Power Station as on 31.12.2002 is as under*

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	Name of State Electricity Board/Power House	Outstanding dues as on 31.12.2002
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board	1.57
2.	Assam State Electricity Board	0.03
3.	Bihar State Electricity Board	1.08
4.	Delhi Vidyut Board	173.84
5.	Gujarat State Electricity Board	10.74
6.	Haryana State Electricity Board	21.14
7.	Jharkhand State Electricity Board	1.00
8.	Karnataka State Electricity Board	1.78
9.	Maharashtra State Electricity Board	10.75
10.	Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board	16.67
11.	Punjab State Electricity Board	693.13
12.	Rajasthan State Electricity Board	133.67
13.	Tamilnadu State Electricity Board	1.97
14.	Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board	74.24
15.	West Bengal State Electricity Board	28.45
16.	Badarpur Thermal Power Station	946.42

1	2	3
17. National Thermal Power Corporation		68.71
18. Damodar Valley Corporation		11.35
19. Private Power House, Sabarmati		0.49
Total		2197.03

**Stoppage of Non-Superfast Trains at  
Chandrapur Railway Station**

2386. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Chandrapur is an important railway station on Nagpur-Balharshah Section of Central Railway;

(b) if so, whether several non-super fast trains such as 8401-8402, 2803-2804, 2643-2644, 6363-6364, 6125-6126, 2645-2646, etc. do not stop at Chandrapur Railway Station;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures Government propose to take to ensure a stoppage or a halt of at least non-superfast trains at Chandrapur Railway Station?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Stoppage of these trains at Chandrapur station has been examined but not found feasible at present for lack of commercial justification.

[Translation]

**Representation of SC/ST**

2387. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain posts of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of different classes in different departments and Public Sector Undertakings are lying vacant under his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether promotions have been given to working employees in the departments and undertakings and new appointments have been made during the last three years;

(d) if so, the details of new appointments made under different classes during the said period and in the current year, year-wise and class-wise;

(e) whether the rules prescribed have been followed with regard to recruitment and promotion of people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor and the remedial steps taken in this regard?

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

**Value of Blank Tickets**

2388. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :  
PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government issue blank tickets;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the rules framed in this regard;

(c) the month-wise value of the blank tickets issued during the last two years;

(d) the objective behind issuing blank tickets;

(e) whether plank-tickets are being utilised properly;

(f) if not, the reason therefor; and

(g) the number of blank tickets issued from the New Delhi Railway Stations during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) Railways issue Blank Paper Tickets.

(b) Blank Paper Tickets are issued for special tickets and when normal tickets are not available. These tickets are accounted for in the same manner as normal tickets.

(c) The data is not separately maintained for Blank Paper Tickets on zonal railway basis.

(d) Blank Paper tickets are issued when it is not possible to issue normal tickets.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) During January 2000 to December 2002, a total of 3,31,373 Blank Paper tickets were issued from New Delhi stations.

[English]

#### Amount Sanctioned for Welfare Schemes

2389. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB :  
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :  
DR. M.P. JAISWAL :

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the achievements made in the field of Social Justice in the State of Orissa;

(b) the amount sanctioned for the welfare schemes to the State Governments including Bihar during each of the last three years, scheme-wise;

(c) the amount utilized by the States, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government received any complaint against any NGOs regarding misutilisation of funds; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) to (c) The Ministry is committed towards social justice and empowerment of Scheduled Castes, Welfare of Other backward Classes, Minorities, Welfare of Persons with Disabilities and Social Defence including children in need of care and protection, alcoholic and victims of drug addiction, aged etc. All welfare schemes of the Ministry are implemented throughout the country including the States of Orissa and Bihar. A statement showing scheme-wise amount released and utilized for the welfare schemes to the State Governments during the last three years is enclosed.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has blacklisted 71 NGOs

#### Statement

##### Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	State/UT	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
		Released	UC received	Released	UC received	Released	UC received
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4134.94	4134.94	3720.00	3720.00	3551.51	2007.20



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	Assam	695.31	515.00	1810.69	914.75	127.14	1453.00
3.	Bihar*	3471.49	0.00	0.00	1261.41	0.00	0.00
4.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	500.00	284.28	414.68	465 1
5.	Gujarat	682.27	682.27	1521.88	639.30	1227.91	435.6
6.	Goa#	5.49	1.80	8.00	1.50	0.00	0.13
7.	Haryana	840.36	238.02	930.63	635.39	443.53	883.8
8.	Himachal Pradesh	298.18	316.08	440.00	431.22	368.66	221.15
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	183.44	137.85	218.00	238.10	201.84	200.6
10.	Jarkhand	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	578.84	0.00
11.	Karnataka	2097.36	2097.36	2643.64	2643.64	2985.43	2396.03
12.	Kerala	813.24	753.88	1251.07	0.00	533.44	0.00
13.	Madhya Pradesh	3303.27	1936.10	1720.00	1448.64	1148.23	1737.76
14.	Maharashtra	2067.30	1450.62	2722.00	1792.67	3314.14	854.57
15.	Manipur	12.54	13.00	38.96	8.94	2.73	8.94
16.	Orissa	1907.72	1686.47	1884.00	2022.03	2480.19	223.25
17.	Punjab	1280.29	313.13	1784.00	184.29	0.00	161.14
18.	Rajasthan	2792.68	1999.68	3738.96	2137.83	3005.41	2556.29
19.	Sikkim	22.37	22.26	23.87	23.98	16.68	1.68
20.	Tamil Nadu	4036.92	2841.39	3558.00	2652.39	5020.32	3385.53
21.	Tripura	159.14	164.87	476.48	476.48	83.45	32.45
22.	Uttar Pradesh	9728.65	5682.35	9398.00	6820.62	11816.86	10181.17
23.	Uttaranchal	0	0.00	500.00	54.17	433.21	192.19
24.	West Bengal	4962.00	4962.00	5450.63	5322.33	7421.59	2333.36

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
25. Chandigarh		25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	12.50
26. Delhi		149.91	82.87	149.91	36.71	0.00	93.21
27. Pondicherry		30.13	30.13	25.18	12.59	50.00	0.00
Total		43700.00	30087.07	45038.90	33788.26	45250.79	29786.65

*Scheduled Castes Development Corporation\**

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	State/UT	1999-2000 Releases	2000-2001 Releases	2001-2002 Releases
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	818.23	792.65	NIL
2.	Chandigarh	169.99	38.43	NIL
3.	Gujarat	NIL	200.00	48.79
4.	Karnataka	NIL	727.39	391.00
5.	Kerala	124.93	33.60	NIL

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Maharashtra	NIL	487.98	1191.47
7.	Rajasthan	NIL	NIL	118.74
8.	Tamil Nadu	140.00	NIL	NIL
9.	Tripura	NIL	12.69	NIL
10.	Uttar Pradesh	85.72	300.00	350.00
11.	West Bengal	661.13	169.95	NIL
Total		2000.00	2762.69	2100.00

NIL = Zero

\*Funds are released after States report utilization of funds released in previous years.

*National Scheme of Liberation & Rehabilitation of Scavengers*

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	States/UT	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
		Released	UC received	Released	UC received	Released	UC received
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1041.05	45.86	0.00	964.48	224.70	NA
2.	Assam	0.00	38.6	372.00	6.04	0.00	NA
3.	Chhatisgarh	0.00	0	1500.00	NA	0.00	NA

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4.	Gujarat	1160.59	84.24	0.00	NA	0.00	NA
5.	Haryana	0.00	107.61	0.00	106.06	0.00	NA
6.	Himachal Pradesh		55.46		81.3	0.00	NA
7.	Jharkhand	0.00	0	1085.00	NA	0.00	NA
8.	Karnataka	0.00	170.39	0.00	184.77	695.17	65.35
9.	Madhya Pradesh	883.38	362.55	0.00	309.77	0.00	473.74
10.	Maharashtra	0.00	189.11	2135.00	6.64	0.00	128.48
11.	Orissa	0.00	245.87	0.00	253.7	0.00	84.6
12.	Punjab	0.00	20.23	0.00	7.75	0.00	8.68
13.	Rajasthan	1661.79	35.62	0.00	36.17	0.00	59.85
14.	Tamil Nadu	2253.19	175.41	0.00	474.74	0.00	NA
15.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	1409.56	0.00	1071.78	0.00	NA
16.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0	1000.00	NA	0.00	NA
17.	West Bengal	0.00	20.39	0.00	18.90	0.00	NA
18.	Delhi	0.00	NA	0.00	NA	0.00	NA
Total		7000.00	2960.90	6092.00	3522.10	919.87	820.43

NA = Not available.

*Post Matric Scholarship to the students belonging to Scheduled Castes*

Sl. No.	State/UT	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
		Released	UC received	Released	UC received	Released	UC received
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2761.58	2905.60	3099.56	4582.29	6426.72	0.00
2.	Assam	328.65	232.75	233.75	272.31	272.31	218.32

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Bihar	468.48	193.54	0.00	211.60	0.00	0.00
4.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	394.84	229.97	185.90
5.	Gujarat	0.00	104.08	149.39	79.80	60.14	0.00
6.	Haryana	0.00	62.80	126.25	123.76	275.61	0.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	21.23	20.23	21.84	0.00
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00	36.87	85.36	0.00
9.	Karnataka	1092.18	247.80	1111.61	1008.39	732.13	1806.13
10.	Kerala	554.87	151.90	301.90	438.16	938.16	0.00
11.	Madhya Pradesh	193.85	252.38	382.47	158.43	490.53	630.67
12.	Maharashtra	0.00	0.00	727.78	378.74	658.33	0.00
13.	Manipur	49.36	33.02	43.71	41.97	48.15	64.16
14.	Meghalaya	2.98	2.98	4.17	4.16	5.47	5.46
15.	Orissa	342.24	166.64	196.98	140.64	0.00	0.00
16.	Punjab	0.00	155.10	0.00	171.41	239.90	0.00
17.	Rajasthan	308.28	256.01	411.36	356.87	470.13	0.00
18.	Tamil Nadu	516.86	1199.24	1950.46	1244.51	1168.95	1566.02
19.	Tripura	136.82	120.96	141.20	141.20	138.71	0.00
20.	Uttar Pradesh	1257.85	788.74	1383.22	5301.24	2304.94	2027.81
21.	Uttanchal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	411.74	0.00
22.	West Bengal	378.01	533.10	1098.42	570.37	911.06	0.00
23.	Daman & Diu	1.27	0.18	1.68	0.00	2.50	0.00
24.	Pondicherry	15.00	15.00	30.00	30.35	35.00	0.00
Total		8408.28	7421.82	11415.14	15708.14	15927.65	6504.47

Note : Central assistance in a particular year is released based on the expenditure and coverage anticipated by the concerned States/UT for that year. Any unspent balance of funds or arrear due are adjusted while releasing central assistance for the year. To avoid abnormally high anticipated expenditure, an analysis of trend of expenditure from previous years is also made while considering release of central assistance.

*Pre-Matric Scholarship to the children of those engaged in unclean occupations*

Sl. No.	State/UT	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
		Released	UC received	Released	UC received	Released	UC received
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	74.08	58.93	63.90	62.55	57.94	66.88
2.	Bihar	33.25	35.92	20.00	11.05	15.47	26.75
3.	Goa	Nil	0.05	0.34	0.51	0.72	0.36
4.	Gujarat	306.33	401.48	459.25	347.07	510.07	411.84
5.	Haryana	13.44	16.55	Nil	19.21	38.20	74.13
6.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	3.42	22.05	24.27	Nil	4.07
7.	Karnataka	Nil	5.35	3.03	10.51	3.36	2.95
8.	Kerala	7.00	1.51	Nil	0.91	Nil	1.58
9.	Madhya Pradesh	86.05	122.03	153.45	80.88	70.15	120.79
10.	Maharashtra	174.66	126	160.66	127.21	154.41	235.23
11.	Orissa	7.73	2	Nil	5.73	4.00	7.34
12.	Punjab	4.83	0.78	Nil	0	Nil	25.31
13.	Rajasthan	Nil	11.39	107.51	72.15	59.69	77.45
14.	Sikkim	0.60	0	Nil	0	Nil	Nil
15.	Tamil Nadu	63.26	91.57	170.25	88.64	49.72	106.11
16.	Tripura	2.02	2.26	2.45	2.97	3.08	2.44
17.	West Bengal	Nil	1.25	Nil	1.84	2.87	2.89
18.	Pondichery	1.52	1.52	5.16	5.16	Nil	13.27
19.	Chhattisgarh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2.24	Nil
20.	Jharkhand	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	30.20	Nil

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
21. Uttranchal		Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2.21	Nil
Total		788.26	882.01	1168.35	860.66	1004.33	1179.39

Note : Central assistance in a particular year is released based on the expenditure and coverage anticipated by the concerned States/UT for that year. Any unspent balance of funds or arrear due are adjusted while releasing central assistance for the year. To avoid abnormally high anticipated expenditure, an analysis of trend of expenditure from previous years is also made while considering release of central assistance.

Nil = Zero

*Construction of Hostels for Scheduled Caste Boys*

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	State/UT	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
		Released	UC received	Released	UC received	Released	UC received
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	122.40	NR	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
2.	Assam	5.00	5.00	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
3.	Haryana	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	2.00	NR
4.	Himachal Pradesh	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	60.13	NR
5.	Jharkhand	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	245.80	NR
6.	Karnataka	483.82	266.35	495.00	325.00	563.19	NR
7.	Kerala	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	4.00	NR
8.	Madhya Pradesh	254.19	254.19	764.95	764.95	284.37	NR
9.	Orissa	7.84	NIL	12.75	9.96	21.12	NR
10.	Punjab	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	11.57	NR
11.	Tamil Nadu	211.75	160.14	NIL	NIL	182.59	NR
12.	Tripura	10.00	10.00	NIL	NIL	18.58	NR

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
13. Uttar Pradesh		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	155.64	NR
<b>UTs</b>							
1. Chandigarh		20.00	20.00	45.00	45.00	50.18	NR
Total		1115.00	715.68	1317.7	1144.91	1599.17	

NIL = Zero.      NR = Not received.

*Construction of Hostels for Scheduled Caste Girls*

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	State/UT	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
		Released	UC received	Released	UC received	Released	UC received
1.	Andhra Pradesh	398.10		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
2.	Assam	3.50	3.50	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
3.	Haryana	NIL	NIL	140.04	NR	NIL	NIL
4.	Himachal Pradesh	NIL	NIL	67.30	NR	NIL	NIL
5.	Jharkhand	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	245.80	NR
6.	Karnataka	35.44	35.44	148.96	148.96	207.42	NR
7.	Kerala	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	45.5	NR
8.	Madhya Pradesh	277.99	277.99	437.51	437.51	665.74	NR
9.	Orissa	24.97	NIL	12.75	NIL	25	NR
10.	Tamil Nadu	NIL	NIL	258.34	302.89	43.5	NR
11.	Tripura	10.00	10.00	22.05	NR	9.49	NR
12.	Uttar Pradesh	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	196.04	NR
Total		750.00	326.93	1088.95	889.36	1439.49	

NIL = Zero.      NR = Not received.

*Book Banks for Scheduled Castes*

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	State/UT	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
		Released	UC received	Released	UC received	Released	UC received
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	26.23	26.23	116.59	116.59	Nil	Nil
2.	Assam	0.58	0.58	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
3.	Bihar	Nil	Nil	7.38	NR	Nil	Nil
4.	Goa	0.60	0.40	0.59	NR	Nil	1.34
5.	Gujarat	1.34	NR	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
6.	Haryana	9.74	9.74	3.27	3.27	Nil	Nil
7.	Himachal Pradesh	2.46	2.46	1.00	NR	Nil	Nil
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	Nil	Nil	3.45	3.45	Nil	Nil
9.	Karnataka	57.50	57.50	20.50	20.50	33.27	NR
10.	Kerala	11.10	11.10	13.92	13.92	40.00	NR
11.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil	Nil	12.79	12.79	Nil	Nil
12.	Maharashtra	82.34	Nil	27.03	NR	85.79	NR
13.	Manipur	3.00	NR	Nil	Nil	Nil	NR
14.	Mizoram	Nil	Nil	1.59	NR	Nil	NR
15.	Orissa	8.00	8.00	9.00	9.00	Nil	NR
16.	Punjab	Nil	Nil	8.28	8.28	Nil	NR
17.	Rajasthan	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	9.40	NR
18.	Tamil Nadu	28.81	28.81	15.21	15.21	13.38	NR
19.	Tripura	3.30	3.30	1.68	1.68	1.68	NR
20.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	103.16	NR



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
21. Chandigarh		0.34	0.34	0.72	NR	Nil	NR
22. Delhi		5.72	5.72	5.89	4.48	12.00	4.03
23. Pondicherry		2.26	NR	Nil	Nil	Nil	NR
Total		243.32	154.18	248.89	209.17	298.86	5.37

Nil = Zero.      NR = Not received.

*Upgradation of Merit*

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	State/UT	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
		Released	UC received	Released	UC received	Released	UC received
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5.47	5.47	NIL	NIL	37.80	NR
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.56	NR	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
3.	Assam	3.45	3.45	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
4.	Chhattisgarh	NIL	NIL	4.20	NR	9.23	NR
5.	Goa	0.75	0.75	1.05	1.05	1.43	NR
6.	Haryana	8.76	8.76	8.70	8.70	7.93	NR
7.	Himachal Pradesh	0.25	0.25	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
8.	Jharkhand	NIL	NIL	5.25	NR	NIL	NIL
9.	Kerala	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	4.5	NR
10.	Madhya Pradesh	39.15	39.15	16.80	16.80	NIL	NIL
11.	Punjab	0.45	NR	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
12.	Rajasthan	15.51	15.51	NIL	NIL	8.24	NR
13.	Sikkim	NIL	NIL	0.75	NR	NIL	NIL

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14. Tripura		3.00	3.00	1.20	1.20	1.20	NR
15. Uttar Pradesh		71.65	71.65	NIL	NIL	30.87	NR
16. Uttranchal		NIL	NIL	2.40	NR	NIL	NIL
17. West Bengal		NIL	NIL	6.01	NR	NIL	NIL
18. Pondicherry		NIL	NIL	0.50	NR	NIL	NIL
Total		150.00	174.99	46.86	27.75	101.20	

NIL = Zero.      NR = Not received.

*Coaching and Allied Scheme for Scheduled Castes*

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	State/UT	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
		Released	UC received	Released	UC received	Released	UC received
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11.44	8.03	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
2.	Haryana	1.54	1.54	NIL	NIL	2.19	2.19
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.25	NR	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
4.	Karnataka	1.19	NR	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
5.	Kerala	10.15	8.78	8.89	10.06	20.86	NR
6.	Madhya Pradesh	66.09	55.18	44.03	NR*	NIL	NIL
7.	Meghalaya	1.79	NR	1.79	NR	NIL	NIL
8.	Orissa	4.99	4.99	NIL	NIL	2.50	NR
9.	Punjab	1.89	2.39	2.39	NR	NIL	NIL
10.	Rajasthan	NIL	NIL	43.10	NR	NIL	NIL
11.	Tamil Nadu	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	11.15	NR

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12. Tripura		0.67	NR	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
13. Uttar Pradesh		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	2.61	NR
14. West Bengal		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	2.68	NR
15. Delhi		6.79	4.24	2.95	3.35	1.90	2.45
Total		106.79	85.15	102.95	13.41	43.89	4.64

\*Released is final Instalment of 2000-01 and the balance of 1999-2000.

\*\*Includes unspent balance of previous years.

NIL = Zero.      NR = Not received.

*Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes & the Scheduled Tribe*

*(Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989*

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	State/UT	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
		Released	UC received	Released	UC received	Released	UC received
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1. Andhra Pradesh		361.33	346.52	208.60	213.04	165.01	NR
2. Assam		0.00	NIL	2.00	1.6	0.00	NR
3. Bihar		0.00	7.37	34.03	NR	0.00	NR
4. Goa		0.00	0.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	NIL
5. Gujarat		270.93	229.96	325.79	298.53	178.20	NR
6. Haryana		7.83	13.23	11.53	13.53	13.78	13.76
7. Himachal Pradesh		0.00	3.85	4.89	NR	0.00	NIL
8. Karnataka		170.70	156.97	150.44	188.58	174.59	409.33
9. Kerala		10.00	26.99	41.95	43.34	44.15	NR

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10.	Madhya Pradesh	732.96	824.87	977.24	1027.35	812.86	NR
11.	Maharashtra	100.00	106.65	190.44	64.02	6.48	NR
12.	Orissa	4.00	2.07	0.58	1.22	0.97	1.62
13.	Punjab	25.00	39.69	18.39	32.72	33.10	NR
14.	Rajasthan	50.00	114.31	150.00	118.52	317.38	NR
15.	Sikkim	1.00	1.25	0.00	NIL	0.00	NR
16.	Tamil Nadu	50.00	161.72	150.00	261.4	502.48	NR
17.	Uttar Pradesh	636.24	505.89	448.20	717.24	700.00	780.07
18.	D. & N. Haveli	30.99	28.77	27.00	25.27	25.00	26.25
19.	Pondicherry	34.16	29.8	28.64	31.49	31.50	NR
20.	Daman & Diu	9.01	0	0.00	0	0.00	NR
Total		2494.15	2600.26	2769.72	3037.85	3005.50	1236.03

Note : The proposal furnished by respective State Government/UT Administrations are since based on the anticipated requirements for a financial year, therefore, generally there is a variation in the anticipated vis-a-vis the actual expenditure, resulting either in unspent central assistance or accrual of arrears. The unspent central assistance or arrears of central assistance are, however, taken into account while considering release of due central assistance during a financial year.

NIL = Zero. NR = Not received.

*Pre-Matric Scholarship for OBCs*

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	State/UT	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
		Released	UC received	Released	UC received	Released	UC received
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	325.00	325.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.	Assam	0.00	0.00	62.50	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Karnataka	0.00	0.00	425.71	405.99	278.15	278.15

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Tripura	100.00	100.00	95.79	95.79	110.04	0.00
6.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	16.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1222.21	0.00
8.	Uttanchal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	73.19	0.00
9.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00	0.00
10.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	31.45	0.00
11.	J & K	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	20.00	0.00
Total		425.00	425.00	600.00	501.78	1740.04	278.15

*Post Matric Scholarship for OBCs*

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	State/UT	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
		Released	UC received	Released	UC received	Released	UC received
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	324.26	324.26	559.25	559.00	357.77	0.00
2.	Assam	0.00	0.00	94.47	0.00	32.77	0.00
3.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00
4.	Goa	0.00	0.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	55.02	0.00
6.	J&K	0.00	0.00	8.00	0.00	42.00	0.00
7.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	191.88	0.00
8.	Karnataka	118.00	118.00	110.72	110.72	145.57	145.57
9.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10. Maharashtra		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	452.84	0.00
11. Manipur		0.00	0.00	91.36	0.00	0.00	0.00
12. Sikkim		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.00
13. Tripura		55.00	55.00	0.00	0.00	63.31	0.00
14. Uttar Pradesh		0.00	0.00	10.20	10.20	329.00	0.00
15. Uttranchal		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.92	0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>497.26</b>	<b>497.26</b>	<b>899.00</b>	<b>679.92</b>	<b>2196.30</b>	<b>145.57</b>

*Hostels for OBC Boys & Girls*

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	State/UT	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
		Released	UC received	Released	UC received	Released	UC received
1.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	149.58	0.00
2.	Andhra Pradesh	144.26	144.26	0.00	0.00	188.74	0.00
3.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	147.28	0.00
4.	Karnataka	78.26	78.26	183.23	183.23	216.99	149.60
5.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	46.91	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Rajasthan	57.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Sikkim	20	10.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	0.00
8.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	259.86	259.86	157.28	0.00
9.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	265.13	0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>300.00</b>	<b>232.52</b>	<b>500.00</b>	<b>443.09</b>	<b>1145</b>	<b>149.60</b>

*Scheme of Employment of Handicapped*

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	State/UT	1999-2000 Releases	2000-2001 Releases	2001-2002 Releases
1.	Andhya Pradesh	5.90	8.17	0.00
2.	Gujarat	0.00	14.25	0.00
3.	Haryana	0.25	0.52	0.00
4.	Karnataka	0.00	0.00	14.44
5.	Kerala	7.96	0.00	64.46
6.	Madhya Pradesh	8.94	0.00	0.00
7.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	15.21
8.	Orissa	1.61	0.00	0.00
9.	Punjab	0.00	6.46	6.27
10.	Rajasthan	11.33	39.26	10.41
11.	Uttar Pradesh	16.50	17.63	29.05
12.	Chandigarh	8.32	4.56	5.72
13.	Delhi	21.90	0.00	6.03
14.	Poncicherry	0.00	8.71	1.97
Total		82.71	99.56	153.56

Note : Under the Scheme of Employment of Handicapped, expenditure incurred by the States/UTs (central share) is re-imbursed. However, in some cases, funds have been released for setting up of Special Employment Exchange/Cells. Funds have been utilized except in case of Andhra Pradesh (2000-01) and all States/UTs listed above (2001-02), UCs have not been received as yet.

*National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities*

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	State/UT	1999-2000 Releases	2000-2001 Releases	2001-2002 Releases
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhya Pradesh	12.50	136.40	108.20
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	12.50	198.35	156.05
3.	Assam	12.50	260.30	203.90
4.	Bihar	25.00	322.25	251.75
5.	Chhattisgarh		207.00	156.05
6.	Goa	12.50	74.45	60.35
7.	Gujarat	12.50	198.35	156.05
8.	Haryana	12.50	136.40	108.20
9.	Himachal Pradesh	12.50	136.40	108.20
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	12.50	136.40	108.20
11.	Jharkhand		210.85	156.05
12.	Karnataka	25.00	198.35	156.05
13.	Kerala	12.50	136.40	108.20
14.	Madhya Pradesh	25.00	384.20	299.60
15.	Maharashtra	25.00	198.35	156.05
16.	Manipur	12.50	136.40	108.20
17.	Meghalaya	12.50	136.40	108.20
18.	Mizoram	12.50	74.45	60.35
19.	Nagaland	12.50	136.40	108.20

1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
20. Orissa		25.00	198.35	156.05	30. Chandigarh		12.50	74.45	60.35
21. Punjab		12.50	136.40	108.20	31. D. & N. Haveli		12.50	74.45	60.35
22. Rajasthan		25.00	198.35	156.05	32. Daman Diu		12.50	74.45	60.35
23. Sikkim		12.50	74.45	60.35	33. Delhi		12.50	74.45	60.35
24. Tamil Nadu		25.00	198.35	156.05	34. Lakshadweep		12.50	74.45	60.35
25. Tripura		12.50	74.45	60.35	35. Pondicherry		12.50	74.45	60.35
26. Uttar Pradesh		25.00	446.15	347.45					
27. Uttranchal			148.90	108.20	Total		500.00	5551.05	4361.20
28. West Bengal		12.50	136.40	108.20	Note : The Scheme of NPRPD is a State Sector Scheme. During Ninth Plan Period, States were released funds for specific components as per guidelines of the Planning Commission.				
29. Andaman & Nicobar		12.50	74.45	60.35					

*Prevention and Control of Juvenile Social Maladjustment*

(Rs in lakh)

Sl. No.	State/UT	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
		Released	UC received	Released	UC received	Released	UC received
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	78.76	NR
2.	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30.08	30.08
4.	Goa	0.00	0.00	7.33	7.33	4.04	NR
5.	Gujarat	36.16	36.16	35.98	35.98	47.50	NR
6.	Haryana	0.00	0.00	25.06	16.54	3.09	NR
7.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	24.58	NR	0.00	NIL
8.	Karnataka	0.00	0.00	87.00	70.34	49.44	NR



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9. Kerala		16.86	16.86	21.30	21.30	25.28	22.19
10. Madhya Pradesh		253.84	253.84	159.27	158.03	113.58	103.53
11. Maharashtra		336.04	336.04	251.16	251.16	710.77	NR
12. Manipur		0.00	0.00	5.35	NR	0.00	NR
13. Meghalaya		4.62	2.85	5.62	2.31	5.89	NR
14. Mizoram		9.71	9.71	4.26	4.26	8.99	8.99
15. Nagaland		0.00	0.00	6.67	6.67	3.22	NR
16. Punjab		13.71	13.71	24.06	13.87	13.37	13.37
17. Rajasthan		8.77	7.42	8.00	7.98	12.17	9.15
18. Sikkim		1.70	1.70	1.70	1.70	1.70	1.70
19. Tamil Nadu		128.81	128.81	118.21	118.21	190.51	NR
20. Tripura		1.00	NR	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21. Uttar Pradesh		129.24	120.13	184.45	144.73	64.95	NR
22. West Bengal		103.54	103.54	80.00	80.00	73.49	0.00
23. Chandigarh		2.00	2.00	3.10	NR	0.00	0.00
24. Delhi		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	82.03	NR
Total		1046.00	1032.77	1053.10	940.41	1518.86	189.01

NIL = Zero.

NR = Not received.

**Introduction of Direct Rail Link between  
Chandigarh and South**

2390. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the persistent demand to introduce direct rail link between Chandigarh and the South;

(b) if so, the response of the Government thereto and steps proposed to meet the need to the people;

(c) whether the desirability of extending Shramjivi Express, Vaishali Express, Awadh Assam and Amarpali Express to Kalka/Chandigarh also has been considered; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATATRAYA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to introduce a weekly train service between Chennai and Chandigarh via New Delhi, Saharanpur during 2003-2004.

(c) Extension of these trains upto Kalka/Chandigarh has been examined but not found feasible.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Diversification of Weapon Suppliers**

2391. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India is keen on diversification of weapon suppliers and joint co-production ventures;

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

(c) the names of the countries have come forward to deal alongwith the details of Aero-India 2003 show held in Bangalore on February 5, 2003, the prominent companies participated alongwith the names of their countries?

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

(b) To generate competition and have access to appropriate technology, the vendor base is determined for each case and is not restricted to a selected few. Wherever feasible the option of joint production with selected vendors is also considered to facilitate induction of new technology and make possible third country sales.

(c) Details of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) signed during Aero India 2003 are in Statement-I.

Details of Aero India 2003 in Statement-II.

List of prominent participating countries and companies is in Statement-III.

#### **Statement-I**

*Memoranda of Understanding Signed  
during Aero India 2003*

#### **Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)**

BDL signed a Memorandum of Understanding at Aero India 2003 with Matra BAe Dynamics Aerospatiale

(MBDA) of France to develop and manufacture missile systems including anti-tank, surface-to-air and air-to-air missiles. MBDA has also agreed to transfer of technology for these weapon systems.

#### **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**

(i) HAL and Turbomeca, France signed an agreement for co-development and co-production of Shakti Ardiden Engine and overhaul of TM 333 2 B2 Engines for Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH).

(ii) HAL and Snecma, France signed a MoU for formation of a joint venture company for production of aero engine sub assemblies and investment castings for the Indian and international markets.

(iii) HAL and Snecma Moteurs, France signed a contract for supply of forgings, rolled rings and precision blade forgings to Snecma by HAL. This is expected to generate a business of Rs. 3 crores per annum.

(iv) HAL signed a milestone agreement with Irkutsk for the supply of fins, stabilizers and canard surfaces for SU30MKI multi-role fighters. The present agreement is for the supply of 18 sets worth 9 million USD.

(v) HAL and Rolls Royce, UK signed a contract for supply of steel rolled rings for Rolls Royce engines. The contract value is of the order of 5 million USD, which is expected to grow to 10 million USD in the next 5 years.

(vi) HAL and Institut Aeronautique et Spatial (IAS), France, signed an agreement for a long term educational cooperation.

#### **Statement-II**

*Aero India-2003*

The recently concluded Aero India 2003, which was held from the 5th to 9th February, 2003 at Air Force Station, Yelahanka (Bangalore) took place in the backdrop of the

liberalisation underway of the Indian economy. As part of the continuous reform process, private sector participation in the defence sector—with FDI upto 26% is now welcome. Aero India 2003 provided excellent interface for exhibitors to promote and showcase their products to industry leaders, opening up possibilities for meaningful collaborations.

2. Aero India 2003 was inaugurated by Raksha Mantri on 5th February, 2003. The Chief Minister of Karnataka presided over the function.

3. To cater to the growing popularity of the show, additional indoor space was created by construction of a new hanger, HALL D. The total indoor area was completely sold.

4. While the exhibition and the static/flying display of aircraft were organized at Air Force Station, Yelahanka by the Department of Defence Production & Supplies, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) organized a seminar, the topic being "Aerospace Technologies—Development and Strategies". To commemorate the 100th Anniversary Year of Man's First Flight, two plenary sessions, one on World Aviation and another on Indian Aviation were held during the seminar.

**Statement-III**

*List of Prominent Participating Countries and Companies*

Sl. No.	Country	Company
1	2	3
1.	Brazil	Embraer
2.	Czech Republic	Aerovodochody
3.	France	Dassault Aviation (Thales and Snecma)
		Dassault Mirage

1	2	3
		Gifas
		MBDA
		EADS
4.	Israel	Sibat
5.	Russia	Aerospace Equipment Co. Sukhoi
		Irkut Corporation
		RAC MIG
		Rosoboronexport
6.	Singapore	Janes
7.	South Africa	Reutech Defence Industries
8.	UK	Chemring
		Agusta Westland, BAe System, Deso and Rolls Royce
9.	Ukraine	Astc Antonov
10.	USA	Bell Helicopter Textron, Boeing, Ge Aircraft Engines, Lockheed Martin and Rathyeon

[Translation]

**Power Generation Capacity of Power Plants in Chhattisgarh**

2392. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the increase registered in power generation capacity of each power-plant in Chhattisgarh during the last two years, year-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase power generation capacity of these power stations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The power generating capacity of each of the power projects in the State of Chhattisgarh during the last two years i.e. 2000-01 (as on 31.03.2001 and 2001-02 (as on 31.03.2002) is given below :

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)
1.	Hasdeobango (Hydel), State Sector	120
2.	Korba-II (Thermal), State Sector	200
3.	Korba-III (Thermal), State Sector	240
4.	Korba West (Thermal), State Sector	840

(b) There is no proposal to increase the capacity of these power stations.

(c) The question does not arise.

[English]

#### Disappearance of Fossil Fuels

2393. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether NTPC and Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB) are jointly working on a coal based power project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any other similar plans in view of the possible disappearance of fossil fuels due to over use of the same all over the world and the high costs involved therein;

(d) if so, whether the Government have invested in research and development to reduce pollution from coal based energy and also in alternative fuels including non-conventional sources such as hydrogen and alcohol etc.; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for setting up of a 1000 MW coal based power plant at Ennore, Chennai. Activities relating to formation of a Joint Venture Shell company, site selection etc., are in progress.

(c) to (e) Coal is one of the conventional energy sources in the country. As per the assessment available in the Ministry of Coal, the coal reserves available in the country is not fast depleting.

Coal fired stations are required to comply with pollution norms prescribed by the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Hydrogen-fueled power generating units have been developed and demonstrated under Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy sources funded projects. As a part of Research & Development projects, the use of hydrogen has been demonstrated for limited power generation through gensets and fuel cells. Fuel cells produce electricity by directly converting the chemical energy stored in a fuel through electromechanical process.

Development of technology for converting different non-edible oils to bio-diesel, exploring different routs of ethanol production, review of engine specifications for the use of biofuels and interest subsidy scheme for production of ethanol and other biofuel and manufacturing of engines/kits for using 10% and more ethanol/biofuel blend in petrol and diesel etc. are the components of biofuels programme being implemented by the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources.

[Translation]

#### Increasing of Level Crossings in Rajasthan

2394. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the number of unmanned railway crossings in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the time by which the unmanned railway crossings which were closed due to gauge conversion in Rajasthan are likely to be opened?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Presently, conversion of Luni-Jasai is in progress in Rajasthan and no level crossing has been closed on this section.

[English]

**Recommendation by Working Group on  
Petroleum and Natural Gas**

2395. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has examined the recommendations made by working group on Petroleum and Natural Gas submitted last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the recommendations which have been incorporated in Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(c) action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Working Group studied various

aspects of the petroleum and natural gas sector in the context of liberalisation of the sector as well as its increasing exposure to international oil market. It made a number of recommendations which include strengthening of oil security through accelerated exploration programmes, acquisition of equity oil abroad, development of alternative sources of fuels, creation of strategic reserves of oil/product and product quality improvement for environmental protection.

Accordingly, the following action plans have been approved by the Government under the Tenth Five Year Plan :

- (i) Acceleration of exploration efforts especially in deep offshore and frontier areas.
- (ii) Launching of Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) & Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) programmes.
- (iii) Enhancing efforts for securing equity oil and gas abroad.
- (iv) Creation of strategic storage facilities for crude oil.
- (v) Development of alternate fuels including Coal Bed Methane, Motor Spirit-Ethanol Blend and Gas Hydrates.
- (vi) Implementation of Product Quality Improvement Projects by Oil PSUs for meeting prescribed environmental standards.

[Translation]

**Funds Provided to NGOs  
for De-addiction**

2396. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the success achieved by providing grant-in-aid by the Government for De-addiction;

(b) the details of funds provided by the Government to NGOs for de-addiction during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) whether the funds of some NGOs have been forfeited due to misuse of funds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) The Government provides financial assistance to NGOs under the Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism And Substance (Drugs) Abuse inter-alia for running De-addiction-cum-Rehabilitation Centres, and Drug Awareness & Counselling Centres. As a result of the efforts made by the Government by way of expansion of outreach programmes, organizing training for the functionaries, strengthening monitoring and evaluation mechanism, and taking steps for improving quality of services, a larger number of addicts have been able to benefit from the Scheme. The number of beneficiaries under the Scheme, which was 2.26 lakh in 1998-99 has gone up to 4.37 lakh in 2001-02.

(b) Details of the funds provided to NGOs under the Scheme during the last three years (State-wise) are given in the statement-I enclosed.

(c) and (d) Instances come to the notice of the Government where a grantee organisation is found to be misutilising the funds, or the quality of services delivered by it is not commensurate with the funds released. In such cases, a show cause notice is issued to the organisation, and if the explanation is found to be unsatisfactory, then action is taken to blacklist the organisation.

A Statement-II showing the NGOs blacklisted under the Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism And Substance (Drugs) Abuse during the last three years is enclosed.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	Amount released (Rs. in lakhs)		
		1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	71.22	68.29	96.18
2.	Assam	29.59	45.24	24.13
3.	Bihar	44.38	59.71	87.52
4.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	2.48
5.	Goa	14.51	7.88	14.36
6.	Gujarat	54.94	73.72	65.73
7.	Haryana	94.09	80.60	93.21
8.	Himachal Pradesh	—	5.54	12.06
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	10.12	18.95	7.27
10.	Jharkand	—	7.34	13.21
11.	Karnataka	71.69	78.56	106.85
12.	Kerala	119.24	131.43	125.12
13.	Madhya Pradesh	41.64	48.92	54.20
14.	Maharashtra	227.28	295.76	342.72
15.	Manipur	158.07	157.28	101.24
16.	Meghalaya	9.97	13.41	9.05
17.	Mizoram	51.01	53.63	61.89
18.	Nagaland	49.86	42.04	34.84
19.	Orissa	131.10	176.27	162.67
20.	Punjab	88.04	85.68	104.50

1	2	3	4	5
21. Rajasthan	66.54	72.69	79.67	
22. Sikkim	3.12	3.36	1.20	
23. Tamil Nadu	83.07	102.50	97.89	
24. Tripura	9.25	9.49	6.68	
25. Uttar Pradesh	245.68	249.51	325.21	
26. Uttaranchal	—	1.92	17.28	
27. West Bengal	116.27	69.90	111.92	
28. Chandigarh	10.66	9.50	9.50	
29. Delhi	6.49	65.55	65.53	
30. Pondicherry	5.43	9.21	10.91	
Total	1900.00	2066.00	2245.02	

**Statement-II**

*List of NGOs Blacklisted under the Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse during the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 & 2001-02*

Sl.No.	Name of the NGO
1	2
<b>1999-2000:</b>	
1.	Ambedkar Shiksha Prasarak Samiti, Maharajganj, U.P.
2.	Anjuman Madrasa Islamia, Jalaun, U.P.
3.	National Institute of Social Welfare, Faizabad, U.P.
4.	U.P. Rana Beni Madhav Jan Kalyan Samiti, Rai Bareilly, U.P.

1	2
<b>2000-01:</b>	
5.	Abhinav Sewa Sansthan, Dwarika Ganj, Sultanpur, U.P.
6.	Jan Kalyan Evam Nari Uthan Samiti, Faizabad, U.P.
7.	Asha Bhavan, Goa
<b>2001-02:</b>	
8.	Harijan Kalyan Samiti, Karouli, Lathouri, Distt, Ambedkar Nagar, U.P.
9.	Karunodaya Sewa Sansthan, Mirzapur, U.P.
10.	Jan Kalyan Samaj Vikas Sanstha, Osmanabad
11.	International Mission of Dr. Ambedkar Education Society, Nagpur
12.	Apang Association, Amravati, Maharashtra
13.	Tantrik Prashikshan Sansthan, Amravati
14.	Shiv Shakti Education Society, Nagpur

**Special Component Scheme for Bihar and Jharkhand**

2397. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have prepared any special component scheme for Bihar and Jharkhand States;

(b) if so, the main features of the said scheme alongwith the details of targets fixed for achieving the objectives; and

(c) the details of amount allocated for the said scheme during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) The State Government themselves prepare the Special Component Plan which is a component of the Plan Allocation.

(b) and (c) The Special Component Plan of Bihar has given thrust to health, rural development specially in Indira Awas Yojana, Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana, Swarn Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, Education & Nutrition programmes. The details of outlays are in statement-I.

The Special Component Plan of Jharkhand has given thrust in areas of income generation and self-employment. The details of outlays are given in statement-II.

#### Statement-I

*The flow under Special Component Plan in Bihar during 2002-03*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of Departments/Sectors	Proposed flow to SCP- 2002-03
1	2	3
1.	Agriculture	48.56
2.	Animal Husbandry	130.19
3.	Building & Housing	0.00
4.	Civil Aviation	0.00
5.	Commercial Taxes	0.00
6.	Cooperation	291.34
7.	Energy	652.01
8.	Finance	0.00
9.	Food & Civil Supplies	0.00

1	2	3
10.	Forest	0.00
11.	Medical Education & Family Welfare	478.80
12.	Health	1678.71
13.	Home	0.00
14.	Higher Education	0.00
15.	Primary & Adult Education	3107.52
16.	Secondary Education	36.09
17.	Art, Culture & Sports	0.00
18.	Rajbhasha	0.00
19.	Industries	270.65
20.	Information & Public Relation	0.00
21.	Labour	37.65
22.	Land Reforms	0.00
23.	Law	0.00
24.	Minor Irrigation	
	(a) MI	969.42
	(b) CADA	0.00
25.	Mines	0.00
26.	Minority Welfare	0.00
27.	Personnel	0.00
28.	PHED	1640.00
29.	Planning & Development	
	(a) Planning	78.85
	(b) Statistics	0.00



1	2	3
30. Road Construction		975.52
31. Rural Development		21485.58
32. REO		9964.95
33. Science & Technology		0.00
34. Sugar Cane		0.00
35. Tourism		0.00
36. Transport		0.00
37. Twenty Point Programme		0.00
38. Urban Development		2010.00
39. Water Resources		10688.06
40. Welfare		498.16
41. Social Welfare		2205.83
Total		57247.90

**Statement-II**

*The flow under Special Component Plan  
in Jharkhand during 2002-03*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of Departments/Sectors	Proposed flow to SCP-2002-03
1	2	3
1.	Computer Training	114.86
2.	Pumpset distribution	44.18
3.	Carpet weaving	13.25
4.	Cycle Rickshaw	12.15

1	2	3
5.	Wooden & Steel Furniture & Shop	8.84
6.	Tent house and Decorative shop	6.63
7.	Hotel & Dhaba	4.42
8.	Card & magazine shop	2.20
9.	Fisheries	254.47
10.	Monetary help to Scavengers and their dependents	500.00
Total		961.00

*[English]*

**Privatisation of West Bengal  
Electricity Board,**

2398. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the West Bengal Electricity Board has been privatized;

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto;

(c) if not, the present status thereof; and

(d) the present state of separation of electric generation from distribution in various States of the country including the proposal to entrust some of these functions to the private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The question does not arise.

(c) The power supply responsibilities in West Bengal are being discharged through the following entities operating in the State:-

Sl. No.	Name of the entity	Functions
1.	West Bengal State Electricity Board	Transmission and Distribution
2.	West Bengal Power Development Corporation Ltd.	Generation
3.	Durgapur Projects Ltd.	Generation and Distribution – in a designated area in Durgapur
4.	Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation – private company	Generation and Distribution – in Kolkata.
5.	Dishergarh Power Supply Company Ltd.	Generation and Distribution in Asansol area.
6.	Damodar Valley Corporation	DVC area.

(d) A statement indicating present state of separation of electricity generation from distribution in various States in the country is enclosed.

#### Statement

##### *Present Status of Separation of Electricity Generation from Distribution in Various States*

Name of the State	Status of Electricity Generation and Distribution
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board has been unbundled into</li> <li>Andhra Pradesh Generation Co. Ltd. (APGENCO) for existing generating plants and</li> <li>Andhra Pradesh Transmission Co. Ltd (APTRANSCO)</li> <li>Four distribution companies</li> </ul>

1	2
Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Govt. of Delhi has set up 6 corporations; one for generation, one for transmission and three for distribution and one holding company by unbundling of Delhi Vidyut Board (DVB).</li> <li>The three distribution companies have been privatized.</li> </ul>
Haryana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Haryana State Electricity Board (HSEB) was unbundled on 14.8.98 into</li> <li>Haryana Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Ltd. (HVPNL) a power transmission company and</li> <li>Haryana Power Generation Corpn. Ltd (HPGCL) a power generation company</li> </ul>

1	2	1	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two distribution companies viz. Uttar Haryana Bijli Vitaran Nigam Ltd. (UHBVNL) and Dakshin Haryana Bijli Vitaran Nigam Ltd. (DHBVNL) have been established.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(c) Madhya Pradesh Poorvi Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd.</li> <li>(d) Madhya Pradesh Paschim Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd.</li> </ul>
Karnataka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As per Reform Act, 1999, Karnataka Electricity Board (KEB) has been unbundled into:</li> <li>Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd. (KPTCL)</li> <li>Visvesvaraya Vidyut Nigam Ltd. (VVNL)</li> <li>Four distribution companies</li> <li>Privatization strategy paper was developed and published for information of public.</li> </ul>		<p>These companies will be agents of MPSEB. The business will continue to be conducted in the name of MPSEB.</p>
		Rajasthan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rajasthan State Electricity Board (RSEB) unbundled into Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. (RRVUNL), Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Ltd. (RRVPNL) and three distribution companies namely, Jaipur Vidyut Vitaran Nigam Ltd., Ajmer Vidyut Vitaran Nigam Ltd. &amp; Jodhpur Vidyut Vitaran Nigam Ltd.</li> </ul>
Madhya Pradesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Electricity generation and distribution presently in the hands of State Electricity Board.</li> <li>The Govt. of Madhya Pradesh has re-organised Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board (MPSEB) into five companies namely               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Madhya Pradesh Power Generation Company Ltd.</li> <li>(b) Madhya Pradesh Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Uttar Pradesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board (UPSEB) has been unbundled into three Govt. owned entities namely:-               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam (UPRVUNL) for thermal generation</li> <li>Uttar Pradesh Jal Vidyut Nigam (UPJVNL) for hydro generation</li> <li>Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd. (UPPCL) for transmission and distribution</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

1	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distribution network of Kanpur has been handed over to Kanpur Electric Supply Company (KESCO).</li> <li>Distribution in Greater Noida within control of Noida Power Co. Ltd. in private sector.</li> </ul>
Uttaranchal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following creation of new state on 9.11.2001, two corporations have been created for state power sector:  Uttaranchal Power Corporation for distribution and transmission.</li> <li>Uttaranchal Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd. for hydro-electric generation.</li> </ul>

**Achievements Made by Railway During  
Ninth Five Year Plan**

2399. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a thrust was laid in the Ninth Five Year Plan to lay new lines, renew and double railway track, augment traffic facilities, signal and telecommunication apart from replacing and acquiring rolling stock and to improve passenger amenities;

(b) if so, the details of the achievements made in this regard so far;

(c) whether unmanned level crossings were to be manned and over bridges/under bridges were to be constructed during the said period and;

(d) if so, the number of unmanned crossings converted into manned and the number of over/under bridges have been constructed during that period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The achievements during the IXth Five Year Plan for the different categories of works are given in the table below:-

Items	Achievements/Acquisitions during IX-plan
New Lines	663 Kms.
Doubling	990 Kms.
Traffic Facilities	Works of value Rs. 767 crores have been undertaken
Signaling & Telecommunication	Works of value Rs. 1665 crores have been undertaken
Passenger Amenities	Works of value Rs. 600 crores have been undertaken
Electric Locos	697 nos.
Diesel Locos	630 nos. + 30 (GM)
Coaches	11619 nos.
Wagons	99962.5 Four Wheeler Units

(c) and (d) As per extant rules, in case an unmanned level crossing provided initially and maintained at the cost of the Railways needs manning/upgrading/posting of additional gate keeper due to increase in road traffic only, the cost both initial as well as recurring and maintenance has to be borne by the State Government/Road Authority concerned. However, keeping in view the grave consequences of accidents at unmanned level crossings, Railways have decided to man 4449 vulnerable level crossing based on the traffic volume and visibility conditions level crossings. Similarly, Road over bridges/ Road under bridges can be constructed on cost sharing basis on the level crossings where the train vehicle units is more than 1 lakh. During the period (1997-98 to 2001-02), 410 Unmanned level Crossings have been manned and 88 Road over bridges/Under have been constructed.

[Translation]

### Ban on Liquor

2400. SHRI ADHI SANKAR :

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to ban liquor in the country;

(b) whether several organizations, youths, religious institutions, hermits-saints, fakirs, aulias and press have also demanded the same;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government, Organisations, Public and Press thereto;

(d) whether the Government are likely to introduce a bill on this issue very soon;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which ban is likely to be imposed; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) There is no such demand with this Ministry.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) to (f) The production, manufacture, possession, transport, purchase and sale of intoxicating liquor is a State Subject by virtue of Entry 8 of the State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.

### Funds for the Development of NCES

2401. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated to state Governments for developing non-conventional energy sources during each of the last three years, particularly to the State of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether the allocated funds have been utilized properly and monitoring done from time-to-time; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the progress made in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) to (c) Financial assistance provided for the development of various non-conventional energy sources during each of the last three years to the States, including Himachal Pradesh is given in the statement enclosed. The Ministry has been conducting periodic reviews of the schemes/programmes implemented through the State Nodal Agencies and other organisations to ensure proper utilisation of funds.

### Statement

*Financial assistance provided for development of non-conventional energy sources during the last three years, year-wise, to the States including Himachal Pradesh*

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Amount (Rs. in crores)		
		1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15.355	20.993	24.986
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.383	0.894	16.528
3.	Assam	2.519	0.777	0.471
4.	Bihar	3.939	0.224	0.133

1	2	3	4	5
5. Goa		0.104	0.056	0.020
6. Gujarat		4.544	5.900	5.522
7. Haryana		3.539	4.239	3.477
8. Himachal Pradesh		6.094	4.370	6.151
9. Jammu & Kashmir		3.492	1.514	0.849
10. Karnataka		10.179	15.210	13.405
11. Kerala		4.744	5.190	10.674
12. Madhya Pradesh		11.421	7.736	3.805
13. Maharashtra		16.527	11.120	7.804
14. Manipur		1.205	0.399	1.342
15. Meghalaya		0.466	1.296	2.095
16. Mizoram		2.928	5.042	0.528
17. Nagaland		0.586	1.181	3.341
18. Orissa		9.877	5.448	8.025
19. Punjab		11.126	3.967	12.876
20. Rajasthan		7.817	7.099	9.136
21. Sikkim		3.970	6.681	5.097
22. Tamil Nadu		6.266	5.218	3.844
23. Tripura		0.937	3.264	2.686
24. Uttar Pradesh		11.687	15.531	18.582
25. West Bengal		16.200	15.881	18.157
26. Andaman & Nicobar		0.184	8.049	2.655
27. Chandigarh		0.080	0.020	0.160
28. D & N Haveli		0.012	0.000	0.000

1	2	3	4	5
29. Daman & Diu		0.012	0.036	0.000
30. Delhi		0.660	1.402	0.825
31. Lakshadweep		1.191	2.882	5.725
32. Pondicherry		0.119	0.135	0.132
33. Chhattisgarh		9.000	0.000	1.772
34. Jharkhand		0.000	0.000	0.125
35. Uttranchal		0.000	0.000	1.416
36. Common to all States		34.369	26.841	30.808

#### **Rural Energy Programme**

2402. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the agencies through which "Akikrit Gramin Urja" programme/scheme is being implemented in Rajasthan;

(b) whether any study or survey has been conducted during each of the last three years for the scheme/programme being implemented by the Ministry in Rajasthan under the Akikrit Gramin Urja;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the desired results are being achieved as a result of works being done under the said programme; and

(e) if so, the details of amount provided therefor during each of the last three years, programme-wise and scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) The "Akikrit Gramin Urja" programme,

(Integrated Rural Energy Programme) is being implemented in Rajasthan by the States Govt. of Rajasthan through the State Nodal Agency—Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation Ltd.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The latest study on the progress of the Integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP) entitled "Analysis of IREP and Development of Capacity Building Strategy", was taken up by the Government with the support of United Nations Development Programme, in twelve States, including Rajasthan, in the year 1999-2000. The study has brought out that as a result of IREP, minimum infrastructure for preparing rural energy plans and projects at the district and State levels have been set up. Further, IREP has enabled rural people and field development officials to appreciate different dimensions of the rural energy problems and how it should be tackled. IREP has also brought about large-scale awareness about new and renewable energy and need for conservation of energy in rural areas. The study has recommended that IREP should be consolidated; higher levels of support should be provided by the State Governments; and monitoring of the programme should be strengthened.

(d) As brought out in the above study, IREP has achieved success in some aspects, but the implementation aspect needs to be strengthened. The success has been in terms of setting up infrastructure for rural energy planning and implementation, and promotion of renewable energy devices in IREP blocks. However, implementation of the programme needs to be strengthened in all the States, for which increased flow of resources is required from the State Governments.

(e) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of IREP, Central Financial Assistance of Rs. 19.11 lakh, Rs. 11.16 lakh and Rs. 24.47 lakh was provided to the State Government of Rajasthan during the last three years i.e. 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 respectively.

#### **Competition Due to Liberalisation**

2403. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether power generation equipment sector is facing stiff competition following liberalization;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to sustain competition and their level of operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) The power generating equipment sector like other manufacturing sectors is required to become competitive with increasing liberalization of economy.

[English]

#### **Upgradation of DD Transmitters in Assam**

2404. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representation to upgrade the existing Doordarshan Kendras at Diphu and Hoifong alongwith setting up of new centres at Hamren, Bokajan, Maibang of Hill Districts of Assam has been conceded by the Ministry as a part of expansion programme of DD in the North East Region;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the above transmitters are likely to be upgraded and proposed new transmitters to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) Yes, Sir. A representation for upgradation of the existing LPTs at Diphu and Haflong and for setting up new transmitters at Hamren, Bokajan and Maibang has been received.

(b) and (c) Special package for expansion and improvement of Doordarshan services in North East

Region, includes the schemes for upgradation of the existing LPT at Diphu and setting up of a VLPT at Hamren. Scheme-wise approval is yet to be obtained. Hence no definite time frame can be indicated.

[Translation]

**Outstanding Dues of DVC  
against SEBs**

2405. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the outstanding amount of Damodar Valley Corporation against the Jharkhand State Electricity Board as on February 15, 2003;

(b) the details of amount paid for total purchase of electricity by Jharkhand State Electricity Board to DVC till January 31, 2003;

(c) whether delay in payment was caused due to any dispute; and

(d) if so, the reason for the dispute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The total outstanding amount of Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) against Jharkhand State Electricity Board (JSEB) as on 15.02.2003 (as billed up to 31.01.2003) is Rs. 1483.95 Crores, the details of which are enclosed as statement.

(b) Payment made by JSEB for purchase of power from Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) upto 31.01.2003 is Rs. 3375.41 Crores.

(c) and (d) DVC do not have any dispute which caused delay in payment.

**Statement**

(Rs. in Crores)

**PARTICULARS**

<b>(A) Arrear Dues for settlement under Securitisation Scheme of Govt. of India as on 30.09.2001</b>		<b>1074.00</b>
1. 46% Share of Bihar State Electricity Board Dues as on 1.4.2001 (as per Govt. of India Order) :		
(i) Principal		371.25
(ii) Delay Payment Surcharge		609.64
<b>Sub-Total (I) + (II)</b>		<b>980.89</b>
2. For Power Billing to JSEB upto Sept., 2001		
(i) Principal		90.83
(ii) Delay Payment Surcharge		2.28
<b>Sub-Total (I) + (II)</b>		<b>93.11</b>
<b>(B) Current Dues against Power Billing to Jharkhand State Electricity Board from 1.10.2001 (As billed upto January, 2003)</b>		<b>409.95</b>



(i)	Principal	255.76
(ii)	Delay Payment Surcharge	154.19
	<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>409.95</b>

Total Dues of Jharkhand State Electricity Board as on 15.02.2003  
(As billed up to 31.01.2003) [ A + B ]

1483.95

[English]

### Track Maintenance

2406. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether gangmen had found Cut in rail track at Anantpur and Mahabubnagar districts in South Central Railway recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether further sections of damaged track were found in Mudigubba village;

(d) if so, whether any responsibility has been fixed in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for track maintenance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) Yes, Sir. In Anantapur district, two cases of rail cut were reported in recent past. However, in Mahabubnagar district, no such incidents of rail cut have taken place.

(b) Case-1. On 6.2.03, keyman found at 13.30 hrs. that rail head was cut upto 6mm deep between Chennikuntapalli-Mudigubba section (at Km. 33/8-9).

Case-2. On 14.2.03, Divisional Engineer/Metre Gauge/Guntakal, along with other officials while on routine inspection found at 17.30 hrs. that rail head was cut upto 6mm deep between Chennikuntapalli-Mudigubba section (at Km. 32/10-11).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) FIR has been lodged with Local Police in both the above cases and cases are under investigation. No Railway staff has been found responsible.

(e) Following additional steps have been taken by Railway to ensure safety :-

(i) Maximum train speed has been reduced during night time to 50 kmph in Gooty-Pendekallu (Broad Gauge) section, Kaluru-Jangarpalli (Metre Gauge) section and to 40 kmph. in Dharmavaram-Madanapalle (Metre Gauge) section.

(ii) Security patrolling is in force between Gooty-Pendekallu (Broad Gauge) section, Kaluru-Jangarpalli (Metre Gauge) section and Dharmavaram-Mudigubba (Metre Gauge) section during night time.

(iii) Stationary watchmen have been posted during the night time on 7 major girder bridges on Dharmavaram-Pakala (Metre Gauge) section. A speed restriction of 20 kmph has been imposed at 7 major bridges between Dharmavaram-Pakala (Metre Gauge) section during day and night.

### ONGC Restrictions on Fishermen

2407. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI :  
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL :  
SHRI RAM MOHAN CADDE :

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

(a) whether ONGC is not allowing fishermen to fish in the five kilometer area of Mumbai High;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a meeting was called between the fishermen's Association and the ONGC to iron out their differences; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) is restricting the entry of fishing boats around the five hundred meters of oil installations for the security of oil installations and safety of fishermen.

(c) and (d) A meeting was held on 15th February, 2003 at ONGC's regional headquarter at Mumbai and a Coordination Committee, comprising representatives of Maharashtra Machhimar Kruti Samiti, ONGC, Offshore Defence Advisory Group (ODAG), Coast Guard, Customs, State Police and State Fisheries Department, has been constituted to look into the demands of the fishermen.

#### **Performance of Heavy Industries After Liberalisation**

2408. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Heavy Industries setup by Multi National Companies (MNCs) in the country, State-wise, as a result of liberalization;

(b) the details of privileges offered to them for setting up such industries;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to give more concession to Heavy Industries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) There is no formal classification of industries as "Heavy". However, during the period from August, 1991, when economic and industrial liberalization was started, upto October, 2002, 22,833 foreign direct investment proposals amounting to Rs. 2,83,077 crore have been approved for setting up of industries in different states of the country in various sectors such as metallurgical, electrical equipments, transportation, engineering goods etc. The details of such proposals including items of manufacture/activity are published in the monthly news letter of the Secretariat for Industrial Approvals (SIA) which is widely circulated, including to the Parliament Library.

[Translation]

#### **Dilapidated ROB's**

2409. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH :  
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the Members of Parliament has apprised the Union Government of the pitiable condition of rail overbridges in their parliamentary constituencies during the last year;

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

(c) the details of the overbridges out of the above alongwith financial assistance provided for construction and repair; and

(d) the reasons for not providing financial assistance in rest of the cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Only one representation has been received about Road Over Bridge at Bhagalpur known as Ultapuri

(b) and (c) A new Road over bridge at Bhagalpur in

lieu of old Br. No. 153 (Ultapul) has been sanctioned at the cost of Rs. 14.6 cr. in 1999-2000's Works Programme on cost sharing basis where Railway portion of work is in progress but State Govt. has not started work on approaches. Rs. 1 cr. was provided during year 2002-03 for this work.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

**Doubling of Guntur-Vijayawada and  
Guntur-Tenali Rail Route**

2410. SHRI Y.V. RAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to double the Guntur-Vijayawada and Guntur-Tenali routes;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds likely to be incurred thereon; and

(d) the time by which the work on the said projects is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) to (d) On Guntur-Vijayawada section, Vijayawada-Krishna Canal is already doubled. Regarding doubling of Krishna Canal – Guntur-Tenali section, doubling of single line sections will be taken up when their carrying capacity is saturated. The traffic on the subject section has not yet reached the level to justify its doubling. Doubling will be considered once the traffic warrants the same, subject to availability of resources.

**Registered Cable Operators**

2411. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cable operators registered in the country particularly in Gujarat under the Cable

Doordarshan Network (Regulation) Act, 1995 as on date, State-wise;

(b) the number of cases recorded in violation of this Act in the country till date, State-wise; and

(c) the action taken against the cable operators found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) Under the provisions of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, all cable operators are required to register themselves with the Head Post Masters of their areas of operation. The Act provides for Authorised Officers, which include, District Magistrate, Sub-Divisional Magistrate and Commissioner of Police, within their local limits of jurisdiction, and other officers notified by Central Government or State Governments to take action against cable operators for violations of the provisions of the Act. No centralized database of the total number of registered cable operators and cases registered for violations, is being maintained.

**Reduction of Speed of Trains**

2412. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have issued directives to South Central Railway to reduce speed of all trains in the track section between Khammam and Maula Ali due to weak track;

(b) whether soil conditions and engineering liabilities have made this track section particularly weak;

(c) if so, the steps proposed to make the track of this section safer;

(d) whether a number of accidents take place in this section of track; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to ensure safety of trains on this section?

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

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) No, Sir.

[Translation]

#### Valuation of Closing PSU

2413. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA :

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :

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

(a) the number of the public sector undertakings which are likely to be closed or wound up very soon;

(b) whether the Government have evaluated their movable and immovable properties for their disposal with any scientific valuation;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken by the Government for scientific valuations of public sector undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Closure/winding up of enterprises is considered on case to case basis.

As per available information as on 31.12.2002, the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has recommended for winding up of 18 sick industrial Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) (statement enclosed).

(b) to (e) The Companies under winding up have to

go through the process under the provisions of Companies Act, 1956, wherein Liquidator appointed by the concerned High Court would deal with the assets and liabilities of the company as per the applicable provisions.

#### Statement

*Names of Central Public Sector Undertakings Recommended for Winding up by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstructions (BIFR)*

Sl. No.	Name of PSU	Date of order
1	2	3
1.	Bharat Gold Mines Ltd.	12.6.2000
2.	Tannery & Footwear Corporation of India Ltd.	14.2.1995
3.	Cycle Corporation of India Ltd.	10.7.2000
4.	Mining & Allied Machinery Co. Ltd.	29.6.2001
5.	National Bicycle Corporation of India Ltd.	20.12.1993
6.	Bharat Brakes & Valves Ltd.	1.11.2002
7.	Pyrites Phosphates & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	20.11.2002
8.	Elgin Mills Co. Ltd.	30.9.1994
9.	Bharat Process & Mechanical Engineers Ltd.	22.7.1996
10.	Bharat Refractories Ltd.	1.6.2002
11.	Cawnpore Textiles Ltd.	19.1.1995
12.	Smith Stanistreet & Pharmaceuticals Limited	3.12.2001
13.	National Instruments Ltd.	1.10.2002
14.	Southern Pesticides Corporation Ltd.	1.11.2001

1	2	3
15.	Rayrolle Burn Ltd.	13.7.2001
16.	Swadeshi Mining & Mfg. Co.	1.7.1996
17.	Maharashtra Antibiotics & Pharma. Ltd.	4.7.2000
18.	Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Ltd.	7.12.2001

[English]

#### **Financial Assistance to Film Industry**

2414. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN :  
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :

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

(a) whether the Government have examined the benefits coming after declaring film making as an industry;

(b) the extent to which this new industry has been freed from the grip of under world mafia and black money and the extent to which it is attracting better and progressive talents;

(c) whether the Government have provided any facilities and relaxations for the film producers to produce motion pictures;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the steps taken by the Government to promote and project Film Industry in the country; and

(f) the details of the amount allocated, disbursed and utilised for the development of cinema industry in the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (d) In order to facilitate a greater flow of institutional finance to the film industry, a

notification dated 16.10.2000 was issued by the Ministry of Finance, whereunder "Entertainment Industry including films" has been specified as an approved activity for extending loans under the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) Act. The Reserve Bank of India has also evolved guidelines to enable commercial banks to fund film production. These steps have eased the flow of institutional finance into film production. In addition, the FDI regime for films has been further liberalised.

(e) Apart from the above, some other initiatives that have been taken by the Government to promote the film industry are as follows :

- (i) Good cinema is encouraged through the medium of National Film Awards.
- (ii) During 2002 alongwith the International Film Festival of India a Film Bazaar was set up by the Government to provide a platform for interaction between Indian film Industry and international buyers and sellers.
- (iii) A special Plan scheme has been included in the 10th Plan, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has been allocated a budget of Rs. 5 crores to participate in film markets in India and abroad.
- (iv) In the budget for 2002-03 a five-year tax break was given to multiplexes set up outside municipal limits.
- (v) Customs duty rates for import of film equipment are also rationalised from time to time.
- (vi) The best cinema in any year is selected as part of the 'Indian Panorama'. These films are especially shown to audiences on the festival circuit.
- (vii) Students are trained to be film professionals in the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune and the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Kolkata.

(viii) The National Film Development Corporation and the Children's Film Society of India finance film production.

(ix) Three International Film Festivals are organised by the Government of India to promote cinema.

(f) 'Cinema' except 'Certification of films' is a State subject and the Central Government does not maintain any statistics regarding amount spent for its development. However, under the IDBI Film Financing Scheme for production of films, which has become operational from 1st April 2001, the details of the assistance sanctioned and disbursed during the two year period is given below :

As on Feb. 24, 2003

Amount in Rs. Crore

Period	Sanctioned	Disbursed
April 01-March 02	72.72	21.50
April 02-Feb. 03	31.73	34.40
Total	104.45	55.90

Children's Film Society of India, an autonomous society under this Ministry produces children's films and the details of amounts allocated and spent by the Society in the last three years are as follows :

Year	Grant for production of films	Expenditure Rs. lakhs
1999-2000	336	232.16
2000-2001	361	332.42
2001-2002	326	271.95

National Film Development Corporation Ltd., a public sector undertaking under the administrative control of this Ministry is also engaged in the promotion of good quality cinema in the country and extends loans for producing films upto Rs. 25 lakhs or 75% of cost and full finance upto

Rs. 40 lakhs to any director to make a film. During the last three years an amount of Rs. 548.33 lakhs has been spent for financing and producing films in various languages.

### Use of Concrete Sleepers

2415. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the durability of concrete sleeper is much more than that of wooden sleepers;

(b) if so, whether the costs of wooden sleepers is also much more than that of concrete sleepers;

(c) if so, the facts thereof;

(d) whether the Government are still allow the use of wooden sleeper inspite of its high cost and its low durability and adverse affect on environment;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) the loss suffered by the Railways by way of placing order for wooden sleepers in place of concrete sleepers; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government against the officials held responsible for placing order for wooden sleepers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE\*MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The approx. cost of one set of wooden sleepers for a 1:12 turnout is Rs. 1,53,100/- and that of concrete sleepers turnout is around Rs. one lakh. No wooden sleepers are being procured for mainline while on girder bridges only wooden sleepers can be used. Cost comparison can be drawn only for Turnout sleepers for which both types of sleepers are being procured.

(d) Indian Railways has been successfully able to develop alternative sleepers to wooden sleepers for Main line, standard Turnouts, Level Crossings, Switch Expansion

Joints, Ballasted Deck Bridges etc. but for the certain specified locations like, special layouts such as scissors cross overs, Diamond X-ings, slips etc. and, Turnouts involving non standard crossing angles, there are no alternatives available to wooden sleepers. Due to these technical constraints, Hon'ble Supreme Court has permitted Railways to procure 20,000 Cum. of wooden sleepers by way of import annually, to meet its absolute minimum requirement. As these sleepers are to be made only out of imported wood as such there will be no adverse effect on environment.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Does not arise. Railways is using wooden sleepers only on such locations for which no suitable alternatives to wooden sleepers are available. As such, the use of wooden sleepers at such locations is inescapable to maintain the track in safe running conditions, and thus any additional expenditure on this account cannot be construed as a loss.

(g) Does not arise.

#### **Railway's Share of Freight Traffic**

2416. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways has conducted any comparative study regarding its share of freight transport;

(b) if so, the details of the marketing share of railways as compared to roads, pipeline, shipping etc., during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken by Government to boost the Railway's share in freight traffic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Railways had in 1997 got a study conducted through one of its PSUs viz. RITES, on decline in Railways' share in total land traffic in India. This study included study of freight traffic also. The study focussed on the various

reasons for decline in share of freight traffic of the Railways and suggested measures to improve the Railways' share in the future.

(b) The latest estimates available for traffic carried by roadways are for the year 1997-98, based on data published in the Economic Survey of India. As per the Economic Survey of India 1997-98, the traffic carried by roadways was 60% of the total freight movement. The traffic carried by pipelines and shipping as a percentage of total traffic has not been specified in the survey. Correspondingly, 40% of the total freight movement in 1997-98 is presumed to be on Rail. As more recent data is not available, it is not possible to indicate the market share of Railways and other modes of transport during the last three years.

(c) The recent steps taken by the Government for increasing the Railway's share of freight traffic include the following :-

1. Making the freight rates more attractive in the Railway Budgets 2002-03 and 2003-04 by rationalization of freight rate structure and reducing the band of freight rates. The total number of Classes have been reduced from 59 to 27 and the ratio between the highest and lowest freight rates reduced from 8.0 to 2.8.
2. Making the freight rates further competitive in Railway Budget 2003-04 by reducing the classification of certain commodities viz. Petroleum products, Iron & Steel, Pig Iron, Cement etc., where Railways are facing stiff competition due to high freight rates.
3. Offer to consider long term agreements with Oil Companies for further reduction in freight rates for petroleum products, if guaranteed volumes of additional traffic are committed for rail movement.
4. Introducing a system of graded concessions on freight rates, ranging from 10% to 50%, for all traffic booked upto 100 KMS.

5. Extending the benefit of lower train load rates, for two point block rates, for the entire distance of transportation as against granting this benefit upto common point of movement only.
6. Introducing an incentive scheme for Premier Customers, who generate freight earnings of more than Rs. 25 crores per annum from traffic originating from their sidings, to attract more traffic from them. A rebate of 2% will be granted on every five crore rupees of net additional originating freight earnings.
7. Providing integrated warehousing facility to customers, through strategic partnership with Central Warehousing Corporation to develop a net-work of Warehousing Complexes.
8. Delegating higher powers to General Managers to offer freight concessions upto 24 percent under 'Station to Station rates' scheme, which has also been liberalized.
9. Reducing 'to-pay' surcharge on freight from 10% to 5% for booking of all commodities other than Coal and from 15% to 10% for booking of Coal.
10. Clubbing of consignments in a Broad Gauge 8-wheeler wagon upto 12 consignments on payment of Rs. 100 for every additional Railway Receipt.

#### Revival of HCL

2417. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have referred Hindustan Cables limited to BIFR;

(b) if so, whether Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has taken any decision in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government are contemplating to merge HCL with BSNL considering the presence of public sector player alongwith the private companies in the cable making field;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which the financial decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) :

(a) Hindustan Cables Limited has been registered with the BIFR on 1.11.2002 in accordance with the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act, 1985.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) A proposal was mooted to merge Hindustan Cables Limited with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL), however, no decision has been taken.

(f) No time frame has been fixed.

[Translation]

#### Funds Spent on Power Reforms

2418. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to spend Rs. 40,000 crore for reforms in power sector during Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any schemes for distribution, generation and transmission of power separately for implementing reforms in power sector;



(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount likely to be spent for reforms in each sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) In order to upgrade the sub-transmission and distribution network with the objective of accomplishing reduction of transmission and distribution (technical and commercial) losses, reduction in cash losses by State Electricity Boards/Utilities and supply of reliable and interruption free power, the Government of India introduced the Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) in February, 2001 now rechristened as Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP). The Tenth Plan document of the Planning Commission has indicated an amount of Rs. 3500 crores for the first year of the Tenth Plan, viz., 2002-03 on power sector reforms under the APDRP.

(c) No, Sir. The Government has not formulated any separate scheme for implementing reforms in the generation and transmission of power.

(d) and (e) Do not arise, in view of reply to (c) above.

[English]

#### **Separate Entity to Monitor Electricity Flow**

2419. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is proposed to have a separate entity to monitor electricity flow from the National Electricity Transmission Utility to the States;

(b) if so, the way in which the proposed scheme is likely to ensure grid discipline and to check the threat of major blackouts;

(c) whether any consultations have been held with the State Governments about the proposed scheme; and

(d) if so, the details of the scheme finalised in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) At present, the five regional power grids in the country are being monitored round the clock on real time basis by Regional Load Despatch Centres (RLDCs). The monitoring at State level is done by the State Load Despatch Centres (SLDCs). Central Transmission Utility, POWERGRID has completed its state-of-the-art Unified Load Despatch and Communication (ULDC) facilities in Northern and Southern Regions. Similar facilities are under implementation in Eastern, North-Eastern and Western Regions also. The ULDCs for the country would be completed by February, 2005. The ULDC schemes will ensure improved system security, reliability and avoidance/minimization of grid disturbances/failures and quick restoration during grid disturbance/failure.

The Electricity Bill, 2001 envisages creation of a National Load Despatch Centre for optimum scheduling and despatch of electricity among the Regional Load Despatch Centres. The details of this National Load Despatch Centre are being worked out in consultation with the Central Electricity Authority, the Central Transmission Utility (i.e. POWERGRID) and the Regional Electricity Boards.

[Translation]

#### **Stoppage of Gomti and Barauni Express**

2420. SHRI KISHAN LAL DILER : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide stoppage of Gomti and Barauni Express at Hathras junction, the only big station in district Mahamaya Nagar in Uttar Pradesh, like other main stations;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Not found feasible for lack of commercial justification.

#### **NTPC Project in Bihar**

2421. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the NTPC project has commenced in Barh district of Bihar;

(b) if so, the total amount spent thereon; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to commence power generation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) Barh Super Thermal Power Project (STPP) (3x660 MW) has been identified as a Mega Power Project to be implemented by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) in Patna district of Bihar by early 11th Plan. NTPC had submitted the Feasibility Report for this project to various statutory agencies and key clearances like environmental clearance from Ministry of Environment and Forests and Techno-Economic Clearance from Central Electricity Authority has been obtained. An amount of approximately Rs. 46 crore has been spent so far for the site specific studies, acquisition of priority land and development of infrastructure etc. by NTPC in this regard.

[English]

#### **Guidelines for 24-Hour News Channels**

2422. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH :

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :

SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to revise guidelines for DD News, in view of the entry of foreign-owned TV channels in 24-hour news segment;

(b) If so, the details thereof and the total companies which have applied for 24 hour service;

(c) whether the Government have received pleas from 24-hour news channels;

(d) if so, whether the Government have formulated a policy and stipulated any condition in tis regard;

(e) if so, whether it will affect the national network in any manner;

(f) if so, whether the Government have considered the pros and cons of the new scenario; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (g) The Government has, for the first time, received an application from a wholly owned foreign company for uplinking a 24-hour news channel from India which is India focused. This has necessitated a re-look at the existing uplinking policy, in so far as it relates to the News and Current Affairs Channels. For this, consultations with various Ministries have been undertaken and it is proposed to take the matter to the Cabinet for consideration. As per the extant policy, all TV channels irrespective of their ownership (including equity structure) or management control aimed at Indian viewership, are permitted to uplink from India subject to fulfillment of eligibility criteria and adherence to various terms and conditions including, inter-ali, adherence to programme and advertisement codes. Details of applications received seeking permission to uplink 24-hour news channels and action taken thereon are given in the statement enclosed.

**Statement**

Sl. No.	Name of the Companies	Name of the channels	Remarks
1.	TV Today Network Ltd.	Aaj Tak	Permitted
		India Today English News Channel	Under Examination
2.	Sun TV Ltd.	Sun News	
		Udaya News	Permitted
		Surya News	
		Teja News	
3.	Jain Studios Ltd.	Jain TV	Permitted
4.	STV Enterprises Ltd.	Punjab Today	Permitted
5.	Zee Telefilms Ltd.	Zee News	Permitted
6.	Sahara Sanchar Ltd.	Sahara Samay National & International, Sahara Samay UP Sahara Samay MP Sahara Samay Bihar Sahara Samay Mumbai Sahara Samay Rajasthan Sahara Samay NCR	Permitted
7.	New Delhi Television Ltd.	NDTV	Permitted
8.	NDTV World Ltd.	NDTV World	Under Examination
9.	Independent News Service Pvt. Ltd.	India TV	Under Examination
10.	Star News Broadcasting Ltd.	Star News	Under Examination
11.	BBC	BBC	Under Examination

**Minister's Conference with NRIs on Media**

2423.SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Minister while addressing the NRIs/PIOs during a recent conference has suggested

consolidation of efforts towards positioning the ethnic media internationally;

(b) if so, whether the NRIs and PIOs have made number of complaints against the media;

(c) if so, the extent to which the Minister was able to remove those doubts; and

(d) the extent to which the NRIs and PIOs have agreed to invest more on media and films?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) During the conference it was mentioned that the ethnic media is an important and credible medium for communication between India and its diaspora on the one hand, and the Indian, public and the foreign communities on the other.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b).

(d) NRIs and PIOs have not made any commitment in this regard.

#### Floating of SPV by ONGC

2424. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has taken a decision to float a special purpose vehicle - ONGC Value Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its share; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) In view of the recent policy changes in the hydrocarbon sector, Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), a Navratna Public Sector Undertaking in the upstream hydrocarbon sector, intends to expand its business through value chain integration encompassing refining and marketing sectors also, so that it can effectively face market competition. In this scenario, examination of various options by the management of ONGC, for efficient structure and to seize emerging business opportunities, has been a continuous process.

ONGC has informed that their Board of Directors has not taken any decision on formation of the said Non-Government joint venture, as of now.

[Translation]

#### Vacant Posts of SC/ST

2425. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have strictly followed the reservation policy in providing jobs in the Government Departments and Autonomous Institutions as well attached offices like Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd., and other PSUs coming under his Ministry in as far as the Gazetted jobs or Class I and Class II employments are concerned;

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

(c) the number of existing vacancies and the steps taken by the Government to fill up the vacant posts in the Government Sector and Public Sectors;

(d) whether the Government finds it difficult to fill up the reserved posts (Class I and Class II in both Government Sector and Public Sector) designated for the persons belonging to SC/ST and OBC;

(e) if so, the reasons thereof and the steps taken by the Government to fill up such vacant posts immediately;

(f) the details of fresh recruitment made under various categories during this period and so far in the current year;

(g) whether the prescribed rules have been followed with regard to the recruitment and promotion of persons belonging to SCs/STs categories; and

(h) if not, the remedial steps taken in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) and (e) Despite relaxed standards and relaxations as per the Government's policy, it has been found that the requisite number of persons belonging to the reserved categories are not available to fill up the posts meant for them. Special Recruitment Drives are undertaken from time to time to fill up the backlog of vacancies.

(f) The information pertaining to the period 1.1.2002 to 31.12.2002 and from 1.1.2003 to 28.2.2003 is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(g) Yes, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

[English]

#### Oil Exploration in Orissa

2426.SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the places where oil exploratory drilling is in progress in Orissa and the names of the companies engage for the purpose;

(b) the total amount spent by these companies on survey and exploratory drilling work during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have analysed the inflow of information from the exploratory work during the said period;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF  
• PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (e) Production Sharing Contract (PSC) has been signed in July, 2001 in respect

of one onland exploration block, MN-ONN-2000/1, awarded in the State of Orissa to the consortium consisting of Oil India Ltd. (OIL), Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC), Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC) and GAIL India Ltd. (GAIL) under second round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NEP-II). OIL, the Operator of the block, is carrying out exploration as per the provisions of the PSC. Subsequent to the date acquisition; the processing and interpretation of the seismic data as also the geological and geo-physical studies are taken upto identify drillable prospects. The expenditure incurred so far in the block, as on 31st December, 2002, is around Rs. 69.50 lakhs.

[Translation]

#### Funds for Improvement in Power System

2427.SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the funds allocated for improving the power system in rural and urban areas of Jodhpur district in Rajasthan;

(b) whether the State Government has utilised all those funds;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) Jodhpur District consist of two electrical distribution circles, viz City Circle and Jodhpur District Circle. Under the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP), an amount of Rs. 29.42 crores has been released by the Government of India in the year 2000-01 for upgradation and strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution system in Jodhpur District Circle. During the year 2002-03, an amount of Rs. 270.62 crores has been sanctioned under APDRP for the two circles in Jodhpur and a sum of Rs. 14 crores has been released by the State

Government to Jodhpur DISCOM for Jodhpur District Circle Schemes. As per information available, an amount of Rs. 42.08 crores has been utilised till date under Jodhpur District Circle. Details of utilization are as under :

Sl. No.	Scheme	Expenditure incurred during the year (Rupees in Crores)	
		2001-2002	2002-2003 (Approximately)
1.	Distribution and power transformers	7.19	7.27
2.	Single Phase and 3 Phase Meter for new connections (LT & HT) and replacement defective meters	5.25	11.95
3.	Capacitor (1.2 & 2.0 MVAR)	—	3.42
4.	For system improvement in Jodhpur District Circle	—	7.00
Total		12.44	29.64

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

#### Protection of Life and Property of Elderly Persons

2428.SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to bring forward a legislation for protection of life and property of elderly persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are making efforts for effective implementation of national policy for elderly persons; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) and (b) The Government is sensitive to the issue of protection of rights of senior citizens. However, the question of bringing a comprehensive legislation needs careful consideration and wide consultation.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has constituted a National Council for Older Persons (NCOP) which is the highest body to advice and coordinate with the Government in the formulation and implementation of National Policy for Older Persons. So far three meetings of National Council of Older Persons were held. The Plan of Action 2000-2005 to operationalise the National Policy for Older Persons has been prepared and finalized by the Ministry. The initiatives as per the Plan of Action are to be implemented by various concerned Ministries/Departments. The Ministry has also set up an Inter-Ministerial Committee for ensuring speedy implementation of the decisions taken in these meetings and also to review the progress of Plan of Action 2000-2005 for implementation by the concerned Ministries/Departments. An Annual Plan of Action 2003-04 for implementation by the concerned Ministries/Departments has also been finalized.

In the Budget proposals of Railways the age limit for men has been reduced from 65 to 60 years for availing 30% concession in railway fares. The age was already 60 years for women. In the General Budget proposals 2003-04, certain concessions such as tax rebate to senior citizens and launching of Special Pension Policy called Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana for Senior citizens have been included.

[English]

#### Peace Keeping Techniques

2429.SHRI V. VETRISILVAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a meeting to focus on peace keeping techniques has been held recently;

(b) if so, the countries which participated in the meetings;

(c) the rationale behind holding the said meeting; and

(d) the outcome of the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) An event with focus on peacekeeping techniques was organised at the Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping (CUNPK), New Delhi, from 10th February to 21st February 2003. This event was conducted under the sponsorship of the Indian Army and US Army Pacific Command, as a Peacekeeping Operations Command Post Exercise (named Exercise Shanti Path).

(b) Sixteen countries namely, Bangladesh, Canada, Fiji, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, UK, USA, Uruguay and India participated in the event. The United Nations Headquarters was also represented in the event.

(c) The objective of Exercise Shanti Path was aimed at promoting regional and multilateral cooperation in planning and conducting peacekeeping operations. The Exercise also involved Peacekeeping Operations by the participants in various computer simulated environs.

(d) The Exercise, apart from bolstering the cooperation between the Indian and US armies in the field of Peacekeeping, also provided a forum for knowledge and experience sharing on Peacekeeping by the participating countries.

[Translation]

#### **Pending Hydel Power Projects**

2430. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :  
SHRI C.N. SINGH :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Hydel Power projects from various

States received by the Union Government which are still pending for approval, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for delay; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The revised cost estimate of Karcham Wangtoo HEP (4x250 MW) in Himachal Pradesh has been submitted recently for Techno-Economic Clearance of Central Electricity Authority.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

(c) The time for Techno-Economic Clearance is related to tying up of all the necessary inputs and clearances by the implementing agency, and resolution of various issues.

[English]

#### **Solar Energy in Rural Areas**

2431. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any scheme to optimise the use of solar energy for lighting and cooking in the rural areas;

(b) if so, whether the private sector companies have shown interest in manufacturing these solar cookers and solar lamps;

(c) if so, whether the Government are contemplating to provide incentives for the use of wind power for producing light etc.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) The Government has been promoting

the use of solar cookers for cooking applications and of photovoltaic devices for lighting applications both in urban and rural areas through various schemes of the Ministry. These schemes include promotional scheme on box solar cookers, demonstration scheme on concentrating type solar cookers, subsidy scheme for solar home systems, street lights and solar power plants, a soft loan scheme for photovoltaic systems and a specific scheme for village electrification. A total of around 5,29,000 box solar cookers, 2,27,419 solar home systems, 4,36,350 solar lanterns, 42,946 street lights and 3.775 MW capacity of power plants have been installed under these schemes till 31.12.2002. In addition, 3612 villages and hamlets have been electrified partially or fully through solar energy.

(b) About 45 private manufacturers are involved in manufacturing and sale of solar cookers. In addition, over 50 private sector companies are involved in manufacturing of solar photovoltaic devices including solar lanterns.

(c) and (d) To promote the use of wind power for lighting and other applications, the Government has been providing the following incentives :

1. **Small Aero-generators & Hybrid systems –** Central financial assistance in the range of 50 to 75% of the ex-works cost of the systems subject to maximum of Rs. 2.00 lakhs/kW depending on the category of the user.
2. **Wind power projects –** Soft loans from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) for establishment of commercial projects. In addition, fiscal and financial incentives are available from the government to the developers of wind power projects.

#### **Purchase of Diesel Locomotives**

2432. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether new diesel locomotives were purchased from General Motors, US at cost of Rs. 1100 crores alongwith technology transfer for use at Pune-Guntakal-Renigunta route;

(b) whether after the purchase, a proposal for electrification of this route was considered against technical objections from the Railway Board;

(c) if so, the objections raised by Railway Board against electrification of this route;

(d) whether the diesel locos purchased from GM are presently used for Iron Ore haul from Hospet to Renigunta; and

(e) if so, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) 31 diesel locomotives were imported from M/s. General Motors Corporation/USA at a total landed cost of Rs. 498 crores (approx.) with simultaneous transfer of technology (TOT) for their indigenous manufacture at DLW at a cost of US \$ 19 million. These locomotives are versatile and can be deployed on any section on Indian Railways. Pune-Guntakal-Renigunta is one of the nominated sections for running these locomotives.

(b) and (c) The electrification of Renigunta to Guntakal section is already sanctioned and the work is in progress on Renigunta-Nandalur section. The proposal for electrification of Pune-Guntakal is presently under process and final decisions yet to be taken.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. These locomotives are presently based for maintenance in Hubli Diesel shed. They are therefore deployed for hauling both freight and express trains on sections around the Hubli shed including the Hospet Renigunta section. The superior load haulability of these locomotives also makes them suitable for deployment on this heavily graded section for hauling iron ore traffic.

#### **FDI for Upgradation and Modernisation of Gas Based Thermal Power Plants**

2433. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :



(a) whether the Government have drawn a comprehensive policy for foreign direct investment for the upgradation and modernisation of gas based and thermal power projects in the country particularly in Karnataka and Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of deals finalised, total cost and foreign direct investment involved in these proposals and these cleared so far particularly in Karnataka and Maharashtra, project-wise; and

(d) the details of present status of the projects cleared for upgradation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Question do not arise.

#### **Doubling of Rail Line between Thiruvananthapuram and Kanyakumari**

2434. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to double railway line between Thiruvananthapuram-Kanyakumari sector under Thiruvananthapuram Railway Division of Southern Railway in the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **Restarting of Dabhol Power Project**

2435. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have completed the formalities and dialogue with Maharashtra Government, Tariff Commission, Maharashtra Electricity Board, IDBI, NTPC and others to restart the Dabhol Power Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is delay in starting the Dabhol Power Project;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the details of the relaxations given to State Government from the Union Government; and

(f) if so, the consideration, concessions and assurances given by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) The Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) in regard to the Dabhol Power Project was entered into between Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) and Dabhol Power Company (DPC). Thus, the responsibility to restart Phase-I and complete Phase-II lies with the main stakeholders viz. MSEB and DPC as well as the Government of Maharashtra (GOM). The Indian Financial Institutions led by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) having substantial stakes in the Dabhol Power Project have been trying to restructure and revive the Dabhol plant. Government of India has agreed to facilitate any amicable solution to the various issues in order to revive/restructure the project. Any scheme finalised for revival of the Dabhol project would come as a comprehensive package and would have to resolve complex, legal financial and technical issues. While this may take time, as a first step, it has been agreed that an interim revival package for restarting Phase-I be worked out by the concerned agencies. The National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has agreed to act as Operation & Maintenance Contractor for running Phase-I. A team involving representatives from NTPC, M/s. GE India, M/s. Bechtel, IDBI, MSEB and Central Electricity Authority carried out a preliminary inspection of the Dabhol power plant from October, 28-30, 2002 to ascertain its condition and to work out an action plan for

restart of Phase-I. During the visit, it was found, inter-alia, that the plant and equipments had generally been maintained well by the firm appointed by the Court receiver for maintenance and preservation of the assets. However, a more detailed assessment and internal inspection of the equipment is felt necessary so as to ascertain the time frame for restarting the plant as well as the likely expenditure involved.

Government of Maharashtra has taken a decision to allow MSEB to draw power from Phase-I at an optimum level of 83% at a tariff of about Rs. 2.80/KWH on an interim basis, subject to approval of Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (MERC) and high Court of Maharashtra which has appointed the receiver for the project and without prejudice to MSEB/GOM's rights and contentions in the pending arbitration/judicial and Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (MERC) proceedings. In a recent communication, GOM have stressed on the need to restart Phase-I of the Dabhol plant at the earliest keeping in view the acute power crisis being faced by the State. The issue was also discussed at a meeting with GOM held at Mumbai on 1st March, 2003.

(e) So far, no relaxations have been given to the Government of Maharashtra by the Central Government. The Indian Financial Institutions led by IDBI, Government of Maharashtra and sponsors of Dabhol Power Company, have given certain proposals for revival of the Dabhol projects, which includes grant of certain reliefs/concessions by various agencies such as off-shore and on-shore lenders, Government of Maharashtra, MSEB, project sponsors as well as the Government of India. Any scheme finalised for revival of the project would come as a comprehensive package and would have to resolve complex legal, financial and technical issues.

(f) Does not arise.

#### Summer Special Trains

2436. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANU RAM SHANDIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number and routes on which summer special trains have been running during the last three years;

(b) the quantum of income generated by them;

(c) details of the trains which were regularised in view of the profits;

(d) whether the Government have considered the viability of linking all the places of pilgrimage of the country; and

(e) if so, the details of the places to be benefited by these trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) to (c) As given in All India Summer Special Time Table, the number of special trains run during the years 2000, 2001 and 2002 were 2038, 2050 and 3050 and these were on 40, 50 and 72 routes respectively. The details of these trains which includes the stations between which these summer special were playing are given in the statement enclosed. Railways do not maintain train-wise data of earning of summer special trains. During last three years, on 20 summer special routes train services have been regularised.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

#### Statement

##### Summer Special Trains

#### Year 2000

Sl. No.	Train No.	Name of the Train
1	2	3
1.	165/166	Mumbai CST-Ernakulam (Weekly) Express
2.	141/142	Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Varanasi (daily) Express

1	2	3
3.	143/144	Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Varanasi (Bi-weekly) Express
4.	155/156	Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Darbhanga (Bi-weekly) Express
5.	153/154	Pune-Gorakhpur (weekly) Express
6.	161/162	Pune-Ernakulam (weekly) Express
7.	167/168	Dadar (T)-Bangalore (weekly) Express
8.	979/980	Mumabi Central-Ajmer (Tri-weekly) Express
9.	959/960	Mumabi Central-Gandhidham (weekly) Express
10.	983/984	Mumabi Central-Porbandar (Tri-weekly) Express
11.	953/954	Ahmedabad-Varanasi (weekly) Exp. (via Lucknow)
12.	955/956	Ahmedabad-Varanasi (weekly) Exp. (via Allahabad)
13.	973/974	Mumabi Central-Jaipur (Bi-weekly) Express
14.	991/992	Mumabi Central-Indore (weekly) Express
15.	995/996	Mumabi Central-New Delhi AC (weekly) Exp.
16.	997/998	Mumabi Central-Nizamuddin AC (weekly) Exp.
17.	971/972	Mumabi Central-Ahemadabad (weekly) AC Exp.
18.	967/968	Ahemadabad-Delhi Sarai Rohilla (weekly) Exp.

1	2	3
19.	231/232	Howrah-New Delhi (4 days a week) Exp.
20.	233/234	Sealdah-Narkatiaganj (Bi-weekly) Exp.
21.	D814/D813	Patna-Howrah (weekly) AC Exp.
22.	647/648	Chennai-Quilon (Daily) Exp.
23.	650/649	Bangalore-Kottayam (Tri-weekly) Exp.
24.	657/658	Chennai-Tirunelveli (Daily) Exp.
25.	670/669	Nagaicoil-Dadar (T) (weekly) Exp.
26.	667/668	Chennai-Coimbatore (Bi-weekly) Exp.
27.	660/659	Chennai-Dadar (T) Exp.
28.	246/275	Bangalore-Jodhpur (weekly) Exp.
29.	551/552	Darbhanga-New Delhi (Bi-weekly) Exp.
30.	521/522	Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Gorakhpur (Daily) Exp.
31.	407/408	Mumbai Central Kalka (4 days a week) Exp.
32.	403/404	Nizamuddin-Jammu Tawi (Daily) Exp.
33.	430/429	New Delhi-Darbhanga (Bi-weekly) Exp.
34.	841/842	Howrah-Chennai (Bi-weekly) Exp.
35.	860/859	Howrah-Mumbai CST (Bi-weekly) Exp.
36.	857/858	Vishakhapatnam-Chennai (weekly) Exp.
37.	751/752	Ahemadabad-Secuderabad (weekly) Exp.

1	2	3
38.	203/204	Dadar (T)-Guwahati (weekly) Exp.
39.	201/202	Guwahati-New Delhi (weekly) Exp.
40.	626/625	Chennai-Ahmedabad (weekly) Exp.
<b>Year 2001</b>		
1.	551/552	Ahmedabad-Gorakhpur Exp.
2.	626/625	Ahmedabad-Tiruchchirappalli Exp.
3.	953/954	Ahmedabad-Varanasi Exp. (via Lucknow)
4.	955/956	Ahmedabad-Varanasi Exp. (via Allahabad)
5.	639/640	Bangalore-Howrah Exp.
6.	649/650	Bangalore-Kottayam Exp.
7.	657/658	Bangalore-Dadar Exp.
8.	659/660	Bangalore-H. Nizamuddin Exp.
9.	615/616	Chennai-Egmore-Jodhpur Exp.
10.	617/618	Chennai-Coimbatore Exp.
11.	619/620	Chennai-Dadar (T) Exp.
12.	647/648	Chennai-Kayankulam Exp.
13.	679/680	Chennai-Egmore-Nagarcoil Exp.
14.	203/204	Dadar (T)-Guwahati Exp.
15.	235/236	Howrah-Dehradun Exp.
16.	237/238	Howrah-Bikaner Exp.
17.	245/246	Howrah-Lucknow Exp.
18.	S-841/S-842	Howrah-chennai Exp.
19.	S-860/S-859	Howrah-Lokmanya Tilak (T)

1	2	3
20.	141/142	Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Varanasi Exp.
21.	143/144	Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Varanasi Exp.
22.	145/146	Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Varanasi Exp.
23.	151/152	Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Gorakhpur Exp.
24.	155/156	Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Darbhanga Exp.
25.	521/522	Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Gorakhpur Exp.
26.	165/166	Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Ernakulam Exp.
27.	959/960	Mumbai Central-Gandhidham Exp.
28.	971/972	Mumbai Central-Ahmedabad AC Exp.
29.	971B/972B	Mumbai Central-Ahmedabad Exp.
30.	973/974	Mumbai Central-Jaipur Exp.
31.	979/980	Mumbai Central-Ajmer Exp.
32.	983/984	Mumbai Central-Portbandar Exp.
33.	991/992	Mumbai Central-Indore Exp.
34.	407/408	Mumbai Central-H. Nizamuddin Exp.
35.	101/102	Mumbai CST-Pune Exp.
36.	105/106	Mumbai CST-Agra Cantt. Exp.
37.	202/201	New Delhi-Guwahati Exp.
38.	232/231	New Delhi-Howrah Exp.
39.	402/401	New Delhi-Kathgodam Exp.
40.	430/429	New Delhi-Barauni Exp.
41.	403/404	H. Nizamuddin-Jammu Tawi Exp.
42.	153/154	Pune-Gorakhpur Exp.
43.	157/158	Pune-Darbhanga Exp.

1	2	3
44.	161/162	Pune-Ernakulam Exp.
45.	163/164	Pune-Mangalore Exp.
46.	751/752	Rajkot-Secunderabad Exp.
47.	965A/966A	Valsad-Jodhpur Exp.
48.	997B/998B	Valsad-Patna Exp.
49.	741/742	Vishakhapatnam-Tirupati Exp.
50.	S-807/S-808	Vishakhapatnam-Chennai Exp.

**Year 2002**

1.	953/964	Ahmedabad-Varanasi Exp.
2.	955/956	Ahmedabad-Varanasi Exp.
3.	471/472	Allahabad-Jammu Tawi Exp.
4.	437D/438D	Ahmedabad-New Delhi Exp.
5.	486/485	Amritsar-Darbhanga Exp.
6.	673/674	Bangalore-Ajmer Exp.
7.	677/678	Bangalore-Cannore Exp.
8.	476A/475A	Bikaner-Bangalore Exp.
9.	476/475	Jodhpur-Bangalore Exp.
10.	697/698	Bangalore-Hubli Exp.
11.	689/690	Bangalore-Quilon Exp.
12.	639/640	Chennai Central-Dadar(T) Exp.
13.	601/502	Chennai Central-Palghat Exp.
14.	635/636	Chennai Central-Trivandrum Exp.
15.	625/626	Chennai Egmore-Ahmedabad Exp.
16.	651/652	Chennai Egmore-Ajmer Exp.

1	2	3
17.	653/654	Chennai Egmore-Dadar Exp.
18.	605/606	Chennai Egmore-Nagarcoil Exp.
19.	671/672	Chennai Egmore-Tiruchchirapalli Exp.
20.	637/638	Chennai Egmore-Vijaywada Exp.
21.	203/204	Dadar(T)-Guwahati Exp.
22.	743/744	Dadar(T)-Secunderabad Exp.
23.	234/233	Dehradun-Howrah Exp.
24.	687/688	Ernakulam-Rajkot Exp.
25.	552/551	Gorakhpur-Ahmedabad Exp.
26.	201/202	Guwahati-New Delhi Exp.
27.	408D/407D	H. Nizamuddin-Mumbai Central Exp.
28.	237/238	Howrah-Bikaner Exp.
29.	S-019/S-020	Howrah-Chennai Central Super Delux Exp.
30.	841/842	Howrah-Chennai Egmore Exp.
31.	S-860/S-859	Howrah-Lokmanya Tilak Superfast Exp.
32.	245/246	Howrah-Lucknow Superfast Exp.
33.	231/232	Howrah-New Delhi Exp.
34.	679A/680A	Hubli-Harihar Passenger
35.	689/490	Kacheguda-Yeshvantpur
36.	703/704	Kakinada Town-Secuderabad
37.	165/166	Lokmanya T-Ernakulam Exp.
38.	521/522	Lokmanya T-Gorakhpur Exp.

1	2	3
39.	151/152	Lokmanya T-Gorakhpur Exp.
40.	167/168	Lokmanya T-Mangalore Exp.
41.	155/156	Lokmanya T-Patna Darbhanga Exp.
42.	139/140	Lokmanya T-Varanasi Exp.
43.	143/144	Lokmanya T-Varanasi Exp.
44.	145/146	Lokmanya T-Varanasi Exp.
45.	457D/458D	Lucknow-New Delhi Exp.
46.	105/106	Mumbai CST-Agra Cantt. Exp.
47.	971/972	Mumbai Central-Ahmedabad AC Spl.
48.	971B/972B	Mumbai Central-Ahmedabad Spl.
49.	979/980	Mumbai Central-Ajmer Spl.
50.	959/960	Mumbai Central-Gandhidham Spl.
51.	983/984	Mumbai Central-Hapa Exp.
52.	973/974	Mumbai Central-Jaipur Exp.
53.	107/108	Mumbai CST-Lucknow Exp.
54.	101A/102A	Mumbai CST-Madgaon Exp.
55.	695/696	Mysore-Bangalore Exp.
56.	681/682	Mysore-Shimoga Town Exp.
57.	657/658	Nagarcoil-Coimbatore Exp.
58.	430/429	New Delhi-Barauni Exp.
59.	403/404	New Delhi-Jammu Tawi Superfast Exp.
60.	157/158	Pune-Darbhanga Exp.
61.	153/154	Pune-Gorakhpur Exp.
62.	745/746	Pune-Nanded Exp.

1	2	3
63.	751/752	Rajkot-Secunderabad Exp.
64.	717/718	Secunderabad-Ajmer Exp.
65.	741/742	Tirupati-Kakinad Town Exp.
66.	749/750	Tirupati-Secunderabad Exp.
67.	693/694	Tiruchchirapalli-Chennai Egmore Exp.
68.	729/730	Tiruchchirapalli-Secunderabad Exp.
69.	965A/966A	Valsad-Jodhpur Exp.
70.	S-807/S-808	Vishakhapatnam-Chennia Central Superfast Exp.
71.	805/806	Vishakhapatnam-Vijaywada Exp.
72.	675/676	Yeshvantpur-Dadar(T) Exp.

[English]

#### Increase in Frequencies of Rajdhani Express

2437. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the frequencies of some Rajdhani Express trains;

(b) if so, the date from which the frequencies are proposed to be increased; and

(c) the steps being taken in this matter?

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

(b) and (c) Frequency of Rajdhani services between New Delhi and Guwahati will be increased from 5 days a week to daily. It is further proposed to increase the frequency of the following trains during 203-2004:-

- 2313/2314 Sealdah-New Delhi Rajdhani from 4 days to 5 days a week
- 2443/2444 Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani from 1 day to 2 days a week.
- 2439/2440 Ranchi-New Delhi Rajdhani from 1 day to 2 days a week.
- 2441/2442 Bilaspur-New Delhi Rajdhani from 1 day to 2 days a week.

#### **Bifurcation of Bokajan Unit of CCI**

2438. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently received a memorandum from the public representatives of North East demanding bifurcation Bokajan Unit of CCI and continue this profit making unit as a public sector undertaking;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the profit earned by Bokajan CCI unit during each of the last three years and till date?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) :

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Assam has been offered to take-over the Bokajan Unit of Cement Corporation of India Limited (CCI). Their response is still awaited. The BIFR has directed for the sale of CCI either as a whole or its plants Individually or collectively (including Bokajan unit). The sale process is being carried out by its Operating Agency (OA), the Industrial Finance Corporation of Indian Ltd., (IFCI) and is now at an advance stage.

(c) The Bokajan Cement Factory is one of the ten units of Cement Corporation of India Limited and as per the balance sheet of CCI, the working result of profit of the Bokajan unit is as follows:

(Rupees in Crore)

Year	Net Profit	Cash Profit	Operating Profit	Accumulated Profit
1999-2000	0.35	0.96	1.17	0.35
2000-2001	1.50	2.11	2.41	1.85
2001-2002	0.78	1.43	1.77	2.63
April 2002-Jan. 2003 (Prov.)	2.10	2.64	2.64	4.73

[Translation]

#### **Coal Bed Methane in Bokaro**

2439. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the present position of the project launched for tapping coal bed methane in Parvatpur of Bokaro district;

(b) whether all the works are being completed for this project within time frame;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the time by which this project is likely to be completed;

(e) whether any action plan has been formulated for utilisation of coal bed methane; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Government has awarded a Coal bed Methane (CBM) block in Jharia coalfield in Bokaro district of Jharkhand including the Parvatpur sector, to the consortium of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC)

and Coal India Ltd. (CIL), for Exploration and Production of CBM and the Contract has been signed on the 6th February, 2003. ONGC had earlier taken up the Research & Development (R&D) activities in the Paryatpur sector.

(b) and (d) As per the terms of the CBM Policy, the Work Programme has been divided into four phases as follows:-

Phase	Nature of work	Maximum Duration
I	Exploration	3 Years
II	Pilot assessment for commerciality of production and market identification	7 Years
III	Development	5 Years
IV	Production	25 Years

The Contractor has a walkout option at the end of phase-I & II under the CBM contract. The work can be started by the above consortium as per work programme after the issue of Petroleum Exploration License (PEL) by the Government of Jharkhand.

(c) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) As per the CBM policy, the Contractor has the freedom to market CBM produced from his block.

[English]

#### Representation Regarding Departure Timings of Venkatadri Express

2440. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether South Central Railways have received any representations on the need to advance the departure timings of Venkatadri Express from Kacheguda to Tirupati;

(b) if not, whether the Railways propose to examine the feasibility of advancing the departure timings with the requirements of pilgrims to Tirupati;

(c) the steps proposed to review the departure and arrival timings to Tirupati from the State Capital;

(d) whether there is a proposal to introduce an earlier train to Tirupati from Hyderabad; and

(e) if so, details thereof?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) There is no proposal for review in view of the five pairs of trains available between Hyderabad/ Secuderabad/Kacheguda-Tirupati at different times of the day.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

#### Earning of Revenue Through Advertisements on DD/AIR

2441. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :  
SHRI P.R. KHUNTE :  
SHRI J.S. BRAR

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

(a) whether the revenue collection through commercial advertisements on AIR/Doordarshan in the country has remained far below the target set during the last three years:

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

(c) the details of target set and achieved during the said period;



(d) the steps taken by the Government to boost commercial revenue and to achieve targets; and

(e) the extent to which it compares with private T.V. channels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati has informed that the trend of revenue collection in AIR and DD during last three years is as follows.

(Rupees in crores)

Year	AIR		DD	
	Target	Revenue Earned	Target	Revenue Earned
1999-2000	60.55	80.84	575.00	597.19
2000-2001	55.24	73.90	625.00	637.51
2001-2002	55.24	96.68	600.00	615.21

Details of State-wise revenue earned by AIR and DD are given statement-I and statement-II respectively.

(d) Prasar Bharati has initiated a number of steps, within the mandate of Public Service Broadcaster, to increase its revenue generation. The strategy, *inter alia*, adopted by Prasar Bharati in this regard is :-

- (i) to optimally utilize its infrastructure facilities;
- (ii) to improve its marketing mechanism; and
- (iii) to make sustained efforts to obtain funds from various Government Departments for making in-house programmes.

(e) Prasar Bharati is a Public Service Broadcaster. Therefore its earnings cannot be compared with Private channels which are driven purely by commercial considerations.

#### Statement-I

#### Gross Revenue Earned by AIR During the Years 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2000-02

Sl. No.	Name of State	Year 1999-2000	Year 2000-2001	Year 2002-2002
1.	Gujarat / Daman & Diu	2.60	0.95	0.60
2.	Karnataka	2.69	1.61	2.15
3.	Madhya Pradesh / Chhattisgarh	2.49	1.92	1.64
4.	Punjab / Haryana / Himachal Pradesh / Chandigarh	0.95	0.76	0.65
5.	Tamilnadu / Pondicherry	8.11	4.95	5.73
6.	Orissa	0.77	0.42	0.44
7.	Delhi	13.84	10.72	16.61
8.	Andhra Pradesh	5.98	1.97	1.69
9.	Rajasthan	1.62	0.98	0.73
10.	West Bengal / NER / Sikkim	5.13	3.71	3.73
11.	Uttar Pradesh / Uttaranchal	5.20	3.17	2.94
12.	Maharashtra / Goa	10.45	7.36	7.38
13.	Bihar / Jharkhand	1.95	1.64	1.15
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.35	0.34	0.63
15.	Kerala / Lakshadweep	4.68	3.69	4.09
16.	CSU / VBS	14.03	29.71	46.52
Total		80.84	73.90	96.67

**Statement-II**

*Gross Revenue Earned by Doordarshan During the Years 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2000-02*

(Rupees in Crores)

Sl. No.	Name of State	1999-2000	2000-2001	2002-2002
1	2	3	4	5
<b>National Channels</b>				
1.	(DD-I, DD-II & DD-Sports)	454.83	519.59	486.94
2.	Assam	1.07	1.58	2.18
3.	Andhra Pradesh	19.44	12.87	9.08
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.03
5.	Bihar	0.86	1.84	2.24
6.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.15
7.	Goa	0.01	0.03	0.07
8.	Gujarat	2.89	3.80	4.09
9.	Haryana	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.07
11.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.33	0.43	1.15
13.	Kerala	20.17	16.24	14.81
14.	Karnataka	16.76	8.43	13.62
15.	Madhya Pradesh	1.48	1.70	2.47
16.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.02
17.	Maharashtra	14.76	14.35	18.20

1	2	3	4	5
18.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.04
19.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	0.08
20.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.01
21.	Orissa	1.83	2.73	3.19
22.	Punjab	4.30	4.73	7.04
23.	Rajasthan	1.70	1.93	3.22
24.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	—
25.	Tamil Nadu	18.52	7.20	7.51
26.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.06
27.	Uttar Pradesh	4.29	3.40	4.34
28.	Uttanchal	0.00	0.00	0.00
29.	West Bengal	25.84	29.92	27.74
30.	Delhi	8.11	6.72	6.82
31.	Andaman & Nicobar	0.00	0.00	0.02
32.	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00
33.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.02	0.02
34.	L'Dweep	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00
36.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total		597.19	637.51	615.21

**Advertisements During News Time**

2442. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the National as well as Regional Channels of Doordarshan are telecasting advertisements before and in the middle of the news;

(b) if so, whether the Government will direct the authorities to adhere to the time schedule during news bulletins; and

(c) if so, the action taken/likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The time schedule of news bulletins are maintained by Doordarshan and care is taken to schedule the commercial in such a way that the duration of news bulletins is not curtailed.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Modernisation of Railway Stations

2443. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH :  
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :  
SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Railway Stations selected for upgradation and modernisation during 2003-2004, State-wise;

(b) the details of the railway stations selected for development as model stations alongwith the funds allocated therefore during 2003-2004; State-wise;

(c) the type of facilities likely to be provided in these railway stations;

(d) whether the Railways have approached the local authorities to provide land for upgradation and modernisation of railways stations;

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

(f) the response of the local authorities thereon;

(g) the names of the railway stations which are selected for development of parks, parking and approach roads etc., State-wise; and

(h) the funds allocated therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a), (g) and (h) There are more than 8000 railway stations on Indian Railways. Upgradation/renovation/modernisation of railway stations including beautification/improvement to parking and approach roads is a continuous process and the same is undertaken every year in accordance with the laid down norms based on traffic growth and inter-se priorities. Further, the Railway-wise list of major On-going Works and New Works under Plan Head "Passenger Amenities" is given in the "Works, Machinery and Rolling Stock Programme of Railways, Part-II" presented annually to the Parliament alongwith the Budget Documents. Such works are financed from the provision made to the Zonal Railways under the Plan Head "Passenger Amenities". The funds allotted under this Planhead is Rs. 205 crore for the year 2003-04.

(b) A State-wise list of 295 stations selected for development as Model Stations is given as statement-I. No separate funds are allocated for these works and these works are financed from the provision made to the Zonal Railways under the Plan Head "Passenger Amenities".

(c) At Model stations, facilities like NTES (National Train Enquiry System), Signages, Self Printing Ticket Machines, Modular Catering Stalls, Automatic Vending Machines, improvement in circulating area/retiring rooms/waiting rooms/booking offices/toilets and other infrastructural facilities/passenger amenities are planned to be provided based on the category of Model Station.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

## Statement

*'State-wise' list of 295 stations selected as 'Model Stations' for provision of upgraded passenger amenities*

State	Names of Stations
1	2
Assam	Dibrugarh (NFR), Guwahati (NFR), Jorhat Town (NFR), Kamakhya (NFR), Kokrajhar (NFR), Lumding (NFR), New Bongaigaon (NFR), New Tinsukia (NFR), Silchar (NFR) (9)
Andhra Pradesh	Dharmavaram Jn. (SCR), Guntakal (SCR), Guntur (SCR), Hyderabad (SCR), Kacheguda (SCR), Kakinada (SCR), Nellore (SCR), Rajahmundry (SCR), Secunderabad (SCR), Tirupati (SCR), Vijayawada (SCR), Visakhapatnam (SER), Warangal (SCR) (13)
Bihar	Are (ECR), Barauni (ECR), Begu Sarai (ECR), Bettiah (ECR), Bhagalpur (ER), Buxar (ECR), Chhapra (NER), Dehri-on-Sone (ECR), Danapur (ECR), Darbhanga (ECR), Gaya (ECR), Hajipur Jn. (ECR), Jamalpur Jn. (ER), Katihar (NFR), Khagaria (ECR), Kishanganj (NFR), Mokama (ECR), Motihari (ECR), Muzaffarpur (ECR), Nalanda (ECR), Nawadah (ECR), Patna Jn. (ECR), Samastipur (ECR), Sheikhpura (ECR), Siwan Jn. (NER), Sonpur (ECR), Sitamarhi (ECR), Janakpur Road (ECR) (28)
Chandigarh	Chandigarh (NR) (1)
Chhattisgarh	Bilaspur (SER), Durg (SER), Raipur (SER) (3)

1	2
Delhi	Delhi (NR), Delhi Cantt (NR), Delhi Sarai Rohilla (NR), H. Nizamuddin (NR), New Delhi (NR) (5)
Gujarat	Ahmedabad (WR), Anand Jn. (WR), Bharuch (WR), Bhavnagar (WR), Dwarka (WR), Gandhidham Jn. (NWR), Gandhigram (WR), Navsari (WR), Rajkot (WR), Surat (WR), Vadodara (WR), Valsad (WR), Vapi (WR) (13)
Goa	Madgoan (SCR), Vasco-de-gama (SCR) (2)
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla (NR) (1)
Haryana	Ambala Cantt (NR), Faridabad (CR), Hissar (NR), Kalka (NR), Panipat Jn. (NR), Rewari (NWR) (6)
Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu Tawi (NR), Kathua (NR) (2)
Jharkhand	Chakradharpur (SER), Dhanbad (ECR), Jasidih (ER), Koderma (ECR), Madhupur (ER), Ranchi (SER), Tatanagar (SER) (7)
Kerala	Alwaye (SR), Calicut (SR), Cannanore (SR), Chengannur (SR), Ernakulam Jn. (SR), Kottayam (SR), Palghat Jn. (SR), Quilon Jn. (SR), Trichur (SR), Trivandrum Central (SR) (10)
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal (CR), Gwalior (CR), Habibganj (CR), Hoshangabad (CR), Indore (WR), Jabalpur (CR), Katni Jn. (CR), Pipariya (CR), Ratlam (WR), Satna (CR), Ujjain (WR) (11)
Maharashtra	Akola Jn. (CR), Bandra Terminus (WR), Bhusaval (CR), Chandrapur (CR), Dadar (CR), Dadar (WR), Kalyan

1	2
	(CR), Kurla (CR), Mumbai CST (CR), Mumbai Central (WR) Nagpur (CR), Nanded (SCR), Nasik Road (CR), Solapur (CR), Thane (CR), Wardha (CR) (17)
Nagaland	Dimapur (NFR) (1)
Orissa	Badakhanda (SER), Balasore (SER), Brahampur (SER), Bhadrak (SER), Bhubaneswar (SER), Byree (SER), Cuttack (SER), Dhenkanal (SER), Golantra (SER), Jaipur-Keonjhar Road (SER), Jharsuguda (SER), Kapilas Road (SER) Khurda Road (SER), Puri (SER), Rahama (SER), Rourkela (SER), Sambalpur (SER), Surla Road (SER), Titlagarh (SER) (19)
Pondicherry	Pondicherry (SR) (1)
Punjab	Amritsar (NR), Anandpur Sahib (NR), Beas (NR), Bhatinda (NR), Firozpur Cantt (NR), Jullundur City (NR), Ludhiana (NR), Pathankot (NR), Patiala (NR) (9)
Rajasthan	Abu Road (NWR), Ajmer (NWR), Bikaner (NWR), Chittaurgarh (WR), Jaipur (NWR), Jodhpur (NWR), Kota (WR), Nimbahera (WR), Sawai Madhopur (WR), Sri Ganga Nagar (NR), Udaipur (NWR) (11)
Tamil Nadu	Chennai Central (SR), Chennai Beach (SR), Chennai, Egmore (SR), Coimbatore (SR), Erode Jn. (SR), Kanniyakumari (SR), Katpadi (SR), Madurai (SR), Mambalam (SR), Rameswaram (SR), Salem Jn. (SR),

1	2
	Tiruchchirappalli (SR), Tirunelveli (SR), Tiruttani (SR), Tuticorin (SR), Chengalpattu (SR), (16)
Tripura	Dharmanagar (NFR) (1)
Uttar Pradesh	Agra Cantt. (CR), Agra Fort (WR), Aligarh (NR), Allahabad (NR), Ayodhya (NR), Badshah Nagar (NER), Ballia (NER), Bareilly (NR), Basti (NER), Baraut (NR), Baghpat Road (NR), Deoria Sadar (NER), Faizabad (NR), Ghaziabad (NR), Gonda Jn. (NER), Gorakhpur (NER), Jhansi (CR), Kanpur Central (NR), Lucknow (NR), Lucknow (NER), Mau Jn. (NER), Mathura Jn. (CR), Meerut City (NR), Manduadih (NER), Mughalsarai (ECR), Moradabad (NR), Prayag (NR), Rae-Bareilly Jn. (NR), Rawatpur (NER), Saharanpur (NR), Tundla (NR), Varanasi (NR), Garh Mukteshwar (NR) (33)
Uttaranchal	Dehradun (NR), Haridwar (NR), Kathgodam (NER), Izzatnagar Jn. (NER), Pilibhit (NER) (5)
West Bengal	Alipurduar Jn. (NFR), Adra (SER), Alubari Road (NFR), Andal Jn. (ER), Asansol (ER), Bagnan (SER), Bandel (ER), Bardhaman (ER), Barasat (ER), Basirhat (ER), Bishnupur (SER), Bolpur (ER), Budge Budge (ER), Baruipur Jn. (ER), Bidhannagar Road (ER), Canning (ER), Contai Road (SER), Cooch Behar (NFR), Dalkolha (NFR), Dhakuria (ER), Dum Dum (ER), Dankuni (ER), Durgapur (ER), Garia (ER), Garbeta (SER), Ghutiari Sharif (ER), Ghum (NFR), Harshchandrapur (NFR), Howrah (ER), Jalpaiguri (NFR),

1

2

Jhargram (SER), Kharagpur (SER), Krishnagar Road (ER), Kulti (ER), Kolaghat (SER), Labpur (ER), Maal Bazar (NFR), Madhyamgram (ER), Malda Town (ER), Mecheda (SER), Midnapore (SE), Murshidabad (ER), New Alipurduar (NFR), New Jalpaiguri (NFR), Nabadwip Dham (ER), New Mal Jn. (NFR), Raniganj (ER), Ranaghat Jn. (ER), Raiganj (NFR), Siliguri Town (NFR), Srirampur (NFR), Santragachi Jn. (SER), Sealdah (ER), Sonarpur (ER), Sainthia (ER), Tamluk (SER), Tollyganj (ER), Tarakeswar (ER), Ultadanga Jn. (ER), Ulubaria (SER), New Farakka (ER), Bongaon (ER) (62)

[English]

**Rakes for Transportation of Animal  
Fodder in Gujarat**

2444. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has requested the Union Government to provide rakes of transportation of animal fodder to drought affected areas in the State free of cost; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Railways have issued instructions for transportation of fodder and water free of charge to notified drought affected districts of various States, including Gujarat, from 31.08.2002 to 30.06.2003.

**Double Stack Containers for  
Multi-Model Transport**

2445. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways has plan to go in for multi-model transportation which would involve the running of double stack containers;

(b) if so, the technical changes or modernisation programmes needed to run double stack containers;

(c) the cost of introducing such wagons/carrying containers;

(d) whether any cost/benefit study has been done of this plan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (e) A feasibility study has been planned by RDSO in this connection, which will form the basis of future action in this area. The technical changes required and the cost implications will be worked out by RDSO if it is found that the operation of Double Stack Containers is feasible over the Indian Railways.

**Privatisation/Joint Venturisation of  
Metro Channel**

2446. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Group of six Officers has been constituted by the Prasar Bharati to examine the feasibility of privatisation/joint venturisation of Metro Channel;

(b) if so, whether the said Group of Officers has submitted its report.

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the said Group.

(d) the steps taken by the Prasar Bharati on the recommendations made by the said Group; and

(e) the time by which the final decision likely to be taken by the Government to private the Metro Channel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (e) Prasar Bharati had constituted a committee of officers to review the functioning and structure of Doordarshan Metro Channel. It was an in-house exercise to suggest improvement in the functioning of various channels of Doordarshan. The Committee has submitted its recommendations, which are being considered by Prasar Bharati Board.

[Translation]

#### Construction of Power Plants in Bihar

2447. SHRI RAJO SINGH :

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the thermal and hydel power projects approved by the Union Government in Bihar and Jharkhand during the last three years;

(b) whether there are several incomplete power projects pending in these States for want of funds;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the construction of power plants in Bihar and Jharkhand are behind the schedule;

(e) if so, the details of the cost escalation due to the delay in completion of these plants, plant-wise;

(f) whether the Government have held any officer responsible for this delay; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The details

of power accorded Techno-economic Clearance (TEC) by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in Bihar and Jharkhand during 1999-2000, 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 till date are given below:

Name of the Project / State Thermal	Capacity (MW)	Date of TEC
<b>Bihar</b>		
Barh STPs, NTPC	3x660	28.09.2001
Kahalgao STPS St. II, NTPC	2x660	23.11.2001
<b>Jharkhand</b>		
Nil		

No hydel project has been cleared / sanctioned by the Union Government in the States of Bihar and Jharkhand.

(b) to (e) Chandil (2x4 MW) and North Koel (2x12 MW) in Jharkhand are behind schedule and have been delayed due to lack of funds. The details of cost escalation due to undue delay in completion are given below:

Name of the Project	Estimated Cost (Rs. in crore) Original / Latest	Cost overrun (Rs. in crore)
Chandil HEP (2x4 MW) Jharkhand	12.95 / 21.49	19.54
North Koel (2x12 MW), Jharkhand	21.94 / 47.34	25.40

(f) and (g) The Government have not held any officer responsible for the delay.

[English]

#### Custom Duties on Aids and Appliances for the Disabled

2448. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted by the Government in regard to charging of custom duties on aids and appliances for the disabled;

(b) whether any committee was constituted recently to review the concessions/exemptions of customs/excise duties on aids and appliances for persons with disabilities;

(c) whether the committee has submitted its report, the recommendations made by the committee; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Committee has submitted its report in January, 2003. The said Committee has inter alia recommended to exempt aids and appliances meant for persons with disabilities from the purview of customs and excise duties. In regard to existing exemptions/concessions, the Committee has recommended periodical review and has suggested certain changes in procedures and conditions for availing these concessions.

(d) The Union budget 2003-2004 proposals include reduction in customs duties on hearing aids, crutches, wheelchairs, walking frames, tri-cycles, brailers and artificial limbs to 5 per cent without Special Additional Duty (SAD). They will be exempt from CVD and the domestic manufacturers will also be exempt from excise duty. It is also proposed to reduce the customs duty on parts of hearing aids and wheel chairs to 5 per cent without CVD and SAD.

#### **Permission to Uplink on KU Band**

2443. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has circulated a note among the home, defence, external affairs and finance ministries as a first step towards seeking a conscious and collective view of the Union Cabinet on the Star TV application for uplinking from India;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has also received a representation from the 16 teleport operators seeking permission to uplink on the KU band as well;

(c) if so, whether the Ministry has received replies from the other ministries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (e) As per extant policy, all TV channels irrespective of their ownership (including equity structure) or management control aimed at Indian viewership, are permitted to uplink from India subject to fulfillment of eligibility criteria and adherence to various terms and conditions. The policy regarding foreign owned TV new channels is being re-looked. For this inter-Ministerial consultations have been held and the matter will be taken to the Cabinet for consideration shortly. Some requests for uplinking in KU band have been received, but for the present KU Band uplinking is permitted, for DTH service only.

#### **Bombs Hurlled at 301 Up Rampurhat-Barharwa Passenger Train**

2450. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether bombs were hurlled at 301 up Rampurhat-Barharwa passenger train near Railway Station Kotalpurkhar, in Pakur district of Howrah Division on Independence Day;

(b) if so, the number of persons died and injured; and



(c) the details of investigation report received so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, an incident of bomb explosion was reported in Train No. 803 Up on 15.8.2002 in between Tilbhita and Kotalpukur Railway Stations (Rampurhat-Barharwa section) of Howrah Division in which 11 persons sustained injuries.

(c) Government Railway Police/Barharwa has registered a case No. 20/2002 dated 15.8.2002 U/S 324/307 IPC 3, 4 Explosive Act.

[Translation]

#### Acquisition of Land In Jodhpur

2451. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total land acquired in Jodhpur district of Rajasthan during the last 4 years;

(b) whether the passages which existed on that land have been closed due to which heavy recentment is prevailing among the people;

(c) if so, whether the closed passages situated near the residential colonies are likely to be reopened;

(d) if so, the time by which the passage is likely to be provided to the local people; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) A total 552.92 acres of land has been acquired/transferred by the State Government to the Ministry of Defence in Jodhpur district of Rajasthan during the last four years.

(b) to (e) No passage, except one at Khasra No. 185, Village Dighari has been closed to civilian traffic due to security reasons. The same is not proposed to be reopened.

#### Diversion of Coal meant for Jawan In J&K

2452. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :  
SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Coal for LOC jawan sold to brick-Kilns" appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated February 11, 2003;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted by his Ministry in this regard;

(c) if so, the findings thereof;

(d) the number of persons found involved therein;

(e) the total loss suffered by Indian Army in this coal scam; and

(f) the action taken or being taken by the Government against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (f) The news item mentioned in the Question is based on the information from civil police, who had found some coal dumps outside the kilns in Kupwara. It was assumed by the police that the coal was meant for the Army. The coal was being carried in civil vehicle and not in Army vehicles. The Army has asked the civil police to provide the vehicle registration numbers to enable the Army to check if the vehicles were carrying coal for the Army. In case any involvement of the Army is established, necessary action to hold Court of Inquiry and to punish the guilty will be taken.

[English]

#### Impact of CNG on Diesel/ Petrol Market

2453. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the impact of introducing CNG in various cities on the existing diesel and petrol market;

(b) the total quantity and value of petrol and diesel sold in the Metro Cities in the last three years in terms of quantity and value; and

(c) the details of diesel and petrol retail outlets recorded sales of Rs.50 lakhs and above in the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) So far, Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) has been introduced in Transport Sector in Delhi and Mumbai only. In Delhi CNG has replaced approximately 531 KL diesel and 315 KL of petrol. In Mumbai CNG has

replaced 102 KL of diesel and 350 KL of petrol.

(b) It is difficult to co-relate the value of Petrol and Diesel vis-a-vis quantity sold in the last three years because of frequent price revision in Petrol and Diesel. The quantity sold in the Metro cities during the last three years is given in statement enclosed.

(c) The details of Retail Outlets selling more than Rs. 50 lacs per annum are as follows:-

Delhi	—	342
Mumbai	—	258
Kolkatta	—	175
Chennai	—	170

#### Statement

*Metro-wise sales of Petrol and Diesel during the last three years*

	Quantity in Kilo Litres (KLs)					
	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
	Petrol (MS)	Diesel (HSD)	Petrol (MS)	Diesel (HSD)	Petrol (MS)	Diesel (HSD)
Delhi	422184	1002867	454821	903230	458967	776398
Mumbai	207293	573140	222853	348313	239186	337108
Kokatta	54609	136032	56763	141968	57353	188594
Chennai	105939	59409	114723	103852	118525	93703

[Translation]

#### Doubling and Electrification of Railway Lines

2454. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the railway lines in the country which were electrified and doubled during the last year along with the length of lines, project-wise;

(b) the names of the railway lines proposed to be taken for doubling and electrification during the year 2003-04, project-wise; and

(c) the funds allocated therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) The sections doubled during 2001-02 along with length of lines, project-wise is as under:-

Sl.No.	Name of Project	Section Completed	Kms
1.	Diva-Vasai Road	Bhivandi-Diva	14
2.	Mathura-Bhuteshwar 3rd line	Mathura-Bhuteshwar 3rd line	3
3.	Daund-Bhigwan	Daund-Bhigwan	28
4.	Mughalsarai-Sonnagar 3rd line	Bhabua Road-Durgauti	9
5.	Tundla-Etmadpur	Tundla-Etmadpur	5.7
6.	Gonda-Jarwal Road	Maijapur-Jarwal Road	16
7.	Ernakulam Jn.-Ernakulam Marshalling Yard	Ernakulam Jn.-Ernakulam Marshalling Yard	2.2
8.	Calicut-Mangalore	Calicut-Mangalore (part)	30
9.	Gudur-Renigunta	Gudur-Renigunta (part)	25
10.	Sarona-Bhilai 3rd line	Sarona-Bhilai 3rd line	18
Total			150.9

The following sections have been electrified during 2001-02:-

Sl.No.	Name of Project	Section Completed	Route Kms electrified
1	2	3	4
1.	Sitarampur-Mughalsarai	Rampur Dumra-Barauni	21
		Danapur-Ara-Chausa	121
		Dildarnagar-Chausa	23
2.	Lucknow Circular Railway including Malhaur-Barabanki	Lucknow Circular Railway	35
3.	Bokaro Steel City-Barsuan	Namkum-Ranchi-Hatia-Orga	146
		Linking lines of Bondamunda P, B & C cabins	5
4.	Bhubaneswar-Kottavalasa	Tapang-Bhubaneswar	43
5.	Kharagpur-Bhubaneswar including Talcher-Paradeep	Jaleswar-Amrada	16

1	2	3	4
10.	Tambaram-Chengalpattu	Chengalpattu-Kachipuram	35
11.	Villupuram & Chengalpattu-Arakkonam	Chengalpattu-Tindivanam	66
12.	Udhna-Jalgaon	Dharangaon-Dondaicha	92
Total			603

(b) and (c) The sections planned for doubling during 2003-04, project-wise, along with funds proposed therefor are as under:-

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Project	Section targeted 2003-04	Kms.	Outlay proposed in 2003-04
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Diva-Kalyan	Diva-Kalyan	11	10
2.	Punpun-Taregna (Patna-Gaya Ph.III)	Punpun-Taregna (Patna-Gaya Ph.III)	16	5
3.	Karpurigram-Siho	Karpurigram-Siho	13	8
4.	Bopur-Ahmedpur	Bolpur-Ahmedpur	19	5
5.	Gurup-Shaktigarh	Gurup-Pallaroad 3rd line	21	20
6.	Tarakeshwar-Sheoraphuli	Sheoraphuli-Diara	5	1.34
7.	Jarwal Road-Burhwal	Jarwal Road-Burhwal	16	10
8.	Gorakhpur-Sahajanwa	Gorakhpur-Domingarh	6	8
9.	Amorha-Moradabad	Amorha-Moradabad	37	6
10.	Jallandhar-Jammu-Tawi	Suchipind-Bhogpur	25	21.83
11.	Whitefield-Kuppam	Bisanatham-Kuppam	16	27
12.	Calicut-Shoranur	Calicut-Shoranur (part)	30	30
13.	Pattabiram-Tiruvallur 4th line	Pattabiram-Tiruvallur 4th line	15	20

1	2	3	4	5
14.	Gudur-Renigunta	Gudur-Renigunta-Tirupati	18	18
15.	Hospet-Guntakal	Bellari-Tornagallu	30	35
16.	Balapalle-Pullampet-Ph-I of Gooty-Renigunta	Balapalle-Pullampet	11	40
17.	Korba-Gevera Road	Gevra Road-Kusumunda (3 Km) & Korba-Kusumunda (3 km)	6	10
18.	Rajatgarh-Nergundi	Salagaon-Nergundi	5	1
19.	Rahama-Paradeep	Rahama-Paradeep	23	15
20.	Nergundi-Cuttack-Raghunathpur	Kapilas-Nergundi (3.5 km) & Nergundi-Birupa Cabin (3 km)	6	15
21.	Titlagarh-Lanjigarh	Lanjigarh-Norla Road	11	16
Total			340	

The sections planned for electrification during the year 2003-04, projectwise, along with funds proposed therefor are as under:-

(Rs. In crores)

Sl. No.	Project	Section targeted for 2003-04	Route Kms.	Outlay proposed in 2003-04
1.	Kharagpur-Bhubaneswar including Talcher-Paradeep	Balasore-Bhadrak	63	40
2.	Bhubaneswar-Kottavalasa including Khurda Road Puri	Khurda Road-Puri	44	15
3.	Udhna-Jalgaon	Ukai-Songarh Nandurbar	85	10
4.	Ludhiana-Amritsar	Jalandhar City-Amritsar	79	10
5.	Renigunta-Guntakal	Belapalle-Rejampeta	49	30
6.	Ernakulam-Trivandrum	Kaduturutti-Chingavanam	30	21.97
Total			350	

[English]

### Remodelling of Railways Stations

2455. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways is considering the proposals for remodelling of Dettah Railway Station and platform shelters at Balaramapuram and Amaravila stations respectively under Trivendrum Railway Division;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (c) There is no proposal for remodelling of Trivendrum Pettah Railway station (No station exist with the name "Dettah" on Trivendrum Division) and provision of platform shelters at Balaramapuram. A work for providing platform shelters at Amaravila has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 2.5 lakh.

### Committee on Mumbai Gas Supply

2456. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had appointed a committee on Mumbai Gas Supply to look into pricing of gas and quality of service by Mahanagar Gas Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said committee has submitted its report to the Government;

(d) if so, the salient features of the recommendations made by the Committee; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government vide resolution dated 21.11.02 constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri S. Vijayaraghavan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and had following Members:-

(i) Shri Vijayaraghavan, Joint Secretary, Government of India, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

(ii) Shri H.P. Chandna, Director (Planning), GAIL (India) Limited.

(iii) Shri A. Sinha, Director (Finance), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Salient features of the recommendations of the Committee are as under:-

(i) Grievance Redressal System and code of Service standards to be established by MGL.

(ii) Prices of PNG for domestic consumers frozen till March, 2004 at present price even if LPG price increases. Any decrease in LPG price benefit to be passed on to the consumers.

(iii) Connection charges Rs.5000 for all consumers.

(iv) Rebate of Rs.22/month for 15 years to be given to all existing and new domestic consumers for the connection charges.

(v) More CNG dispensing stations (55) by March 2003 and (80) by March, 2004 to be set up to reduce CNG filling time.

(vi) GAIL and ONGC to coordinate with MGL for ensuring proper pressure.

(vii) Ceiling of gas price at Rs.6.80/SCM before taxes (corresponding to LSHS price of Rs.8600/MT inclusive of State Surcharge and Octroi and allowing 10% discount there-upon) till March, 2004.

(viii) For LSHS price less than 8600/MT existing price practice of 10% discount for gas to continue.

(e) No decision on the recommendations of the Committee has been taken by the Government.

#### **Pension Scheme for Retired Employees**

2457. SHRI BAŚU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are seriously considering bringing all the retired employees of PSUs under Pension Scheme;

(b) if so, whether any step has been taken in this regard;

(c) whether Government are also considering allocating fund for this purpose in the forthcoming budget; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) :

(a) to (d) There is no specific proposal at present to bring all the retired employees of Central Public Sector Enterprises under a Pension Scheme.

#### **Production of Ammunitions**

2458. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the five types of 155mm ammunition developed by OFB, as per Bofors Technology, have passed relevant tests and acceptance criteria;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether bulk production of these 5 types of ammunition, especially 155mm HEER has commenced; and

(d) if not, the reasons for not commencing the production?

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

(b) Five types of ammunition developed by OFB passed the proof schedule and the acceptance criteria specified in the technical documents and were accorded Bulk Production Clearance as follows:- M107 in November 1992, M77B in March 1995, HEER in February 1997, Smoke 24 km in July 1997 and Illuminating 18 km (MIRA) in October 2001.

(c) Consequent to the Bulk Production Clearance, OFB produced all the five types of Bofors ammunition to meet the army's requirement. In accordance with the indent placed by the army for HEER ammunition, 4965 HEER ammunitions of Bofors design were supplied by OFB. Thereafter, the army has placed indent for manufacture of ERFB (BB), which is similar ammunition of South African technology. Bulk Production Clearance has been accorded for ERFB (BB) ammunition with imported Base Bleed unit.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Sovereign Guarantee to Private Sector Power Projects**

2459. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has given sovereign counter guarantees so far in private sector power projects;

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

(c) the extent to which these power projects are likely to help in generating electricity in the country?

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

(b) Government of India has provided counter guarantee to 6 private sector power projects viz. the 740 MW Dabhol (Phase-I) and 1082 MW Bhadrawati power

projects in Maharashtra, 216 MW Jegurupadu (Phase-I) and 1040 MW Visakhapatnam projects in Andhra Pradesh, 250 MW Neyveli – Zero Unit project in Tamil Nadu and 420 MW Ib Valley project (Units 3 and 4) in Orissa.

(c) Three of the projects viz. Dabhol (Phase-I), Jegurupadu (Phase-I) and Neyveli – Zero Unit having a total capacity of 1206 MW have been commissioned. Counter guarantees given for the Bhadrawati and Viskhapatnam project have lapsed due to inability of the projects to comply with the required conditions. Counter guarantee given to the Ib Valley project has also lapsed since the project parameters have been changed with the new capacity being 500 MW (Units 5 and 6).

#### **Repairing and Overhauling Facilities of MI-17 Helicopters**

2460. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the facility to repair and overhaul of Aero Engines of MI-17 Helicopters has since been set up;

(b) if not, whether after 15 years of induction of such helicopters, their technical life has become obsolete and expired;

(c) if so, whether any responsibility has been fixed for delay in setting up the repair and overhaul facilities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to set up repairing and overhauling facilities of MI-17 helicopter?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) MI-17 Helicopters and their aeroengines are already being overhauled in IAF Base Repair depot.

#### **Mega Bridges**

2461. SHRI A BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway propose to construct 4 Mega Bridges in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the estimated cost of each;

(c) the differences between the mega bridges and the normal railway bridge across rivers; and

(d) the time by which the work for construction of these bridges is likely to be started and completed?

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

(b) The details of the mega bridges alongwith the estimated cost of each is as under:

(i) Rail-cum-road bridge at Bogibeel – Rs. 1767 crs.

(ii) Rail bridge on river Ganga near Patna – Rs. 624.47 crs.

(iii) Rail-cum-road bridge on river Ganga at Munger – Rs. 921 crs.

(iv) Rail bridge over river Kosi – Rs. 323.41 crs.

(c) The mega bridge is an important bridge requiring heavy investment, costing more than Rs.100 crs.

(d) The works of Bogibeel bridge and two bridges on river Ganga have already started. The work of Kosi bridge would be taken up once Budget 2003-2004 is passed by the Parliament. The work of bridges is likely to be completed in a period of 6-7 years as per the availability of resources.



12.01 hrs.

# PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA) : Sir, on behalf of Shri George Fernandes, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7095/2002]

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7096/2003]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

- (ii) Annual Report of the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7097/2003]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Railway Claims Tribunal (Procedure) Amendment Rules, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 787 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd December, 2002 under sub-section (3) of section 30 of the Railway Claims Tribunal Act, 1987.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7098/2003]

- (2) (i) A copy of Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Railway Information Systems, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Railway Information Systems, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7099/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Wind energy Technology, Chennai, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Wind Energy Technology, Chennai, for the year 2001-2002.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7100/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7101/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Power for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7102/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute for Physically Handicapped, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7103/2003]

12.02 hrs.

## LEAVE OF ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House in their Twelfth Report presented to the House on 5th March, 2003 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 Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury  | 18.11.2002 to 20.12.2002  |
| (2) | Late Shri Anand Mohan Biswas | 18.11.2002 to 15.12.2002<br>Member expired -<br>Absence condoned. |
| (3) | Shrimati Prabha Rau          | 17.02.2003 to 13.03.2003  |

Is it the pleasure of the House that leave as recommended by the Committee be granted?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. SPEAKER : The leave is granted. The Members will be informed accordingly.

I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 2002-2003.

12.03¼ hrs.

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS –  
(GENERAL), 2000-2001

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Jaswant Singh, I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Demands for Excess Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 2000-2001.

[English]

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the Minister of Railways, Shri Nitish Kumar, will reply to the debate on the Railway Budget.

(Interruptions)

12.04 hrs.

RE: DISINVESTMENT OF  
HPCL AND BPCL

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : On the issue concerning the sale of HPCL and BPCL, we were told that the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs will make a statement in the House.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, It may be taken up after Zero Hour. ... (Interruptions)

12.02½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS'  
BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Thirty-first Report

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I beg to present the Thirty-first Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.03 hrs.

COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

Fourth Report

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NARESH TRIPATHEE (Seoni) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the Fourth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee of Privileges.

12.03½ hrs.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS–  
(GENERAL), 2002-2003

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Jaswant Singh,

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will come to that during the 'Zero Hour'. If you want to be taken up now, I have no problem. Otherwise, I have agreed to take it up during the 'Zero Hour'.

We have agreed yesterday that the Minister would give his speech today at 12 noon. So, after the papers are laid on the Table, we have taken it up.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : Sir, since the commencement of this Session we have been saying that the decision of the Government for disinvestment of profit-making HPCL and BPCL is a serious matter. It is a dilution of the authority of this Parliament. Whatever may be the opinion of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, the Cabinet is divided on this issue. The NDA partners are divided on this issue. The employees and workers, and even the management of these companies, are opposed to this disastrous decision which is against the national interest. The Opposition is almost united on this particular issue. ...*(Interruptions)* It is fully united on this issue.

We demand that this issue should be taken up in all its urgency. This Government has been assuring us that it would not proceed any further until this Parliament has a full-fledged debate on this issue. The Minister himself is opposed to this disinvestment. The NDA partners have come out publicly against the decision. Nationalisation of these companies had taken place by an Act of this Parliament. The Government should not proceed any further in this matter till a full-fledged debate takes place in Parliament and the voice of the Parliament is heard.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Government have no objection to have debate on the issue of

disinvestment. I would like to inform the hon. Members that this issue has been discussed in this very session in Rajya Sabha. We do not have any objection in discussing the issue in Lok Sabha also.

Through you, my submission is that this part of the session will continue upto 13th of March and by that time we have to pass Railway and General Budget. We will get the opportunity to express our views on disinvestment while speaking in General Budget. Insite of all this if the Members wish to have full fledged debate on the issue, then we can have this debate during the beginning of the second part of this session...

*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : No decision should be taken against the interests of these institutions.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Rupchand Pal and other Members seem to be apprehensive that in the meantime some steps would be taken on disinvestment. Through you, I would like to assure the House that during recess the two companies, HPCL and BPCL would remain unchanged. They would remain in public sector and we can have discussion later.

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Thank you very much.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Thank you. One is pleased if one is appreciated.

MR. SPEAKER : It is good if such atmosphere is maintained in the House.

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much. Though I have no right to say that but one is compelled to speak when issues of national importance are discussed in the House. I am obliged to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on such a sensitive matter.

Sir, It has become our nature to react to an incident when it becomes stale. Lashkar-E-Tayyaiba has threatened to liquidate the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister of the country. For a responsible opposition it is important to speak in favour of ruling party if the issue is of great importance for the country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel that most of the threats issued by international terrorist organisation with regard to our country, have proved true. We may take the case of attack on Parliament, attack on Amarnath pilgrims, attack on Jammu Kashmir Legislative Assembly or of threat to the integrity of the country.

Sir, I am a very ordinary Member of this House. I would like to know the perception of the Government of the threat. The threat is serious as it gives a date by which the Prime Minister of this country would be liquidated.

I feel that in this matter hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister or hon'ble Prime Minister may give its information in regard to the substance of the threat. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Shri Nitish Kumarji.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan) : Sir, I may also be allowed to speak on this matter.

MR. SPEAKER : You can also associate yourself on this.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, would the Zero Hour be taken up after this?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore) : Sir, there is one very important point. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have not started the Zero Hour.

*[Translation]*

Please sit down. You can speak in the Zero Hour.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, one hon. Member, Shrimati Sandhya Bauri was to speak in Bengali yesterday. Her name was called, but as there was no Bengali interpreter, she had lost the opportunity to speak... *(Interruptions)*... She had already submitted that she would speak only in Bengali ...*(Interruptions)*...She could not speak. It is very unfortunate.

Sir, before you call the hon. Minister to reply, I request that she should be given the opportunity to make her speech in Bengali...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Sir, please allow me to raise my point. I will take just one minute. ...*(Interruptions)*

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

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I had requested the Office that immediate arrangements should be made for a Bengali-speaking hon. Member. Arrangements have been made. So, Nitish Kumarji, – because there was a technical problem yesterday and she could not speak in Bengali – let that particular Member speak first. Thereafter, the reply may start.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had requested your permission to speak in the morning and you had said that I can speak in Zero Hour. Now I should be heard...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have gone to the Railway Budget now. After the discussion on the Railway Budget is over, I will go to the *Zero Hour*. Then, I will permit you. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : All the hon. Members are getting opportunity to listen to a Bengali-speaking Member in the House. Please listen to her.

12.15 hrs.

#### RAILWAY BUDGET, 2003-2004

#### DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT (RAILWAYS), 2003-2004

#### DEMAND FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANT(RAILWAYS), 2000-2001

#### DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS (RAILWAYS), 2000-2001—Contd.

[Translation]

\*SHRIMATI SANDHYA BAURI (Bankura) : Hon. Speaker Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Rail Budget 2003-04 presented by the hon. Minister of Railways.

On the one hand it has been said that there will be no increase in passenger fare and freight charges, while on the other hand the minimum passenger fares for mail and express trains have been raised from Rs. 15/- to Rs. 16/-. Passenger fare for ordinary second class has been raised from Rs. 3/- to Rs. 4/-. So it is obvious that the major impact will be on the poor ordinary people who usually travel within short distances. On the contrary, a special discount of 10 percent has been permitted for Rajdhani trains during a particular season.

The Budget promises 50 new trains, out of which only 17 will run on a daily basis. Some of these will run twice

or thrice a week. The rest 4 trains will run only after gauge conversion. 3 out of these 4 trains will run in West Bengal. There is no mention about the date of completion of gauge conversion. I would like to ask the hon. Minister when this job would be completed.

While populist announcements have been made in the Budget regarding new trains, new tracks, the overall investment in the development of railways is going down. Compared to last year, the allocation in the Budget this year has been cut in almost all fields including purchase of engine, coach, electrification, gauge conversion, laying of new tracks, repairing of lines and double line conversion. Cases of minor and major rail accidents are on the high side and the number of passengers is also coming down. I would also request to give more importance to the issue of passenger safety and security and take necessary steps in this regard.

I am sorry to mention about some railway projects in West Bengal. An amount of Rs. one crore each has been allocated for at least 15 projects in the State. The fates of these projects are hanging in uncertainty. I would like to know from the hon. Minister when these projects would be completed. The foundation stone for the Bishnupur-Tarkeshwar line was laid with much fanfare by the former Minister of Railways for the convenience of the people of West Bengal. The connection between the district of Bankura and whole of South Bengal with Kolkata would be easier if this project were completed. The demands of the people have been brushed aside by allotting only rupees one crore in this case also. I request the hon. Minister to expedite the project.

On the eve of commencing the BDR rail (Bankura-Damodar River Railways) and at the time of allotting money for the same, it was announced that it would run till Sonamukhi by September 2003 and till Chanchai Road by September 2004. Rs. 174 crore were to be allotted for the expenses. Though Rs. 40 crore were allotted last year, the job has only been undertaken for Rs. 32 crore till date. Rs. 25 crore has been allotted this year, still Rs. 117 crore will be needed to complete the project. I request the hon.

[Smt. Sandhya Bauri]

Minister of Railways to allot more amounts in the Budget for completion of the project in time. The former Minister of Railways said that the BDR Rail line would be extended up to Mukutmanipur, but I would like to know about the progress of it from the hon. Minister. Rs. 25 crore have been allotted for this project this year. I sincerely request the hon. Minister to allot more funds for early completion of the project.

The people of our district have been demanding for a long time for trains between Ranigunj and Bankura. There are train lines from Ranigunj to Durlabhpur and a connection till Bankura would be established only if a mere 20 kms. of train line is added to it. A popular demand had been made for laying new railway lines from Bankura to Tata and from Bankura to Jhargram. I would request the Minister to take necessary steps for undertaking a survey of this area so that rail tracks can be laid here.

I would also like to present few more points besides these. Haldia-Asansol Express and Adra-Shalimar Express are now running for 6 days a week. I request you to take steps so that these two trains run all 7 days a week. Bankura is an agriculture based and economically backward district. The people of this district have been demanding for long that the Purulia Express be transformed into a fast passenger so that they can travel by incurring fewer amounts as fare. There should be a stoppage of Bhubaneshwar Rajdhani Express at Bankura. A Bombay bound train should be introduced via Bankura. The coach of the first class in the Howrah-Chakradharpur train should be replaced with a new one.

The development of railways is an important factor in view of the overall social and economic development of the country. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Railways to the fact that necessary steps should be taken for drawing a network of railways all over the country to connect the different regions.

I once again thank you Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Railways Budget.

\*SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the budget that has been presented is beneficial for all sections of society. Through this budget the Minister of Railways has given a new message to the country. Bihar is the most backward state in the country. As such, there is a need to provide railway facilities at all stations and halts coming under my parliamentary constituency Begusarai. The basic facilities should be provided to passengers. In order to make railway journey comfortable there is need to replace old and worn out coaches of Patna-Howda Shatabdi Express. The decision taken by the Railway regarding the provision of facilities to the passengers at Shekhpura Station should also be implemented and the arrangements should be made to ensure that incomplete projects are completed in time. The announcement regarding the making of Shekhpura Station as the model station should also be implemented. Railway Protection Force (RPF) should be provided at Shekhpura station with a view to safety. how many farmers have been given compensation whose lands were acquired for the construction of Bihar Sharif, Barbiga, Shekhpura line and how much work has been done in this regard. The arrangement should be made for the early completion of the said work. The stoppage of Up and Down trains should be provided at Mankai Railway Station under the Begusarai parliamentary constituency. Construction work which was being done at Shekhpura at Parya Shekhpura Station has been stopped.

The Hon. Minister has visited there and had also made announcement regarding the developmental works but these works have not been completed so far. Therefore, action should be taken for the early completion of the works. The generator should also be provided at Shekhpura station. The essential basic facilities should be provided at Karaita Patner halt station.

I would like to request the Hon. Minister that medical facilities should be provided to the passengers in all the trains, catering and sanitary facilities should also be made available. Gaya-Quel, rail route should be electrified. The

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

computerised railway reservation system should be introduced at various stations. There is a need to provide a halt at Bihatgaon industrial area of Begusarai.

I represent Begusarai constituency of Bihar. A number of people have applied for telephone booths and stalls. However nothing has been done in this regard. The catering facility in the railway is not satisfactory. Old bogies are required to be replaced.

\*CH. TEJVEER SINGH (Mathura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Railway Budget.

Sir, the present budget is unique and excellent among all the budgets that have been presented during the last 50 years. I would like to congratulate hon'ble Ministry of Railway for presenting such budget. Proper and detailed discussion has been held on all the aspects in this budget a special attention has been paid to the passengers.

To reduce freight charges and to reduce fare of important trains like Rajdhani Express and Jan Shatabdi Express trains is a commendable steps. No additional burden has been put on the passengers in this budget of the year 2003-2004. I would like to extend my thanks to the hon'ble Prime Minister that he has launched National Railway Development Scheme. This initiative will certainly accelerate the development process of Indian railway which is called the life line of the country.

In comparison to target fixed for loading during last year 3.50 million ton more loading has been carried out. I am glad to know that the revised target of transportation of goods there is a income of over Rs. 233.04 crore.

The successful efforts have been made by the railway to control the expenditure. The Department has succeeded in confining the general operation cost to Rs.287.03 crores and because of that saving of Rs.397

crore more could be made possible in comparison to the revised estimate.

Sir, this year is being celebrated as passenger amenities year. This is because special attention has been paid to the passengers by the Hon. Minister of Railways.

Sir, considering the accidents as a matter of concern, an important decision has been taken to fill up group 'D' post which are lying vacant. It will provide employment to more than 20,000 people and will also bring down the number of accidents.

Sir, continuous railway track circuiting is proposed to be included in this budget which will certainly reduce the number of incidents of sabotage.

Sir, the proposal to provide concession in railway fare to old people and ill people in this budget is a welcome step that will provide considerable relief to the people.

Sir, keeping in view the safety, the decision of recruiting 3,500 additional railway security staffs in railway protection force is a commendable step. It will check the incidents of crime taking place during rail travelling.

Sir, without hiking freight charges and railway fare, generating an additional revenue of Rs.2051 crore is a main feature of this budget. It will certainly strengthen the financial condition of the railway.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister towards my parliamentary constituency, Mathura. Mathura is an important place of pilgrimage in the country. It is the birth place of Lord Shrikrishna. Lakhs of domestic and foreign tourists and devotees pay visit here. So keeping in view the convenience of passengers it is essential to provide stoppage of all the superfast Express trains at Mathura Railway junction so that alongwith the convenience of passengers the railway department may also generate additional revenue.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.



[Ch. Tejveer Singh]

Sir, keeping in view the inconvenience of the devotees visiting Mathura, it is essential to provide stoppage of Shatabdi, Rajdhani and in Up, AP express at Mathura junction.

Sir, the people of Mathura have to travel to Allahabad and to and fro so as to attend their business in High Court located there. Besides Tufan Express there is no other train from Mathura to Allahabad. So, I would like to urge upon the Hon. Minister of Railways to ensure the introduction of an additional train from Mathura to Allahabad.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Railways to Kosi and Chhata Nagar in the Mathura district. It is an industrial area where big industrial units have been located. It is account of the closure and relocation of industries in Delhi that the industrialists are shifting their most industrial units from Delhi to Kosi and Chhata. So, I would like to request to the Hon. Minister that in order to solve the problem of industrial world, workers and daily passengers, proper arrangement should be made to provide stoppage of some of the superfast trains at Kosi and Chhata Railway Station.

Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister of Railway towards providing stoppage of Taj Express at Kosi station for which I have met him several time alongwith the office bearers of Kosi Dainik Yatri Sangh. Hon'ble Minister had also given me assurance in this regard but no action has been taken till now. Therefore, I request the hon'ble Railway Minister to ensure the stoppage of Taj Express at Kosi Railway Station.

Sir, through you, I would like to thank the hon'ble Railway Minister for accepting my request during his Mathura visit to provide stoppage to two superfast trains including Mahamaya Express at Mathura junction.

Sir, through you, I would like to submit the hon'ble

Railway Minister that Nagla Chandrabhan, the birth place of Pandit Deendayal Uppadhyay, the founder of "Ekatam Manavvad", is situated at a distance of only half km. from Farah railway station. Therefore, I request the hon'ble Railway Minister to change the name of Farah railway station into Pandit Deendayal Uppadhyay railway station.

Sir, while expressing my gratitude to you for giving me an opportunity to speak, I conclude my speech.

[English]

\*SHRI MANABENDRA SHAH (Tehri Garhwal) : Sir, the Railway Budget as presented by the Hon'ble Railway Minister for 2003-2004 has greatly disappointed me because it has continued to neglect the newly created state of Uttaranchal in all fields.

New lines have been announced by the Hon'ble Minister. But none in Uttranchal.

Old demand which is Pre-Independent demand and insistently demanded by me is the Rishikesh-Dehra Dun new line via Kanserao or direct via Doiwala. It has been surveyed but there is no mention of this in the Railway Budget.

The technical objection of gradient is aborting the construction of this new line. Any such objection does not hold water. It is a lesser problem than Katra-Quazigund or Quazigund-Baramulla. Surely gradients are there too and yet the Kashmir lines have been taken up. Then why not in Uttranchal?

Similarly the assurance announced by the hon. Minister's predecessor for extending the railway line to Kathgodam has been overlooked. Was it a sop given with no intention to implement merely because at that time luckily a Minister or State in the Railways Shri Satpal Maharaj hailed from Garhwal?

Dehra Dun to Pontha Sahib via Dak Pathar has been brushed aside, ignoring the importance of Pontha Sahib;

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\*Treated as laid on the Table.

ignoring that it is another gate way to Simla; it is also ignoring the potential of direct link between Amritsar and Hemkund Sahib via Annandpur Sahib of being constructed in the future.

Uttanchal has places of All India importance. Four pilgrim shrines jamnotri, Gangotri Kedamath and Badrinath drawing crowds from all over India and Hemkundsahib Gurudwara also drawing devotees from all over but none are provided a direct access by the Railways.

A suggestion was mooted by me that there should be a direct fast train from south to Rishikesh has not found favour. Similarly a direct link with the four Dhams--Jaganath, Rameshwaram, Dwarka and Badrinath i.e. Rishikesh should be there. This has not found favour with the Ministry, as it wants to shirk detailed exercise.

New trains announced by the hon. Minister are: 50 introduced, 24 extension of run of the trains new MEMU & DEHU which are to be introduced. But Uttanchal has no place.

Even linking one corner of Uttanchal with the other corner, that is East and West link, you may call it a link road or shuttle train, but I call it a fast inter city train from east-most station i.e. Kathgodam to west-most station Dehra Dun, the capital of Uttanchal has not found favour.

Merely making Dehra Dun-Kathgodam Express to now run bi-weekly means that the people should interact with the Government only twice a week. Whom are the railways trying to mislead?

Likewise there is disillusionment regarding Dehra Dun Shatabdi. When it was introduced it was running direct between Delhi and Dehra Dun with a halt at Saharanpur of 20 minutes to about-turn the Shatabdi for Dehra Dun and vice versa.

I had pointed out that 20 minutes delay vitiated the introduction of fast train connected to Delhi with important places, I was then advised that it was a temporary

arrangement as a bye-pass was being constructed to bye-pass Saharanpur.

I was amazed when two-minute halt was introduced at Roorkee; was flabbergasted when Meerut was added and it became farcical when Muzaffarnagar was added.

All these halts should be abolished, by-pass should become operative and the Saharanpur passengers, though more passengers are from Dehra Dun could catch the train at Tapri.

Some miscellaneous projects have been mentioned to whom I request the following be also added.

Doubling of lines between Luxur and Dehra Dun, remodelling of traffic facilities in the yards including introduction of two more within Uttanchal, a shed at Harrawala freight terminal, overbridge at Muhkampur, extension of electrification of Railway lines from Luxur to Dehra Dun, hygienic catering service of nutritious food and automatic tea/coffee within and outside the Dehra Dun and Haridwar stations.

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) :  
Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to thank all the hon'ble Members who participated in the discussion on Railway Budget either by delivering their speeches or by laying them on the table of the House. Such hon'ble Members are 20 in number. It shows the keen interest of the House towards railways. Like previous years, this time also, it has been proved that the House has great concern for the development of railways and the matters related to it. It is natural also.

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not have cross talk.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, while participating in this debate, several hon'ble Members have mentioned about the decline in number of railway passengers. They have linked this decline with the safety

[Shri Nitish Kumar]

in railway journey. They have said that in the absence of adequate safety, people do not travel by train, hence the number of railway passenger has declined. Sufficient arrangements have not been made for safety. So many other things have also been linked with the decline. But I would like to mention here that his decline is mainly in local and sub-urban passengers but the number of passengers has not declined in mail express. If we go through the figures from April to December 2002-03, we find that the number of passengers travelling in Rajdhani Express and Mail Express have increased but there is decline in number of sub-urban, non sub-urban passengers and the passengers who travel by season ticket. It is on account of this fall in the number of these passengers, that there is over all decline of 2.21% upto December. However, there is a increase of 4.75% in Rajdhani Express trains and in Mail Express trains which are long distance trains. In these train also increase is calculated on the basis of per passenger load. Therefore.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore) : No, increase has been registered after the accident.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : He said that after accident the number of passengers has not increased but I am having the figures of Howrah-Rajdhani Express after the accident. There is need to link it with the accident. We have assessed the figures of New Delhi-Howrah Rajdhani only from April to September. If we look at the figures of 2301 and 2305 up, we find that the average number of passengers from April-September was 20,603 per month and during October to December, it was 21,426 per month. Similarly, in the mater of 2303 and 2306 down, the average number of passenger from April-September was 18,198 per month and from October-December, it was 19,279. But it has nothing to do with accident. ...

...(Interruptions). I am

coming to safety. Since it was mentioned here, it is essential to refute such things in the House which create apprehensions among the people of the country. That is

why, I mentioned it. ...*(Interruptions)* As some hon'ble Members have emphasized that the decline in number of passengers is directly linked with safety, therefore, I want to mention it. And I gave the figures of Howrah Rajdhani Express in this regard also. Hence, the decline has not link with the accident. The number of local passengers have been declined. On analysing it, we find that there is a decline in low value MST which was started in 2000-2001. It has a major contribution in declining the number of passengers, you may know that low value system was started in 2000-2001 under which a railway pass of Rs. 15 was issued for distance of 100 kms. But we had received complaints regarding its misuse. It was also mentioned there that as to now one can avail low value MST. On the certification of the Member of Parliament of legislature to this effect that the person is living below the poverty line, one could have availed that facility but there was a provision that the Revenue Officer would certify alongwith the recommendation of MP-MLA. Then number of low value MST declined to a large extent. If we look at the figures of calendar year 2001 from January to August, we find that the 11,02,114 low value MSTs were issued during this period. And from January to August 2002, it was 13,642. We assess the figures by adding it to number of passengers. Hence it has a major contribution in the decline of number of passengers. Therefore,

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHYAMA CHARAN SHUKLA (Mahasamund) : Sir, this problem is not going to be lessened by the increase in the number of ticket less travelers in Bihar

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : How you can raise this question at this moment?

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : He is so senior leader and has been the Chief Minister also, while I am very junior to him. Let me speak something also. After that if there is any apprehension in his mind, I would try to remove that. He has vast experience. Therefore, whenever, I have analysed

it, I did not find any relation of it with the accident. We increased the fare during 2002-2003 besides, we levied safety surcharge from 1st October, 2001. It may have an overall affect on the number of passengers. The minimum fare for short distance which was Rs. 3 earlier, increased to Rs. 4 after imposing safety surcharge and in 2002-2003 it increased to Rs. 5 when we rationalised the fare. All these things might have contributed in the decline of number of passengers. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Bus fare has become cheaper. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : No, it is not for first-time that the number of passengers has declined. Bus fare has not been reduced. He has been the well-wisher of railways and often travel by train. Please do not tarnish the image of railways.

It is not for the first time that there is a decline in number of passengers. We have provided the figures in this regard and found that earlier also there was decline in the total number of passengers. It was 5.7% in 1979-80 and 1.32% in 1982-83. Similarly, in the years 1983-84, 1988-89, 1992-93, 1993-94 third decline was 9.03%, 7.70%, 7.41% and 1.09% respectively. Overall projection of decline during 2002-03 is 2.82. In this background, it has nothing to do with the safety. Besides some other reasons whenever such fare revision is made, this decline generally takes place. However, this decline is generally picked up in the coming years. So far as the earning is concerned, it has increased by more than 13%. Therefore, it has not concern with safety.

As far as safety is concerned, keeping in view all its aspects, I have mentioned in the House about the arrangements which are being made or proposed to be made. In this regard, we intend to bring a white paper in this very session. After issuing white paper, with due permission of hon'ble Speaker a detailed and constructive debate can be held on safety issue.

Discussion should be held on the shortcomings. We

have also mentioned about some points regarding steps taken for safety. Khanna Committee had recommended to the Union Government regarding Special Railway Safety Fund that assets are not being renewed as the Railways is making no saving and required amount is not being deposited in the Special Railway Safety Fund. Therefore, there is a need to provide separate grant for this purpose. I would thank hon. Prime Minister that he considered this point seriously and a Special Railway Safety Fund of rupees 17,000 crore was provided and it has been operationalised from October, 2001. So far as the year 2001-02 is concerned we had made a provision of rupees 1400 crore and they spent rupees 1434 crore. There are two components of the Special Railway Safety Fund – first the grant is given by the Union Government through dividend free budgetary support and second the Government levy safety surcharge on the passengers. It was estimated during the period of six months 2002 - 03 that rupees 400 crore would be mobilized through passenger surcharge, but only rupees 305 crore could be collected therefrom. An additional amount of rupees 95 crore and rupees 34 crore were spent from internal source of the Railways. In this way, an additional amount of rupees 129 crore was spent. Similarly a provision of rupees 2210 crore was made in 2002-03, but revised estimate was made for rupees 2310 crore that is, they want to increase the amount whereas there is no scope to mobilize expected money from passenger surcharge. Remaining amount would be made up by internal resources. A sum of rupees 2311 crore was provided for the year 2003-04. We are making efforts for the renewal of our old assets through the special Railway Safety Fund.

The Konkan Railways have developed a new technology to avert accident in the country. This has happened for the first time in Indian Railways. It is a matter of pride for us. There are many modern system in the world but they have invented Anti-collision device. European Crane Control System technology is very expensive technology. But the railway employees of the Konkan Railways have developed this device. We had conducted

[Shri Nitish Kumar]

Extended Field Control Test of this device at the Jullundher-Amritsar section. The test was conducted till 19th of January and the results were satisfactory. So we decided to induct it into the Railway. If A.C.D. is attached to the engine, the guard's vehicle and at the level crossing, then collision would not occur. But funds are required for this. We cannot mobilize funds in one time, nor can we make all equipments in one time. We, therefore, started it phase-wise. Last time we had made provision for this purchase and it require survey as it was based on global positioning system. It has radio modem, so there is a need to conduct survey and is based on Angular Deviation Count Principle. We have to conduct survey of the entire yard, and also the Deviation Count Survey is conducted, moreover, Radio Reception Survey and GPS Reception Survey are also done. Only after conducting all these surveys we shall be able to install this equipment. This time total route is 63 thousand kilometers. We have proposed that we would conduct a survey of 10 thousand kilometer and are going to start the work of installing ACD for a route of 1800 kilometers. This time we have made provision to install ACD upto this extent only. We would install Anti-collision Device which was been named as 'Raksha Kawatch', and if more funds are required, it will also be done with your support to complete this work. Hon. Prime Minister is present here. I do not feel that there would be paucity of funds for railway safety. Hon. Prime Minister had taken a decision for providing rupees 17000 crores Special Railway Safety Fund. I do not think that the Union Government would not extend their help if funds are required for ACD but proper arrangements are required for this, which we have already started.

Third question was raised that as to how to prevent casualties caused by sabotage or dislocation of the railway track, rail fracture or de-railmen. I asked the concerned railway officers with regard to the Rafiganj accident, they say it was sabotage while others have different views

about it. It would be revealed by investigation, anyhow, I am not coming to that issue whether we do not have any such arrangement by which we could have prior information that there is discontinuity in the track. They said that yes it is there. On being asked they told that it is track-circuiting. But I said that we are undertaking track circuiting. Then they told me that they are doing track circuiting in station areas. If continuous track circuiting is done then in the case of rail fracture, that is track discontinuity, the signal system attached to track would immediately break and signal would become red. This would help us to stop the train earlier. I asked then why is it not implemented? They said there are many problems in it and it needs funds. I asked them to start work on this. A, B and C sub-urban routes are the most busy routes for continuous track circuiting. So this work should be started on these routes this year. Thus all these certain initiatives were taken. There are many points associated with safety. We are going to manufacture such bogies, which may suffer less shock in the case of de-railment or collision or any other happening. Entire pressure could be absorbed in the external portion so that passenger could be saved. Many such steps are being taken in this direction and if we discuss them here properly, it would bring better results and the Railways would be able to take better steps for railway safety keeping in view the suggestions given by hon. Members.

Many questions are put up when we discuss the accident of Rajdhani Express train. The report of Commissioner, Railway safety stated that miscreant activities, sabotage etc. are responsible but we did not believe in it. I said that we have written letter to the hon. Minister of Civil Aviation and at the same time we said that the report should be published. Only then people can tell as to what were the loopholes in the process? Investigation process has not been evolved by us or the NDA Government. It is already there. We have just continued with it.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampur, West Bengal): Why is that report not being published?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : If any doubt arises after my statement, I am here to remove that. If Mr. Speaker allows me, I would reply ...*(Interruptions)* I said that the report should be published. The Railway Ministry is of the view that all reports related to accidents should be published but it depends upon the commissioner of Railway Safety, Ministry of Civil Aviation. As per the rules, final decision for its publication would be taken by them. We have asked them to publish it so that people could discuss this matter and draw any conclusion. Khanna Committee has given some suggestions that the post of Commissioner, Railway Safety should be opened for all as presently it is only for the Civil Engineers we have asked the Ministry of Civil Aviation that we are ready to open this post for remaining services of railway.

We have decided to open our Directorate of Safety and have also tried to hand over the charge vigilance to Traffic Department. We have increased the powers of General Managers and Divisional Managers. Accountability is being fixed for them. We would issue a comprehensive white paper on all these points. It would be better if discussion is held on this. In fact with such efforts, we can make further progress in implementing the railway safety and can take some decision in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, some hon. Members have talked about safety. In this regard, I would like to mention two things that it was reported in newspapers on the issue of safety that there is a shortage of Group-D. staff at the safety level. It is also due to this that the track is not being properly maintained. The full exercise has been done by the Ministry in this regard. Railway Board has been instructed that all the vacancies which are approximately 20 thousand which have been advertised should be filled up within one year. As far the question of security is concerned, it is state subject. There are G.R.P. in the states. 50 percent of the total amount incurred on their maintenance are borne by the railway Military and rest 50 percent are given by the State Governments. It is the security force of the State Government and it is the State Government which have to ensure security. As far the question of R.P.F. is

concerned, it has been set up to provide protection to the railway property. I want that a High level Committee should be constituted for this purpose. It has been discussed in both the Houses of the Parliament. So my proposal is that R.P.F. should be constituted in such a way that besides protecting property in the railway station premises it may also take up the responsibility of safety of passengers in running trains. For this amendment in law is required. For this proposal has been given to hold discussions with various Ministries. The Government have recognised process in this regard. In spite of this 3500 constables are proposed to be recruited within the period of one year to strengthen the R.P.F. and the required measures are being taken in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Members talk about the projects at the time of discussion on the railway budget. It is quite natural, and all remain concerned that the projects of their area should be completed at the earliest. However, all of you are aware that the Ministry of Railway depends on budgetary support. It is on account of the hon'ble Prime Minister's initiative that the quantum of budgetary support have been increased however in spite of this funds are required for all those proforward projects. As far the concern of the hon'ble Member is concerned it is quite natural that there is urgent need of funds for their projects. All are interested in railway infrastructure. There are some strategic sectors for which extent of funds are being increasing gradually. Ours is a high density network comprising of golden quadrilateral and its diagonals. In order to strengthen it, four big bridges are required to be constructed. It is also essential to construct roads to provide access to the hinterlands of all the ports. The hon'ble Prime Minister has provided Rs. 15 thousand crore for the National Railway Development Project. The Minister of Finance has also assured to provide Rs.8000 crores for Golden quadrilateral project. The Railway Development Corporation has set up in this connection. In spite of all these things there is a provision that the loan can also be taken from A.D.B. One part of the Ministry of Finance has been given to the Ministry of Railways. It will function like this. We want speedy completion of several projects.

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We require additional funds to complete all our pending projects within stipulated time period. Whatever funds are available with us, it has been distributed among various states. Several hon'ble Members have submitted that due to non-availability of funds they feel that the projects in those areas would remain incomplete even after 15-20 years. It is quite natural however we can look into the matter. I will ponder over it. The hon'ble Prime Minister is present here. I feel that in view of the expectations of the Members, additional funds will be provided to railways so that the works as per the expectation of all.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA (Chandrapur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Prime Minister can release Rs. 56 thousand crore for roads but there is lack of funds for railway. On behalf of all the Members I would like to appeal the hon'ble Prime Minister that he should pay special attention to the railway....(Interruptions) When the hon'ble Minister of railway is accepting that the funds are being released then he may have more funds.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to extend my thanks to the Members for their support however, they should also be thankful that out of the Rs.15 thousand crore Rs. 12 thousand crore are being provided by the Central Government and the total cost of the national railway development project is Rs. 15 thousand crore.

All these things have been incorporated in our budget.  
...(Interruptions)

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : The hon'ble Prime Minister should declare that he would not allow railway to suffer from paucity of funds....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : It has been decided to spend approximately Rs.22 thousand crore within a year. This way the decision has been taken in this regard I am fully confident that keeping in view the aspirations of all of you

the hon'ble Prime Minister has assured to release funds for the remaining projects. It is being pondered to complete more projects within ten years. The cooperation of all of you in this regard is sought. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the way.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : The Railway Development Corporation has started functioning to complete the work of Golden quadrilateral. Under the Railway Development project and under the scheme work on projects under Golden quadrilateral will be launched. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You please take your seat.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Since the Minister of Railway does not belong to BJP so he is not getting sufficient funds. I allege that wherever there are Ministers from BJP, they are getting sufficient funds. So I would like to hear from the hon'ble Minister that there is no lack of funds for Railway...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You please take your seat. Let the hon'ble Minister finish his speech.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Khareji atleast you please sit down. Let the hon'ble Minister finish his speech. Whatever you want to ask you can please ask the after his speech. At present you please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Please one minute.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : The hon'ble Prime Minister should declare that there will be no lack of funds for the railways....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record excepting the Minister's speech.

(Interruptions)\*

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\*Not recorded.

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER : Your speech is not going on record so it is useless to speak.

*(Interruptions)**[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, Mr. Minister please go ahead.

*(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER : You can have your say after the speech is completed. I will not allow any one to speak in the middle of the speech.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : First let me finish my speech. Thereafter you can speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Let the speech be over. Thereafter you can ask question.

*(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. What is this? It is not good thing.

*(Interruptions)**[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record excepting the Minister's speech.

*(Interruptions)\**

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\*Not recorded.

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER : Bhuraji, you please resume your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have noticed that in many circles the people have expressed the concern that the very few new lines are being laid and the work undertaken regarding doubling of lines and gauge conversion is also insufficient. At one place it was mentioned that in a particular year 8000 kilometres long rail line were laid and by this year also very small length of line has been laid. As these kind of figures are quoted, hence it is very essential for us to take in notice of some of the statistics. If we look at the figures of new lines laid alongwith gauge conversion and doubling work undertaken, then it becomes clear that since the inception of planning era, 1300 kilometer long rail line was laid, gauge conversion work of 56 kilometres and doubling of 370 kilometres had taken place during the first plan period. Thus total work on 1726 kilometres rail line was undertaken. Similarly if we look at the work undertaken in different plan period, we will find that during the Ninth Five Year Plan period only, 662 kilometres new lines have been laid alongwith gauge conversion of the 2103 kilometres rail line and a doubling of 990 km Rail line which comes to a total of 3755 km rail line. If we look at the total figures from the fourth to the Ninth Five Year Plan period we will see that new railway line of 10998.3 kilometres length was laid, besides the gauge conversion work of 12048 kilometres and doubling of 12401.34 kilometres was done. In total the work of 35447.64 kilometre rail line was undertaken since the first to Ninth Five Year Plan.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, new railway line of 8000 kilometres has not been laid within one year only. Several things have come to fore in between. During the year 2002-2003 of the Tenth Five Year Plan, 1317 kilometres new rail line is proposed to be laid which also includes gauge conversion and doubling that will be added to the broad



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gauge. Similarly a 225 kilometres of new railway line, gauge conversion work of 77 kilometres and doubling of 340 kilometre long line i.e. A total work of 1340 kilometre rail line has been proposed to be undertaken during the year 2003-04, which means we would be able to lay 2657 kilometre long broad gauge line during the years 2002-2003 and 2003-2004.

Progress is also taking place in this regard also. It is very easily said that the Britishers had laid a rail line to the tune of 52-55 thousand kilometres and we have only added ten thousand km long rail line in it, since independence. This way we unnecessarily indulge in self criticism. The railway line laid by Britishers do not longer exists and now a lot of upgradation has taken place and a new technology input has been introduced. The rail track of yesteryears are no longer in vogue. High density network is functioning everywhere. Now we are running the goods trains at the speed of 100 kilometres/hr. at some routes. The speed differential of passenger trains and goods trains will be over once we implement Railway Development Scheme and make the High Density Network Operational. It should be a matter of pride for us. We are in habit of indulging in self-criticism. We always underestimate our achievements and feel ashamed over it. All of us aware how the Britishers laid the new railway lines. Everything including labour was cheap during those times and technology was not so advanced. This way the previous era can not be compared with the present one.

Sir, whatever we do, would be done after due consideration. There is a way of making public investment. We need your support and cooperation in the work we are undertaking and also which we propose to undertake. Our effort is to lay more and more railway lines. The entire country is interested in laying of new railway lines. Public take interest in road development and the laying of rail lines and the conclusion of roads leads to progress of the people and hence a common citizen take interest in it. Wherever I visited, I found that all take interest in the laying

of new railway lines. We want to lay maximum railway lines, but we are trying our best with whatever funds are available. We can lay further railway lines when we get more funds.

Sir, some more things have been mentioned here. Since long it is being said that we have withdrawn three Shatabadi trains. It is being said in a tone as if we have withdrawn there Shatabadi trains right now and this is being associated with the Railway budget and it is being labeled as the decision of the Ministry of Railways. Sometimes I wonder how people say such things and how this was linked with budget. I would like to tell you that seven-eight MPs of Punjab met me and said that their first priority is the introduction of a Delhi-Bhantinda Shatabadi Express and we introduced the same. A huge fanfare took place to celebrate the occasion which was attended by the Chief Minister of Punjab but the train could not be continued due to inadequate occupancy. It was reviewed and a new inter city express was started in its place, what is wrong it? It was not done in a hurry. Shatabadi was introduced on 16th August, 2002 and it was withdrawn on 10.3.2003 i.e. the train continued for full six months. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot) : Sir, I would like to know as to whether it would not have been prudent to survey about the number of passengers available on the route before introducing the Shatabadi in which only 30 passengers used to travel?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : It is right. You should have thought about it before demanding. You should not indulge in double speak. I gave you the options of either exploring the feasibility of the work or acting as per your advice/demand. You must stick to one thing. It should not be that once I start a new train on your demand and you start cursing of it is withdrawn due to lack of feasibility or I try to conduct survey about its feasibility. You must stick to one thing. What is the harm in experimenting. The experiment went on for six months and then reviewed. New Intercity Express is running in its place and it has good occupancy.

Sir, a Shatabadi between New Delhi and Bareilly was introduced and its occupancy was also less. An inter-city has been introduced in its place also with the concurrence of the Members. Its occupancy is very good. I was told that the Shatabadi between Tata Nagar and Howrah had been running since 1995. As its occupancy was also not good it was replaced by a Janasatabadi. We had introduced Janasatabadi between Tata and Ranchi whose route was longer than the road route and nobody used to go by it. We changed the route of this Janasatabadi between Howrah and Tata with the concurrence of the Members and withdrew the Shatabadi. An EMU was started between Ranchi and Tata. Now everybody is happy and the occupancy of all trains has increased. Three trains had to be withdrawn and why do not the critics look at how the Sampooran Kranti Saptakranti Shramajivi Express, Shrama Shakti Express trains are performing. They won't look at the positive things. They are concentrating on the Shatabadi only which was withdrawn after few months. It does not mean that your suggestions won't be taken into account of while introducing new trains. I will pay maximum attention to your views and suggestions. The views of the hon. Members are the reflection of the public opinion and sentiment because they visit their constituencies. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You please resume your seat

*[English]*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I will come to your point. Let me furnish my points first.

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to me.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : When you meet me daily smilingly, why are you angry here?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor) : You are not giving anything for Kerala. That is why I am angry.

*[Translation]*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like

to mention that while presenting the budget for 2002 and 2003. I had introduced several trains, some of them were extended and frequency of some was increased. They are now running. One such train runs between Guwahati and Delhi. I had announced that the frequency of 2435-2436 New Delhi-Guwahati Rajdhani Express would be increased from two to four days....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : Your speech has become very long. You are doing a fine job and I have suggestion. Please improve the cleanliness of platforms and trains. The condition of toilets of platform in Tundla is very bad....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am ready to consider most seriously whatever suggestions Shri Mulayam Singhji give.

MR. SPEAKER : I also do so.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA (Jhabua) : whether the suggestions of other Members would not be taken seriously...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : It is not that Sir, I had announced in the 2002-2003 budget that the frequency of train No. 2435-2436 Rajdhani Express between New Delhi-Guwahati would be increased from two to four days. A number of hon'ble Members representing North Bengal and Assam have submitted that Rajdhani taking this route has to travel more distance - 2013 kms whereas there is an alternative route which is only 1959 kms long. The former takes four hours more. They suggested that in place of 2435-2436 Rajdhani Express between New Delhi and Guwahati the frequency of 2423-2424 New Delhi-Guwahati Rajdhani Express be increased to five days instead of three days. We accepted the suggestion. Since this proposal had found mention in Budget, I thought it necessary to intimate about it in the House only. If that is done then the Rajdhani Express between New Delhi and

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Howrah which runs via Patna for two days, should run through Grand Cord instead of Patna, it means this New Delhi-Howrah Rajdhani train will run via Gaya on all seven days. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : It can be run from Malda also, it will take less time.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : For that you will have to speak to M.P.s from North Eastern areas. I do not have to say anything on that people had problems with longer route and we accepted the suggestion because it used to take four more hours...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Coochbehar) : Assurance was given in the budget that the Rajdhani Express between Delhi and Guwahati would run on all seven days. But it has not happened so far. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. How can it be discussed in the House, for this you will have to meet hon'ble Minister personally. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I was mentioning only that, but you do not seem to be listening. In the budget, I had said that the train would run four times in a week in place of two times and now I am informing the House that in place of three days a week, it would run five days a week. I am only informing the House about the acceptance of the collective suggestion made to me. Since budget is presented to the House, therefore, I am giving notice of amendment in the House only. Now the Rajdhani Express between New Delhi and Guwahati would run daily. Two days it will run via Lucknow and for five days it will go via main line. On this account the train no. 2305-2306 between Howrah and New Delhi which used to run via Patna, will now be run via Gaya. The facilities available to Patna and other stations on this route will be maintained through increase in the number of coaches in Guwahati Rajdhani Express so that passenger of Guwahati Rajdhani Express or Howrah-Delhi Rajdhani are not deprived. The

people of West Bengal should now be pleased as their travel time and cost would decrease. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJO SINGH : He did not ask the MP's of Bihar regarding change and route of Howrah-Rajdhani Express. We will have to suffer a lot of inconvenience due to it. What do you say about it?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Raju babu, this train is meant for North-East. You have to board Rajdhani Express from Patna and that would remain available to you on all seven days. It is not necessary that Delhi-Howrah train has to take longer route. The earlier train was diverted and now it. ....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon'ble Minister, now you please conclude. Please listen.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I conclude by thanking all the Members for giving support to Rail budget.

*[English]*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, I seek your protection. I initiated the debate. I made specific questions in my debate on the accident of Godhara and the list of passengers and the compensation paid to them. That particular chapter he has avoided.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I just missed the point.

*[Translation]*

He had asked about Godhra. Their cases are with R.C.T. Some have been given compensations, some are being given Ex-gratia-payment has also been made. As per the Railway Act, that accident is covered, that is why compensation was paid to them. Ex-gratia was also paid and in the matter of compensation. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : List of passengers mentioning how many travelled, how many killed.

*[Translation]*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : He had asked about three things-ex-gratia, compensation and list. I have clarified on two points. As far as list is concerned, one newspaper had asked for information regarding it. We have put 150 railway personnel on the task. On the basis of reservation slips, they had visited the residences of the passengers and collected the information which was forwarded to that newspaper. He has demanded that list in the House. We will have to recheck it and after incorporating more facts. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Speaker, Sir this is unacceptable. On every railway accident, the Ministry of Railways furnish the report within a week mentioning who were the valid passengers travelling and who were killed or injured and still the Minister is telling that he has yet to collect more information.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : No, I am not telling this. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : This is unacceptable.

*[Translation]*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : You please listen first, I said that after we provided information to that newspaper, we have received information regarding 1-2 missing persons. Now after that correction is made, it means, after the information provided to the newspaper is corrected ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : By what time that information would become available?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : If you please, I can provide that information on Monday or on Thursday when there is turn of my Ministry for question. I will provide the information on the question day.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put the Demands for Grants on account (Railways) for 2003-2004 to vote.

The question is :

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India out of the Consolidated Fund of India, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2004, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands Nos. 1 to 16."

*Demands for Grants on Accounts (Railways)  
for 2003-04 submitted to the Vote  
of the Lok Sabha*

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grants on Account submitted to the vote of the House (./Rs.)
1	2	3
1.	Railway Board	11,35,10,000
2.	Miscellaneous Expenditure (General)	39,04,23,000
3.	General Superintendence and Services on Railways	284,73,33,000
4.	Repairs and Maintenance of Permanent Way and Works	546,91,08,000
5.	Repairs and Maintenance of Motive Power	300,55,52,000
6.	Repairs and Maintenance of Carriages and Wagons	563,98,08,000

1	2	3
7.	Repairs and Maintenance of Plant and Equipment	306,62,68,000
8.	Operating Expenses-Rolling Stock and Equipment	482,85,30,000
9.	Operating Expenses - Traffic	2204,94,40,000
10.	Operating Expenses - Fuel	1332,95,74,000
11.	Staff Welfare and Amenities	226,69,26,000
12.	Miscellaneous Working Expenses	274,89,62,000
13.	Provided Fund, Pension and Other Retirement Benefits	1091,76,41,000
14.	Appropriation to Funds	1618,33,33,000
15.	Dividend to General Revenues, Repayment of loans taken from General Revenues and Amortization of Over-Capitalisation	3,85,33,000
16.	Assets-Acquisition, Construction and Replacement Revenue	5,00,00,000
	<b>Other Expenditure</b>	
	Capital	3062,76,80,000
	Railway Funds	538,96,67,000
	Railway Safety Fund	72,16,66,000
	Special Railway Safety Fund	458,22,67,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>13425,62,21,000</b>

*The motion was adopted.*

13.00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put the Supplementary Demand for Grant (Railways) for 2002-2003 to vote:

The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India out of the Consolidated Fund of India to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2003, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands No. 16."

*Supplementary Demand for Grants (Railways)  
for 2002-03 submitted to the Vote  
of the Lok Sabha*

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Supplementary Demand for Grants submitted to the vote of House (Rs./-)
1	2	3
16.	Assets-Acquisition, Construction and Replacement	
	<b>Other Expenditure</b>	
	Special Railway Safety Fund	146,03,33,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>146,03,33,000</b>

*The Motion was adopted.*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, the Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) for 2000-2001 which were presented to the House - on 27.2.2003 pertain to the charged expenditure only. Under article 113(1) of the Constitution, charged expenditure is not put to the vote of the House. Therefore, I will call the Minister of Railways to introduce the Appropriation (Railways) No. 2 Bill and

also to move a motion for consideration and passing of the Bill when item nos. 24 and 25 in today's List of business are reached.

13.03 hrs.

(i) APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) VOTE ON  
ACCOUNT BILL\*, 2000

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 2003-04 for the purposes of Railways.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 2003-2004 for the purposes of Railways.

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I introduce\*\* the Bill.

*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Railway Minister didn't mention Vaishali even once even though he had committed. The demand is hundred years old. ...*(Interruptions)* Vaishali is the land of Lord Ram, Karmbhoomi of Lord Mahavir and also cradle of democracy. He did not say a word about

\*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dt. 6.3.2003.

\*\*Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

linking Vaishali with rail line...*(Interruptions)* I request you to instruct the Government in this regard and the hon'ble Minister tell us when hon. Prime Minister is going to lay the foundation. The people of Vaishali are calling for that. It is like creating history. The demand is hundred years old. Thus, through you, I request hon. Prime Minister to accept the invitation of those people and fix a date for laying the foundation stone for linking Vaishali with rail line. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I beg to move :

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 2003-2004 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 2003-2004 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. SPEAKER : The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill*

*The Schedule was added to the Bill*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : 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 : The question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2002-2003 for the purposes of Railways, 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 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.*

*The Schedule was added to the Bill.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

13.05 hrs.

(ii) APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS)  
BILL\*, 2003

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) :  
I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2002-03 for the purposes of Railways.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2002-2003 for the purposes of Railways.

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, I introduce\*\* the Bill.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2002-2003 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration."

13.08 hrs.

(iii) APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) NO. 2  
BILL\*, 2003

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) :  
Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide

\*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dt. 6.3.2003.

\*\*Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

\*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dt. 6.3.2003.

for the authorisation of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services for the purposes of Railways during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 2001 in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the authorisation of appropriation of moneys out of Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services for the purposes of Railways during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 2001 in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I introduce\* the Bill.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill to provide for the authorisation of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services for the purposes of Railways during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 2001 in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year, be taken into consideration.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the authorisation of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services for the purposes of Railways during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 2001 in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year, 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 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.*

*The Schedule was added to the Bill.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There will be no 'Zero Hour'.

Now, the House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

13.10 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.02 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha reassembled after lunch at two minutes past fourteen of the Clock*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

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\*Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.



[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have given an adjournment motion.

...(Interruptions)

▲ KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the question of the contempt of the whole House and even hon. Prime Minister is covered in it. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Ramji Lal Suman, you are a senior leader. After lunch, we take up matters under rule 377.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please first listen to my adjournment motion for two minutes. When I raised this matter in the House yesterday, hon. Prime Minister and Home Minister were present. They tried to defer the matter by saying that since the issue involves the Chief Minister of U.P. Ms. Mayawati and Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, therefore hon. Speaker may look into the letter. I would like to say that the question involves not only Ms. Mayawati and Mulayam Singh Yadav but the whole House and if we do not take a stand on the issue\*.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, we have to take up discussion on the General Budget.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please let me conduct the business of the house. Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Will you please resume your seats? As a special case, I am allowing Shri Ram Vilas

Paswan for his submission. I am allowing him for two minutes.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : As you all know, we cannot take up the Adjournment Motion or any other thing after the lunch break. However, as a special case, I am giving the permission to Shri Ram Vilas Paswan.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I mean to say that the funds given to the MPs for the development of their constituency is passed by the Parliament after voting. ...(Interruptions) It is a very serious matter.\*

[English]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch) : Sir, how can he say like this? ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : That word will not go on record.

[Translation]

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI (Bijnor) : Ram Vilas ji, get this scheme cancelled. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : We did not ask to oppose it for this purpose. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH (Motihari) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, they are protesting against the procedure but their language lowers the dignity of the House. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Will you please resume your seats?

(Interruptions)

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\*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

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\*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Those words have been expunged, then why are you creating chaos?

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please take your seats. We have to take up the discussion on the General Budget.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have expunged those words.

[Translation]

I have said that those words have been removed from the record. Mr. Gehlot, please.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Sir, you have allowed hon. Member Shri Ram Vilas Paswan to speak. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have given the floor to Shri Ram Vilas Paswan for a submission.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We have to start our discussion on the Budget.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Is this the way?

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this matter should be taken seriously. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, we have important matters to be taken up in the House. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the MPLAD scheme should be terminated.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have given the floor to hon. Member Shri Ram Vilas Paswan to make a submission. He is a senior member. Please allow him to speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have given an adjournment motion. Under which rule is he speaking?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All this has happened this morning.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I would expunge all the objectionable words.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to say that we come here as the representatives of the people. I believe that MLAs and MPs are more honest than any other people but when such aspersions are cast. ... (Interruptions) MPs and MLAs have been converted into saleable goods. It was said that even honest MPs and MLAs take commission of Rs. 2 to 5 lakh. They also get commission separately. I wish to say that the fund we get is cleared by the Parliament after voting. It is also laid down that any irregularity or misappropriation of such funds will be treated as corruption. Now it is said by a person no

[Shri Ram Vilas Paswan]

less than the Chief Minister of a state a percentage of that fund should be given. It is not important whether it was said when that person was Chief Minister or not. Whoever demands commission from the MPs funds is indulging in corrupt practice. That is why I wish to say that Ms. Mayawati, even in her individual capacity, when demands Rs. Two lakh or Rs. five lakh from that fund because as per her statement, they earn money from that, it is an instance of corruption and she has no right to be the Chief Minister. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to say that hon. Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister have, very cleverly, tried to close the matter by referring the matter to hon. Speaker. I demand from the Chair that since it is a matter of corruption and so hon. Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister should clarify in the House as to whether a person who is keeper of such kind of fund, can ask for commission for that or not.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : With reference to this, hon. Speaker has informed in the House that he will decide the matter by discussing the letter with the hon. Speaker of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : I have also given an adjournment motion on the issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Ramji Lal Suman, what is this?

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Sir, this matter has been raised on many occasions in the last three days. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I would give you the floor. Tripathiji, I would also hear you. This is not Zero Hour.

*(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : Sir, this is time to take up Matters under Rule 377. How long will this continue to go on? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, you gave me the floor. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have to conduct the business of the House. If a senior leader wants to make a submission. I have to yield. How do I conduct the House?

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : That is not a fair way of commenting.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am giving the floor to him also.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Deoria) : Sir, why are you pointing at me? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Is he the only person to be heard? This issue has been raised many times in the House. When this issue has been settled, for how long he would continue to raise this issue ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Tripathiji, I would give you the floor for your submission.

*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : This matter would be raised again and again, till the problem is resolved, till then this matter would be raised daily. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : This matter would be raised daily till the CBI inquiry of this case is conducted.  
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will give the floor to you.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will hear you. I will give you the floor.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : No decision has been taken in this regard...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : No decision has been taken in this regard...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : They have levelled false allegations...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : We have not levelled any false allegations. We have presented the tape. This tape should be shown to the House, the situation will become clear.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Speaker has taken decision on that matter. He said that he will see what action has to be taken after going through the letters.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, this matter is creating a very explosive news item everyday in the newspapers endangering the dignity of most of the Members of Parliament in public life. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I fully endorse the proposal of Shri Ram Vilas Paswan.

It is not a party issue. The Home Minister must clarify the position whether to protect the dignity of the House

and the Members, these allegations, as levelled in the tape, he will inquire through a comprehensive agency like CBI and give the findings to us, as to what is the truth behind it. It is not an issue of any individual fighting. And more so Sir, it is not good to make allegations about every Member because the so-called 'alleged tape' is confined to the party MPs of Kumar Mayawati only. No other party MPs has been addressed in this direction. So, it is the duty of all the Members of the BSP to protect their own dignity and to question the *bona fide* of Kumari Mayawati or to find out the truth because it is confined to BSP MPs and not to other MPs.

Therefore, I feel, what Shri Ram Vilas Paswan has said is correct. All the MPs want to know the truth behind the tape and it is the duty of the Home Minister of India to assist the Parliament by instituting an inquiry of CBI and then report it to the Parliament. ...(Interruptions) That is my contention and I think the Government should stand by it. There is no fear, nothing. It will be still more transparent.  
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, yesterday the discussion on this issue was held in the House and the Deputy Prime Minister, Shri L.K. Advani said, that he had received a letter from Mayawatiiji, having full details, but it is on Speaker, whether it is to be presented in House or not. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have already told this to the House.

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, when Mr. Speaker has already given ruling then how could the discussion on this issue be held. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Home Minister should get CBI inquiry

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

conducted in this regard and present its report in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, to tarnish the image of MPs.

*[English]*

Every MP is not involved in that tape, but there are some. It may be that some complaint are coming from different parts of the country. This money is coming from the Government of India, and when the money is coming from the Government of India, there must be some monitoring system, some vigilance system. If any allegation comes, the Government have every right to inquire into the matter.

Sir, why we are telling it is because you cannot say all the MPs are corrupt, or you cannot say all the MLAs are corrupt. ...*(Interruptions)* This is why, Sir, we feel, even from my State also one MP has complained and his life is at stake now, a CPI (M) MP. I am not mentioning the name of the party. Everywhere there are some corrupt people, but, all are not equal. In order to protect the interest of the MPs, and their prestige – it should not be damaged by a particular person, or by a particular party – I would request that the Government must discuss this matter very seriously in the House and let this Parliament decide. Regarding the MPLAD programme, if there is any vigilance or monitoring system in the Government machinery, it is the CBI. I feel, this is not the State Government's money, this is the Central Government's money, and the Government can investigate through the CBI and this matter may be closed here. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Can you accept it? Accept it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will come back to you.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I too have given notice for Adjournment motion. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : I too have given notice for Adjournment motion. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the issue raised by my colleague, Mamata Banerjee is absolutely correct. I agree with her. Taking commission cannot be allowed. This evil should be checked...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a point of order. This matter is being raised for last three days. It has been the cause of interruptions in Question Hour for last three days. Mr. Speaker has repeatedly told that this matter can be raised in zero hour, the notice for adjournment matter can be given, but two hon'ble Members are continuously speaking.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the detailed discussion on this issue was held yesterday. The hon'ble Home Minister was asked to give statement in the House. He said, he is ready to give statement, he had read the letter received from the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. The dilemma is whether it should be presented before the House or not. According to me it should not be presented before the House.

Alongwith it, the Prime Minister said that the details of some matters are laid on the Table, and some are not laid Mr. Speaker and the entire House agreed to it. Only two persons did not agree to it, and this issue has been raised in morning as well as in afternoon. I would like to know how far it is appropriate that one MP raises the matter again and again on which the hon'ble Speaker and house are unanimous...*(Interruptions)*.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if Tripatheejee levels this allegations, you may please take account of it...(Interruptions). I am resigning from the post of M.P...(Interruptions). I am going for submitting my resignation...(Interruptions).\* I am resigning from the post of MP...(Interruptions).\* A person like me do not have faith in the House...(Interruptions). You may remain hon'ble Member of this House...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : I would like to request that Akhileshji should not speak such things, but it is also good if the matter is resolved by speaking such things by him. I do not have any objection...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : We will fight for this.

14.22 hrs.

*At this stage Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and some other hon. Members came and stood near the Table.*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Sumanji, please tackle him, what is this?

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Sir, this is a very serious matter ...(Interruptions).

14.23 hrs.

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

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Switch off the camera.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I would request the hon. Members to be cool and patient what Akhileshji has done is not appropriate. You can tell the Speaker, whatever you want to convey. You should not behave in this manner, it is wrong.

*(Interruptions)*

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\*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I adjourn the proceedings of the House for fifteen minutes.

14.24 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till forty five minutes past fourteen of the clock.*

14.47 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha reassembled at forty-seven minutes past fourteen of the Clock.*

*[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House shall now take up Matters under Rule 377.

#### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

##### (I) Need to Improve Telephone Services in Banaskantha Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat

*[Translation]*

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY (Banaskantha) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the telephone service in my Parliamentary Constituency Banaskantha. The capacity of the Telephone Exchange in this area has not been increased and it is on account of this that the waiting list has become very long and in several areas the telephone could not be provided even to those subscribers who had applied for the same as long as eight year back. No new Telephone Exchange has been set up during the last three years and the telephones which have been provided remain non-functional for months if any fault occur in them. In this regard I feel that there is need to review the performance of the telecom officers of this area. I would like to request the Government that if there is any shortcoming then stern action should be taken against the persons responsible in this regard.

[Shri Haribhai Chaudhary]

I urge upon the Government to set up Telephone Exchange as per the requirement and to attend faulty telephones in time in my parliamentary constituency.

**(ii) Need to lay Rail line between Bilaspur and Mandala via Mugeli-Jabalpur in Chhattisgarh**

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, approval should be given to lay rail line between Bilaspur and Mandala via Mugeli-Jabalpur for which the survey work is being done since 1911 and to connect it to Nainpur Chhindawara Jabalpur gauge conversion. The said rail line is about 200 km. long. If Bilaspur Mandala rail line is connected to Nainpur, Chhindawara jabalpur gauge conversion then the distance will shorten by 50 K.M. Iron ore, Bauxite, coal etc. minerals are found in the said area and the railway may earn revenue on account of their transportation. It will be first line in the newly carved Chhattisgarh state which will provide employment to 20 thousand people. It will also improve the financial condition of the people and will provide transport facility in this area.

So I would like to urge upon the Government that approval should be given to lay a new rail line to connect Bilaspur Mandala Jabalpur rail line to Nainpur Chhindawara Jabalpur gauge conversion.

**(iii) Need to release fund from Central Road Fund for proper maintenance of Road between Balaghat and Kanha**

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh is located along the border of Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra. There are mines of Manganese and Copper along the road from Baihar to Gadhi Chilpi in Balaghat district. Similarly the main entrance of Kanha Tiger Project of Kanha Park also falls in Balaghat district. The oldest rest house at Supkhar which is 150 years old and is unaffected by the materialistic world is a specimen of old life style in natural surroundings. On the other hand, this area is also Naxal

infested. The well maintained roads are required not only for the promotion of tourism but it is also essential for tackling the problem of terrorism. The roads in hilly areas have broken and the transmigration remains disrupted for months together due to broken culverts. During the rainy seasons the roads remain blocked as long as for three days. It is the only way connecting Kanha to the district headquarters. In this situation, the development work of Kanha in the district are affected in spite of its proximity to Nagpur.

So, I urge upon the Government to release fund from Central Road Fund for the construction of the said road. It would provide the tourists an easy access to the nearest airport, on the other hand it will also be helpful in tackling the terrorists.

**(iv) Need for linking of National Highway 28-A and National Highway 28-B in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh**

DR. M.P. JAISWAL (Bettiah) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government to the need for extending National Highway 28-A in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh from Chhapawa to Kushinagar via, Bettiah, Laria, Bagha Chhitani rail road bridge. Presently the said Highway connects two states and it can be made more useful by way of declaring it as National Highway. The area through which the said Highway passes is extremely backward. If the NH-28 A is connected with NH-28 B upto Kushinagar in Uttar Pradesh, it will not only make the traffic movement easy rather it will be strategic from defence point of view as it will be helpful in the movement of military forces. It is on account of the poor condition of the road that there is no military cantonment in this area. Military forces can be sent from Gorakhpur but there is complete lack of any proper and direct road.

Through the House I would like to urge upon the Government to connect NH-28A and NH-28 B and declare it National Highway so that the traffic movement between Bihar and Uttar Pradesh via, Bettiah, Laria, Bagha, Chhitoni can be made convenient.

**(v) Need to expedite allocation of funds to naxalite affected States for their socio-economic development**

[English]

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA (Chandrapur) : Sir, the Union Government had long back convened a meeting of the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa, which are affected by left wing extremism. In the meeting, it was *inter alia* agreed that there must be a greater thrust on socio-economic development to cater to the needs of the poorer segments of the population and redressal of people's grievances. These States submitted their Integrated Action Plans, encompassing development as well as security aspects in the naxalite affected areas and the Union Government recommended to the Planning Commission for earmarking separate funds for the purpose and extend financial assistance to these States.

The Government of Maharashtra had prepared an Integrated Action Plan for Rs. 1,676 crore and submitted it to the Union Government and sought 50 per cent assistance of Rs. 838 crore from the Central Government.

Therefore, I urge upon the Union Government to take a serious view of the situation arising out of left wing extremism and see that there is no delay on the part of the Planning Commission in extending financial assistance to these States.

**(vi) Need to release funds for construction of level-crossings on Luni-Barmer-Munabao rail line, Rajasthan**

[Translation]

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (Barmer) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the conversion work of Luni-Barmer-Munabao meter gauge rail line into broad gauge has been going on for last six years. The pace of work is very slow however, now the work has been expedited because of the deterioration in Indo-Pak relation. The said

rail line was laid during the British regime. At that time the regime was sparsely populated. There are several railway crossings on this rail track so that there is smooth traffic movement.

After the partition of the country, many people have settled in the border areas of Rajasthan. With the passage of time the population and the volume traffic have increased in this area especially in Barmer district. Earlier there were manned and unmanned railway crossings but some of them are being removed on account of the gauge conversion. The conversion of this line into broad gauge demand that besides maintaining the old crossings new railway crossings should be constructed. Despite giving several representations for the development of this region and streamlining the traffic system, the stereotype reply is given by the Government that railway crossing can be constructed if the entire cost of construction is borne by the local people, the Members of Parliament or the State Government. It is on account of this that in spite of repeated request, new crossings have not been approved. Therefore, I would like that hon'ble Prime Minister should do the following:

1. To instruct the Ministry of Railway to construct railway crossing as per the requirement on Luni-Barmer-Munabao railway route.
2. To ensure that the cost of construction of railway crossing and their maintenance is borne by the Ministry of Railway.
3. All the old level crossings whether manned or unmanned should continue to exist.

**(vii) Need to open LPG outlets in Jamuria Municipality and Panchayat and Pandeveswar Panchayat Samiti in Asansol district of West Bengal**

[English]

SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY (Asansol) : I beg to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister of Petroleum & Natural



[Shri Bikash Chowdhury]

Gas in the matter of appointment of LPG agents in the region of Jamuria and Pandaveswar PSs, falling within Asansol Parliamentary constituency as the customers of LPG residing in Jamuria Municipality, Pandaveswar and Jamuria Panchayat Samities have to purchase the LPG from the agents of Asansol and Raniganj. In the meantime, some LPG agents have come up outside of the areas and in the name of area division, the customers residing within the above areas are told to purchase LPG from those newly appointed at Ratibati (Raniganj PS) and Bahula (Andal PS), which are far from their residences to which the customers object.

In view of this, I request to appoint LPG agents each for Jamuria Municipality, Jamuria Panchayat and Pandaveswar Panchayat Samities may be appointed in the interest of customers of these places as there are no LPG agents in these areas till now. I beg to request the Hon'ble Minister to consider such arrangement of LPG agents as per above proposals.

**(viii) Need to formulate a scheme under National River Action Plan for prevention of pollution  
In river Musi, Hyderabad**

SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA (Siddipet) : The river Musi in Hyderabad is very polluted on account of the bulk of sewage generated in twin cities. Due to inadequacy of system to collect, transmit and treat the sewage, many areas in the city have overflowing sewers and storm water drains causing unhygienic conditions specially in low lying areas. The sewer is over burdened with load of pollution carrying industrial effluents and untreated domestic sewage every day. The immediate and urgent improvements that need to be taken up from the river had been identified. These include providing of 260 Mld of complete sewage treatment facility along with 130 Mld of secondary treatment unit in addition to the existing primary unit and laying of sewer lines for about 36.5 Kms, the cost of which is coming to Rs. 295 crores.

I, therefore, request the Government of India to include the project of countering pollution in the Musi river under the National river Action Plan and accord necessary sanction to carry out the work related to sewage treatment facility for tackling pollution in River Musi which is now over burdened with heavy loads of pollution.

**(ix) Need to introduce mobile telephone services in Hingoli Parliamentary constituency, Maharashtra**

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE (Hingoli) : Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has yet to introduce the mobile phone service in the Basmati, Hadgaon, Dharamabad, Bhaukhar and Kinwat areas in my constituency. Topography of these areas are hilly and the telephone lines cannot be laid in these areas due to Forest Conservation Act and these areas have large markets for agricultural produce and hence there is a great need to provide the telecommunication services in these areas. Hence, introduction of WLL telecommunication service and mobile telephone services is essential for the welfare of the people. If the mobile services are introduced development in these backward areas will certainly take place besides facilitating the transportation of agro-products by farmers to other areas and providing large scale earning of revenue for the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited.

I would like to request the Union Government to introduce the mobile telephone service immediately in the said areas of my constituency, Hingoli.

15.00 hrs.

**(x) Need to allocate adequate funds for extension of Existing runway at Kargil airport**

[English]

SHRI HASSAN KHAN (Ladakh) : With the start of air service on 14th February, 2003 from the new airport of

Kargil which was completed recently by the Airport Authority of India at a cost of Rs. 37 crore, this far off place in the Ladakh Region has again come up on the air map of India after 40 years. Kargil remains cut off from the rest of the country for more than six months in a year due to snow fall on mountain passes. Now the air service to this strategically important place is a memorable job of the Government, for the people of the area as well as to the brave jawans who are serving there in most inhospitable weather conditions and also to their family members. The people of this Region are highly thankful to the Ministry of Defence and Civil Aviation for starting air service after spending a huge amount on construction of the airport.

The airport has become operational for light and medium aircraft; and to make it operational for heavy aircraft like Boeing 737, the length of the runway needs to be extended by another 3,000 fts. from the present length of 6,400 fts. Space for the extension is also available. Expert on aviation has given this suggestion after visiting the site. We are highly hopeful that the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Defence will kindly carry out the survey and provide funds for extension so that Indian Airlines can start regular flights in due course of time.

**(xi) Need to allocate adequate funds for proper maintenance of Highway No. 22 between Shimla and Jury in Himachal Pradesh**

[Translation]

COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL (Shimla) : My. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Indo-Tibet National Highway No. 22 is the oldest national highway in Himachal Pradesh. The Kalka to Jury part of this National Highway falls under Shimla constituency. This highway is an important road from strategic point of view and is the only link to China-Tibet border. The lack of maintenance of this road is causing a lot of inconvenience to the public. Hence priority to its maintenance be given not only from the point of view of public interest but also in view of its strategic importance.

The stretch of road between Shimla and Jury is in extremely dilapidated condition which is causing inconvenience in driving the vehicles there.

Hence, I request the Union Government to make special provision for the maintenance of this road in this budget only so that there is improvement in driving the vehicles there and public facilities to the local people.

**(xii) Need to encourage production of Hepatitis-B vaccine indigenously**

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL (Hamirpur H.P.) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring it to your notice that the cases of Hepatitis-B are increasing day by day in the country which is cause of concern for the entire country. The main cause of this disease is the consumption of the contaminated water and food.

As per a study of All India Institute of Medical Sciences, annually 5000 persons die due to this disease. The international companies are indirectly trying to exert their influence on the Government to purchase the costly vaccines manufactured by them to be used in the country to check this disease. Their vaccine is not suitable in view of the climatic and environmental conditions existing in the country. Initially this vaccine will be made available free of cost from abroad but once our country becomes dependent on its use, the MNC's would sell it at very exorbitant and arbitrary prices and we will have to buy it under compulsion.

I urge upon the Government to encourage the Serum Institute of India to indigenously produce the vaccine of hepatitis B at cheaper cost that would be in accordance with the climatic and environmental conditions of our country by encouraging the research going on in the country for the production of this vaccine and also not to succumb to the indirect pressure being applied by the Multinational Companies.

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH (Machhalishahar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what happened to the notice of the adjournment motion that I submitted in the morning, today.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : That was not admitted.

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH : You please tell me if it could not be taken today then would it be taken tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Tomorrow's affairs would be taken up tomorrow only. How can I tell about it right now.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Tomorrow's Adjournment Motion will be taken up tomorrow only.

SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will it not be taken today?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Today's decision has already been taken.

SHRI C.N. SINGH : What decision has been taken, I do not know.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Rejected.

SHRI C.N. SINGH : Whether it is being taken now or not, I am unable to understand. Will you take it today or not? If not, why it will not be taken?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Today's decision has been taken.

SHRI C.N. SINGH : I have given Notice but I am not being given an opportunity to speak.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The decision on the Notices received is not taken collectively. Right now, this Notice is under the rejection.

15.06 hrs.

## GENERAL BUDGET, 2003-2004— GENERAL DISCUSSION

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House shall now take up Item No. 26, Discussion on the General Budget for the year 2003-2004. Time allotted is ten hours. The first speaker is, Shri Shivraj V. Patil.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, to save time and to be precise and to cover as many points as I can, I seek your permission to read my speech. I hope, I have that permission.

The Budget is not just a statement of income and expenditure of the Government. It is an instrument of economic and social engineering and development. If it fails to take into account all in the society, it cannot achieve the objectives which it is expected to fulfil. It should help the needy and the weak. It should encourage economic development. It should help to do distributive justice. It should help to face the challenges of the future and the contingencies that may arise. Will this Budget achieve these objectives?

It talks of alleviating poverty. Nobody can quarrel with this objective. The Congress Party has been working to achieve this objective. It has succeeded in reducing it. If something more is done to reduce it further, it would be welcome.

What this Budget proposes to do to achieve this objective is not enough and satisfactory. It is like counting a few trees and missing the wood. By doing a few such things, the people will not get the relief they need. The most important thing in this respect is the need to enhance the employment potential. To help the people, the theory of trickle down of benefits cannot be useful. It could not be acceptable in America. It cannot be useful in India.

The Government promised to provide employment to one crore persons every year. It has not fulfilled that

assurance. It does not have any specific plans and schemes to provide work to the needy. That is most disappointing. *Antyodaya Anna Yojana* will help more needy people in the society. The food stocks available with the Government can be used for this purpose. Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, the Congress President had asked the Government to use the food stocks for this purpose and the Government has responded to it favourably. We appreciate it. But why should the Government stop at this level only? Why cannot it have it for more people? The food stocks are huge. They should be used to help more families.

If the suggestion given by Dr. Swaminathan, that in every district a food bank should be established, is accepted, the poor people and their children would not remain undernourished and unemployed. It would have been better for the Union Government to take some effective steps in this respect. But it has not done that.

The Government could have made the plans to plant trees and achieve good results in afforestation with the help of foodgrains. These schemes could have been more useful in tribal areas, which are least developed and where the poverty stalks the land in a most tragic form.

The Government talks of providing better and more educational and health facilities through the cooperation and partnership with the private sector. These days also this is being done. It should be encouraged and helped. But can the Government forget that these institutions and hospitals are not meant for the poor? They are not meant for the middle class families also. Only the affluent and well to do can afford to make use of them. Should not the Government think of going to the succour of the poor and the middle class citizens of the country by making them affordable? There is nothing in the Budget which can do something in this respect. It is not necessary to comment in detail on all the proposals visible in the Budget used to alleviate penury. It is sufficient to say that what is proposed is most inadequate and not at all sufficient. One gets a feeling that, that is a sugar coating on the bitter pill of the reality of the Budget.

The Budget proposals with respect to the development of farming sector do not indicate that the problems of it are clearly understood by the Government. The rate of growth in agriculture has declined from 5.7 to 3.1. Many States and areas in the country are suffering because of unprecedented drought conditions. This fact should have goaded the Government to do more to help this vital and most important sector on which 70 per cent of the people depend. On this sector, it is not only the farmers but also the labourers in rural areas depend. But, the Government has missed to understand the problems and provide correct solutions.

The agriculture depends upon irrigation facilities available to it. The Budget should have taken a note of this fact and should have provided plans, projects, and funds for this purpose. It talks of drip irrigation. It is good. But it is not going to be sufficient. Drip irrigation should be helped and encouraged, no doubt, but it cannot quench the thirst of agriculture. It is necessary to build big and small dams to line the canals and reach the water to the fields. The river-linking project is good but it is going to take a long time to materialise. Everybody should help it to be completed in as short a time as is possible. It is not going to be wise to starve the agriculture of irrigation facilities for two or more decades by not constructing dams and canals simply because river-linking concept has been floated and would be acted upon. Let the dams and canals be constructed in such a manner that they would form part of the river linking projects.

The credit facilities which are available to agriculture are not at all adequate. If Rs. 75,000 crore of credit is given to an activity on which 75 per cent of the people depend, it is not just and wise. The Government has given directions to the banks to provide 18 per cent of the credit to the farming sector. But the banks have not given that kind of credit to the agriculture. Moreover, the Government has not been able to take any effective steps. Agriculture deals with plants which are endowed with life by nature. On its produce, the lives of creatures, cattle and human beings depend. What is produced in agriculture, is going to be

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

constantly and permanently in demand by the people. India has the climate, the land, and the water that are conducive for agriculture. Should we not, therefore, pay more attention and give better credit and other facilities to see that the agriculture prospers?

The fertility of the land should be protected and preserved. Water should be made available and used in frugal manner.

Climatic conditions should be protected and preserved. The Government has to take lead in this matter. The farmers are not rich. They have limited areas of land and resources. If the Government does not take a lead in this respect, it is bound to suffer. Nothing of any pronounced nature in policies for farming for this purpose made by the Government is visible. And that worries those who know how important it is to keep the agriculture in productive and profitable conditions.

The produce from agriculture has limited retentive capacity. It gets damaged and destroyed if it is not turned into finished goods and processed. The agro-based industry can help agriculture. But these industries are in very bad shape and are not modernised, and are getting closed down. The textile, jute, oil, sugar industries are suffering. The Government has not taken steps to establish food-processing industry on a large scale. The private sector is not inclined to establish the processing industry. The result is that agriculture suffers, the farmer suffers and the farm labour suffers and the consumer also suffers.

The huge stocks of foodgrains are produced by farmers not with the help given by the Government only in last four or five years. Let us not forget it. They are produced because of the policies made in the regimes of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Shrimati Indira Gandhi. This fact need not and should not be glossed over to give credit to the present Government. The present Government should take new steps to help the agriculture and agriculturist.

The sugar industry was doing well. Now it is in a very bad shape. It should not be allowed to suffer like the textile and the jute industries. What can be done? The sugar factories should produce ethanol by using not only the molasses, but sugarcane juice also. Half of the sugarcane juice can be and should be used to produce ethanol. The bagasse and other remains of the sugarcane should be used to produce electricity. This approach would strengthen the industry. It would remain viable and profitable at least for fifty years to come.

What is proposed for agriculture is quite dismal and unimaginative. That makes one feel that the Government does not care sufficiently for agriculture, rural development and unemployment. The Government has increased the prices of fertilizers and the diesel. These steps are going to affect the agriculture a great deal. The Government should bring down the prices of fertilizers and the diesel. The Government can think of these methods and other methods also to help the farmer. The farmer and the farm labourers are not as well off as the persons in services, trade or industry are. So, they do deserve the assistance and help of the Government.

The Budget appears to help some industries to some extent. What is done need not be criticised and objected to. But what is done is not sufficient. The small scale industry is put in a disadvantageous position. For new industries nothing substantial has been done. The industry in modern times depends a great deal *inter-alia* on new technologies and markets. There are no substantial steps taken to develop and produce new technologies. The funds provided for these purposes are not enough. They too are expected to be used for the development of designs and quality control. This kind of development of technology cannot help. New basic technologies should be developed and used for which purpose a substantial investment and funds are needed. The Budget does not talk about such research and development activities. Ultimately this negligence would affect the industrial growth and development. India would always remain a follower and would not become a leader in industrial and service

sectors if it solely relies on imported technologies and does not develop its own technologies. We do not want to suggest that the wheel should be reinvented. We suggest that in the areas at horizon, other countries would not help India with latest technologies and so India should try to stand on its own in the new areas and fields.

India does have some advantages in some areas. In electronics, in genetics, in ocean, in solar energy, etc., it has certain advantages which are not enjoyed by other countries. Why should India not make use of them and help itself and other countries in return for help it may receive from them? Nations and economies are not built on small and trifling ideas. They can be built on vision and a sense of adventure in unknown areas of knowledge. What the Government proposes to do for the industry is limited to give some tax concessions. Give the tax concession, if necessary. But that is not sufficient. It should spend to establish new capabilities and to develop new methods of management and technologies. This kind of positive approach is not visible in the Budget and it is likely to affect industry and services in the country.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta, North West) : Is it an alternative Budget from the Opposition benches?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara) : Listen to it, you may learn something.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Well, this is called positive approach. We are not only criticising; we are giving suggestions also.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : I am learning. In Parliament, nobody reads so many pages after pages. I just want to know whether it is permissible. I can bring mine tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : In order to save the time of the House, if you also want to do so, I will give you permission

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : That means anybody can come with it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yes, if it saves the time of the House particularly.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : I am not opposing it; I am only appreciating.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : For infrastructure a lot need be done. The private sector's cooperation and partnership should not be shunned and should be obtained and used. But in India, that would not be very significant. The Government has to play a major role in building the infrastructure. If reliance is placed beyond a reasonable limit on the initiatives and efforts of non-Governmental sector in building the needed kind of infrastructure, the time would be wasted, and the country would lag behind other countries in many respects. Private sector in other countries is quite strong and versatile. Indian private sector also can become very strong and versatile. Steps for this purpose should be taken, and it should be treated as a part of the national sector. But unrealistic reliance on it, in the circumstances in which it is found would not be very helpful. The results obtained in communication sector would not be available in power, road building, or river grid projects, through private sector. The advancement in communication is more because of new technology and cellular phones, than anything else. This should be understood and remembered.

There are no plans to produce more power by using the present methods and technologies or by using new methods. The plant load factor in many power plants is not as it should be. There are no steps suggested to generate power on a large scale by using nuclear, solar, hydrogen technologies or other methods. The results that would be obtained through this route may be revolutionary. True, it would need huge amounts of money, and quite substantial time to fructify. If it would not be started now, it would take more time and more funds to be able to make use of them.

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At present we do have the technologies to use this route to generate power. The technologies should be sophisticated and economies of scale should be developed to make them cost effective and economically feasible and viable. The Governments of years gone by and leaders have sown the seeds in these areas. The present Government should continue its efforts to develop these capabilities further.

The project, which is meant to build golden quadrilateral road network, and projects which are meant to link the rivers, are good. The concepts on which they are based were known and were tried to be used in the past.

They appear to be moving towards the goal set for them. They should be encouraged; funds should be found for them; and cooperation from all sides should be extended for these projects. Let us see how they develop and how the Governments handle them.

Knowledge is one of the most important ingredients of infrastructure needed for visionary, all-round development of the country. It is unlimited. It is available for those who pine for it and work for it.

The Budget speaks about literacy, education, and primary and secondary education as well as tertiary education to some extent. But it does not speak about the policies and plans for discovery of new knowledge and science. Knowledge would be the most expensive commodity in the world. Those who would have it would lead the humanity. Is there anything substantial and specific mentioned in the Budget about it? We did not find anything specifically mentioned about it. It is dealt with in a routine manner. What would be produced out of this casual attitude would be very insignificant and uninspiring. The most advanced countries are devoting a lot of funds, energy, time and manpower in discovering new knowledge. India has a huge human resource which can be very useful to generate knowledge. If we use this innate strength of

ours, we can produce results which would be useful to us and others in the world in a most spectacular manner. If we use what we have, we would be strong and competitive. If we do what others are doing we would seldom be equal to them.

The Budget does not speak, in clear terms, about the problems which have occurred out of the drought conditions, and the scarcity of water for drinking and other purposes in the country. The people may have food to eat. But if they do not have water to drink or irrigate their farms, or for industrial purposes, they would suffer. Time has come when in a comprehensive manner, these problems should be considered and solutions to overcome them should be found. The problems are not insurmountable. They can be tackled in a very successful manner by adopting short-term, medium-term and long-term plans. It would be very wrong to neglect them. The State Governments have a duty to tackle them. But they should be helped with funds, with plans, with technologies and new ideas. The Government of India would be failing in its duty if it does not take effective steps to overcome them. Time has come when these problems can hardly be delayed or neglected.

Indian soil is not covered with forests as it should be. Science suggests that 35 per cent of it should be covered with greenery. The trees recharge the ground water reservoirs. They fertilise the land. They attract clouds, and help to see that rains, flood the rivers and reservoirs. The Government of India and the State Governments should take effective measures to protect, preserve and enlarge the forests. There is some misunderstanding in the minds of State Governments and citizens also, which does not help to protect and preserve the forests. That misunderstanding should be removed and the forests should be treated as a very rich resource of wealth.

Population in India is increasing. Nobody talks about controlling it and about taking effective steps to see that it does not become unbearable to the land and the country. Those who criticised the efforts done to control it, are in power today. They do not want to speak about the

population control because they had criticised it in the past. Those who had tried to control it, do not also speak about the problem because they think that again they can be unreasonably criticised for doing it. This "*Teri be chup, Meri be chup*", is not going to help. The Budget should highlight the issue and provide necessary infrastructure funds to achieve the objective.

The GDP is on the decline. It has come down to 4.4 per cent from 5.6 per cent. The production from farm sector has decelerated and has come down to 3.1 per cent from 5.7 per cent. The targets fixed in the Ninth Five Year Plan are not attained. The targets fixed in the Budget and in the Annual Plans remain unachieved. The condition of the financial institutions is very bad. Almost all financial institutions are losing their capability to provide credit facilities for industrial development and big projects. The banks are in a very bad shape. The real non-performing assets have reached the level of nearly one and a half lakh crores. The employment promised to the young ones and the unemployed has not been forthcoming. The foreign exchange reserves have gone up to 75 billion dollars. But these reserves are not put to any use and are creating the burden on the exchequer and the economy because those who have brought them in the country and deposited them in the banks and other institutions have to be given interest. This is one of the reasons why the debt burden and the interest burden have increased. The Governments have been borrowing funds from the markets with heavy interests.

Many projects of the Government are suffering from cost and time overruns and increasing the burden on the exchequer, and delaying the returns, which could have come from them. The targets to collect the revenue and taxes are not met. The funds given to the Ministries are not used. No new methods of economising are found out. Only down sizing the Government is taken as feasible to economise. The Government could have planned properly, could have implemented the plans meticulously, could have used new methods of administration, and management, could have used new technologies, could

have discovered new areas of economic activities, could have enthused and inspired the workers and the people to produce more, and produce more efficiently.

The governance has been inapt and inefficient, uninspiring and unimaginative, devoid of plans, and visions. It has adopted the old theory of the Government having no business to do business, which the hon. Finance Minister mentioned in his speech. The Government need not in all cases be in the business or trade. It need be in the trade also to do distributive justice. It need be in industry and specifically in new areas of industrial activities, in which non-Governmental agencies are unwilling, or unready or unable to enter. It need to help in social sector, which would not be helped by non-Governmental agencies. It did not talk of any vision or long-term planning. The Union Government is required to have perspective plans and visions, and function for the future of the country. The deficit, revenue and fiscal deficit is escalating. It has gone up to nearly Rs. 150,000 crore. The present Budget does not explain clearly as to how it could reduce it. It mentions some proposals to reduce it. But, as things stand and as the governance is done, it is not convincing that it would be reduced. Let us see what happens when the next Budget is presented in this respect. The budgets which were treated as dream budgets or, budgets which were given ten marks out of ten, could not reduce the deficit, could not increase the production, could not make the country competitive, and could not make the people happy.

This year, the Government talks about some vision, Vision 2020. It is good. It should be explained as to what that vision represents; as to how comprehensive it is and as to what areas it covers. Is it limited only to Science and Technology or is it extended to matters political, economic, social, cultural, international and futuristic? If it is limited it would not help. If it is holistic and comprehensive it would help. It should explain what it means for the economy of the country. Does that mean helping the weakest, the poorest and the middle class men and women? Or does that mean helping those only who need very little help?



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Does it mean helping the country to be strong, competitive and helpful to other countries? The vague ideas would not help. Amorphous approach would not produce concrete results. It is the absence of holistic vision, that is at the root of sluggish movement towards prosperity and happiness of the people.

No nation can be built and can become strong without ideological and visionary moorings. The rulers of the initial decades of Indian freedom had vision and long term perspective. So, they could build institutions, and lay the foundations of economic development and social harmony, the unity of the country and democratic institutions. The pragmatic approach should not be allowed to degenerate into opportunistic methods of doing things.

The Government talks of economic reforms. But its reforms are restricted only to disinvestment and downsizing the Government. If necessary, these steps should be taken. However, while doing that it should see that human beings are not treated as machines which can be discarded without any qualms of conscience. The reforms should have a human face and help the people and the country.

Reforms should reach political institutions. New technologies should be procured, developed and used. New areas of production should be discovered and used. Machinery to do economic, social and cultural justice should be built and used. The people should be enthused and inspired to put in hard labour and efforts of all kinds and to be competitive. The limited concept of reforms may not suffice. They are not going to be real reforms and useful. They would decelerate the progress rather than push it ahead towards the goal of prosperity.

These limited reforms cannot help the people at large. They would not convince and inspire anybody who is of just and equitable nature.

We know the task of the Finance Minister is quite onerous. He needs help of his colleagues and officers in

all Ministries and the cooperation of many others. The Opposition parties would extend a hand of cooperation in all just things he wants to do. However, they are bound to resort to their right to criticise his wrong policies and wrong steps. They would mince no words to tell him frankly and criticise him, with no malice towards anybody, as to what is good or what is not good for the people, and the country and their future and the mistakes and defaults committed by him, his Ministry and the Government.

The Budget is sugar coated. It is vague and unhelpful to consolidate fiscal position of the country. It is not kind enough for those who are not strong and vocal. It speaks of good intentions. However, it is not convincing that these intentions would be put into practice. It appears that it is deceiving itself and the people. It is more worried about reducing or increasing the taxes. But it is less keen to emphasise on using the funds and collecting the revenue and taxes. That is why, funds provided for the defence activities remain unspent. An amount of Rs. 9,000 crore has remained unspent by the Defence Ministry. The Defence Ministry wants the allocation to become non-lapsable. That means, the Ministry need not be alert and use the funds that are given to it in time. This is nothing but inexcusable ineptness, which cannot be appreciated. There are other Ministries also which have not used funds allocated to them. This should not be continued.

Will the Finance Minister reply to the points made by us to dispel our doubts and doubts of the people on the efficacy of the Budget proposals? This, I say because many of the points raised by the Members, in most of the debates remain unanswered. Let this be not done this time too.

Sir, I have done.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Budget is a document showing the direction of growth on the basis of the current health of our economy.

Sir, on the presentation of the Budget, some people expressed optimism, some others said, they are pessimistic, but in all humility, I would submit that let us be realistic. In the backdrop of the hardships which we have faced like the worst drought in the last 15 to 20 years, warlike situation along the borders for a long time and worsening economic situation in the entire globe, the Finance Minister has ventured to produce and present a Budget that would galvanise economic growth, eradicate poverty, generate more and more employment in the country and also provide happiness and satisfaction to the common man. Let me take the liberty of patting the back of my senior leader, hon. Minister of Finance, for presenting such a pro-poor, popular and growth-oriented Budget the other day.

The Budget is knitted in such a fashion that my friends from across are unable to find a hole in it. I welcome their support. *...(Interruptions)* Hon. Shri Shivraj Patil has generally been supportive of the measures initiated in the Budget. Everybody is silent. I thank for that.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Who said, we are supportive?*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : There is a misunderstanding....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : I only thank you.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : You did not hear what I had said. *...(Interruptions)* We are silent because we are disciplined.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Thank you very much for that. I was only thankful to my friends from across for the positive suggestions they had made. That would enable the entire country to improve the economic situation.

The hon. Minister of Finance has ventured to hand out concessions – concessions varying from the excise duty

on a variety of goods to five percentage reduction across the board so far as the customs duty is concerned. Even in the matter of personal taxation, that is, income tax, he has given greater relief to all the sections of the society. All – the poor people and those belonging to the salaried class – are happy. *...(Interruptions)*

My friends would better understand the provisions contained in this Budget if they make a critical analysis. Unless they read it and experience it, probably, it would be very difficult for one to understand. This Budget has not only provided these concessions but it has also shown us the way by making enormous investments in the field of infrastructure. A whopping sum of Rs. 40,000 crore is to be invested for construction of 48 new roads in the country. Then, there will be another amount of Rs. 20,000 crore for other infrastructure sectors. That would generate employment as envisaged. It is also being propagated by the hon. Prime Minister. This Government has no doubt held out a promise in the last year that it would provide new employment opportunities to the tune of one crore every year. The other day, we heard the hon. Prime Minister on the floor of this House. He was able to establish through facts and figures that more than 70 lakh new employment opportunities were created during the last year. I am sure that with the provisions that have been made in the current year's Budget, we would exceed the target of creating new employment opportunities for more than one crore of people during this year.

Sir, not only that, the existing employment also has got a new impetus on account of the concessions that are given, especially as we all know the one sector, which would provide large employment in this country, next to agricultural sector is the textile sector. Hon. Finance Minister has come out with a new package of taxation proposals for the textile sector knowing full well that by March next year the multi-fibre agreement will come to an end and the textile sector will have to face new challenges globally. To strengthen the textile sector, side by side creating more and more employment opportunities

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domestically, we want the textile sector to stand up on its legs, compete in the global market and come out successful.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : By importing Chinese silk indiscriminately and bringing it through every channel

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt like that.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Sir, Madam is fully aware that even after best of our efforts, we are not able to produce sufficient quantity of quality silk in our country. There is a great demand for silk and we are unable to increase our production to the tune of our demand.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Would he yield for a minute?

The Economic Survey, which is prepared and submitted by the Government to the House shows that in 1998 that the jobs created were 281 lakhs; in 2001 it has come down to 277 lakhs; in 1999 it was 281 lakhs; and in 2002, it was 279 lakhs. This shows that the number of jobs created is not increasing, it is shrinking. This information given by the Government in the Economic Survey of India shows these figures. In view of this fact how can say that they are creating more jobs?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : It was not supplied to the Prime Minister...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Sir, that is why, I was referring to the marked deviation that is made in the provisions contained in the Budget. Can we not say that by making a whopping investment of Rs. 60,000 crore in the infrastructural sector alone for the construction of new roads, for providing other infrastructural facilities, like sea-ports, airports, etc. we are creating new employment

opportunities? Probably one would say that there is ample opportunity for creating new employment. I am also trying to place on record that on account of the concessions given in the textile sector, I am pretty sure that the employment opportunity in that sector will go up.

The other sector, which will make the biggest contribution to our economy is the gems and jewellery section. For that also, at least, Shrimati Alva should be happy that the customs duty on import of gold has been decreased.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : He should talk about poor women and not the *Rajas* and *Ranis*, who are going to wear this jewellery.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : I am talking about her only...*(Interruptions)* Though these days, there is no opportunity for anybody to become *Raja* or *Rani*, we would wish the same status for Shrimati Alva. I do not have any grudge there.

Sir, by granting concessions in the customs, import duty on gold and other gems as well as diamonds, the number of employment opportunities in this country would get a new boost. Sir, 90 per cent of the diamond used in the world is being cut and polished in this country. One should visit Surat and Ahmedabad.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Do you know in Gujarat the diamond-cutting industry suffered a one million loss during the riot? Do you know it? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No running commentary, Shrimati Alva.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I do not know why Karnataka people are heckling you.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : He was doing such a good job and they removed him.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, please let us hear him.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : In my own humble way, I was trying to present before the House how the new initiatives are taken by the hon. Finance Minister in assuring creation of new employment opportunities in this country. Sir, so far as the steps initiated for the eradication of poverty is concerned, hon. Shri Shivraj Patil has already welcomed it. The number of people covered by the "Antyodaya Ann Yojana" has increased from 1 crore families to 1.5 crore families.

Then, Sir, the life time concern of our citizens covering health, housing, education and also employment is taken care of. This is the first Budget which has, on the one hand, given so many concessions and no new taxes are imposed, still we find a way for growth. This is the biggest achievement of this Government. It is growth oriented.

Sir, I would like to say that the biggest achievement of this Government is in making the State Governments agree for introduction of the Value-Added Tax system. By introduction of the Value Added Tax system, the entire tax regime in the States will become easy. In one go the barricades that are existing will go away. They will vanish. I would say this is the biggest achievement. That is why, I would like to congratulate the hon. Finance Minister, hon. Prime Minister of India for taking such a bold initiative. It will go a long way in bringing in reforms so far as the taxation is concerned. Sir, it will make the life of the common man easy. The consumers will be benefited in getting quality goods at a reasonable price, so also, the revenue will go up. Every single value addition made in terms of physical value addition or in terms of price of the goods will be tapped. One who would keep proper accounts will also get the benefit of the tax suffered at the earlier point. So that being the situation, the hon. Finance Minister has tried his best in taking the step further so far as the reforming of the taxation is concerned.

Sir, we all know that knowledge is wealth, very well and this Government has come out with a new scheme

so far as literacy is concerned. The new scheme of continuing education and compulsory education for all the youngsters between the age of six and fifteen is made a reality by making a provision of around Rs. 10,000 crore for the primary, the secondary, the higher-secondary education, and also for the welfare of the women and the children. Sir, no other Budget has made such a greater allocation for the education and also welfare of the women and children.

So far as the health sector is concerned, a new innovative scheme is being implemented. You just pay one rupee if you are a single person per day; if you are a part of the family consisting of five persons, you pay Rs. 1.50 per day; if the number of members in your family is more than five, then you pay Rs. 2 per day, and Rs. 30,000 worth your expenditure at the end of the year will be taken care of by the Insurance Company. You will get Rs. 25,000 in lump sum in case of accidental death. Such an innovative scheme, such a social measure has never been proposed by any of the earlier Governments. This should be at least welcomed. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane) : They are keeping silent. That means, they are welcoming it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : When we interrupt him, you say, 'do not disturb him.' When we do not interrupt him, you say, "we are supporting him." ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE : We are supporting him and are opposing him. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : You are provoking us to oppose him. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Sir, the hon. Member, Shri Shivraj V. Patil has expressed concern that there is a fall in GDP and it has come down to 4.4 per cent. I would say that the hon. Finance Minister has made a very moderate estimate of the GDP growth of 4.4 per cent. At least I am convinced, and I am sure that by the end of

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the financial year, that is when we reach March 31st and when the real GDP figure will be published somewhere in May, June, we will reach the mark of 5 per cent growth. You take it from me. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : The Prime Minister himself has agreed that it would not go beyond 4.4 per cent. ...*(interruptions)*

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : I am sure about it when I make this statement.

There is continuous growth in the industrial sector and it has already crossed 15 per cent. It will reach 20 per cent. Everyday there is continuous growth in the industrial sector and that will enhance the growth of the GDP. I am sure that we will reach five per cent or we may even cross that five per cent mark....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : It will go beyond six per cent, do not worry!.. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : I do not make such a tall claim. As I have said in the beginning, let us be realistic, let us not be optimistic or pessimistic. I am only trying to put across the real figures. We will be in a position to reach the five per cent growth of GDP.

So far as the growth of industry is concerned, it has already been mentioned in the budgetary documents. I do not want to take much time of the House

There is another major step, which has been initiated by this Government. This Government has taken care not only the economic health of the Government of India but also bothered equally about the health of the economy of every State. For the first time, an offer is made by the hon. Finance Minister for swapping of the high cost debts by the State Government. I am sure every State Government will take advantage of this offer, and the State Governments that are ruled by my friends sitting across will take the lead first in taking advantage of this offer made by the hon. Finance Minister. It such an innovative provision, such an offer that you pay off your debts which are of high costs,

and you make fresh borrowings wherein you will be getting the loan at a much cheaper rate, and thereby, the economic health of every State is going to improve. That will also contribute to the growth of the GDP. I am sure that we will be definitely reaching the target of 5.1 per cent or 5.2 per cent, which the Finance Minister has suggested. We may reach the figure of 5.6 per cent or 5.7 per cent. This year itself, I am sure that we will cross five per cent. This is an innovative step for which we must give a loud applause to the hon. Finance Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

16.00 hrs.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I Your people have not come to applause?

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : You please lead us. You clap first then others will join you.

*[English]*

I am not going into the details of the provisions made. The economic indicators are also relevant when we support the measures that are provided in this Budget. The economic indicators are also important. The sectoral growth will also have to be taken into account. Now, so far as agriculture and other allied sectors are concerned, the hon. Finance Minister has frankly admitted that on account of severe drought conditions, the contribution from the agricultural sector could not reach the target. That is why we have been a little bit behind the target, but on account of the growth in the industrial sector, we are sure that we will be in a position to make it up.

Then, so far as the contribution made on account of the infrastructural development is concerned, that is enormous. Personally one could experience it today; one could see it; and one could travel on such beautiful roads that are laid across the country. We have not made any differentiation between the States, which are ruled by the BJP and the other partners of the NDA. We have laid the

roads across the country, from North to South. The entire Golden Quadrilateral project is getting completed ahead of schedule. Also, side by side, in every village we have been able to lay new roads under the *Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana*. No other Government has come out with such a wonderful proposal. Every year, Rs. 2,500 crore is provided. For the last three years, I have been the beneficiary. In my constituency, I am able to construct roads in every village. I am sure that all my fellow Members have taken the best advantage of this innovative programme. This has galvanised the infrastructural development in this country. We provide transport facility and we provide other kind of infrastructural support so that the entire economy will grow and it will create new employment opportunities.

Now, so far as the services are concerned, I am sure everybody would agree with this point. I am the fourth-timer in this House. I came for the first time in the year 1991. Those days we were all given the authority to give or sanction telephone connections to 25 persons out of turn in a year. Then, came the authority of giving gas connections. In the beginning, it was just 12 per quarter. We were getting 12 coupons for three months. Those days are gone. Today, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas is providing us with 100 coupons a year. Nobody is taking those coupons because there is no demand in the constituency. Nobody is asking for that. Nobody is asking for telephone connections. You just have to go to the Telecom Department, file the application and you get the connection by evening.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj, Bihar) : Connections are not given in Bihar.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Do not talk absent Raghuvansh Babu will mention about it.

[English]

Bihar is an exception....(Interruptions) So, what I am trying to bring to the notice of all the hon. Members is that

the life for the common man has become easy. There is no queue for cooking gas. There is no queue for telephone connection. Life has become easy for the common man....(Interruptions) Sir, 20 lakh new houses are constructed every year since the last four years.

[Translation]

We have not tried to change the names. We are running it under the same name, that is, *Indira Awas Yojana*.

[English]

Under the *Indira Awas Yojana*, 20 lakh houses are being built every year in the rural parts of the country providing shelter to the common man.

All this has made the life of the common man easy.

[Translation]

The queues outside the ration shops are getting shorter.

[English]

Nobody is interested in standing in queues for ration. Is this not an achievement by the Government?

The Government has been able to contain inflation. The rate of inflation is much under control; it is falling day by day. On the other hand, our foreign exchange reserves are swelling. I believe, today, the foreign exchange reserves would be \$ 80 billion. On the one hand, the foreign exchange reserves are swelling and on the other hand the inflation rate is under check. So, the common man is happy.

We hope that this Budget would definitely achieve the target set before us and would create an atmosphere whereby we would be in a position to repay the loans well before schedule. We have started that already. We have already liquidated some of the debts ahead of schedule. This has never happened in the past, during the first 52 years since we attained Independence. For the

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first time, the Government of India has been able to liquidate some of the debts in advance and this is a happy situation:

Everybody would know that worldwide only two economies are growing – one is India and the other is China. No doubt China is ahead of us. We have to agree on that point. But we are also in the race. I am sure the day is not far off when we would not only reach the rate of growth of China but even surpass that because of the measures initiated by the hon. Minister of Finance through this Budget. We are sure, we would surpass the targets set before us.

I do not want to take much time of the House. I would only make an appeal and request the support of all hon. Members of this House to the hon. Minister of Finance and to the provisions he has made in this Budget for carrying forward the agenda that he has set before the country. I am sure, this would usher in a new economic growth in our country. It would also provide happiness and peace. It would provide growth in all sectors. That is why, I support the provisions contained in this Budget and also make an earnest appeal to one and all to give their full support to the provisions contained in this Budget.

So far as the agriculture sector is concerned, the hon. Minister of Finance has made provisions for easy finances and also provided for tax relief to the co-operative sector. As I said, I do not want to go into the details for want of time.

The hon. Minister has been so magnanimous that in spite of all the difficulties, he has taken care to provide something for everybody.

There is a popular request by all hon. Members on the proposed increase in urea prices. Although I would say that it causes some difficulties, the total subsidy outflow to the fertiliser sector, in fact, would be increased on account of the increase in the prices of naphtha. So, the

hon. Minister of Finance has no option but to make some small savings on the subsidy that is given on urea. Still, I am sure, keeping in view the demand and request made by all hon. Members of this House and also by the farming community, the hon. Minister of Finance would take this into consideration.

I hope he would come out with necessary relief when he will finally give the reply. I make an earnest appeal to the hon. Minister of Finance to give due credence to the sentiments expressed by the Members of this House and also by the members of the farming community in the entire country.

Sir, once again, I give full support to the provisions contained in this Budget and I thank, from the bottom of my heart, the hon. Minister of Finance for providing revolving fund support to the plantation industry, coffee, tea, rubber, etc. ...*(Interruptions)* My friends have reminded me that arecanut and coconut are also the plantation crop. Similar provisions can be made by forming a corpus fund for giving support for coconut and arecanut. I am sure, the hon. Minister of Finance will take this also into consideration. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I also support about coconut.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Sir, you are also supporting because that is the mainstay of the people in your area. So, coconut and arecanut also should be supported by constituting such a fund.

Sir, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion.

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH (Eluru) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion.

The hon. Minister of Finance presented an excellent Budget for 2003-04. The main objectives on which he has emphasised are about eradication of poverty, covering health, housing, education, employment and also

infrastructure development. The other aspects are: Financial consideration through tax reforms, progressive elimination of other budgetary tax, agricultural and related aspects including irrigation, enhancing manufacturing sector's efficiency including promotion of exports and further acceleration of the reform process.

In the Budget of 2003-04, the total expenditure projected is Rs. 4,38,795 crore. Out of this, the Plan expenditure is Rs. 1,20,974 crore and Non-Plan expenditure is Rs. 3,17,821 crore. Last year the Non-Plan expenditure was Rs. 2,89,924 crore. The increase is mainly because of interest liability, subsidies and Defence expenditure.

Now I would like to say something about the total Non-Plan and Plan expenditure. Out of Rs. 2,53,935 crore, the deficit financing will be Rs. 1,53,637 crore, which is about 5.6 per cent of the estimated GDP. I know that this is going to be a little bit high. So the hon. Minister of Finance has to look into some of these aspects and to see how we can be able to reduce it to the maximum extent possible.

Now I come to the other taxation policies. First is the direct taxation. He has given some fillip for stock markets, improving more investments in the stock exchange. In the direct taxation, he has removed the dividend taxation and also simplified the tax structure and long-term capital gains. He has given complete elimination of surcharged taxation, which will go a long way for the stock markets, which is basically what we need today. Unless the industrial growth comes, the economy will not pick up.

Today, we have to support agriculture with hard work. But the finance has to come from the industry, both through direct taxation and indirect taxation, and through various employment potentialities at various levels. However, agriculture, basically, will give you the support for GDP. But the fact is that it will come mainly from the industrial growth. That is the reason why, I think, he has given some fillip to the industrial development for these programmes.

Now I come to some of the indirect taxation measures. The main thing is that on the corporate taxation, he has given some surcharge reduction from 5 per cent to 2.5 per cent.

16.14 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDAYA *in the Chair*]

In the direct taxation, he has completely taken away the entire surcharge from the individuals and the HUF. But for those with income of more than Rs. 8.5 lakh per year, the surcharge is increased to 10 per cent. In any case, it is a provision that he has made in order to compensate the losses that will be arising from out of the above decision.

I now come to the import duty. The hon. Minister of Finance has standardised the excise duty by making it at eight per cent, 16 per cent and 24 per cent in order to utilise the various sectors by different categories. He has adopted some very novel methods wherein he has given full exemption in some of the very important items like umbrella, bicycle, bicycle parts, toys and other things. It is a very good thing and this will give employment potential to the handicrafts and those people involved in it. He has also done the same in respect of kitchenware for which all the women would be very happy.

Coming to the other taxation policies of the indirect taxation, the hon. Minister has given substantial reduction in the case of gold, gems and jewellery. Today India has become one of the largest exporters of gold jewellery. By this decision, the hon. Minister has reduced the entire mafia and also smuggling to this country. It is a novel step. We congratulate him for taking this decision. It will give great employment potential to a number of goldsmiths and we would be having excellent quality products in the country. Our people can produce excellent quality jewellery and this will be a very good encouragement for them.

Coming to the industrial sector, particularly small-scale industries, I think the hon. Minister needs to give some



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more support. He has removed only 75 items from the list of de-reservation. For the other sectors he has to give more support. The sickness of the industry is one of the basic items which he has not touched. In fact, hundreds and thousands of crores of rupees worth equipment and money have been blocked up because of sickness. It is there not only in the country but in other countries also.

It is a novel method of the hon. Minister by allowing the financial institutions and banks with the expertise through the mergers and amalgamations which can be able to reduce the sickness. This will happen due to various reasons. We do not want to go into those things whether technological changes or policy changes and other things in some other industries. But the sickness can be eliminated to the maximum extent possible and it can be reduced. I hope hon. Minister of Finance will take some sort of measures for this purpose.

I am also happy that the interest rates have been properly controlled which will give liquidity for the banks and the financial institutions so that money is available for industrial purposes.

Sir, VAT is one of the important items that is to be seen. In the whole country it can be a unifying method. Now each State has got a different type and structure of sales tax. The VAT is one of the things which will be able to make it. Today, in the European Union, things can move from one country to another country without any differentiation. But in India, from one State to another State, we have so much of discrimination. VAT is a good thing with which we can have unification of the whole structure of the sales tax system. In regard to the VAT system. I hope that they will see that the movement of goods will also slowly improve without any restrictions on their movement and all these things.

Coming to his policy on the textile industry, it is very encouraging. This is the largest exporter of this country where nearly Rs. 40,000 crore worth of exports come from

textiles – be it various categories like yarn, cloth, garments or whatever it is. I am very happy that the hon. Minister has given a very good support to the textile industry both for modernisation and various other levels.

The other thing that is growing today in this country is pharmaceutical industry. There also, the hon. Minister has given a lot of support in different methods so that the pharmaceutical industry of this country can also grow and compete with the world market. That is what we would be able to prove in spite of the doubts expressed in the WTO as to what is going to affect this country is the pharmaceuticals. Today the bulk drugs are also made in this country. The formulations are very well. The research and development is going on very well. I am also happy that the hon. Minister of Finance has given a good support for the R&D and this will be able to help our pharmaceutical industry.

Today, the Information Technology is a growing industry in this country and that is where he has given more employment potential. We are also exporting to a lot of other countries and a lot of them are coming here to utilise our talents and make use of this industry. I am sure this industry will grow very fast. The same is the case with biotechnology. I think the hon. Minister has almost recognised the various growth-oriented sectors in this country and we are very happy about it.

But the only thing where I feel about is on the duty structure. He has reduced it across the board from 30 per cent to 25 per cent. I know that this is because of the WTO rules and regulations. But, unfortunately, the developing countries are not reducing the subsidy for agriculture. Unless they also reduce it and fall in line, it will be difficult. We should also make an attempt to see how we should be able to tell them that we are also going to strongly protect our industry.

When they want to support their agriculture, without following the WTO norms and guidelines, they do it. We should also see that in the meanwhile, our anti-dumping duty or our safeguard system should be improved

substantially to make sure that the industry does not suffer. I am quite sure that some of these things will be taken care of and our hon. Finance Minister will look into them.

I want to mention about only few items. Today, our foreign exchange reserves are more than 75 billion dollars and inflation is also within the norms or at a very reasonable level. He has also given for the employees the Leave Travel Concession, which was withdrawn about two years back. This is an encouraging support for them.

For exports, Special Export Zones are very important on various aspects. Today, EPZs are there, but we should also be able to make sure that Special Export Zones become more and more attractive and they should be given more encouragement. I am also happy for establishment of an Export Credit Corporation. He has given Rs. 80 crore for its equity. That is going to be the main support for insurance purposes. The only thing I demand is that he should reduce service tax on the designing and engineering exports because a lot of other countries are using our own manpower with skills and abilities for designing and various other things from this country. So, there should not be any service tax on those things which are going for export purposes. I am sure that the hon. Finance Minister will take this into consideration.

Now, I come to agriculture. This is where we have to see that today, in spite of the drought conditions in the whole country, we are still able to have a comfortable position on food front. It is due to the hard work of our farmers. More than 65 per cent of people, who are mainly employed in this sector, need some support at the time when they have some difficulties. I am sure that the hon. Finance Minister would take care of this.

The increase in price of fertilisers is one of the very alarming things. I know that because of increase in the price of naphtha, subsidy on fertilisers has to be reduced, but I think, he should have asked the fertiliser industry to absorb a part of it and see that farmers are not loaded

with this hike. He should have considered this in view of the present conditions of the farmers who are suffering from drought, shortage of water and everything.

He has also not mentioned about crop insurance. I am sure that crop insurance is very essential for farmers. I hope, this will come into his mind and he would see that a proper crop insurance policy is incorporated at the earliest possible. I am very happy to see that he has given support to horticulture, floriculture and high technology for the agriculture. With the use of modern systems like sprinkler irrigation, and such other methods where less quantity of water is required for irrigation, we would be able to have more production with less use of water. As a result, the use of fertilisers and also insecticides will be reduced and the agriculture production will increase with the use of high technology in the field of agriculture. Then, drip irrigation is another item. He needs to give a lot of support to high technology in this field and subsidies for these things.

The Kapoor Committee has recommended that rural banking system should be given more support in order to see that agricultural finance is provided freely to the farmers. I do not know why he has not mentioned anything about it. Rural banks for agricultural finance have become the very basic structure that we need for them. Also, the hon. Prime Minister had said the other day that on *kharif* crop loan, interest subsidy will be taken care of for one year, but I was told that the Reserve Bank of India has not implemented this and the hon. Finance Minister should look into this aspect because farmers are still waiting for this relief which was announced by the hon. Prime Minister. This is the right time to help them.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : For plantation?

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH : Yes

Let me say about irrigation part of it. Frequently, national calamities are happening. On the one side, we are having damage by floods and on the other side, we

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are having problems on account of drought. We have been discussing this issue every now and then. If the linking of rivers is there, it will reduce the damage caused by floods and help the drought affected areas by way of water from other rivers. That is possible. Hon. Prime Minister has taken interest in this matter and appointed a Committee under the chairmanship of Shri Suresh Prabhu.

And I hope the Finance Minister will give some support. It is just like what we do in infrastructure today, for the road development, etc. Once you take up the decision that you have to do it for the larger interest of the country, the funds can be provided some how or other. It is because it will help us tremendously.

When you talk about agriculture, the associated or allied sectors, namely, fisheries, poultry, and dairies are also forming part of the farmers' usage. The fisheries require a lot of support and new methods. Poultry is suffering heavily because the cost of the feed is going up, whereas the developing countries are giving more than 60 per cent to 70 per cent subsidy. If you can give a reasonable subsidy for this industry, then it gives employment potentiality, it gives export potentiality; and it will grow very fast. It will help us a lot.

When we talk today about employment, it is not the Government employment, the employment potentiality can be developed in other sectors like the rural employment, agricultural employment and the agricultural waste development. We also require now the 'food for work' scheme which was started earlier and which worked very well. When serious drought situation is there, and so many people are waiting – it is not that the farmers only who are suffering, the labourers are also suffering – the hon. Finance Minister should take immediate action on this issue. It will be helpful, under the food for work scheme, rice or wheat or whatever is possible, is made available to them at the earliest possible, to help them. But, I am happy that he has taken a keen interest in reducing the debt – which is about Rs. 2,44,000 crore – from the State

Governments by giving a high interest rate debt, to reduce it and providing a policy which gives a discount of about Rs. 81000 crore. It is a real model, and I am very happy about it. I hope that this will be able to really help every State and that they will take advantage of it without any problem.

There is also a request from a number of States that the allocation for States should be increased. Today, the allocation of funds for the States is 29 per cent. This to be increased in order to see that the States' finances are improved, and it is a constant request from a number of States. I am sure that you will be able to consider it in whatever way it is possible.

While coming back to infrastructure, the allocation for infrastructure, namely, roads, ports, airports and other centers is Rs. 60,000 crore. I want that along with these roads, ports and airports, you should add warehousing also.

Warehousing is one of the important issues in addition to cold storage and Food Processing Industry. The other day that tomato prices have come down to less than a rupee, and again it had gone up to Rs. 20. If there is Food Processing Industry, they will be able to utilise the tomatoes and produce Ketchup, Soups, concentrates, and so many other things. Not only that, so many other agricultural products are produced in large quantity and they are wasted. So, by doing this we can eliminate the wastage in agricultural production. So, the Government should come forward to give Food Processing Industry proper support and, probably, proper technology and assistance.

The non-conventional power sector is an important sector. Various sectors depend on power because power is the basic sector. Today, agriculture, industry, etc. all depends upon power. And, of course, you have also given some proper consideration towards this sector, but we need to give more financial support. Clearances should also be done much faster, so that it will help the poor.

Coming to the rural side, there are schemes for rural road development, drinking water scheme, etc. The drinking water scheme, which is now coming up will be of great help for them. Your support for senior citizens is a wonderful plan, on which you have given very good thought and they are all very happy.

We should not forget about the defence personnel who have served this country, and on the education side, the 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan' and other schemes. Education has been given a lot of support.

On the health side, the amount of support you have given for various medical equipment and the drugs, the reduction in price of excise duty concessions and all these things, are welcome.

The most important thing is that more employment should be generated, and eradication of poverty is another important thing.

The agriculture side also requires some soil analysis support, marketing support, and various other things. I have to mention a lot of things.

The other day, I told you that the sugar is largest agro-based industry. It has to be encouraged somehow or the other. They all depend on various other things, which require other methods. They require a lot of assistance from the Finance Minister.

Different States want to take up various other issues and they need different types of assistance. I am hopeful that the Finance Minister will definitely look into that arena and when he comes to the final conclusion, he would consider all the aspects to improve the things.

I am sure, this Budget is going to be one of the good Budgets. I thank the Finance Minister for the same, and I support this Budget.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of the Shiv Sena, I am standing here to support this Budget for the year 2003-04, presented by our

hon. Finance Minister Shri Jaswant Singh, under the efficient leadership of our hon. Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

The earlier speakers have given all the plus points and they have praised our Finance Minister for giving a number of concessions to all the sectors in Hindustan. I do not want to repeat every suggestion that has been mentioned in the Budget. One thing which appealed to me very much is that for the first time, our Finance Minister has given his Speech in short sentences. Instead of long sentences and typical bureaucratic language, he has given his Speech in short sentences, which a common man will also understand as to what are his feelings. I am very much happy to note here that the basic rule of economics, that is, reducing the rate of taxes will not reduce the revenue, has been implemented for the first time. This is what I was saying time and again that the Minister should simplify the tax structure so that a common man will have the feeling that he should pay the taxes. Here, I appreciate the Finance Minister for doing this in a nice fashion.

Sir, the Finance Minister has announced a lot of concessions in excise, customs, sales-tax and in all the sectors. However, I am little bit afraid that the reduction of customs duty may increase the inflow of goods from foreign countries, which will damage the interests of the indigenous manufacturers in our country. The day we signed the WTO Agreement, this comparison was made by all the political parties suggesting that we should follow and learn something from China: how China has developed their industry, how China has developed or increased the opportunity for the jobs in their country. For the information of this House and also the Finance Minister, I will just make a comparison of the industrial policy of China and the industrial policy of Hindustan.

Sir, the cost of land in China is Rs. 55-60 per square metre; in Hindustan, it is Rs. 2,000 per square metre. The cost of infrastructure in China is nil; in India, it is not related at all. In the field of power, the downtime in China is nil;

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in our country, the average downtime is one-and-a-half hours to two hours per day. The water availability in China is abundant; in Hindustan, it is very low. In China, telephones are abundant and the quality is good; in Hindustan, there is a frequent failure and the quality is bad. In China, the salary of a labour, on an average, is Rs. 3,000 per month; in Hindustan, it is Rs. 5,000 per month. In China, the indirect labour costs, like PF, ESI, Gratuity, etc., are nil; in Hindustan, it is approximately 50 per cent of the salary. In China, the discipline of labour is excellent; in Hindustan, it is average. In China, the sales-tax is 17.5 per cent on value added taxes; in Hindustan, it differs from 4 per cent to 15.3 per cent. In China, the excise duty is nil; in Hindustan, it ranges from 8 per cent to 16 per cent to 24 per cent. In China, there is no inspector *raj*; in Hindustan, it is very high: we have to apply to 27 Government agencies, if we want to start some industry.

In China, income tax is nil in the first two years and 33 per cent thereafter. In Hindustan, it is 38.5 per cent. In China, Government formalities to be completed and the time taken to do that is negligible and everything is dealt with by one person. In Hindustan, as I narrated, one has to deal with 27 agencies to start an industry. Profits on exports are free of tax in China. They are fully taxable in Hindustan. Interest rates on bank loans range from two per cent to three per cent in China, 13 per cent to 17 per cent in Hindustan.

I have narrated this because we want to really compete in the WTO and our country is going to follow China in respect of facilities given to boost the growth of industry. Out of these ten points that I have mentioned, only two points are related to workers. However, I am sorry to say this, our Government had immediately appointed Verma Committee to study the issue of labour reforms. The Government is very much interested in bringing in labour reforms first rather than applying the same yardstick to all other issues in the industry. The labour is in no way connected with the management or in taking policy

decisions. The Government wants to bring in labour reforms because a group of industries – under whose pressure it is said that this Government is running – want to see the labour reforms brought in first. On behalf of Shiv Sena, I tell you that no labour reforms as per Verma Committee report will be accepted till the Government follows the same yardstick in regard to the other facilities available in our country.

As far as interest on bank loans is concerned, I am sure that to bring the limit from 13 and 17 per cent in two-three years to 2-3 per cent is not possible for any Government. In this regard I have given one suggestion. Here, I would like to mention that for the last six years we have made many suggestions in our speeches here but all our suggestions appear to have been thrown into the wastepaper basket. I hope that at least this year our suggestions will be accepted where possible and that they will not be thrown in the wastepaper basket. I will come forward with my other suggestions, which were thrown in the wastepaper basket.

In respect of this interest on loan, I have sent a letter to the hon. Finance Minister. Unfortunately, no reply has been received. I mentioned in that letter that in Hindustan, a manufacturer or an industrialist submits his proposal to the bank expecting a 30 per cent to 35 per cent profit on his investment. But, because of WTO and because of the increasing prices of electricity, water, telephone and labour, he is unable to maintain his profit at 30 per cent to 35 per cent level when he starts manufacturing the goods. It comes down to 15 per cent to 11 per cent. With that kind of a profit, he is not in a position to repay his loan instalment as well as the interest amount.

In China, there is a facility called bullet loan spanning over 99 years. I request the hon. Finance Minister to at least increase the span of loan from a minimum of 20 years to 35 years. All the people who have borrowed loans previously but whose ratio of profit has come down when compared to the originally expected rate should be taken care of. This is quite possible to do. Increasing the span

of loan will make some money available for him to pay his instalment, because the instalment will be reduced. The bank would not be a loser in this because on the increased span also the bank charges interest. To reduce the rate of interest is not possible. But to increase the span of loan, of the previous borrower also, to a minimum of 20 years to 35 years is quite possible.

The day before yesterday there was a huge cry on creating jobs. The hon. Prime Minister had stated then that people should not imagine that now the Government will be calling them and giving jobs. The only resource we need to promote by giving more facilities now is indigenous manufacturing. I was expecting that in this year's Budget, the Finance Minister would announce a special package on taxes and interest rates to manufacturers who manufacture import-substitutes. Nowhere in the Budget has the Finance Minister given encouragement to manufacturers of import-substitutes. With some special consideration, this sector would bring in a boom in indigenous industry.

I can give you examples in this respect.

I am very happy that the Government has shown great interests on agriculture. About agriculture, in his Budget Speech, the hon. Minister has said: "Agriculture is the life and blood of our economy." He has given some concessions on agriculture sector.

Sir, do you know what is happening in the Food Corporation of India (FCI)? Their own Report says that 20 million tonnes of food is thrown into the gutters because of insects, and the food is not of a quality where a human being can eat it. In terms of price, it amounts of Rs. 15,000 crore. Our farmers are producing a lot but FCI is not able to preserve the foodgrains as they should have. What is the reason? For the last one year I have been moving with the FCI people. Sir, I am really proud to say that two IIT engineers have developed one new system of fumigating foodgrains. As on today, we are fumigating our foodgrains, at least, four times a year to preserve it. As per their technology, not only the insects are killed, their eggs are

also killed. And, for years together, the foodgrains can be preserved. I had brought the samples of these foodgrains, and the FCI people have technically accepted this proposal. But unfortunately, again the problems of funding comes.

Sir, in the same line, this year we have given the *Padmashri* Award to Shri B.G. Shirke. B.G. Shirke and Associates have also given a new technique of preserving the foodgrains in GIC, silos. You will be surprised to know that right from 1970 when late Shri Jagjiwan Ram was our Agriculture Minister, Shirke and Associates had submitted a Report in this regard. But till date, no Minister has given any attention to the new systems of preservation of foodgrains.

When I was discussing it with the FCI officials, I was told that FCI is having, in all, 6000 blocks where they are supposed to construct godowns. Now, instead of godowns it should be silos. But out of these 6000 blocks, only in 1000 blocks, they have constructed godowns.

Sir, our hon. Prime Minister has given Rs. 60,000 crore for construction of roads, to connect all the interior parts of India with highways. May I request the hon. Finance Minister to sanction Rs. 5000 crore to FCI with specific conditions that this money should be used for the new technology of preservation along with the new silos also. The silos are constructed vertically. Then the space of land required is also less. Everybody knows the value of land in our country. Land is very costly in our country. So, I hope that, at least, this suggestion of mine will be accepted by him, as the hon. Finance Minister himself has said that 'Agriculture is the life and blood of our economy.'

Now Sir, I use one sentence that my precious suggestions are thrown into the wastepaper box. We all the parties and politicians always say that the minorities' interest is to be protected. Everybody is of the same opinion that minorities' interest is to be protected. In the august House 540 Members, there are only 23 MPs who

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are having more than 15 lakhs voters. Then are we, all others, not in minority? From my very first year as an MP, I am writing to the hon. Prime Minister; I am writing to the hon. Finance Minister....(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan) : But with more votes, you are in majority there....(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE : I am writing to the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs also saying that the smallest Constituency of Hindustan is the one where our hon. Deputy-Speaker Shri P.M. Sayeed comes from where the number of voters is 36,000.

The largest constituency of Hindustan has 31 lakh voters, and my constituency has got 28,32,000 voters. Sir, there is a disparity in the MPLAD fund. A person who is having 36,000 voters in his constituency gets Rs. 2 crore, whereas a person who has got 28 lakh voters or above 15 lakh voters is also getting Rs. 2 crore.

I have given a list of only 23 MPs whose voters are more than 15 lakhs. I have given a suggestion six years back, and everywhere I am giving this suggestion. I would be happy, if the Finance Minister accepts my suggestion. I am giving the suggestion right from the first year of introduction of this fund, namely, Rs. 2 crore up to 15 lakh voters; Rs. 3 crore from 15 to 20 lakh voters, and Rs. 4 crore for more than 20 lakh voters should be given for the MPLAD fund.

The Ministers are dreaming that they will become Ministers after elections also. They must know that they become Ministers on the strength of the MPs who are elected and who are in majority. The demand of the MPs has not been taken into consideration, at least, during the last two years. The hon. Speaker, has taken a lead by requesting the Prime Minister that at least he should increase this amount from Rs. 2 crore to Rs. 3 crore. But the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech has totally neglected the MPLAD fund.

In some States, people may not be using fund properly. That does not mean that all the MPs are not using the fund properly. So, that injustice and disparity should be removed.

Ultimately, after two years, we have to go back to our constituencies. As far as general budgetary figures are concerned, they are all right. But the day-to-day problems of the villagers, namely, the drinking water problem, the railway problem and the school problem, should be taken up seriously.

Sir, you will be happy to know that I have constructed 4 schools costing Rs. 25 lakh each in the village area of my constituency. From where will these people bring money? Do you want me to help people with this meager Rs. 2 crore? I have got 4 corporation, 3 councils, one *Zila Parishad* and all that. But during the last 6 years, nobody has bothered to take care of all these things.

I am from the Ruling Party. I am a Shiv Sainik. As per the Whip of my top boss, *Shiv Sena Pramukh*, I will never vote against this Government. That is why they are just suppressing my demand. I am sorry to say that. That is why I am going to announce one thing today because I am hurt. I have been after this Government for 6 years to solve my problem. But, this government has not solved my problem. I want this money for development work. Even no acknowledgement to my letter of request has been received by me. So, I would be sitting on a hunger strike in front of Prime Minister's house, if the money is not increased this time. How long are we going to support them? With what face will we go to our constituency? Our people are asking me this. They are saying you are in the ruling party; it is a small amount, a small demand and that too with an authentic justification, and you are not able to do anything. There is a disparity between the number of voters. Sir, may I tell you one thing? Now, delimitation process has started. What is the basis of that delimitation?

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Ferozabad) : You can announce for withdrawal of support even to day. This is the right and opportune occasion.

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE : Sir, what are the criteria that the delimitation commission has applied? The criterion they have, applied is the number of voters. So, After this delimitation, during next elections, all the constituencies will be between 12 and 15 lakh voters. Hence, there is a burden of increasng MPLAD fund to only 23 Members who are having more than 15 lakh voters. My Government cannot answer or respond to my demand which I am making for the last 6 years. So, I am quite hopeful, the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister will not compel me to sit on hunger strike by acceding to my justified demand for increasing the MPLAD fund...(Interruptions) I have given the proposal; up to 15 lakhs, Rs. 2 crore; 15 to 20 lakhs Rs. 3 crore; and above 20 lakhs Rs. 4 crore. That chart is moving for the last 6 years. But, unfortunately, they have not given.

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE (Udupi) : Will the Rajya Sabha Member get?

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE : For Rajya Sabha, the Rajya Sabha Members will say. I have nothing to say. So, the first suggestion which I gave was for the preservation of foodgrains. I have forgotten on point. By just giving Rs. 5,000 crore you are saving foodgrains worth Rs. 15,000 crore. So, you investment is recovered within 4 months. I would be thankful if, in your reply, you announce a separate Rs. 5,000 crore for construction and preservation of foodgrains through our new technique.

Everybody including the Ruling Party Members always talk about industrialists and about those who are below poverty line. Who is going to speak for common man and the serving man whom we represent? What have you given them? You have given them increase in electricity charges, increase in telephone charges, reduction in

interest rates, etc. No Government is bothered to see what is happening to the common man and the one who is the honest taxpayer. You have given them some concessions and I am really happy especially for giving educational benefits, that is, if a family has two children and if he is spending Rs. 12,000 per child, that amount will be reduced from gross income for standard deduction etc. You have given some good facilities by abolishing the surcharge on income tax also.

Here I want you to make one very fundamental policy decision, as you have accepted that reducing the rate of tax will not reduce the revenue. Our present structure of income tax is like this: if the net income after standard deduction is between Rs. 50,000-Rs. 60,000, then one has to pay 10 per cent; if it is between Rs. 60,000-Rs.1,50,000, then he has to pay 20 per cent and if it is above Rs. 1,50,000, then he has to pay 30 per cent; whosoever is earning more than Rs. 8,00,000, then, 10 per cent surcharge will be applied.

My request to you is this. Can you make it a little bit different, that is, those who declare their income of more than Rs. 8,00,000, the income tax will be 15 per cent with a surcharge of 10 per cent? It will help a man to declare his income because in India, it has become a crime to earn more money – if a man earns more money, he will be taxed heavily.

I am giving this suggestion because my Private Member's Bill in this connection is pending for the last two years, wherein I have suggested that there should be 'tax on expenditure' rather than on income. It will take some time because it will take time to change the mentality – to convert people into spending more. So, my request is this and you can think seriously about it: for persons who are earning more than Rs. 8,00,000, you can have an income tax of 15 per cent and a surcharge of ten per cent. By this, I am sure that the revenue will increase and it will not go down because people will feel that they need to pay less tax and thus, they would declare their income; and thus, white money will not be converted as black money. You are saying that there is a parallel economy of



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black money is going on, but we are not doing anything. So, this is my solution. If you can do this, it would be better. At least you can try it for one year; every year, we are changing the sections and rules of the Income Tax by way of Budget. This is my suggestion and you can do this way; you can keep lower tax rate for higher income group. By this, the revenue will increase and it will not decrease.

I was referring to the problems of common man and about the increase in telephone charges. When the tax on urea was increased, there was a hullabaloo in the House. But when telephone charges were increased, nobody said anything. Department of Telephones is the only Department which is working in profit. So, what is the reason to increase the rates? They not only increased the rates, but they have also reduced the pulse rate. Previously it was three minutes a pulse; now, it is reduced to two minutes a pulse.

I remember when our present hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs was holding charge of this Department, she narrated a very simple example to the bureaucrats. She said this: if she goes to purchase banana, she asks the shopkeeper about the rate of banana. The shopkeeper says that it is Rs. 12 a dozen. She asks what would be the rate if she wants to purchase two dozens. He would say it is Rs. 11.50 a dozen. She asks what it could be if she wants to purchase five dozens. He would say that it is Rs. 10 a dozen. So, she says, the moment the quantity increases, the price comes down.

But in the case of telephones, if the number of calls exceed 1,000, the rates also increase. But when the telephone calls are more, the administrative expenses do not increase. You are asking me to pay more if I make more than 1,000 calls. So, they tend to keep two, three or four telephones. and the calls are restricted up to 1,000 per telephone and by this way, I deprive somebody else of not getting his telephone.

May I request the present Minister of Communication, to immediately make an announcement to the effect that whatever increase in telephone charges has been made will be withdrawn? It is not impossible. But, just because he wants to make cellular phones popular, he is making telephones costly. Why it is so? You are working for whom? A man living in hut is also having the simple phone. A word to wise is enough. Why should I take the name of the person who is spoiling our country? The Reliance is purchasing our country. He says that all the Ministries are in his pocket. I do not know whether it is so or not but I know that if a decision to increase the telephone charges has been taken just to favour Reliance, then we have to agitate because, we, the Shiv Sena, represent common earning middle class men. We are for the people below the poverty line. We are definitely for the working class, labour class, a class which really deserves some attention but that was not given to it. There are a number of things which really upset me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Paranjpe, please conclude.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE : I have a few points to make. I know, Sir, the next February, we will not be able to speak on Budget because if elections will be in May or June, *Aachar Sanhita* may start. So, this is the last opportunity to participate in a discussion on Budget. I will be thankful to you if you allow me to raise two to three more points....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is one more speaker from Shiv Sena.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE : He will be happy to give me his time because I am giving some positive suggestions. I am not criticising the Government. I am giving suggestions which a common man expects from the Government. In my last speech during the Budget debate, I had said that unfortunately the Ministers are meeting the Secretaries. They do not have the time to meet the elected Members....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is one more speaker from your party.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE : I know, Sir. He has given his time to me.

I had said in my earlier speech also that the Ministers spend ample time meeting the Secretaries. A Secretary sits in his Cabin, reads book and makes laws. They do not have the time to meet the elected Members. They do not want to know our feelings. Our feelings are not our individual feelings but they are the feelings of our voters. They come to our offices and explain as to what they expect from the present Government, at least from the NDA Government. No doubt, the NDA Government has done good things but there is still scope to do a lot for the common man. I would like to give you a simple example. Unfortunately, the concerned Minister, Shri T.R. Baalu is not in the House.

Cremation of a Hindu, with the conventional method, costs not less than Rs. 2,000. Electric cremation is also costlier because the capital expenditure involved on this is about Rs. 1,30,00,000. Some three years back I had given a comparative statement, to Shri T.R. Baalu, the concerned Minister, of the expenditure involved in different types of cremation. Two technicians from my constituency had developed diesel cremation involving only Rs. 300 as its expense. Unfortunately, the Minister had no time to go through the papers. He is the person who has to take care of the pollution. He is not supposed to give only crores of rupees for plantation but is also supposed to protect trees. If diesel cremation is supported by the Department, cutting of trees will be tremendously reduced. For the last three years the concerned Minister has not even bothered to go through that chart and discuss with me as to what this scheme is. These two technicians from my constituency went to Rajasthan....  
(Interruptions)

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam) : Hindu *Shastras* would not agree with it.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE : I will tell you. In Rajasthan it is still a costlier affairs. A cremation is costing more than Rs. 4000 to 5000. The Police Commissioner

there told me that at least he could use this new method to cremate unclaimed bodies so that he could save a lot of money. In my constituency we have this facility at five places. In Maharashtra at 19 places this facility is available and more than 19,000 cremations have taken place using this method. It is such a good device.

As I have said, Indians have got sharp brain. The entire world is envious of that but our Government is not ready to accept it. There are young scientists and technicians who can produce something which is affordable to a common man.

17.00 hrs.

Sir, I am requesting you to inform the concerned Minister, Shri Baalu to, at least, go through those papers as this subsidised diesel cremation will be helpful to lot of poor persons. It is because you are talking about the people below poverty line. I have got the figures as to how much money we have spent on plantation of trees. The installation cost of electrical cremation device is Rs. 1.30 crore. But this costs just Rs. 30 lakh. So, with the same expenditure, you can have at least four such cremation devices in place of one electric crematorium. The recurring expenditure is Rs. 300 because it requires only 20 litres of diesel and no technical person is required to be appointed to do that. We are giving all these suggestions but unfortunately, the Minister does not have time to go through my papers or to talk to me because I am in ruling party.

[Translation]

What will he do at last he will shout, then will be published in the newspapers.

[English]

Now-a-days, it is very difficult to manage with the Press. People say that if you manage with the Press, then your speech can appear in the newspaper. I am not interested in that. My media is this august House and not the Press. If the Press does not print my speech, I have

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no problem. So far as my Finance Minister and the Prime Minister are listening to my valuable suggestions, taking my suggestions into account, and are implementing them, that is great victory for me. Therefore, I do not worry whether the media is covering or not.

I wanted to give all these suggestions in the interest of common man. I do not want to speak about statistical data and figures which always [Translation] Mislead [English] The statistical figures and Economic Surveys are all right but we know better about the reality on the ground. I will be thankful to the Finance Minister if he considers whatever suggestions I have given. I hope that he would give more and more scope to the indigenous manufacturers, which is a booming industry and which would create jobs. The construction of roads and Houses would give jobs. But what about intellectual class? That class and the required brains are here, but the red-tapism does not allow them to come up. That is why, they are running to America. You should give them single window, just like China.

Sir, I would give you a last example. One person from Hindustan was importing sand from China and he was manufacturing tiles here. He was observed by the Chinese Government. They have a system where Mayor is empowered to do whatever he wants to do in his area. The Central Government finances the Mayor. The Mayor called him and asked him as to why he was importing sand any why did he not open his factory in China? He said that he was prepared to do that. The Mayor thought that if he opened the factory there, his people would get jobs. After all every Government wants to create jobs. That person said that this evening he was going to Hindustan by 5 o'clock flight and that during his next visit, they would discuss about it. They just asked him about his requirements of licences and other permissions. He gave a list of just 10 to 20 items. Before his departure from China, all the permissions were given in his hand at 4 o'clock. Will that day come in India? He gave a list of requirements at 10 o'clock and at 4 o'clock all the permissions were handed over to him.

[Translation]

First, inaugurate the factory then go to India later on.

[English]

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : But Shri Narayan Murthy said that the Prime Minister of China has himself invited him to start the information technology work, but no permissions are forthcoming from China. He felt very sorry about it. The information technology will provide jobs in China.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE : Our country is labour oriented. We are not talking about the intellectual class but about the hard labour. I am pointing it out to tell the Finance Minister that still there is time as two more years are left for the elections. The suggestions which I have given, especially about preservation of foodgrains are in the interest of our country. It is very important. It needs just Rs. 5000 crore for constructing the silos with the help of new technology. But Rs. 5000 crore should go with the instruction that this money should be used by FCI for constructing the silos as per B.G. Sirke's specifications which is a new technology of preserving the foodgrains.

I would request you to convey my feelings to the Prime Minister. I would also request you not to force or compel me to sit on a hunger strike at his residence to get my just rights to serve my people.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak in the debate on the General Budget. I would not like to go into the details of every aspect of the Budget as our Deputy-Leader has already covered all the aspects of it. I would not go into the general observations of the Budget but would confine myself only to some of the observations on the Budget proposals and on some specific highlights of the Budget presented by this Government.

Sir, first let me speak about the lay out of the Budget.  
I am really concerned – the Finance Minister is going out;

I hope somebody is there is take note of what is being said – about the highlights of this Budget. Every year the Finance Minister puts his highlights in the Budget. He stresses on the rural development programmes, drinking water programmes, Indira Awas Yojana and so on.

Sir, the Budget is nothing but an Annual Financial Statement of the Government. In fact, if you look at the Constitution, the word 'Budget' is not used, it is only an 'Annual Financial Statement'. I am rather surprised that the allocation in the social sector does not go beyond 11.1 or 11.2 per cent of the total Budgetary allocation every year. Allocation in the social sector has been around 11 per cent every year. I have the data since 1993 onwards till date to show that the expenditure on interest payment is always either 28 per cent or 29 per cent or 30 per cent. The Defence expenditure is in the range of 13 to 14 per cent. In fact, other non-Plan expenditure, a large part of which goes for payment of salaries to the Central Government employees, which at one point of time in 1995 was Rs. 18,000 crore, has, after the Fifth Commission, become Rs. 38,000 to Rs. 39,000 crore, is also more than 11 per cent. An impression is being created by the Government that the Budget is meant for the poor people. In fact, it is not so. Why does the interest payment not take the bold line? Why the other non-Plan expenditure does not take the bold line? Why only the programmes for the poor take the bold line thereby creating a myth that Budget is meant to serve the poor people?

17.07 hrs.

[DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

Sir, my second concern is about the deficit financing. It goes on year after year. The Finance Minister is proved wrong every year on this account. Whatever he says in regard to deficit financing in the month of February and March is proved wrong at the beginning of the next year. Deficit financing increases every year and also the burden of interest payment increases. Ever since we have adopted this concept of deficit financing, we go on borrowing and as a result of that, our burden of interest

payment also increases. I am not concerned about that. I am concerned about the shrinking money bag, it has remained static.

Sir, if you look at the social sector spending, it was only ten per cent. If you look at the GDP, it was only 1.1 per cent. This year it is 1.2 per cent. Someone may correct me on this figure. This is my impression. I have gone through *'The Economic Survey'*. Due to interest payment and other non-Plan expenditure, our money bag is shrinking every year. We try to meet our own revenue expenditure by borrowing. This is known to everybody. The Finance Minister himself has admitted in his Budget Speech that out of the total receipts, nearly 48 per cent simply go for interest payment, thereby reducing our money bag, and our allocation for the poor remains stagnant and remains the same.

Insofar as the borrowing is concerned, I want to draw the attention of this House to the fact that this Government and the previous Government have never fixed a ceiling on the borrowing. In fact, one of the constitutional requirements is that every Government has to fix a ceiling on the borrowing and this Government has never met that obligation. Year after year the Comptroller and Auditor General of India makes a remark, but that is always sidelined and the ceiling is never fixed. As a result of this, the whole practice has led to a kind of indiscipline in the matter of dealing with financial matters. Last year also when I raised this issue, the then Finance Minister said that he would bring the Fiscal Management Bill. What happened to that Bill? What you need is a very strong control on the income and expenditure side. These are my general concerns and observations.

What I have observed year after year is that there is a tendency to show less deficit specially when the General Budget is presented. Subsequently, at the end of October, you put a supplementary demand. According to the Constitution, a supplementary demand can be put if there is a kind of expenditure which is unforeseen and it should not in any case be increased by more than 20 per cent of the original estimates. But what we see is that even regular and committed expenditures are raised through

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supplementary demands. As you know, supplementary demands never come under the strict scrutiny of the media or the Members of this House. As a result of it, at the end of every year the fiscal deficit goes on increasing over and above whatever percentage you have shown or estimated at the time of presenting the Budget. This tendency has to be curbed. I know that this tendency is growing specially in the people of the Finance Department. They try to show less deficit in the beginning and by putting the supplementary demands later on they increase the actual deficit. This mentality should not be encouraged if you want to become, as you always claim, a transparent and accountable Government. This is not a good practice in accounting also. Moreover, people of this country have a right to know everything.

In the last three years, I have been observing that the growth rate is always targeted as eight per cent. This time also it is targeted as eight per cent. Last year it was eight per cent and the year before it was seven per cent. Though you keep this high target in the hope of creating more jobs, actually this has not happened and I will come to it when I talk about employment. Over the years what I have seen is that even though there is growth, there is no creation of job opportunities to the expected extent. We have growth without creation of employment. We have growth without equity and social justice. The money in fact is getting accumulated in a certain section or layer of the society. It is not getting distributed among the all the sections of the society. As a result of this, even the kind of growth you have achieved has not helped the entire society. Both the agriculture as well as manufacturing sectors have not shown the kind of growth as was expected. It is only the service sector which is growing.

What is the strategy in this Budget? I would have admired and in fact I was happy with the previous Budgets. At least they said what they achieved in the past and what is the strategy for the future. They said underline the

achievements of the previous Budget and the priorities for the current Budget. But, from this particular Budget it is very difficult for me to know what is the priority and what is the strategy of the Government. It is a hotchpotch Budget. In Gujarati we call it *Khichri*.

You never try to find it out. What is the priority of the Government except that it is targeting, as a strategy, only sections of the society which have a regular income? I was just trying to find out from this Budget as to where are the tribals who constitute eight per cent population of this country. I was trying to find out how they are going to benefit out of this Budget. I was trying to find out agricultural labour which is, in fact, more than 12 crore in number. I was trying to find out the *dalit* and *dalit* farmers who constitute 16 per cent population of this country. I was trying to find out the OBCs. Where are they in this Budget? What are the provisions by which they are going to benefit out of this Budget? What have you given to the tribal farmers, *dalit* farmers, minority farmers and other farmers? If they are using five litres of diesel per day for at least two to three months, then every purchase of 5 litres they will have to pay Rs. 7.50 as the minimum tax to the Government. That is the cess for the whole infrastructure for which you want to generate money. Where are all the other labour, whether they are construction labour or forest labour or industrial workers or hawkers?

I wish to see a Budget which should be an instrument to distribute the financial resources based on equity and social justice. You are the trustee of this. You do not have the right to distribute them the way you like, though you may have power. But at least, your conscience should not dominate that all these resources should be distributed to certain sections of the society leaving all the poor masses of this country simply out of the provisions or allocations and other benefits of this Budget.

Let me come to employment. The President said that the Government would create jobs for one crore people. Our leader also referred to it. You refuted it by your people who are sitting over there in the Box. The

Prime Minister said in this House that they are creating 86 lakh jobs every year. I have a data and you refute it. It is the CMIE data. It says that right from 1996 onwards, there were 36 million people who were on the live registers of employment exchanges. In 1999-2000 and this year too, there are 40 million people who are trying to seek jobs. If your Government is claiming that it has created 86 lakh jobs every year, then why is that the number of job seekers are increasing year after year in this country?

I am not saying that they are Government jobs. Tell us frankly on this point. Do you have any data to show as to how many jobs have been created in formal sector? Do you have any data which shows the contribution of the informal sector to the GDP? Do you have that kind of a system? How can they claim it? Sir, if they have created 86 lakh jobs, then I challenge on the floor of the House that they should put it sector-wise, industry-wise and State-wise and we will verify it. We are not taking the Prime Minister's statement which has been given on the floor of the House saying that the Government is going to create jobs. Who is going to count it? We are ready to count. Let your Department come out and tell us that these are the jobs that they have created.

You talk of mandays. I am giving you an example which may be true to all the States. For example, consider DRDA which is a Rural Development Programme. You are concerned with Rural Development Programme. The allocation for Rural Development Programme has decreased in the Revised Budget. Simply you are increasing it in this year and I am not pretty sure that you are not going to decrease the allocation in October and November. It is the tendency of those sitting in the Ministry, specially in the Department, to show higher allocation in February and then decrease it in September or October or November when they present the Revised Budget.

You go on complaining. You never know that till the next Budget is presented. That shows your commitment. The Revised Estimate was more last year and yet this year

it has been decreased. So is the case with the programme meant for drinking water supply. Last year the Revised Estimate was more, but this year the allocation has been decreased.

I was talking about employment – employment of unskilled people. I had writing a letter regarding this to the Ministry. What does the Government do in counting the mandays? The money is sent to various State Governments. The respective State Governments, where there are droughts and natural calamities, give exemption from the purview of the Minimum Wages Act under Section 26(1). The DRDA guidelines very clearly say that for all the works of DRDA, the minimum wage should be paid, which includes five kilos of grain. That is part of the minimum wage and other parts of minimum wage should be paid in cash. What does the State Government do? In order not to pay the minimum wage for the DRDA work, they in fact give exemption from the purview of the Minimum Wages Act to certain occupations, under the powers that they have got under Section 26(1) of the Act. Thereby, the minimum wage is waived so that no one can file any case for non-payment of minimum wage because minimum wage does not exist for certain employments. I had written a letter to the Ministry asking them as to why the minimum wage is not paid as the guidelines suggest, when the funds are given by the Centre under DRDA. There was no answer from them. I have no quarrel. I will take it up through Calling Attention Motion. In the meeting I asked specifically as to how they count the mandays. I asked them whether the man-days are counted on the basis of the minimum wage. In fact, in a State like Gujarat the minimum wage actually varies from work to work. For irrigation work, it is Rs. 82; for forest work it is Rs. 82; for other works it is Rs. 83 or Rs. 85. For scarcity work, under which the entire DRDA work is converted, the scarcity wage is Rs. 42. So, for the DRDA's work, the money you spend and give to all the States is being divided by half of the money which is given to the labourer and then you arrive at the mandays of work. It is stated here that we have created many mandays of work. Has the money really gone to the poor people? Has the money really gone to the poor people to that extent? It is not so. That is where I have got very

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strong objections. The entire system is trying to inflate the figures and it is trying to inflate the system itself, whereby it creates a picture to show as if all the monies are going to the poor people.

Let the talk of the *Prime Minister Sadak Yojana*. Eight per cent population of this country is living in tribal areas or the forest areas. I want to draw the attention of the Minister of State for Finance. There are forest laws. Under *Prime Minister Sadak Yojana*, no MP can force the State administration or the Forest Department to construct or to make the already existing road a *pucca* one or force them to connect the hamlets which are in the tribal areas with link roads, simply because of the forest laws. I want to know whether the money allocated under the *Prime Minister Sadak Yojana* is not meant for the tribals or for those who are living in the forest areas. Have they done something wrong if they live in the forests or for having guarded the forests for years and centuries? Why are they being deprived of this facility? Why can they not dig a well there for their own development? Why can they not construct a channel to take water from one part to another? I am just trying to find out as to how the Finance Ministry is going to met the problem. Is the money allocated meant only for certain sections of the society, leaving those parts and those people who are living in the reserved forests for centuries? Should they be deprived of it simply because they are living over there? I would like to know this from the Minister.

For the Indira Awas Yojana, what is the allocation made? They say that it is 24 lakh dwelling units that they create. Have they ever tried to see how many dwellers in this country are living without the basic facilities of toilets and bathrooms? The survey shows it. The NSSO data shows it. This is my concern that when the allocations are being made, they are made by certain people. I am not going into the details of it. It is the kind of a mindset which I am trying to find out. What is the mindset? They are now in the Tenth Plan period. They are trying to do a survey of the people who are living below the poverty

line. I raised it in the Consultative Committee. No Member of Parliament has been consulted. It is the Planning Commission's formula which the Members of this House have to accept.

What does the survey form say? The survey form says, in fact, about the demography which is land, other things and so on. One of the questions which is so highly irritating is this. The question is: How many pairs of clothes a family has got? Is it one pair? Are they two-pairs, three pairs or four pairs? This is the question which is on record. Under it, scores are being given. 52 point is the maximum score with 13 answers and your score should be one to four, in-between, in all the questions which have been narrated. In fact, a number of people are living below the poverty line. Are we thinking that once they are above the income level of Rs. 15,000, they are above the poverty-line? How many people in this country are living with an income of Rs.16,000 to Rs. 20,000? Is a family, which earns around Rs.15,000 to Rs. 20,000 a rich family? Are we saying that our work is over? So, I am simply concerned about the Planning Commission's letters to all the States saying that no previous number, which has been decided by the various States about the people living below the poverty-line, should increase.

Some one as filed a PIL asking how can the Planning Commission or the Ministry of Planning give a direction to the States saying that once a person crosses the below the poverty line or once a person is enumerated as living above the poverty line, he will never go down in life? This is my concern. I am saying this because the resources are allocated on the basis of this. That is my concern which I am expressing here.

I am just asking the Finance Minister this question. The Prime Minister has said that there are six crore people who are in the *Antyodaya Yojana*. Why only 50 lakh families are there? What went wrong with the six crore people? Do we mean that we cannot have resources, we cannot generate the resources? If we can have Rs.1.50 as a cess on diesel to construct an infrastructure worth Rs.60,000 crore in this country, why can we not have a job guarantee

or work guarantee programme? Why can we not give this to the people of this country? Have we ever thought of it in our planning? Are we making a Budget where employment has the central focus? I want that the hon. Finance Minister should re-assure this House that every house in this country would have a minimum of Rs.500 income. There are millions and millions of houses which do not have five rupees cash income every day. What is our Budget doing for them? Are we giving them work? Are we giving them some kind of a solace to have an income? In fact, the National Rural Workers Commission says that there is work for 159 days. ...*(Interruptions)* This point has to be listened to because I am simply concerned with the way the Budgets are prepared and the allocations are being made. Which sections of the society are taking the entire resources? I am concerned about that. That is why, I am telling it. Can we not organise it in a proper way. Mr. Minister, you increase my income and I will take care of the health and education of my children. Where is the money? Where is the work? Why has it not been targeted in the Finance Minister's speech? Why has it not been targeted in our planning? This is my concern that I am expressing here.

Sir, an agriculture labourer gets only 159 days of work. In fact, the National Rural Labour Commission has assessed that one.

How are the other labours getting? There is a recession everywhere. In my own city, Ahmedabad, which was the Manchester of this country, the textile industry has slowed down gradually. It has created so much of both social and economic problem in the city itself. So, where is the *Antyodaya Yojana*? In *Antyodaya Yojana*, six crore people were not covered at once. Same is the case, Sir, in other States, specially coastal States. We are a coastal State. In NCCF, they have put one per cent tax in buying the four wheelers or two wheelers. It is fine but who is deciding the contribution from NCCF? Why are certain States favoured, and why other States are not favoured? I want to put on record that even when the two-thirds of Gujarat is reeling under drought, no money is being given from the NCCF to the State of Gujarat. What went wrong?

What is the system? What is the mechanism that is being created? Who decides whether money should be given in the NCCF or not? In drinking water, you have made allocations. We have certain norms. The norms say that every person should get a *per capita* per day 40 litres of water. Has the money which has been allocated to various States by the Union Government been utilized properly? Have these norms ever been observed? There is a scarcity of water. Not only that, it will lead to riots in a number of States specially for drinking water because it is the people who have to go for miles for fetching water. The Water Tanker Organization under which millions of money is being spent, has never impact been able to fulfil the demands of drinking water of the States.

So, there are other issues like health, etc. and besides this there are other programmes. I am not dwelling into those in detail but I would certainly like the Finance Minister to see this. It is because he is putting a thrust on agriculture. Again, the water is going to be a scarce commodity. He says about drip irrigation. Who has the money to install the drip irrigation? What kind of subsidy is given? Is that enough? Is that subsidy enough to provide drip irrigation? Is the water available? The people in our area go up to a thousand feet down and still the water is not available. What is our long-term plan for irrigation or for conservation of water? What is the major priority or the major initiative on the Government in order to conserve water in this country so that the demand of the water can be fulfilled? I am certainly disappointed with this. I hope the Finance Minister at least will go into this. In other words I will appeal to him to please try to have some strategy, and try to release money for the people who have an irregular income by giving certain incentives to them. The present incentive will only increase the demand of consumer goods; that will only increase the demand of certain sections of the society; and will also hamper the growth that you are envisaging. This will again be discriminatory, and would lead to an increase in the income gap. I am sure that would lead to a kind of unrest in this country which will certainly not be beneficial for the future of this country.



[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North-East) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was reading the current monthly magazines on budget. I tried to know the opinion of various experts and the different sections of the society on the budget. On the cover of a magazine was printed 'Mr Feel Good'.

[English]

And further he has explained something for everybody. There is something for industry, a push to the salaried class and stimulus to investment. The Finance Minister, Shri Jaswant Singh, has made everyone happy with his maiden Budget.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, another magazine also carved an article on the budget. Hon. Shivraj Patilji is not here right now. he was defining and interpreting the budget.

In common man's words the definition of the budget is that.

[English]

The last day of February is not only the occasion for the Government to throw open its accounts books to public audit, it is also the moment for it to speak its mind on economic policy to draw the roadmap for how Government, industry, even ordinary citizens, will earn, spend, and save their money.

[Translation]

Further it is mentioned in it :-

[English]

A commentator on a News Channel has said:

"The Budget is like a Christmas tree. It had something for everyone, for every section of the society. It showed the strength of political and economic strength of India."

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister of Finance has tried to present such a budget. Earlier also I had quoted a Marathi saying in the House. It is said in Marathi 'Nindakache Ghar Asavet Shejari', that is, one must keep one's critics neighbours to keep oneself vigilant. I welcome the positive criticism of congress but along with it I was also trying to recollect the positive features of the budget.

[English]

Does it not mention in the budget that for the first time, the Finance Minister has said, "Health for the poor".

[Translation]

I tried to read in the library the speeches made by the former Finance Minister and economic surveys done since 1989. Our Finance Minister and Prime Minister are present here they have expressed their concern about the health of the poors and the common man. What they have said [English] with regard to the "health for the poor", it said, "just contribute one rupee a day, the Government is there – the General Insurance Corporation is a Government institution – to take care of your health".

[Translation]

What a noble concept it is. I would like that the shortcomings in this budget be brought to our notice and also the suggestions be made to strengthen the positive steps and points mentioned in the budget.

While delivering the speech, hon. Finance Minister paused and said that he would like to appeal to the House that the Government have a new vision – Health Insurance. This is totally unexploited sectors in our country – society, finance and economy. [English] what is the Health Insurance Scheme [Translation] It has provision that community would contribute a single rupee daily and in the case of illness a person would get an assistance of Rs.30 thousand and if the sick persons fails to go at work, he would be given Rs.50 per day for 15 days and the

whatever losses be suffered by him would be made up by the Government.

[English]

The concept of 'health for the poor' has come for the first time. [Translation] We raise questions in the House and mention it in our party manifestoes. We also try to inculcate in our children with the feelings of serving the elders. These noble ideas are inherent in our culture and we would have praised hon. Finance Minister for keeping the interests of the elderly people in mind while drafting the budget.

[English]

For the first time the Government of India has announced a policy a financial package and support for senior citizens.

[Translation]

They are our protector, parents and guardians because [English] This credit goes to all of us that [Translation] the average life span of a common man in India was 37-38 years in 1947 [English] In 2001 census, it has gone up to 64 years. This is an achievement of our democracy. [Translation] However, we would have also to take into account. The fact that there are 7.75 crore senior citizens in country as a result of the improved life span.

Sir, by 2007, their number will reach 10 crore. We have brought a scheme for providing financial support and other welfare measures to the senior citizens and retired persons. [English] Life Insurance Corporation is a Government organisation. [Translation] It is running very effectively. The senior citizens would be provided financial assistance from the amount of 2.25 lakhs or whatever is deposited thereunder. [English] This has come for the first time. [Translation] The Government would provide an interest of 9 per cent and Rs.2000 would be credited in their accounts on the 1st of every month. [English] This is a concept. [Translation] I can say it with conviction that senior citizens were eagerly awaiting for any such scheme. They were awaiting for the arrival of the 1st April

to become members of the Scheme. I would like to apprise the House that there would be long queues outside LIC offices after 1st April since people have great faith in LIC. They know that their future is in safe hands of LIC. [English] The Minister of Finance has said about 'Vishvas'. Let us change the concept of taxation from suspicion to trust'. Let us give a thrust to trust'.

[Translation]

Any person whether he is in any profession or in any job and even working on contract basis, doing a small business comes under the suspecting eyes of Income Tax Department and he is asked whether he has filed his return or not but for the first time our Finance Minister has given him dignity. This country does not belong to you or me alone, this country belongs to all those who are living here and are standing tall on their own and also those doing jobs. Income Tax Department will have to change their attitude towards them. What has not been done by hon. Finance Minister for them, he said that the middle class and hardworking people should get benefit. I would like to say that the hon. Finance Minister has kept their interests in his mind. The people of middle class depend on job and are honest and their tax is deducted by the employer before making the payment of salary. [English] I think that is the capital of India. He said, "You are honest". What is our capital? Our capital is human resources.

[Translation]

The taxpayers should get return for their dues which they pay through their hardwork.

Sir, standard deduction was raised to 30 thousand from 20 thousand. Not only this the Finance Minister said that if we are to take care of India's future and make an India of 21st century, then we will have to make people educated and cultured.

[English]

The NDA Government has recognised it. They have said, "We are going to give importance to IT, biotech, pharmacy and education".

[Shri Kirit Somaiya]

[Translation]

I was listening a speech delivered in Maharashtra in which our economic condition was described beautifully. Sir, Our exports have increased. We are making progress in every field. A lot of advancement has occurred in the field of information Technology. Our foreign exchange reserves are increasing day by day. All this is due to the people of our country who have gone abroad and working there. They are sending money here. People of our country are advancing in Pharmaceuticals and Bio-technology industries etc. Our country will develop due to the knowledge, education and a great mind that we have. NDA Government have recognised it. And that is why the hon. Minister of Education has asked the people to spend money on higher education of their children and has said that tax rebate would be given upto rupees 12000. An economist in Mumbai said a very good thing in his speech, he said.

[English]

The 19th Century belonged to the Britishers [Translation] because Britishers did Monitoring of all the natural resources of the World, they had control over them. [English] The 20th Century belonged to the Americans [Translation] because the Americans had control over the material of the entire world. [English] They have said: "The 19th Century belonged to the Britishers due to natural resources. The 20th Century belonged to the Americans due to material resources. The 21st Century is going to belong to India because of its human resources." [English] This is because of our human resources. We would reach to the highest place in the world. In fact we are heading towards that. This budget has recognised it.

Hon. Minister has provided for everything in the budget. The Finance Minister has said that we shall have to improve the capital market, which would then lead to increase in the savings and come into the capital market, savings would be mobilised and channelised. This would then be invested in industry and the production of industry

would increase and people would have more funds, which would lead to more money. And for this they have given rebate on capital gains tax which was on long-term basis. Moreover, the Government have adopted a new way with regard to the dividend tax. I am surprised that the hon. finance Minister made the dividend in which rebate is given on income tax under 80-L with a small investor, taxable in a company. He fixed a unit of rupees 9000 under 80-L and asked to save more and invest. He has increased the limit from rupees 9000 to rupees 12000. [English] A total benefit of Rs. 50,000 will be allowed. [Translation] He has given various allowances to the Government servants for medical treatment, handicapped children, writers as also leave travel allowance. He has also lessened the interest burden and ave rebate in life-saving drugs.

[English]

That is why when the economist of India, the renowned, the famous, the expert, Shrimati Indira Rajaraman, Professor of IEG, she gave 7 marks out of 10. Another Economist, Chief Economist, Shri Subhir Gokharna 8 marks out of 10; Shri Bibek Debroy 7 out of 10; Shri Kirit Pari 8 out of 10; and Shri Siddharth Roy 7 out of 10.

[Translation]

Who has given all this, who is he? A chief economist, professor, IGDR, Director and other Small people. Different reasons have been given. A good package has been given to the textile sector. Excise duty has been rationalised.

[English]

Incentive to road and construction. [Translation] someone has said that tax rationalisation has been done in Tourism sector, while some one has said that he has encouraged the health Sector also i.e., different types of people have given different statements. In this connection, I would like to put here that he has done de-bureaucratisation. Till date, people used to run when they received income tax notice. I was practising as a chartered

Accountant and continuing with it. I know that people tremble when they receive even a small notice from income tax or sales tax. For the first time this effort has been made i.e., to check 'Inspector Raj' in the taxation Section

[English]

There are random sampling, outsourcing of Income Tax Department, refund will be available within six months.

[Translation]

He has come with different concepts. First effort is, which has been observed by very less people. Infact India is our own nation. [English] What has the Finance Minister given? It is a good and new idea, and concept is "Brand India" [Translation] When we go abroad and people from abroad would come here as we have to increase exports of every kind and have to strengthen the country.

[English]

What we will have to develop? We will have to create a 'Brand India'. [Translation] A new concept is being developed by providing rupees 200 crore.

Sir, my colleague has talked about the surcharge in Income tax. I would like to cite an example that a person holding a small post will have tax benefit. He will have nearly 35 percent tax savings per annum.

A person who pays a tax of rupees 10000 or rupees 9030 per annum, will have to pay only rupees 3400 as income tax. A person who pays Rs.9000 as tax will have to pay only Rs.3400. [English] He is going to save 65% tax. [Translation] Friends, I was thinking that sometimes a peculiar situations arises. A few days back I read that when the Finance Minister had assumed office, he had said that I am a 'Rajput', and I know how to fight. He was on a very serious post in the Army and when he got retired, he was honoured by none other than the 'Defence' personnel'. After going through the newspaper, I feel that the Government have almost given permission. The Defence people wish to honour Jaswant Singhji with the 'Kargil'

medal. The Kargil Medal is being given to him due to the role played by him as Foreign Minister at that time. I was thinking that when the People from Defence are honouring him with Medal then people should also honour him as Finance Minister for presenting such a good budget. We have such a finance Minister who has tried to make balance in the budget for common people in all respects.

It is true that this year our GDP rate has decreased due to decline in agricultural growth.

[English]

Yes, we have to accept it.

[Translation]

But whether this has happened for the first time that there has been less agricultural growth due to less rainfall. We still depend a lot on the monsoon.

A reference has been made here on the Economic Survey. I would like to draw your attention towards that.

[English]

From 1997 to 2002, the monsoon performance in India has been given [Translation] Normal and Excess has been given in it. There were three deficient Zones in 1997, two in 1998, seven in 1999, seven in 2000, five in 2001 and 21 zones in 2002, which did not have sufficient rainfall. And it is very natural to get concerned if our agricultural growth has decreased to Minus three percent and made an impact on our development. But vis-a-vis we should have also said that how would we move further with the scheme of linking of rivers announced by the hon. Prime Minister.

In such strage situation when monsoon fails in one year then there is negative growth in agriculture and as a result.

[English]

Though your industrial growth is six percent, though your service sector has shown a growth rate of more than seven percent, your GDP has been limited to four percent.

[Shri Kirit Somaiya]

[Translation]

What we will have to do for that. We have to try to link those rivers. Shri Dhananjaya Kumar while speaking, raised a point. If he had been present, I would have told him what he said in his speech said that.

[English]

This Government is not taking care of the farmers and the agriculturists. He was talking about the agricultural finance. I would also like to refer to the same economic survey which he was referring to.

[Translation]

What did the economic survey say.

[English]

I will read out the figure in regard to the flow of institutional credit to agriculture. "In 1997-98 the total institutional credit available to agriculture was Rs. 31,956 crore."

[Translation]

Prior to 1997-98, when the Government took over, there was no BJP or NDA Government, how much agricultural finance was provided by the Congress. Governments or the Governments supported by the Congress.

[English]

It was Rs. 31,956 crore.

[English]

The amount has gone up to Rs. 82,073 crore in 2002-03.

[Translation]

This Government recognises that agriculture has a special importance in the country and so the Kisan Credit Card Yojana was launched.

[English]

Under the Kisan Credit Card Yojana, Rs. 64,000 crore have been disbursed and 271 cards have been distributed.

[Translation]

We will endeavour to cover all by 2004. Many times we are criticized and also asked as to how we are going to achieve GDP growth rate of 8 percent. I would say that.

[English]

Though sometimes it seems difficult.

[Translation]

Yet if we want to develop our country, we have to fix such ambitious targets. If we can cross 6.4 percent growth rate, then with the help of some more planning, organising and systematising and with a little help from monsoon.

[English]

We can even cross 8 percent.

[Translation]

We dream. Why? In a country where the growth rate of service sector can be 7 percent, where growth rate in industrial sector can be 6 percent even though there is gloom in manufacturing sector, then we can take it to 8 percent also with some effort. Yes we accept the challenge. As the hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee said, we are proud of our past. We take inspiration from past, we dream for future but we also accept the challenge of the present. What is that challenge? Foreign debt is the present challenge.

[English]

What is the situation of our internal debt.

[Translation]

Who was responsible for this internal debt? Is it BJP? Who was responsible for creating such circumstances.

Hon'ble Prime Minister accepted the challenge and said that our fiscal policy should be changed. He discarded the policy of taking debts now and burdening the future generation.

[English]

I will read out the figures. For the first time, in 1980, the total interest burden of the country was somewhere around seven percent.

[Translation]

To what extent that interest burden has increased?

[English]

It has been mentioned in the economic Survey: 'Interest payment is the single largest expenditure item of 34.5 percent.' It is mentioned that the borrowing was considerably increased in 1990s. The interest rate was seven percent in 1980-81 and it went up to a peak level of 13.8 percent in 1995-96.

[Translation]

The future of the country will be severely compromised if debt are taken at the interest of 14 percent and loan is taken just to pay the interest on loan taken from within or outside the country.

[English]

This is the Government which has decided that we have to curtail and stop this.

[Translation]

As a result, Government brought down the interest rate in four years.

[English]

In the year 2001-02, the average interest rate of market borrowings came down to 9.4 percent and in the current year the average cost of market borrowings is just 7.5 percent.

[Translation]

For this I would like to congratulate Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Shri Jaswant Singh for doing the noble work of protecting our future generations. I would also like to draw your attention to the fact that my Congress colleagues forget that this Government has been able to perform the feats which they could not.

[English]

I would like to quote hon. former Minister of Finance Mr. Manmohan Singh. In his Budget Speech of 1994-95, Dr. Manmohan Singh said this on interest burden.

"The provision for interest payment next year is placed of Rs. 46000 crore".

18.00 hrs.

"...This is an increase of Rs. 8,000 crore over the current year's Budget Estimates. Hon. Members will appreciate that the major part of the interest burden – I would like to repeat, hon. Members will appreciate that the major part of the interest burden – is a legacy from the past and it continues to grow because of continued high-level of Government borrowings." ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

This is not my statement, it was said by Shri Manmohan Singhji, if the burden was so heavy in 1994-95, why did he not try to reduce it?... (Interruptions) Even my party has requested for giving me more time... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : How long will you take?

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : I may be allowed or I may be permitted to speak tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Two more hon'ble Members, have to speak. Two more hon'ble Members, Shri P.H. Pandian and Shri Rajo Singh are in the list of speakers. If the House grants leave, the time of the House may be extended till they conclude their speeches.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Raghunath Jha, would you like to speak today?

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj) : Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Time of the House is extended till Shri Raghunath Jha concludes his speech.

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : At the same time, he further mentioned, out of the total goods receipt of Rs. 87.136 crore Rs. 46000 crore is interest payment, which amounts to 53 percent [Translation] Hon'ble Finance Minister Shri Manmohan Singh said the same thing in 1993-94 budget.

[English]

He further mentioned :

"The provision for 1993-94 on account of interest payment is Rs. 3800 crore. The high interest burden is due to the rising volume of Government debts which itself reflects the large fiscal deficit of the past incurred year after year."

He further mentioned:

"The average rate of interest on internal liabilities rose from 9.3 percent in 1994-95 to 9.7 percent in 1995-96 and budgeted to 9.9 percent in 1996-97".

[Translation]

I wanted to say that it is a fact that our country has a huge debt burden.

[English]

for the first time, the Government has tried to swap the external and internal loans. Do we know the total fiscal deficit of the Centre and the States? It has crossed ten percent.

[Translation]

Our Finance Minister has offered Rs. 83000 crore to

the states for reducing the debt burden which are, in some cases, as high as 15 percent, 17 percent and 18 percent. Not only that, he also tried to swap three lakh dollar in the matter of external finance. In addition, I would like to draw your attention towards another issue. The effort was made by a Congress Member.

[English]

He has made certain observations regarding the small scale sector. Now I would like to quote again the economic survey.

"In 1994-95, in small scale sector, the number of units was 25 lakh and total employment provided was 146 lakh. In 2002-2003, it went upto 36 lakh."

[Translation]

It means that since 1994-95, when Congress was removed more than 10 lakh small sector units have been set up. Not only that, about 199 lakh employment opportunities have been generated. Besides, I would like to draw your attention towards another issue. Those talk about poverty and its eradication, what were the figures during their reign. It has been quoted in the economic survey and also by another agency.

[English]

The estimated poverty in India in percentage terms was 55 percent in 1973-74.

[Translation]

It means that at that time number of poor constituted 55 percent of the total population, now it has come down to 23 percent.

Our vision is to bring that down to 19 percent by 2007 and we are making efforts for that. We should continue to strive for poverty eradication and ways to provide them employment irrespective of the proportion of the poor. I also have figures relating to employment. First of all, I would like to quote these figures relating to Congress regime.

[English]

"The total employment has gone up from 187 million to 250 million in the year 2000."

[Translation]

Hon. Finance Minister has tried to give a good budget to the people of this country. I would like to give him a few suggestions.

[English]

One thing is regarding the VAT.

[Translation]

The vision of VAT nursed by Congress party could not be fulfilled during their time. At that time Shri Manmohan Singh had said,

[English]

VAT is the system which should be brought in.

[Translation]

But he could not fulfill the dream he had cherished in 1993-94. It is right that the Congress party tried to give this positive attitude to the people and tried to convince them that VAT system should be applied in the country.

[English]

VAT and services are the two segments.

[Translation]

We would be able to have more than five percent growth in GDP. But some states may experience problems in this regard, they can be taken care of.

[English]

But here is the system.

[Translation]

From where we will mobilize new resources? I can prove it through the figures of economic survey that total

Government revenue has doubled since this government took over from the Congress.

[English]

But that is not enough to cross eight percent growth.

[Translation]

If we have to achieve eight percent GDP growth then.

[English]

Service sector and VAT are the two concepts.

[Translation]

It will lead to simplification and to modernisation but I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister towards the speech of Shri Manmohan Singh which he had delivered in 1993-94.

[English]

"Our excise duty is also to be simplified with fewer rates and our long term aim should be to move to a value added tax system as in the case of most countries. However, a nation-wide value added tax system can not be introduced overnight.

[Translation]

Congress Party had dreamt about it in 1993 but Shri Manmohan Singh could not fulfill. Shri Jaswant Singh has fulfilled it and that he should be congratulated, I congratulate him.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL As the hon. Prime Minister said, it is good to have visions. If from that point of view Shri Manmohan Singh had a vision, it is good.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Manmohan Singhji put forth his views in 1993 but could not implement that in five or ten years. Keeping that in view I would like to appeal for VAT in Delhi and other Congress rules states.



[Shri Kirit Somaiya]

[English]

They should ask their state governments that they should come forward for introduction of VAT from 1st of April.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : My dear friend, all the Chief Ministers have agreed to it in the Conference. You should know it.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : That is absolutely right. I welcome it. But later on the Chief Minister of Delhi says that she would not implement VAT. Other states may also be saying that. We should not try to make it a political issue. VAT is a good system. I would like to give you an example of service tax with reference to cable operators. There are 20 lakh cable connections in Mumbai. Operators collect service tax and entertainment tax from them, but as per the records maintained by the Government entertainment tax is paid by only 4,47,000 and Service Tax is paid by only 47000 customers. Thus the administrative machinery also needs to be reformed. Service tax is recovered from people but is not deposited in the government treasury. We need to think of a way out. I would also like to say something about housing.

[English]

The Government should make up its mind very clearly.

[Translation]

I congratulate him for saying clearly in the House that in 1997, the total investment in Housing sector was Rs. 7000 crore, which now has increased to Rs. 37000 crore.

That has led to a growth of 50 percent in the steel industry and 10 percent in cement industry, even after many years of recession.

[English]

These industries are major parts of our economy.

[Translation]

He has sanctioned projects worth Rs. 60 lakh for infrastructure sector.

[English]

We should make our own mind very clear.

[Translation]

Common man looks to the Government for buying a home of his own. He has given tax concessions. One takes loan for 10-15 years, and if terms change in the second year itself, then one asks questions from us. I would like to thank and also congratulate you for clarifying the situation so early. I have previously given suggestions to increase direct tax revenue that.

[English]

You will have to appoint some study group.

[Translation]

A number of Indian corporates are shifting their holdings in the name of Mauritius based investment promoter companies. I can give several name. Because of that Corporate contribution to revenue is shifting away from our country. Mauritius government had circulated a note about that which specified 32 routes.

[English]

You shift your promoter company, you shift your headquarter, you shift your registered.

Company and we will charge one percent tax.

[Translation]

If the way to Mauritius is closed, another will open. Therefore, serious consideration is needed in this regard.

Pay channels earn advertisement revenue from here but do not contribute even a single penny to the revenue.

<sup>2</sup> I am saying this for the last three years.

[English]

You will have to appoint a study group which should go into details of this.

[Translation]

I would also like to give a suggestion.

[English]

Our foreign exchange reserves are going to cross US \$ 80 billion in the next one month.

[Translation]

Due to it the value of rupee has appreciated. But as per your suggestion you will continue to pressurise World Bank and other external financial institutions. I would like to say that they should effectively discharge their social responsibilities.

Two years ago, Gujarat was hit by an earthquake. A number of institutes of Mumbai had adopted many villages of Kutch but the Gujarat Government has given sanction for redevelopment of Urban areas just four month ago. The Government had announced tax concession for people who gave donation for it. But this year, the Government have not given extension to this scheme.

[English]

What would happen?

[Translation]

The Government are having funds. Recently, the Gujarat Government has sanctioned town-planning scheme. The positive response from people is awaited. I will request the Minister to clear the situation while replying to the debate on budget.

A misconception is being created in the newspapers.  
...(Interruptions)

[English]

Let us go for positive things.

[Translation]

Many confusion are being created about edible oil and Palmolive.

[English]

You have tried to bring the branded oil inside the tax net.

[Translation]

I would like to cite an example. Groundnut oil of Godrej is being sold at the rate of Rs.64 per litre. If the brand of Godrej is removed it would be available at the rate of Rs.54 per litre. The branded oil is manufactured by big companies and one per cent excise has been imposed on it, nobody should have objection in this regard.

[English]

Because we will have to increase our tax net.

[Translation]

A campaign is being made by some people in media. This should be looked into because common man and middle class will not suffer from this campaign. I would like to give you one more suggestion.

[English]

Cash management of the Government.

[Translation]

I am a Member of different committees. As I am Chartered Accountant, Auditor. I have seen many corporations. Cash remains unused there but their account book shows loan from Government.

[English]

Cash in hand and cash at bank is in lakhs of rupees.

[Translation]

First time, I had heard about this issue from you and I would like to draw the attention of the House on this issue.

[Shri Kirit Somaiya]

Suddenly, in the last week of March, cash deposit in banks increase till cash-in-hand remains. I would like to request you that.

[English]

You ask some persons to see that the annual expenditure of autonomous corporation is Rs. 4 crores.

[Translation]

Out of it. Rupees two crore should remain in current account. I can give you names of many corporations. I would like to give you another example. There are 12 crore investors in postal savings. There is a 40 year old post office in the place where I live, which is having 11 thousand monthly income accounts. Every month people go there to collect interest. Everyday long queue of 400 people is formed over there it includes widows and senior citizens. They have to wait for 80 to 90 minutes. I have requested the Finance Ministry to modernise that post office. It should be provided facilities like D-MAT or ATM etc. It would help in two ways. I have studied D-MAT. At present Rs.27 is spent on processing of that NSC. If D-MAT is introduced its cost will reduce by 7 rupees. Alongwith it, small investors would be benefited.

I will conclude after drawing your attention towards 2-3 points. We want to reform taxable system. Last time also, I raised this matter. You should declare package for the development of backward regions. But this is misused. The Government has declared package for Gujarat. The Government has excluded Sigarette and Tubacco company. But it has been heard that particular company is operating in North-East by the name of Ford. Once you release rupee three crore you have to spend two thousand crore rupees annually. By this way, some people are trying to disturb the entire system, but efforts should be made to check it.

Sir, in the end, I would like to say that the Finance Minister has tried to put the country on the path of development. I would again like to request to the Finance

Minister that he has presented a different kind of budget which will accelerate the economic growth keeping in view the feelings of the people. I can say with confidence that under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee if NDA Government will implements these kind of policies and then the country will reach on 5th position in world ranking in 21st century. I say this with confidence.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support and welcome the budget presented by hon. Finance Minister. I am happy that through this budget he has presented layout of all round development of the country. When I see that budget, I find that it is for the progress of all classes and sectors but when I look towards the farmers I find that they have suffered maximum loss due to increase in price and reduction of subsidy in fertiliser and diesel. How has the Finance Minister ignored such a big population?

Sir, according to me the fertiliser companies should not be given opportunity to earn undue profit. We have to see as to how we can compensate farmers. Due to this the farmers are suffering loss. I hope that the Minister of Finance will pay some attention towards farmers and will make a mention about it in his reply.

The other thing is that at present regional imbalance from development point of view is prevailing in the country and nothing is being done in this budget to bring a balance. You might remember that we had strongly opposed the reorganisation bill in regard to division of Bihar. At the time of discussion, the hon. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs had mentioned that Bihar would be compensated and they would not allow a State to become rich and another poorer. You are aware that all big industries have gone to Jharkhand. Jharkhand should progress, we are not competing with it but the Government of India should also pay attention towards Bihar. The Government of India are doing nothing for Bihar. I am saying this on the basis of facts and figures.

The hon. Prime Minister and hon. Minister of Finance has mentioned in his budget speech about linking of rivers. This is a good scheme. The areas facing water scarcity,

which causes loss to the crops, will be benefitted by this scheme, it is good but the hon. Minister of Finance has not paid any attention towards the areas of Northern Bihar, East Bengal, Northern Bengal and Eastern Uttar Pradesh which are devastated every year due to floods caused by the rivers originating from Nepal. I would like to demand that the Government of India should find permanent solution to the loss caused by rivers coming from Nepal. The solution in this regard should be found by conducting dialogue with Nepal Government. The infrastructure of poor States like Bihar is completely ruined due to flood. Only agriculture is left in our State, but it get ruined from Farrakha to Buxar due to floods.

Massive soil erosion is caused on both sides of Ganges and dozens of villages get submerged in Ganges. Our fertile land is submerged in Ganges. The State Government do not have enough resources so as to save its land. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of Finance to conduct a survey and to grant financial package to the State Government so that they could save their land. 91 lakh hectare of land of the country is ruined every year and out of which 68 lakh hectare land is devastated by floods in Bihar only. I am sorry to say that we do not get the required funds. I would like to repeat that the State Government is neither having a right to control the rivers coming from Nepal nor a right to conduct dialogue in this regard. We have raised this issue many times in the House and committees, but no permanent solution to it has still been evolved.

The hon'ble Minister of Finance has made a mention about new techniques adopted in horticulture, flowers and fruits in agriculture sector. Banana, lichi and mango are grown in large quantity in northern Bihar, but there is no arrangement for its processing. Approximately 40 percent of fruits are rotten due to it. Earlier also, I had requested that some arrangements should be made for cargo so that these fruits can be easily transported from Patna, Gaya and Muzaffarpur to other places, and profit can be earned from it, but no such arrangement has been made. 'Makhana' is grown in large scale in Bihar. 'Lichi' is also grown in large quantity and we are suffering loss in these produces.

Sir, the hon'ble Minister of Finance is present here. The investment of financial resources in Bihar is only 20 percent after its partition as compared to the national average of 3.4 percent. Justice is not being done to Bihar in regard to Credit Deposit Ratio in banks. The funds of Bihar are diverted to other places, they are not invested in Bihar. Similarly, banks do not give desired cooperation in centrally sponsored schemes. We have also discussed the matter in the meetings held at district level. So, the Government should pay consideration in this regard.

Sir, Sugar Industry of our State was very good, we were standing at second-third position among the sugar producing states in the country, but at present sugar Industry is on the verge of closure. There were 32 sugar factories in our State at the time of independence. 29 factories in Northern Bihar and 3 in Southern Bihar and at present around 6-7 factories are running in private sector, but their rate of recovery is very less, they are not running in profit. When special package of aid for sugar industry was given to other States of the country even at that time Bihar was left untouched. I would like to demand from the hon'ble Minister to take some effective steps to revive sugar industry over there. There are outstanding dues to labourers against many sugar factories, the factories have to pay sugarcane price to the farmers. Even today sugarcane growers are not getting that much minimum support price fixed by the Government of India as also announced by the Prime Minister in the House. The Sasamura, Sidwalia sugar Factory in my parliamentary constituency, Gopalganj, is not giving minimum support price to the farmers. Besides that they are not getting Rs. 4-5, minimum support price as announced by the State Government. The declared Minimum Support price will also increase as per the recovery rate, but factory owners are not even paying this. This is the present problem of farmers.

Sir, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of State that keeping in view of the economic situation and scarcity of resources in Bihar, it would be mandatory to pay consideration towards waving off loans by Union

[Shri Raghunath Jha]

Government against the State of Bihar. I do not agree that Union Government is fully accountable for it, the State Government is also accountable for it. The entire situation is dilapidated due to two reason. On the one hand, the profitable sector of our State i.e. factories and mines are now in the jurisdiction to Jharkhand and on the other hand, we are suffering heavy losses due to damage caused to agriculture by floods every year. Our infrastructure is ruined, roads gets damaged, crops get destroyed, everything is ruined. Therefore, the State Government is not in a position to render its help to anybody. Therefore, I would like to request you to give special package to Bihar, which is a backward state so as to ensure its development.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI TILAKDHARI PRASAD SINGH (Kodarma) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I will not take much time. I would like to express my views on the budget presented by the hon'ble Minister and the actual situation in the country. The schemes being run by the Union Government, particularly in regard to rural development are not being properly implemented in the States.

I listened to views expressed by the Hon'ble Members of different States in regard to 'Pradhanmanti Gramin Sadak Yojna', but I know what the real situation is and would like to apprise the House about the same. Three phases of this scheme have already elapsed. My constituency falls in Jharkhand state. I know about that area and would like to tell you that not even a single phase has been completed over there. The fault was in the agency which is implementing this scheme. There is shortage of staff for implementing this scheme. As per my information, as I have been told, the agency through which this scheme was to be implemented does not exist. Similarly, there are no agencies to execute State Government's sponsored schemes. The schemes formulation by Union Government and various State Government scheme could not be implemented in the

absence of agencies only. Therefore, I would like to say that there is a need to pay attention in the regard.

Sir, another thing which I would like to say is that as yesterday while replying to the motion of thanks on President's address the hon'ble Prime Minister said that they are providing foodgrains to States under sampoorana Gramodya Yojna'. It should be appreciated but there is a need to look into whether foodgrains are reaching over there or not. I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister of Finance that the foodgrains were released for Giridih district of Jharkhand State, but there were no rack available to transport it and District Collector and FCI officers have been asked to lift the foodgrains. They had given in writing that racks were not available to transport the foodgrains. Since then, three months have elapsed. They are not getting rack for the last three months to transport the foodgrains. The Government are making good efforts to provide foodgrains to people but racks are not available to transport foodgrains over there and it is the duty of railways to make rack available. Therefore, attention is needed in this regard.

Sir, just now Hon'ble Raghunath Jha has submitted about the Jharkhand that the State is rich in mineral resource and there are factories however I would like to tell that the original inhabitants of Jharkhand are dependent on agriculture. It is not true that all the people of Jharkhand are employed in factories. There is no irrigation facilities for agriculture in the State. This is because scarcity of water that the fields are not being irrigated. So my suggestion is that big and deep wells should be constructed for the irrigation. The check dam should be constructed at various places in plateau and hilly areas and thus the Government should make arrangement for the irrigation of fields of the farmers.

Sir, it is promised to provide several facilities to the farmers. It is said that loans will be provided to the farmers from the banks however the fact is that the banks do not want to provide loans to the farmers. We visit the districts. We are well aware of the condition of the farmers and how Managers of the banks treat farmers and how do they deny to give loans to them. It is a fact that farmers credit cards

have been issued however I would like to submit that all these schemes are on the paper only. The banks do not provide any facility or loans to the farmers.

Sir, it has been stated that employment is being provided to the youths and 70 lakhs or probably 84 lakhs have been provided with employment. 'Pradhanmantri Rojagar Yojana' was implemented. In that scheme also we witnessed that the target fixed was not achieved. We find that whatever target is fixed for any scheme is not achieved. The Central Government should certainly pay attention to all these things. Here many discussions are held. Just now several hon'ble Members expressed their views regarding the fertiliser and diesel.

Whenever Central budget is presented in the House it invariably burdens farmers and this time too the same thing happened. The Government increased the price of diesel. Consequently the farmers will be affected. I would like to request the Government to withdraw the price of fertiliser which has been hiked.

Sir, as far the forest is concerned, I would like to submit that the funds which are provided by the forest department for afforestation remain within the target however after one year nothing is visible. The Government should certainly pay attention to it and ensure that the funds which are given for a particular purpose be utilised properly. As far the question of energy and power is concerned, the Government fix target for it but the target for electrification is not met. The target of electrification of the villages is not achieved. The power is not generated as per the requirement. The sufficient power should be supplied to the farmers so that production may increase. With these words I conclude.

Sir, I would like to extend my thanks to you for giving me opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Sir, I rise to congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for presenting such an excellent Budget. The main thrust of this Budget is to

attain an 8% growth rate. Most of the people may say that when last year we had attained the GDP growth of only 4.4% all of a sudden, how do we expect, to rise to the level of 8% next year? To double our *per capita* income, we require 8% growth rate for consecutively next 10 years.

Sir, last year, we could have attained the growth rate of more than 6%. It was *Indra Dev* who went against the fate of India after about 12 years because of which the growth in agriculture came down from + 5.7% to - 3.1%. I do not think that in any way, any Government, could have done anything about this; and could have improved the position of agriculture, when there was an acute drought throughout India. But, in the given situation, the hon. Finance Minister has done his best.

Secondly, he has retired three billion dollars of high-cost external debt. This has happened for the first time in independent India. There is a Debt Swap Scheme with the State Governments. It will help the State Governments in retiring their high cost debt for Rs. 81,000 crore.

Thirdly, he has looked after the middle-class. Sir, middle-class constitutes about 1/3 of the population of India, of the voters, and by the next decade, middle-class will constitute 45% of the Indian population. About half of the people of India constitute middle-class. They have a life style. They have an aspiration. This is the sign of resurgent India. This is the economic resurgence. It is because from the days of bicycle, from the days of bullock-carts, we have now come to the age of cars, air-conditioners and refrigerators. Now, about 4.5 crore households in India have Cable TV, and about 6.6 crore households have the refrigerators.

If the Finance Minister – for that matter, any Finance Minister – does not look after the interest of the middle class, then naturally he will be doomed. So, the Finance Minister has looked after the middle class people who are the opinion-makers of this country. Many people criticise him for lowering the costs of cars, air-conditioners etc. Why? Is the Finance Minister looking after the interests of rich people or the people who own cars and air-

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

conditioners? Nowadays, it is not the rich people alone who own cars and air-conditioners. It is the middle class people who own them. Nowadays, these have become the commodities of middle class people. So, that has got to be kept in mind.

Let me tell you that one car provides employment, directly or indirectly, to about ten people. A tourist who comes to India – or to any country – provides employment to about seven local persons. Do not think that it is the rich person for whom the car is required nowadays. Car is not only required for him, but it is also required for a garrage-walla, car is required for a petrol pump owner and since it is, most of the times, used as a commercial vehicle, it provides employment, directly or indirectly, to many people. So, there is absolutely nothing wrong in reducing the taxes and duties on cars.

There is a criticism made against this Government that the interest rate on small savings has been reduced by one per cent. Many people say that what shall we do now, we earn money and keep it so that this money will revive them during their retirement period, and that it will keep them alive. This is what they say.

But take the case of real return. There is something called real return too. This interest rate is closely associated with inflation. If you take this and adjust it with inflation, most of the saving instruments are coming close to 6.3 per cent, as high as what they were during the early 1990s. In the early 1990s, the rate of interest in the small savings was quite high, but so was the higher rate of inflation. If you deduct the rate of inflation from the rate of interest, you will come to a figure which is called the real return. The real return is actually more, though it seems that it has been reduced. But actually, a person gets more from this. I thank the hon. Finance Minister for doing this. Shri Prakash Paranjpe was comparing the figures of China with that of India. He was saying that this is the lending rate in China and this is the lending rate in India. Why was the lending rate in India so high? It is because we are also giving a very high rate of interest to a person who

is depositing the money with banks. Unless you reduce that you cannot give a lower lending rate to industrialists. What the hon. Finance Minister has done would ultimately lead to revival of industry and it will also increase employment potential of this country. So, from the core of my heart, I thank and congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for having done this.

He has tried to boost the stock market; he has tried to build confidence among the small investors; he has tried to bring back investors into the stock market, who otherwise had lost confidence in stock market.

Now the dividends have been made tax-free. The shares of the listed companies bought after February 28 will be exempted from long-term capital gains tax. Mutual Funds will become unbeatable destinations for investors as they can now offer seven per cent tax-free returns on some schemes. So, these are the basic things by which the hon. Finance Minister has been able to attract the small investors which were running away from the share market.

Generally, the monetary activities in India are debt-oriented. If you go to a village and tell that somebody has invested his money in the stock market, he will say that that person is gambling. Stock market is synonymous with gambling in our country. Everybody takes loan from the village money-lender only. But now to bring more liquidity, more depth to the stock market, the country must congratulate the Finance Minister for whatever he has done in this regard. I also congratulate the Minister for having revamped the tax regime. From a suspicion ridden, coercive-driven system, he has tried to bring green-channel system where the basis is the trust and faith.

You will be surprised to know that the cost of tax-compliance in India is 48 per cent. For paying one rupee income tax, you have to pay another 48 paise as consultation fee of the Chartered Accountant. Shri Kirit Somaiya is the Chartered Accountant and he will charge the tax consultancy fee. Similarly, you may require other such information for which you may have to pay these 48 paise. So, when you are paying one rupee as the income tax, you are actually paying one rupee forty-eight paise. Why is this happening? This is happening because the tax

process is totally complicated. The hon. Finance Minister has tried to make tax payment easier, tax evasion harder and has kept the tax rates low. This is how it will boost the demand in the market and lessen the harassment of the tax payers. The tax payers can now file their returns on-line, by using computer. Simplification of tax procedure is one of the best things that has happened in India and I would like to congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for that.

I support the introduction of VAT, the ultimate abolition of CST, additional introduction of Excise duty and Service Tax. The Government is now going to compensate the States. Initially, some States were apprehending that because of introduction of VAT they would be losing the Sales Tax. But when the Government has come forward to pay for the difference in loss, I do not think anybody will lose on this account. As per VAT, there will be a uniform rate all over India. Do you not like this? Suppose I want to buy a car. I know that the sales tax is more in Orissa and it is less in Calcutta, I will go to Calcutta and buy it from there. But now, with the introduction of VAT you will have to pay a uniform sales tax all over India. Is it not a good system for a country like India? Should we have different rates in different States? I am happy that all the Chief Ministers have agreed. I am thankful to them and I strongly support the initiative taken by the hon. Finance Minister in this regard and I hope that this should be continued.

Sir, as regards Health Insurance Scheme, I need not repeat it. After paying just Rs.1 or Rs.1.50 or Rs.2 per day, one can get about Rs.30,000 in a year for his treatment. The just retired people could also get around nine per cent interest out of some Government Scheme. These are the things which I fully support. The hon. Finance Minister has done this for the good of the people, and for people who depend on their pension benefits as well as interest on their deposits after their retirement.

Now, I would come to the subsidy. The total subsidy in India was Rs.41,474.43 crore last year. This year, it has gone up to Rs.48,636.23 crore and 30 per cent of this accounts for food subsidy. We are providing 30 per cent food subsidy when the godowns of the Food Corporation

of India are filled with foodgrains such as rice and wheat. We do not know what to do with this rice and wheat. Even at this time, we are paying 30 per cent food subsidy.

[Translation]

As regards fertiliser subsidy, there is a hue and cry everywhere that the Governments is anti farmers.

[English]

It is said that this Government is against the farmers. I would just make a small point that out of the total subsidy of Rs.48,636 crore, only a small portion of Rs.12,700 crore accounts for fertiliser subsidy. This has been done only peripherally. I would like to ask one thing. Who should get subsidy on fertiliser? Should it not be the farmer? But is it the farmer who is actually getting it? I will give you one example. You import the fertiliser from a foreign country. They will give you fertiliser at a cost of 140 to 150 dollar per tonne. But in India, the price varies. There are six types of fertiliser manufacturing units. In every factory, the manufacturing cost is different. It varies from Rs.6000 to Rs.12,000 per tonne and the Government is paying for that. Why should we pay for the inefficiency of the fertiliser companies? This is one of the questions. But I fully agree that if we import fertiliser from outside, many of these fertiliser units would be closed. We do not want that they should be closed. But we want that there should be uniformity in the production cost. I congratulate the Government for dividing the fertiliser factories into six groups. Naturally and gradually, after some time in 2004, a stage would come where the cost could be fixed uniformly. I am very happy about it. I would also appeal that in order to reduce the fiscal deposit, a little portion of burden of Rs. 12,700 crore may also be moved to the farming sector.

We do not charge any tax on agricultural income. There are many people who are not farmers but they show a lot of money as income from farming. Should they not be taxed? There are many people in this country who have farm houses and they show a lot of money to have been earned from the agricultural sector. They are also getting exemptions. So, I would appeal to the hon. Finance Minister that even if he does not want to tax the farming



[Shri Kharabela Swain]

community and the farmers, he should think about taxing the non-agriculturist farmers who – in the name of farming – are converting their back money into white money.

So, he should think about it. He should consider whether this sector should be touched or not in the future.

Sir, I am very happy that the Finance Minister has gone in for re-structuring the debt. Shri Kirti Somaiya has already enumerated the facts with regard to debt swapping with the States so that the States could retire their very high cost debts.

Sir, the point about infrastructure has already been touched upon. I know that it is economic growth alone that can bring prosperity to this country and this alone can help generate employment. All the time we say as to how many jobs have been provided within the last one year. Can any one provide Government jobs to everybody? Is it possible? If you go to any place in the world, you would see that it is only by way of building infrastructure that there has been an economic revival of a country. If we have economic growth, then automatically employment would be generated and people would stand on their own legs. They would try to earn money and they would not have to go to the private factories or Government institutions begging for jobs. This is exactly what the Government has tried to do.

Sir, I would like to say two to three sentences with regard to disinvestment. Sometimes we race at a very high speed and then it seems we have to put a break. Today, we say, let us carry the entire country because the political community would have to be carried. I fully agree with it. But what happens if the political community willingly refuses to co-operate.

18.57 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Swain, would you like to continue for another five minutes?

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, I would need another five to seven minutes.

MR. SPEAKER : All right. You can continue next day. You would be on your legs when the debate resumes next time.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajanj, U.P.) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, after the lunch hour the discussion was being held in the House regarding the allegation made against the Members of Parliament under Member of Parliament Local Area Development Fund (MPLAD) Scheme. During the discussion when allegation was levelled against an hon'ble Member and me I was agitated. If it has hurt your sentiment or the dignity of the House then I am really sorry for that. My intention was not to disrespect the Chair at all. I had expressed my view to clear all allegations that are being levelled against us in parliamentary democracy and I wanted to put my view under the rule. Sir, you yourself are aware that if any issue is raised then as per rule notice is given every day. Thereafter one can express one's view. At that time also whatever I had submitted, I wanted to put my views under Adjournment Motion. But some hon'ble Members who had not given notice for Adjournment Motion or another notice were speaking. I had no objection to their speaking. However the way they provoked me, I got agitated. If it has hurt the House or another person then I tender my apology for that.

MR. SPEAKER : I accept your apology that you tender for what you did however I would like to advice you to be careful in future so that such thing may not recur.

[English]

The House now stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow.

18.59 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, March 7, 2003/ Phalguna 16, 1924 (Saka)*

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