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Thursday, August 21, 2003
Sravana 30, 1925 (Saka)

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(English Version)

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(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)

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LOK SABHA

Thursday, August 21, 2003/Sravana 30, 1925 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

... *(Interruptions)*...

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have been giving the notice of Adjournment Motion constantly for the last seven days. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are five notices of Adjournment Motion and seven notices of suspension of Question Hour before me.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice for suspension of Question Hour alongwith the notice of Adjournment Motion. The issue is very important. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will allow you to raise it during 'Zero Hour'.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I have also given a notice. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I know that you have also given it. I will give you an opportunity to raise it during 'Zero Hour'.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Okay, Sir. Thank you very much. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a very important matter. The leader of opposition had brought a No-confidence Motion against the Government on 18th August. There is no reality in the reply given by the Government on 19 August. ... *(Interruptions)* The Government did not reply to any one of the allegations levelled by our leader. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have also with me the notices of Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and Shri Ramji Lal Suman. I shall allow you to raise your points during Zero Hour. Please be seated now.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Under which circumstances the report of the commission was not presented. ... *(Interruptions)* This is an important point ... *(Interruptions)*. This is the focal point of the No-confidence Motion which was not addressed by the Government. The Government did not clarify as to why the report of the Commission concerning the Defence Minister George Fernandes has not been presented so far? ... *(Interruptions)* Several charges of corruption were levelled against the Government. But the Government did not reply to anyone of them. The allegations also included the charge that the Government did not do anything to mitigate the problem of unemployment. ... *(Interruptions)* The Government did not do anything concrete except paying a lip service. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall allow you to raise this matter during Zero Hour. Please be seated now.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: The Government did not respond to any of the charges levelled by us against the Government. ... *(Interruptions)* The charges of corruption and also of inaction to solve the problem of unemployment were also not responded to. This Government has befooled us. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will now take up the Question Hour. During 'Zero Hour', we will take it up.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: The charges of corruption and disorder were levelled against the

Government but there was no satisfactory reply from Government side ... *(Interruptions)*. Please let me make a point ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall give you a chance during Zero Hour.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.N. SINGH (Machhlishahar): Sir, I have also given the notice of Adjournment Motion. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I know. Your notice is also there. I will give you an opportunity to raise it during 'Zero Hour'.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Please listen to my submission ... *(Interruptions)*. My issue is very important. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall give you a chance during Zero Hour. Please be seated.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Question Hour. Shri Nawal Kishore Rai.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let us take up the Question Hour. I will give you the floor during 'Zero Hour'.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government's reply was vague. Neither the Prime Minister nor the Deputy Prime Minister cared to reply. ... *(Interruptions)*. No satisfactory reply came in response to the charges levelled by us against the Government. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal, I will give you the floor during 'Zero Hour'.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have also given the notice of Adjournment Motion. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government did not reply to any of the allegations levelled by me. The Government cannot be run like this. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hazipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have given the notice of Calling Attention Motion. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we cannot, take up Calling Attention Notice. Please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government did not respond to any of the allegations levelled by me. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please take your seats. Nothing will go on record.

... *(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I heard you. I will give you the floor during 'Zero Hour'.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, I have given an Adjournment Motion notice.

[Translation]

Sir, you see the notice. I have given the Notice of Adjournment Motion and besides, I have also given the notice of calling attention keeping it in mind that you will not admit it. I want to submit that. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have given the Notice of calling attention.

... *(Interruptions)*

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*Not recorded.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the problem of flood is not the problem of any single party. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your Adjournment Motion is about the flood situation in Bihar.

[English]

I have received your notice and I will give you an opportunity during 'Zero Hour'. Now, let us take up the Question Hour.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Please provide me an opportunity to make my point. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please cooperate with me. Let us take up the Question Hour. I will give you the chance during 'Zero Hour'. I will definitely give you a chance during 'Zero Hour', not now.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Please listen to me and give me five minutes. Our trader had levalled some charges against the government. The government have not replied to any of them. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal, I have told you that I will give you a chance during 'Zero Hour'. You have to allow me to conduct the business of the House. I am taking up the Question Hour. You can take it up during 'Zero Hour'.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: The whole country has been befooled and you are asking me to revise it during the zero hour. Give us the time. ... *(Interruptions)* The entire discussion held during the last two days has gone in waste. ... *(Interruptions)*. The government has not replied satisfactorily. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal will you please resume your seat?

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal, you cannot hold the House like this. You will have to resume your seat.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am on my legs. Please resume your seat. I have given you an assurance that you can take it up during 'Zero Hour'. This is not the proper way. You have to cooperate with the Chair also. I have already told you that you can take it up during 'Zero Hour'. I am assuring you that I will give you a chance. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and others have cooperated with me. So, you can take it up during 'Zero Hour'.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Sir, it is the agony of one hundred crore people. ... *(Interruptions)* Before the people of the entire country the government. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar): Sir, please allow me to speak. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will give you an opportunity during 'Zero-Hour'.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, also give us the opportunity during the 'Zero-Hour'.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir I want to submit that if the Chair permits, we will reply to each and every question raised by the opposition. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let you become the Minister first and then you may reply.

... *(Interruptions)*

11.10 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Determination of Prices of LPG

*401. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

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

(a) the average price at which the LPG is produced in the country per tonne during 2002-03;

(b) the manner in which prices which include the payment of various central taxes are determined;

(c) whether the prices of LPG for the common consumers of the country are not determined on the basis of aforesaid prices; and

(d) if so, the basis on which the prices of LPG for the common consumers are determined?

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) to (d) Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) is produced in the country by the oil refineries and fractionators. Oil refineries produce LPG by fractioning crude oil in the crude distillation unit and in secondary processing units like Fluidised Catalytic Cracking Unit, Hydrocracker and Coker. Fractionators separate LPG from Natural Gas using fractionation. Oil refining being a continuous process industry with multi-product output viz. petrol, diesel, naphtha, kerosene, LPG, etc., separate costing for various products in not done.

Prior to 01-04-2002, when the oil sector was under the administered pricing mechanism (APM), the refinery gate prices of LPG were fixed on import parity basis. The total costs were determined after including import parity price, inland freight, bottling charges, marketing margins, etc. The consumer was, however, provided subsidy through the oil pool account mechanism and the duties and taxes were paid on subsidized price.

After the dismantling of APM, the pricing of LPG is as per the post APM subsidy scheme according to which the price is to be calculated on import parity basis and after accounting for the flat rate of subsidy, the oil marketing companies can revise the selling prices on account of changes in the international prices of LPG, ocean freight, inland freight, marketing margins, distributors' commission, etc.

The oil marketing companies did not revise the selling price of domestic LPG during 2002-03. However, effective 1.11.2002, LPG distributors' commission was revised, thereby increasing the retail selling price of domestic LPG in Delhi from Rs. 240.45/cylinder to Rs. 241.20/cylinder.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Prabhunath Singh, what is this happening?

[English]

Shri Nawal Kishore Rai, please ask your supplementary question.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the question hour is very precious. We give notices for questions well in advance to be replied to in the Question Hour and the concerned ministries take time in preparing answers to these questions and if we waste time, how the Question Hour could be run. If the Hon. Members interrupt like this during the Question Hour, how can we ask the questions. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Nawal Kishore Rai, you may ask your supplementary question.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: I seek your protection in regard to the statement which the hon. minister has submitted in reply to my original question. I had sought the information about the cost of cooking gas in my original question but in the statement which has been laid on the Table of the House, nowhere cost of production is mentioned. The cost of all the products has been summed up together, which is not fair. Therefore, before putting a supplementary question, I would like to know as to what information he has given about the production cost. And after that, I will ask the supplementary question as directed by you. Most of the supply of cooking gas in the country is met from the indigenous production and about 12-13 per cent is met through the imported gas. Therefore, I want to know from the Government as to what is the difference between the production cost of indigenous cooking gas and that of the imported gas. Do they fix the prices of cooking gas based on the indigenous production cost so that justice is done to the consumers. The consumers should be charged the prices of LPG as per its indigenous production cost.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, LPG is mainly produced from crude oil. Crude oil is refined in refineries and petrol, diesel, naptha, LPG, Kerosene etc. are produced through the refining process. Crude oil is also of different varieties. It is very difficult to determine the cost of each and every product on the basis of refining and moreover, prices are not fixed on that basis. Prices are determined on the basis of international standard. The hon. member has rightly said that most of the cooking gas is indigenously produced and its import is low. But the fact is that cooling gas is produced from crude oil and we import 70 per cent of crude oil. So, if we import something, then it is but natural to have its impact on its production also. Therefore it may appear that we produce more LPG. But the fact is that we also import it sometimes in view of its requirement. But the fact remains that LPG is produced from crude oil. The information given here is based on that.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I had said in the very beginning that I need your protection. In the other chamber, i.e. the upper House, the information has been furnished about production cost of other products in reply to a question. As several products are produced from crude oil, cooking gas is also produced from it, what I want to know is the production cost of cooking gas produced indigenously so that the public of the country and this House also could know as to what is the difference between the production cost of LPG and its price fixation and the methodology followed for fixing its price. This is my concern. And I have not yet got a satisfactory reply on this point. My second supplementary relates to the installed capacities of the oil refineries in the country. Our refineries have more capacity than the supply of petroleum products. I want to know whether the Government is planning to meet the shortage of petroleum products in the country by optimum utilisation of the capacities of our oil refineries. If there is any such plan, I would like to know the details thereof. If not, what are the reasons therefore? I want to know through you the manner in which we would be able to make better utilisation of the refineries of the country.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have increased the capacity of refineries in the country considerably during the last four years. Earlier we were having capacity of refining 58 million metric tonnes of crude oil whereas now we have the capacity of refining 116 million metric tonnes of crude oil. We have increased the refining capacity to such an extent. Besides capacity utilisation of every refinery has also increased from 95 to 98 per cent. So far as efficiency is concerned our refineries are matching refineries of many countries of the world. Barring crude oil we are importing only a negligible quantity of other petroleum products through which LPG is produced.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the core of my question has not been replied to. I have asked what is the average production cost of LPG? Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want your protection. Sir, I want to know the average production cost of LPG. ... *(Interruptions)* LPG is one of the variety of petroleum products and I want to know average production cost thereof. ... *(Interruptions)* I want your protection.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He has already explained it.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: What is the objection in it to tell as to what is the production cost of LPG and how much they are charging! What harm is there? ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI T. GOVINDAN: I would like to know from the government, through you, Sir, whether he is aware of the acute shortage of LPG cylinders in Kerala, especially in my Malabar region. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Sir, the hon'ble Minister has not given a clear-cut reply.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Govindan, I will allow you to ask your question a little later. Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal, please hear the Minister now.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are sixteen refineries in our country and we are importing crude oil from about 18 to 20 countries at different rates. The oil we are importing is equality wise of various type. Therefore, this has been deliberated upon prior to 1997 as to what should be our policy in this regard and it has

been decided that as per the import parity price of Saudi Arabia which is regarded as standard price, transportation charges, expenditure incurred on the refine wing and that on bottling should be added in the import parity price. The prices of different products are worked out by taking into account all these actors. So, therefore, it is not possible to give separate cost price of any particular product.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Nawal Kishore Rai, you cannot get up like that. Please hear the Minister's reply fully.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: If it is not possible then what is possible?

[English]

SHRI T. GOVINDAN: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware of the acute shortage of LPG cylinders in Kerala. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He has already explained that.

SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Sir, why is there disturbance?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Minister has answered his question.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: The people of the country must know as to what profit the government is earning. ... *(Interruptions)* Sir, he has not given a clear-cut reply.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You cannot get hundred per cent satisfaction out of it.

SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware of the acute shortage of LPG cylinders in Kerala, especially in my Malabar region. Thousands of applications are pending with different agencies. Those who have got connections, they are not getting their second cylinder. In Kerala, the coming days are festival days, and *Onam* is at our doorstep.

Is the Minister going to take any steps to resolve this energy crisis in Kerala?

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, even new connections of LPG are available across the counter now. For those who are already having connections and want to have two cylinders also, we are giving two cylinders. In the last four years, we have given 3,50,00,000 more new connections. That is equal to the number of connections given in the last forty years. Seven crore families are having gas connections now. If there is a particular area in which LPG is not made available for one reason or the other, kindly let me have the exact details. I will ensure that these things are supplied. In the country as a whole, there is no shortage and LPG is being made available.

SHRI T. GOVINDAN: The area is Malabar area of Kerala. Festival days of Onam are coming.

SHRI RAM NAIK: I will ensure that even for festivals it is given. Kindly give me the details of the areas where it is not available.

SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, a fair price and the best services are the need for the customers.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Ask the question straight. Do not go the roundabout way.

SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Sir, they are appointing two agencies in one place. The old agencies are having more customers and the new agencies are having less number of customers. There is a big disparity of scale of business between the two agencies. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any provision for transferring the customers of one agency to another gas company. If so, has the Minister given any specific instructions in this regard? It is also a problem of my Krishnagiri Constituency.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The answer should be equally short. There are a number of Members to ask questions.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, it is true that old agencies are having more connections with them. New agencies have been appointed in the last two years, and it takes time. So, we have taken a policy decision that in the case of

those old agencies which are having more than a minimum economical number-it differs from city to city and place to place-those excess connections be transferred to the new agencies by all the oil companies. Accordingly this is being done. Again I will say that if there is a problem at a specific area, I will certainly look into that. Let the hon. Member give individual cases where it is not transferred. But, it is a long drawn situation because three and a half crore new connections have been given. So, it will take time to stabilise. I will certainly see individual cases.

SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: This is a problem in my constituency, Sir.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, in the reply the hon. Minister says that the selling price of LPG depends on, among other things, changes in the international prices. LPG prices have steadily gone up during the past four years. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has thought of reducing the LPG prices when there is a decline in the international price, and if not, what are the reasons?

SHRI RAM NAIK: So far as decline of the prices in the international market is concerned, when summer comes, the prices go down, but in winter the prices go up. Things are going up and down. But, since LPG is a very sensitive item, though petrol and diesel prices were increased-and subsequently reduced also during the last one year-we did not increase LPG price for the last one year.

The oil companies are sharing it. The consumer sensitivity is there. That is why they have not increased the price.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Sir, my question was whether there is a decline in the international prices.

SHRI RAM NAIK: I said, 'no'.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He has already said, 'no'.

SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: I thank you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, for allowing me to ask a Supplementary.

I think, the hon. Minister is aware regarding concessions given to the freedom fighters while granting them the connections. Earlier, the freedom fighters were getting some priority, and the connections were granted to them without taking a deposit.

Sir, I congratulate the hon. Minister for the performance shown during the last four years and for giving about 3.5 crore more gas connections. There is no paucity in my area, at least, of the gas connections. But the freedom fighters are not getting the connections without giving the deposit. So, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the scheme of granting the connections to the freedom fighters without taking the deposit, which was there earlier-as has also been done in regard to granting telephone connections-would be continued.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, give a short reply.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, the short reply would be that I do not feel that there would be any freedom fighter who would not have got any connection at all. All have been given connections. So, if there is any difficulty in an individual case, certainly, the Government and the oil companies will look into it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Deputy, Speaker, Sir, I had raised a matter regarding Ustad Bismillah Khan in this House a few days ago. I wrote to the Prime Minister regarding Ustad Bismillah Khan and a copy of the same might have reached the hon. Minister. I think the hon. Prime Minister must have taken action in this regard and I know the hon. Minister is a very good Minister. He might have taken some steps in at his direction. Ustad Bismillah Khan has been conferred upon Bharat Ratna. With this in our mind, we had made a demand to allot him a gas agency. I would like to know from the minister whether he has taken a decision in this regard and a gas agency has been allotted to him.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a fact that Shri Ram Vilas Paswan ji had sent a memorandum to the Prime Minister in which he had demanded allotment of a gas agency to Ustad Bismillah Khan. I would like to tell him that some guidelines are laid down for allotment of gas agencies and petrol pumps and they contain no provision of any discretionary quota for allotment of gas agency.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: You have just said that such a provision is there for freedom fighters. You can include him in the freedom fighters' category. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, as on today, the guidelines have no such provision and it has not been possible to allot any gas agency as there is no discretionary quota. Now the situation is that after deregulation this job will go to the oil companies and they will have the power to lay down the guidelines. During the coming three or four weeks they will prepare their guidelines and only after that some way or the other may be devised to work towards this. But as on date there is no discretionary quota of the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You demanded gas agency for him under the discretionary quota and the Minister said that there is not discretionary quota.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have not said about discretionary quota. I have said that since Ustad Bismillah Khan is a Bharat Ratna recipient. The general category guidelines should not be applied in his case. None of the hon. members is opposed to this. In view of the feelings of the House, I would like to say that the hon. minister should place him under a special category and allot him a gas agency. ... *(Interruptions)*. The newspapers have reported that you have already made the allotment.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Minister has said that he will allot it if such a provision is incorporated in the new guidelines.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Minister, what about the new guidelines? ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to know whether you will talk to the Prime Minister in this regard. At the moment you don't reply in the negative. You keep it under consideration and don't say 'No' to it in the Parliament.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have already talked with the Prime Minister in this regard. I have told him and the process of deregulation has started and we will certainly find a way to allot a gas agency to him, but right now as per the existing guidelines the Government have no such discretionary powers. We will see how can it be done in view of the prestigious award conferred on him by the Government.

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say to the hon. Minister in few words that there is no waiting in getting an LPG connection, anybody can take a connection at any time without queuing up for that, but on the other hand, the department always pretends to be running short of gas cylinders. The Area Manager of Bihar has stopped issuing new connections. Through you, Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister if the consumers are not getting gas cylinders in time, what is the meaning of issuing gas connections so freely? The consumers in Bihar are in dire straits in the wake of the recent ban on issue of gas connections. What will the Government do in this regard? Very briefly I would also like to know from the hon. Minister as to what action would be taken against such officers of your department and owners of gas agencies who are hand in gloves and following that fake-gas-connections were given to consumers resulting into losses to the department to the tune of several crore rupees.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is true that there was a shortage of cylinders in Bihar three-four months back and that was due to the fact that there was no supply of new cylinders in the market as the prices of steel had increased. This happened two-three months back. Now new cylinders are available, so there is now no reason for anyone to face the shortage of gas cylinder.

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: You are talking of the situation prevailing two-three months back whereas I am talking of the situation which prevailed till yesterday.

SHRI RAM NAIK: You tell me the name of the agent and I shall take actions against him. I can assure you this much. So far as giving fake connections is concerned, I would like to request the entire House that any such case which comes to the notice of a member he or she should tell me so that I may take action against the guilty.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, the increase in retail price of the domestic gases. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK: It has not increased in one year.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: It has not increased in one year, that is not the question. For the

last 5 years, the way it has increased, it has caused tremendous difficulties to the common masses, the common people of this country. My question is very simple. I want to know whether this increase caused is due to the effect of dismantling of administered pricing mechanism. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If somebody had given notice for Half-an-Hour discussion, then I would have allowed it.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: If so, why the oil marketing companies did not revise the selling price of domestic LPG during 2002-03?

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, the Administered Price Mechanism was dismantled only from April 2002 and after April 2002, prices of LPG cylinders have not been increased at all. So, that question does not arise. Earlier, when the international prices of crude oil had gone up, the prices were increased but, as of now, the price has not been increased.

[Translation]

SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in reference to the main question of Shri Nawal Kishore Rai, I would like to put a straight question whether the Government have fixed the modalities or mechanism to determine the prices of the LPG which is the by product of crude oil?

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I said at the very outset that there are several by products of crude-oil therefore it is not possible to treat each of them as crude-oil. There is one standard which has been adopted and that is the prices are determined on the basis of the prices of LPG in Saudi Arabia including the import parity prices, carriage and refinary cost.

[English]

This is the standard formula which was in operation even before 1997.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, on the one hand. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please be short because we have also to go to the other questions.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This question has already consumed 30-35 minutes.

[English]

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we talk of preserving the environment. We feel that environment is something that has been done away with in our country. We have lots of forest areas which have been left uncovered. Having said this Sir, on the one hand we are told that there is surplus of gas connections available across the country, and on the other hand the availability of LPG in the rural areas, and all over India are still very scarce. It is because the centres that are available are so far away from the *kasbas* and the *Panchayats* that the women, who normally would have used gas cylinders, are using firewood. They are felling trees in the forests in order to get their demands met with.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Madam, you ask your question.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Sir, my question to the Government is this. Is the hon. Minister considering a system by which it could monitor availability of gas in these far flung rural areas of this country?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I mentioned in the beginning we are expanding and 7 crore families have been provided with gas connections during the last four years. We are also expanding in rural areas. The Government has introduced gas cylinders of 5 kilogram. The aim and objective of the Government is- "Smokeless hearth-a boon for wamon." To implement this we have decided to provide new LPG agencies at every block level. We are doing this step by step.

[English]

Oil Struck at Kutch by GAIL

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

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) has struck oil reserves at Kutch in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which commercial exploration is likely to start there?

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

Statement

(a) to (c) Block CB-ONN-2000/1 in Cambay Basin, adjoining Kutch Basin, was offered under the Second Round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-II) and is with the consortium comprising GAIL (India) Ltd (GAIL) and Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (GSPCL), the operator.

During seismic survey and drilling of wells, good indications of hydrocarbons were found. Commercial reserves of oil and gas have not however, been established as yet.

SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY: Sir, I want to know the estimate of oil reserves found by Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) in Kutch region in Gujarat.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, the question is limited to only one GAIL India block. So, I do not have all the figures as to what are the estimates in the whole of Gujarat. I can supply the information to the hon. Member later.

SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY: Sir, has the Government ordered drilling of more wells to find out oil and gas in Kutch area in Gujarat? What are the details in this regard? When will the commercial reserves of oil and gas be estimated in regard to this region?

SHRI RAM NAIK: So far as this particular area is concerned, it covers districts Mehasana, Ahmedabad, Anand in the Cambay Basin. There the block has been given to Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Limited (GSPCL) and GAIL. They are sharing 40-40 per cent of equity.

So far, in the first phase of exploration, they have drilled two wells and the indication is very favourable with regard to these two wells. Now, they will have to drill four more wells, and then it will be possible to say whether there is a possibility of commercial production or not. It will take some time.

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, are there any proposals to preserve the last preserve and sanctuary of the Asiatic lions, wild asses, and precious marine life, if oil exploration is going to continue in Kutch? What is the Government of India going to do with regard to this?

Secondly, the Prime Minister has very kindly given Punjab a refinery at Bhatinda. I want to know as to whether this refinery is still running at full steem or it has been derailed?

SHRI RAM NAIK: So far as exploration in Kutch area is concerned, all environmental concerns are being kept in mind. Every block, which is given, has environmental clearance. From that point of view, there will not be any damage to the ecology, or environment. Since the hon. Member wants to know about Bhatinda, let me assure the House that Bhatinda refinery of Hindustan Petroleum will come, as has been planned, and the work is going accordingly.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, oil and natural gas is produced in plenty in Gujarat and is taken to other States through pipelines like the Salaya-Mathura pipeline and the Hazira-Bijapur-Jagdalpur pipeline. In addition to these two, there is a third pipeline also. BJP Governments are there in Gujarat and the centre. There are 21 BJP members in the Parliament from Gujarat. The Government of Gujarat has been demanding for additional gas for three years and writing letters to the Minister. There are seven ministers in the Union Government from Gujarat. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You ask the question.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I am coming to that. I want to know from the hon. Minister. ... *(Interruptions)*

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): The Congress was in power for 45 years and they did nothing and now he is saying all this. The Congress did nothing during their 45 years' rule.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: 20 out of the 21 members of Gujarat are not present here on the issue of Gujarat. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the three year old demand of the State for Peepavav gas project for which they are getting only written assurances, will ever be met. If the Government don't want to meet this demand, what is the reason for it.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is true that the BJP Government is there in Gujarat for 10 years and it is going to be there for another 25 years. You need not worry on that score. As regards the MPs of Gujarat as to why they do not ask this question, I would like to tell you that one hon. Member from Andhra Pradesh has originally asked this question. I think it is not proper to refer to each State separately, but so far as this question is concerned, Gujarat is the largest State of the county where oil and gas is produced. 26 per cent of the total production there is allocated to Gujarat. As regards Peepavav, the Chief Minister has met me three times and I have assured him that Peepavav will start getting gas as and when fresh production of gas is started there.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I have got some letters which contain the written assurances given to the Chief Minister. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let him complete his answer.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK: Earlier Enron worked on the Tapti Gas Fields which has now been replaced by the British Gas and a consortium comprising of the British Gas, ONGS and Reliance has been formed there and they have taken up the proper development of the gas field. As and when the production of the newly found gas is started, we will start supplying gas to Peepavav on commercial consideration and things will be done in this way. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: This amounts to day dreaming. I demand a time from you. Peepavav Gas Project is being demanded in Gujarat for three years, and still you are not meeting. The assurance regarding Tapti Gas Field has been given earlier also. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK: As long as the new gas is not produced. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Why don't you give the new gas found in Kutch. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

We have been deprived by the Central Government of all these things. All the gases have been taken away by the Central Government from Gujarat, depriving all the industries in Gujarat. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Madhusudan Mistry, let him answer.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: You persuade him please. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK: I refute these allegations. ... *(Interruptions)* Gujarat is being supplied gas. ... *(Interruptions)* I have said that and I repeat that. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: It is not we; it is their own publication. It is Government of Gujarat's publication. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Madhusudan Mistry, please listen to him.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK: Why do you not listen? ... *(Interruptions)* If he can raise his voice, I can also raise my voice. Please sit down. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I will sit, only if the Deputy-Speaker asks me to sit.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Madhusudan Mistry, please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I am not saying this. What I am saying is this. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Madhusudan Mistry, you have raised a question, let the Minister answer.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Madhusudan Mistry, you have raised a question and the Minister has replied. Even if the answer is not satisfactory, you have to listen to him first.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: A Member of Parliament is not a subordinate of the Minister. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am here to control the House.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, I am on my legs.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Madhusudan Mistry, you have asked a question and the Minister is replying. Till he completes his reply, you should wait. That is what I am saying.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: The Minister is shouting at the Member. ... *(Interruptions)* This is deplorable. ... *(Interruptions)* This is their intolerance. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Neither any Member nor any Minister has a right to speak until and unless the Presiding Officer has permitted them. Only the Presiding Officer has that right.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Madhusudan Mistry, do you not want the reply of your answer? Nobody has got a right here to stop anybody from speaking unless and until the Presiding Officer says so.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: It is the contention of the Government. ... *(Interruptions)* It is their reply and not mine. It is their publication. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That is what he is doing.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That is what you must hear. You must hear him fully.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI: Those who want to ask question here, they do not get an opportunity and on the other hand, only one member keeps on asking questions. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Lal Bihari ji, please sit down.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was telling that as soon as the new gas arrives, that will be given. At the same time, we are importing five million metric tonnes of LNG from abroad to meet the requirement of gas in the country and one terminal is coming up at Dahej for that purpose and 85 per cent work of it has been completed. ... *(Interruptions)* That terminal would be completed by December, 2003 and it would be operational from January, 2003, then one would be able to provide gas to the States as per their requirement right from Gujarat to Uttar Pradesh. We will have sufficient gas, this is what I hope.

SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHOUHAN: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to know through you from the Hon. Minister as to how much progress has been made in exploration of gas or petroleum products and whether Rajasthan also figures therein. The Bharat petroleum and the Essar spent Rs. 25 crore each in extracting petrol at Rai Singh Nagar in Rajasthan but after extracting 500 litres petrol that scheme was discontinued. Whether the department proposes to revive the said scheme? I want to know from the hon. Minister as to the time by which they propose to revive it.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have struck new resources in Rajasthan. The exploration work which is going on there, we are planning to speed up that work. We are informed that crude oil reserves have been struck in Rajasthan on large scale. When these reserves would be tapped that would solve the problem of Rajasthan also.

[English]

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: I would like to ask the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, whether he has done a macro-level survey for the entire country, instead of doing it in a sporadic way with reference to exploring and exploiting the total potentiality of the country, and whether the Minister will do it with special reference to Tamil Nadu, particularly in the Cauvery Basin and Ramanathapuram district.

SHRI RAM NAIK: The work of having a survey all over India is going on. We are trying to complete it with the help of the most modern equipment. We are going in a big way. Even in the deep sea, we are trying to see whether oil and gas are available. Both the Cauvery Basin and Ramnathapuram district will be taken care of.

[Translation]

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was taken by surprise today when the hon. Minister told in his reply to a question related to LPG that we were still importing 70 per cent gas in the hydro carbon sector. Whether the self-reliance is not the responsibility of this Government? I want to know from the hon. Minister as to how can we carry on the work of exploration and production and become self-reliant. While this Government, on the one hand, swears by swadeshi, and on the other hand, dividend stripping to the tune of five to ten crore rupees takes place in oil companies of our country every year like the ONGC, IOC and GAIL in order to meet the budget deficit? I want to humbly ask the hon. Minister as to what target they have fixed for the next one year in the field of exploration and production. I am not asking about refining and marketing. Whether we will be able to meet that target in the year to come?

I would also like to request the hon. Minister that there should be no dividend stripping in our companies to meet the budget deficit and we should earmark this amount for the exploration sector.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has raised a very important question. The country should be self-reliant and we are trying to move forward in this direction. Under the new exploration licensing policy which we have formulated over the last three years, we allot blocks for development. We have signed 70 such contracts in the last three years and have invited bids for 24 new ones.

[English]

We will be giving 94 blocks in four years. Again, why is there a shortage? Firstly, it is because only 22 blocks have been given in the last 10 years. Secondly, Coal Based Methane (CBM) gas is also available. We have already given 9 blocks and we have asked bids for 8 more blocks. So, 17 blocks for CBM are being given. Thirdly, to reduce dependence, what we are doing is, we are going to other countries and taking equity from them. For Sudan, we have invested Rs. 3,900 crore and the crude oil has started coming. So, like that we are trying to reduce dependence. Fourthly from the agricultural point of view, it is most important that we have introduced five per cent ethanol to be blended in petrol which will not only reduce our dependence, but it will also give the sugarcane-producing farmers good return. Otherwise, the molasses were going as good as waste. So, they will get some return. These are the four major policy decisions which are being implemented. I would like to inform the young hon. Member that to bring oil and gas to commercial use, it takes a minimum period of five years. Last ten years' lapses, we cannot help. But we are now trying to ensure that we get oil as early as possible.

[Translation]

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: I want to tell the hon. Minister that four years have passed. I want to have a commitment from him that they would not resort to divided stripping. Can he give me such an assurance? Can he give a commitment that they will not divert Rs. 5 to 10 thousand crore of these companies for meeting budget deficit every year. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK: If his interruption has gone on record, I will reply.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Yes, you can reply.

SHRI RAM NAIK: These are the companies which are owned by the Government, whether it is ONGC, Oil India, Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum or Hindustan Petroleum, they have made profit this year. They have made a profit of Rs. 23 crore this year. If they are Government companies, should not the Government get the dividend? Now, that dividend is being given. If profits are made, Government should be given dividend. Why is he worried about the dividend? Sir, the petroleum sector PSUs are doing extremely good work and we should be proud of it.

Change in Licence Fee Structure for FM Radio

*403. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:
SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH:

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

(a) the terms and conditions laid for granting FM Radio licencing and the procedure adopted therefor;

(b) whether certain private FM Radio operators have surrendered their licences due to uneconomic licence fee structure;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the criteria of fixing the fee for granting licence;

(d) whether the Government propose any change in the licence fee structure to make it viable;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The Government had invited tenders for private FM broadcasting in Oct' 1999. The companies had to fulfil certain eligibility criteria viz registration in India under Indian Companies Act, 1956, share holding to be held by Indians except for limited portfolio investment by FII, NRI & OCB's, documentary proof regarding financial & managerial competence etc.

The auction was held in March, 2000 and those found successful signed the Licence Agreements after being security cleared by MHA and submitting requisite Bank Guarantees. Licensing terms & conditions inter alia included setting up of common colocated infrastructure in the four metros and individual towers in the non-metros within 12 months from the date of frequency earmarking by the WPC. The licencees are required to adhere to the Programme and Advertisement Standards and Codes, broadcast programmes on music, education, entertainment and information but exclude News and Current Affairs, pay licence fees on an annual basis, in advance etc.

(b) Licence Agreements were signed with 16 Companies for 37 stations in 19 Cities. As on date 11 companies have operationalised 22 stations. This includes one company whose licence has been revoked but is operating under order of Court. Seven Companies in respect of 13 stations failed to operationalise within the prescribed periods upon which action was taken under terms and conditions of Licence Agreement. Licencees have expressed difficulty in carrying on FM radio business under the prevailing licence fee structure.

(c) The level at which the licence fee was arrived at, was not fixed, but was based on bids quoted by the applicant companies, at the time of auction held in March 2000. As per terms and conditions of licence agreement there is a 15% increase in the licence fees every year. The licence is valid for 10 years.

(d) to (f) The existing licencees are governed by the Licence Agreement, which provides for advance annual payment of licence fees. By an order dated 24.07.2003 a committee has been constituted to make recommendations for Radio Broadcasting for Phase-II. The TOR inter alia include determing a transparent and effective bidding/auction process to be adopted for allotment of frequencies, studying the desirability and legal implications of making modifications in licencing regime of Phase 1 licences should a different licencing regime be adopted for phase-II etc.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Mr. Deputy, Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has given a detailed reply. Anyway, the hon. Minister takes pains in his work but the written answer which has been given here, is deficient in some respects.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Time is running out ask your question quickly. Otherwise he can't give a reply.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir part (a) of my question relates to the difference in the percentage of average income of the private FM channel and that of the FM channels run by the All India Radio: Part (b) of my question relates to as to what is the difference in annual revenue or income of the FM channel run by the All India Radio and that of the private FM channels earned through advertisement etc.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Member for the words he has used for me. The question mainly relates to private FM channels. We are supposed to understand about a technique here. There is one short wave and another is medium wave. There is FM frequency and one is modulation frequency, its reach is limited but we can hear a clear voice through it.

As for the All India Radio, we do not resort to licencing. The All India Radio has a provision of 137 channel frequencies and as for the private FM channels, the bidding which we had invited, we received 40 proposals there under out of which 22 have become operational and in the remaining cases, some people had offered high bidding, and for that legal action is being taken against them.

Sir, the Government gets Rs. 233 crore annually from the licencing fees. We propose to launch a second FM channel, phase-II. We have set up a task force for comprehensive deliberations in this regard, which will submit its report by the September end. And we will undertake its expansion work in the light of that report.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister through you as to whether it has come to the notice of the Government that some foreign companies have launched certain FM channels in the name of benami companies. I know about one benami company out of them which has acquired FM channel in the name of TYCUNO. Whether the Government is contemplating to give licences to foreign companies to run FM channel, if so, the details thereof?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the question of Hon. Suresh ji has two parts. First, I would like to come to the latter part of the question which asks whether the Government is contemplating to give FM licences to foreign companies, I would like to tell here that a task force has been set up for study and consideration on this matter. And this point is also to be considered over by it. Therefore, I do not want to make any comment on that.

As regards the first part of the question as to whether any such complaint has been received. I would like to tell here that one such complaint has been received.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: I want to tell the name of that benami company, and that is Tycuno.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: I do not want to take its name but would like to tell that one such complaint is received by one, wherein FM channel is being run by such a company. I have asked the officials of my department to submit a report after conducting an inquiry into the entire matter in cooperation with the department of company affairs.

[English]

SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, whether the Government will extend any financial assistance to non-governmental organisations, women's organisations and educational institutions to establish FM local radio stations in rural areas and in small towns. If so, what kind of assistance shall be given to such institutions?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: As far as the query of the hon. Member is concerned, I would like to inform the hon. Member that the Government keeps on coming up with various schemes, with a view to cater to the concerns that he has addressed.

12.00 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

Many FM channels have been booked for IGNOU, which are for educational purposes. We have also come up with community radio schemes. Those are there. The whole idea of the FM revolution through the Akashwani, the public broadcaster, is to reach to the maximum rural areas. Specific initiatives have also been taken for community radio which are educational institutions-based and also for IGNOU.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Ban on Criminal T.V. Serials/Release of Films

*404. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI SUBODH ROY:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to ban telecast of T.V. Serials/release of films, which induce minors to commit crime, as reported in 'The Statesman' dated July 26, 2003;

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

(c) whether the functioning of Censor Board has been found to be ineffective in dealing with such a situation; and

(d) if so, the details of other strategies to be adopted to ensure that films or T.V. serials which induce minors to commit crimes, are not telecast/shown?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) Programmes telecast on TV channels transmitted/retransmitted through the cable television network, are required to adhere to the*

Programme Code prescribed under Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. The Programme Code, inter alia, provides that no programmes should be carried in the cable service which-

- Is likely to encourage or incite violence or contains anything against maintenance of law and order or which promote anti-national attitudes;
- Contravenes the provisions of the Cinematography Act, 1952;
- Is not suitable for unrestricted public exhibition.

The Programme Code further provides that care should be taken to ensure that programmes meant for children do not contain any bad language or explicit scenes of violence. The Act also provides that programmes unsuitable for children must not be carried in the cable service at times when the largest numbers of children are viewing.

So far as Doordarshan is concerned, the Prasar Bharati has informed that all serials scheduled for telecast are subjected to preview to ensure conformity with the Broadcast Code of Doordarshan and suitability for family viewing.

The Act provides that any authorised officer i.e. DM or SDM or Commissioner of Police or any other officer notified in the official gazette, by the Central Government or the State Government, may by order prohibit any transmission or retransmission of any programme or channel if it is not in conformity with the prescribed Programme Code. The Central Government has also constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee under Section 20 of the Cable Act to look into the violations of the Programme Code, either *suo-moto* or on receipt of a specific complaint. The Government is vigilant in this regard and is committed to dealing expeditiously and effectively with any breach of the Programme Code in this regard.

As regards public exhibition of films, the same are released after certification from the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) under the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and the guidelines framed thereunder. The guidelines under the Act, inter alia, provide that the scenes depicting anti-social activities, such as violence, *modus operandi* of criminals, scenes tending to encourage, justify or glamorise drug addiction, glorifying drinking etc. are not depicted, and these are being strictly adhered to.

Utilisation of Funds Received from Central Road Fund

*405. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Safety Fund created in 2001 is supposed to finance manning of unmanned level crossings and conversion of level crossings into road over/ under bridges;

(b) if so, whether funds received from Central Road Fund from 1999 to 2002 were not fully utilised for the specified purposes and whether a huge balance of Rs. 393 crores was lying unused at the end of 2001-02;

(c) whether a large number of such works under CRF are still pending to be executed in Dakshin Kannada region; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Yes Sir. Railway Safety Fund is used to fund road safety works including manning of unmanned level crossings and conversion of level crossings into Road Over Bridges/Road Under Bridges.

(b) Railway Safety Fund is non lapsable in nature. The closing balance in the Fund as on 31.3.02 was Rs. 392.03 crore.

(c) No Sir. No work under Railway Safety Fund (funded from Central Road Fund) is pending to be executed in Dakshin Kannada region.

(d) Does not arise.

Generation of Energy Through Renewable Sources

*406. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the share of energy obtained through renewable sources out of the total energy generation, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have proposed to launch any mega project to exploit renewable sources during the Tenth Plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) The energy generation capacity from renewable energy sources was 3943 MW, as on 31.03.2003, which was 3.65% of the total energy generation capacity in the country. The State-wise break-up of the renewable energy capacity is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) A renewable energy capacity addition of 3075 MW based on solar, wind, biomass, waste-to-energy and small hydro power, is envisaged during the Tenth Plan. However, there is no proposal to launch any 'mega project' based on renewable energy. Projects in this sector are of small capacities and are suited for decentralized generation.

Statement

State-wise Energy Generation Capacity from Renewable Energy Sources, as on 31.03.2003

Sl. No.	State/UT	Energy Generation Capacity (MW)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	436
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	32
3.	Assam	2
4.	Bihar	45
5.	Chhattisgarh	13
6.	Gujarat	194
7.	Haryana	53
8.	Himachal Pradesh	93
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	102
10.	Jharkhand	4
11.	Karnataka	422
12.	Kerala	72
13.	Madhya Pradesh	69
14.	Maharashtra	638
15.	Manipur	5
16.	Meghalaya	31
17.	Mizoram	15
18	Nagaland	20
19.	Orissa	7
20.	Punjab	131
21.	Rajasthan	85
22.	Sikkim	36
23.	Tamil Nadu	1178
24.	Tripura	17
25.	Uttar Pradesh	74
26.	Uttaranchal	65
27.	West Bengal	96
28.	Andaman & Nicobar	5
29.	Others	3
	Total	3943

Pantry Car Facility in Trains

*407. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:
SHRI SHIBU SOREN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for providing Pantry Car facility in trains;

(b) whether the Pantry Car facility is available in all long distance trains;

(c) if not, the name of long distance trains in which this facility is not available at present and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/to be taken by the Railways to provide Pantry Car facility in said trains particularly in Ernakulam-Nizamuddin Express?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Pantry car facility is provided on selected Super fast/Mail/Express trains which run on popular routes where adequate and satisfactory catering services through static units are not possible.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) There are about 103 long distance Superfast/Mail Express trains on Indian Railways which presently do not have pantry car attached although the journey time is of more than 24 hours each way (a list is enclosed as Statement. The reasons for non-provision of pantry car facilities in these trains include sufficient stoppages at stations where satisfactory catering services from static catering units are available enroute and operational constraints like non-availability of rolling stock, room on train etc. Pantry car services on long distance trains are, however, being introduced in a phased manner subject to availability of resources. At present there is no proposal for attachment of pantry car on Ernakulam-Nizamuddin Express (Train No. 2645/2646).

Statement

Long distance Superfast Trains running without Pantry Car whose journey time is more than 24 hours each way

S.No.	Train No.	Name
1	2	3
1.	2315/2316	Sealdah-Ajmer Ananya Exp. (Weekly)
2.	2317/2318	Sealdah-Amritsar Akal Takht Exp. (Weekly)
3.	2319/2320	Asansol-Amritsar Exp (Weekly)
4.	2405/2406	Bhusawal-Nizamuddin Gondwana Exp. (Bi-Weekly)
5.	2409/2410	Bilaspur-Nizamuddin Gondwana Exp. (5 days a week)
6.	2645/2646	Ernakulam-Nizamuddin Exp. (Weekly)
7.	2647/2648	Coimbatore-Nizamuddin Kongu Exp. (Weekly)
8.	2905/2906	Porbander-Howrah Exp. (Bi-Weekly)
9.	2977/2978	Ernakulam-Jaipur Marusagar Exp. (Weekly)
10.	2983/2984	Bilaspur-Jaipur Exp. (Weekly)
11.	1013/1014	Coimbatore-Lokmanya Tilak (T) Express
12.	1017/1018	Mumbai-Bangalore Chalukya Express
13.	1027/1028	Dadar-Gorakhpur Kashi Express
14.	1035/1036	Mumbai-Mysore Sharabathi Express
15.	1039/1040	Kolhapur-Gondia Maharashtra Express
16.	1043/1044	Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Madurai Exp.
17.	1045/1046	Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Bhubaneshwar Exp.
18.	1057/1058	Dadar-Amritsar Express
19.	1067/1068	Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Faizabad Saket Express
20.	1071/1072	Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Varanasi Kamayani Exp.
21.	1069/1070	Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Allahabad Exp.
22.	1093/1094	Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminal Mumbai-Varanasi Mahanagari Express
23.	1097/1098	Pune-Ernakulam Pooma Express
24.	1159/1160	Howrah-Gwalior Chambal Exp.
25.	1181/1182	Howrah-Agra Cantt Chambal Exp.
26.	1405/1406	Vishakapatnam-Kakkinada Manmad Express
27.	1447/1448	Howrah-Jabalpur Shaktipunj Express
28.	1463/1464	Rajkot-Jabalpur Exp.
29.	1465/1466	Rajkot-Jabalpur Exp.
30.	3007/3008	Howrah-Sri Ganganagar Udyan Abha Toofan Exp.

1	2	3
31.	3009/3010	Howrah-Dehradun Doon Express
32.	3013/3014	Howrah-Dehradun Upasna Express
33.	3019/3020	Howrah-Kathgodam Bagh Express
34.	3025/3026	Howrah-Bhopal Express
35.	3039/3040	Howrah-Delhi Janata Express
36.	3049/3050	Howrah-Amritsar Express
37.	3111/3112	Sealdah-Delhi Lal Quila Express
38.	3133/3134	Sealdah-Varanasi Express
39.	3287/3288	Tata Nagar-Durg-Patna South Bihar Exp.
40.	3289/3290	Rajendra Nagar-Jammu Tawi Archana Exp.
41.	3307/3308	Dhanbad-Firozpur Ganga Sutluj Express
42.	3349/3350	Dhanbad-Ahemedabad Express
43.	3413/3414	Malda Town-Bhiwani Farakka Express
44.	3483/3484	Malda Town-Bhiwani Farakka Express
45.	3447/3448	Bhgalpur-Dadar Express
46.	4007/4008	Muzaffarpur-Delhi Sadhbhavana Express
47.	4015/4016	Raxaul-Delhi Sadhbhavana Express
48.	4017/4018	Muzaffarpur-Delhi Sadhabhavana Express
49.	4047/4048	Raxaul-Delhi Satyagraha Express
50.	4265/4266	Varanasi-Dehradun Express
51.	4309/4310	Ujjain-Dehradun Ujjaini Express
52.	4311/4312	Bareilly-Bhuj Ala Hazrat Express
53.	4313/4314	Bareilly-Dadar Express
54.	4317/4318	Indore-Dehradun Express
55.	4649/4650	Darbhanga-Amritsar Sarayu Yamuna Exp.
56.	4673/4674	Darbhanga-Amritsar Shaheed Express
57.	4853/4854	Varanasi-Jodhpur Marudhar Express
58.	4863/4864	Varanasi-Jodhpur Marudhar Express
59.	4707/4708	Bikaner-Bandra Terminal Ranakpur Express
60.	5001/5002	Muzaffarpur-Dehradun Express
61.	5025/5026	Gorakhpur-Lokmanya Tilak Godaan Exp.
62.	5027/5028	Hatia-Gorakhpur Maurya Express
63.	5129/5030	Chapra-Lokmanya Tilak (T) Express
64.	5159/5160	Durg-Chapra Saranath Express
65.	5209/5210	Barauni-Amritsar Jansewa Express
66.	5211//5212	Darbhanga-Amristar Jan Nayak Express
57.	5223/5224	Barauni-Gwalior Mail
68.	5707/5708	Katihar-Amritsar Express
69.	5929/5930	Chennai-Dibrugarh Town Express
70.	6003/6004	Howrah-Chennai Mail
71.	6031/6032	Chennai-Jammu Tawi Andaman Express
72.	6093/6094	Chennai-Lucknow Express
73.	6125/6126	Chennai Egmore-Jodhpur Express
74.	6357/6358	Nagarcoil Junction-Howrah Gurudev Exp.
75.	6359/6360	Ernakulam-Rajendra Nagar Express

1	2	3
76.	6511/6512	Yesvantpur-Bilaspur Waniganga Express
77.	6529/6530	Mumbai-Bangalore Express
78.	6593/6594	Nanded-Bangalore Express
79.	6613/6614	Rajkot-Coimbatore Express
80.	7027/7028	Trivandrum-Hyderabad Express
81.	7045/7046	Howrah-Hyderbad East Coast Express
82.	7091/7092	Secunderabad-Rajendra Nagar Express
83.	7479/7480	Howrah-Tirupati Express
84.	8005/8006	Howrah-Koraput Express
85.	8029/8030	Howrah-Lokmanya Tilak (T) Express
86.	8103/8104	Tata Nagar-Amritsar Jallianwala Bagh Exp.
87.	8233/8234	Indore-Bilaspur Narmada Express
88.	8415/8416	Bhubaneshwar-Yesvantpur Express
89.	8561/8562	Vishakapatnam-Hazrat Nizamuddin Express
90.	8609/8610	Hatia-Lokmanya Tilak (T) Express
91.	9019/9020	Bandra-Dehradun Express
92.	9023/9024	Mumbai-Firozpur Janta Express
93.	9049/9050	Valsad-Rajendra Nagar Express
94.	9111/9112	Ahemedabad-Jammu Tawi Express
95.	9163/9164	Ahemedabad-Faizabad Sabarmati Express
96.	9165/9166	Ahemedabad-Muzaffarpur Sabarmati Exp.
97.	9167/9168	Ahemedabad-Varanasi Sabarmati Express
98.	9263/9264	Porbander-Delhi Sarai Rohilla Express
99.	9265/9266	Okha-Dehradun Uttaranchal Express
100.	9305/9306	Indore-Howrah Shipra Express
101.	9313/9314	Indore-Rajindernagar Express
102.	9569/9570	Okha-Varanasi Express
103.	9943/9944	Delhi Sarai Rohilla-Ahemedabad Fast Pass/Exp.

[Translation]

Oil and Gas Exploration by Foreign Companies

*408. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:

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

(a) whether a large number of foreign companies are showing increasing interest in oil and gas exploration activities in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have assessed the financial position of all the foreign companies showing interest in oil and gas exploration activities in India;

(d) whether the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has taken into confidence the Ministry of Disinvestment also in the process of assessing the financial position of the foreign companies; and

(e) if so, the likely level of bids by the foreign companies under the new exploration licensing policy?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the first three rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), sixteen foreign companies had bid. The names of these companies are given in enclosed statement.

(c) Under NELP, the Notice Inviting Offers (NIO) and bid evaluation criteria lay down a transparent quantitative criteria for assessing the financial capability of all the bidding companies, including foreign companies.

(d) The financial capabilities of the bidder under NELP are assessed by an Empowered Committee of Secretaries (ECS) headed by the Secretary Petroleum & Natural Gas and comprising concerned Secretaries from Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Law as members. Ministry of Disinvestment is not concerned in this process.

(e) The exact response from the companies including from foreign companies for the fourth round of NELP (NELP-IV) would be known after the bid closing date i.e. the 30th September, 2003.

Statement

Names of the foreign companies who had bid in the three rounds of NELP:

S.No.	Names of the bidding foreign companies
1	2
1.	Energy Equity India Pty. Ltd., a subsidiary of Energy Equity Resources Ltd., Australia.
2.	South Asia Oil and Gas Plc., Australia.
3.	Niko Resources Ltd., Canada.
4.	Geo Global Resources Inc., Canada.
5.	Geo Petrol International, France.
6.	Petronas L.L.C., a subsidiary of Petronas, Malaysia.
7.	Petrom S.A., Romania.
8.	OAO Gazprom, Russia.
9.	Cairn Energy Discovery Ltd., Cairn Energy Hydrocarbons Ltd., Cairn Energy India Pty., Ltd., Cairn Energy Petroleum India Ltd., and Cairn Energy Search Ltd.-subsidiaries of Cairn Energy Plc., U.K.
10.	Hardy Exploration & Production India Inc., a subsidiary of Hardy Oil & Gas Ltd., U.K.
11.	Heramec Ltd. a subsidiary of Heritage Oil & Gas Ltd., U.K.
12.	Premier Oil (Eastern India), B.V., a subsidiary of Premier Oil Plc., U.K.
13.	Enron Oil and Gas (India) Ltd., a subsidiary of Enron Corporation, USA.
14.	Joshi Technologies Inc., USA
15.	Mosbacher India L.L.C., a subsidiary of Mosbacher Energy Company, USA
16.	RSM Production Corporation, USA.

[English]

Power Sector Reforms

*409. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and UK have established a Joint Power Sector Working Group to promote and facilitate reforms in the power sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits accrued therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) to (c) During the visit of the Minister of Power to U.K. in the last week of June, 2002, a MOU was signed between India and U.K. for cooperation in the power sector. The MOU, inter alia, envisages a Joint Power Sector Working Group. The first meeting of the Working Group was held in New Delhi on 8th January, 2003. The sharing of experience, information and best practices in the meeting of the Working Group was beneficial.

Circulation of Newspapers

*410. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the circulation of newspapers has increased in the country and also their sale during the last five years;

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

(c) the share of main national dailies of advertisement revenue; and

(d) the percentage of advertisement revenue is being spent for Journalists Welfare?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI

SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) As per Annual Statements filed by newspapers with RNI, the circulation and sale of newspapers show the following trend during the last five years:

Year (Calendar)	No. of newspapers from whom Annual statements were received	Copies sold	Free copies distributed	Total circulation claimed
1997	5204	10,19,77,438	37,30,753	10,57,08,191
1998	6030	12,21,69,089	46,80,411	12,68,49,500
1999	6032	12,41,37,871	59,49,622	13,00,87,493
2000	5915	11,87,33,123	82,30,640	12,69,63,763
2001	4780	10,87,60,394	64,93,554	11,52,53,948

(b) State-wise circulation of newspapers is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) The Economic Times Entertainment (2001-2002) citing the World Advertising Trends 2000, has reported the total ad spent in print media for 1998 to be of the order of Rs. 3820 crore.

(d) The management of newspapers is primarily responsible for the welfare of their employees including the journalists. The expenditure made by them on the welfare measures is not reported to the Ministry of I&B. However, the Government have set up in 2001-2002, a Journalists Welfare Fund in order to provide immediate relief to the family of journalists who lose their life or suffer permanent disability.

Statement I

Circulation of Newspapers 1997

(State & U.T. Periodicitywise)

State/U.Ts	Dailies	Tri/Bi Weeklies	Weeklies	Fortnightlies	Monthlies	Quarterlies	Bimonthlies/ Halfyearlies etc.	Annuals	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	1700	6558	1800	0	0	0	10058
Andhra Pradesh	1929888	0	684567	144382	424218	2443	0	0	3185498
Arunachal Pradesh	29234	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29234
Assam	680353	33461	358957	28019	13223	0	4265	0	1118278
Bihar	2132350	50500	1428017	90070	170597	4000	0	0	3875534
Chandigarh	686560	0	200318	500	54484	476	0	0	942338

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Delhi	4084515	240	3944210	2351597	4351349	69872	125293	0	14927076
Goa	54032	0	7041	0	15865	0	0	0	76938
Gujarat	2827018	0	594348	61579	156803	115	0	0	3639863
Haryana	438912	2000	208699	51645	38646	3365	0	0	743267
Himachal Pradesh	87582	0	60842	0	3453	500	0	0	152377
Jammu & Kashmir	494932	0	105960	7247	0	0	0	0	608139
Karnataka	1679208	79138	585245	87348	306687	3600	43701	0	2784927
Kerala	2536899	0	2984603	1151990	907290	0	375	477687	8058844
Madhya Pradesh	4285668	0	4433050	123581	367780	5977	0	0	9216056
Maharashtra	5796259	98457	2731235	520636	2825013	132018	39831	139376	12282825
Manipur	0	0	0	0	8285	0	0	0	8285
Meghalaya	39128	0	33910	0	3000	0	0	0	76038
Orissa	1771617	17750	639402	106121	386854	6482	0	0	2928226
Pondicherry	14144	0	2000	5500	4975	1682	0	0	28301
Punjab	1648948	0	698943	41692	312948	0	0	0	2702531
Rajasthan	2841543	0	1113040	1073086	126172	16165	4367	0	5174373
Sikkim	0	7977	5453	0	0	0	0	0	13430
Tamil Nadu	1782444	0	2363226	381912	870947	81250	300	92051	5572130
Tripura	258775	16200	40107	5550	7385	0	0	0	328017
Uttar Pradesh	7424893	70610	10790779	1671158	1329960	177873	189177	36100	21690550
West Bengal	2389425	161221	1459564	591969	754411	131141	42627	4700	5535058
Total	45914327	537554	35475216	8502140	13442145	636959	449936	749914	105708191

Statement II

Circulation of Newspapers 1998

(State & U.T. Languagewise)

State/U.Ts	Dailies	Tri/Bi Weeklies	Weeklies	Fortnightlies	Monthlies	Quarterlies	Bimonthlies/ Halfyearlies etc.	Annuals	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	1700	1950	0	0	0	0	3650
Andhra Pradesh	4486480	0	1038846	178774	509005	1385	0	0	6214490
Assam	720749	38078	343758	97215	27932		4665	0	1232397
Bihar	1529085	0	1077166	31085	87359	1050	0	0	2725745
Chandigarh	682043	0	216469	0	82790	3700	0	0	985002
Delhi	4935444	7974	5332410	2667125	4125512	133993	30000	3800	17236258
Goa	91494	0	25807	0	5763	0	0	0	123064
Gujarat	3316624	7772	1176511	130749	157679	5955	0	0	4795290
Haryana	232136	0	143664	7380	11366	0	0	0	394546
Himachal Pradesh	134962	0	47276	6000	200	5500	0	0	193938
Jammu & Kashmir	187172	0	48745	0	0	0	0	0	235917
Karnataka	2261148	2000	848221	34528	315589	0	56000	17048	3534534
Kerala	2798652	0	2802616	1168272	1066456	0	327	438213	8274536
Madhya Pradesh	5104354	0	4536381	74528	308493	28940	0	0	10052696
Maharashtra	6876388	65675	2754901	524256	2069919	219297	5159	99896	12615491
Manipur	25190	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25190
Meghalaya	47421	0	40808	2868	32270	0	0	0	123367
Mizoram	6773	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6773
Nagaland	18730	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18730
Orissa	2654496	0	617727	123961	315671	1050	0	0	3712905
Pondicherry	6531	0	275	600	5706	2012	0	0	15124

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Punjab	1965741	0	921928	161532	485169	3400	0	0	3537770
Rajasthan	3671464	2200	1323397	1136045	119254	10998	3240	0	6266598
Sikkim	0	0	7895	0	0	0	0	0	7895
Tamil Nadu	2585159	103659	2279980	375975	690549	84616	3419	903000	7026357
Tripura	281503	12900	49900	7820	8425	0	0	0	360548
Uttar Pradesh	10416152	251753	14384245	2413976	2417505	348891	306613	39300	30578435
West Bengal	3331305	163811	1582681	689912	653530	84593	39822	6600	6552254
Total	58367196	655822	41603307	9834551	13496142	935380	449245	1507857	126849500

Statement III

Circulation of Newspapers 1999

(States/U.Ts. (Language-wise)

State/U.Ts	Dailies	Tri/Bi Weeklies	Weeklies	Fortnightlies	Monthlies	Quarterlies	Bimonthlies/ Halfyearlies etc.	Annuals	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	2563	2763	3033	0	0	0	8359
Andhra Pradesh	3300397	0	926812	194814	502817	1500	0	0	4926340
Assam	623710	27386	385080	73882	30171	0	4235	0	1144464
Bihar	3177949	0	1605555	43334	147714	1600	0	0	4976152
Chandigarh	872225	0	324590	42830	6860	527	0	0	1247032
Delhi	4999803	1813	4394145	3425615	4555816	222216	88963	2500	17690871
Goa	102914	0	0	0	5944	0	0	0	108858
Gujarat	3458692	93016	1107310	150525	280950	6500	0	2700	5099693
Haryana	699995	5500	293413	50935	85042	0	0	850	1135735
Himachal Pradesh	141213	0	69530	0	200	0	0	0	210943
Jammu & Kashmir	522492	0	21200	1000	13582	0	0	0	558274

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Karnataka	1950979	19319	906461	28599	246434	39122	140	19585	3210639
Kerala	2815941	0	2951573	1219888	1165055	3250	0	528154	8683861
Madhya Pradesh	4639964	0	5622189	195247	473575	3990	23583	0	10958548
Maharashtra	7576384	164766	3454784	492744	2206615	97882	10147	319277	14322599
Manipur	28149	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28149
Meghalaya	36764	0	38327	0	48730	0	0	0	123821
Orissa	2535534	0	845308	260196	426674	13475	0	0	4081187
Pondicherry	44987	0	2600	3200	7731	6455	0	0	64973
Punjab	1921829	0	825605	170207	136192	2725	3000	0	3059558
Rajasthan	3767219	2200	1494839	973451	128536	6581	3027	0	6375853
Sikkim	0	14399	10315	0	0	0	0	0	24714
Tamil Nadu	2410327	125308	1710214	390530	968148	27250	42910	0	5674687
Tripura	281841	16000	77016	7495	7046	0	0	0	389398
Uttar Pradesh	9118799	63075	14298638	2491732	1828087	355626	172552	33000	28361509
West Bengal	3776096	29996	1592735	888268	1155120	116436	39855	22770	7621276
Total	58804203	562778	42960802	11107255	14430072	905135	388412	928836	130087493

Statement IV

Circulation of Newspapers 2000

(States & U.Ts. Languagewise)

State/U.Ts	Dailies	Tri/Bi Weeklies	Weeklies	Fortnightlies	Monthlies	Quarterlies	Bimonthlies/ Halfyearlies etc.	Annuals	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andaman & Nicbar Islands	0	0	8047	10208	505	0	0	0	18760
Andhra Pradesh	2491743	0	577410	160865	682430	12082	3638	0	3928168
Arunachal Pradesh	16723	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16723

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Assam	644203	28482	241508	93221	12985	0	13480	0	1033879
Bihar	2962238	54900	874446	57568	190615	3300	0	0	4143067
Chandigarh	866789	0	152617	0	46884	0	500	0	1066790
Delhi	5800774	2101	4918673	3448097	4518146	134834	182257	1578625	20583507
Goa	116661	0	0	0	6133	0	0	0	122794
Gujarat	3385168	93600	1221749	158224	243064	5738	12972	150000	5270515
Haryana	987326	51137	252444	43743	42691	850	4950	250	1383391
Himachal Pradesh	133099	0	56622	0	3150	5000	0	0	197871
Jammu & Kashmir	531339	500	46901	3675	0	0	0	0	582415
Karnataka	2106919	122474	978237	18262	297793	8200	38104	22525	3592514
Kerala	3130733	0	2765984	1083895	1121753	24990	2000	524753	8654108
Madhya Pradesh	4923737	0	3847372	129049	343143	4063	58952	0	9306356
Maharashtra	7390499	177599	3444966	495414	2224099	128796	474964	120650	14456987
Manipur	108041	0	0	0	8600	0	0	0	116641
Meghalaya	34230	0	15105	0	0	0	0	0	49335
Mizoram	20519	5883	18500	0	3400	0	0	0	48302
Orissa	2501061	26750	784967	150781	369065	22830	0	0	3855454
Pondicherry	45987	0	3000	0	21942	5653	3560	0	80142
Punjab	1905687	0	606478	112510	597117	3475	0	0	3225267
Rajasthan	3485809	2150	1146371	967237	128472	3194	2529	0	5735762
Sikkim	0	0	10340	0	0	0	0	0	10340
Tamil Nadu	2524201	0	2411982	328083	1233814	42170	4725	105333	6650308
Tripura	258584	0	90819	5446	6958	0	0	0	361807
Uttar Pradesh	9277367	52990	11050300	2206618	1531670	262122	232221	1500	24614788
West Bengal	3479746	165578	1758157	978082	1295377	133174	29065	18593	7857772
Total	59129183	784144	37282995	10450978	14929806	800471	1063957	2522229	126963763

Statement V

Circulation of Newspapers 2001

(States & U.Ts. Language-wise)

State/U.Ts	Dailies	Tri/Bi Weeklies	Weeklies	Fortnightlies	Monthlies	Quarterlies	Bimonthlies/ Halfyearlies etc.	Annuals	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	5644	4574	0	0	0	0	10218
Andhra Pradesh	2586285	0	578850	157394	651565	1952	0	0	3976045
Assam	561540	34213	162647	42318	0	0	13385	0	814103
Bihar	2221601	53000	693051	29854	215401	2000	0	0	3214907
Chandigarh	779401	0	139584	0	27420	0	500	0	946905
Chhattisgarh	923059	0	180638	31852	51020	0	0	0	1186569
Delhi	5622207	4166	4784339	3016765	4094251	137203	374605	151493	18185029
Goa	80178	0	0	0	6328	0	0	0	86506
Gujarat	4050253	4500	1020286	129708	82834	7000	0	0	5294581
Haryana	646090	0	182688	20511	61852	500	500	0	912141
Himachal Pradesh	143746	0	83142	0	3233	0	0	0	230121
Jammu & Kashmir	619087	0	30308	625	13541	0	0	0	663561
Jharkhand	732618	0	0	19490	971	0	0	0	753079
Karnataka	2095934	122153	1554390	38807	309582	2250	0	23637	4146753
Kerala	3182985	0	2563282	847701	1314869	0	50	526733	8435620
Madhya Pradesh	3170129	0	2397316	80907	214327	22000	300	0	5884979
Maharashtra	7452904	173336	4052081	350175	2308329	135622	522535	78631	15073613
Manipur	90887	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	90887
Meghalaya	25352	0	0	0	0	1570	0	0	26922
Nagaland	23992	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23992
Orissa	2376431	56033	549117	209862	272637	14509	0	0	3478589
Pondicherry	31535	0	2500	0	19551	5011	4329	0	62926

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Punjab	1955350	0	289920	90366	319702	2017	0	0	2657355
Rajasthan	3385518	0	938755	698769	110694	0	200	0	5133936
Sikkim	0	14313	31234	0	0	0	0	0	45547
Tamil Nadu	3020178	0	2079980	306334	830771	31490	3420	63259	6385432
Tripura	231874	0	74511	0	7333	0	0	0	313718
Uttranchal	396821	0	330507	28526	15454	1350	8266	0	780924
Uttar Pradesh	7788600	53987	8257379	1523533	1589716	204149	90637	18100	19526101
West Bengal	3649681	0	1434455	824683	848318	102746	26776	26229	6912888
Total	57844236	515701	32416604	8452754	13421269	669799	1045503	888082	115253948

[Translation]

Golden Hour Scheme

*411. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have launched a 'Golden Hour' scheme aimed at making available the rescue team and the medical team to the victims of rail accidents within 60 to 90 minutes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this scheme has been launched at some selected zones;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith funds earmarked for this purpose;

(e) the time by which all the railway zones are likely to be covered under this 'Golden Hour' scheme; and

(f) the amount involved to implement the scheme at all railway zones?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The first hour after an accident is termed as the 'Golden Hour', as it is believed that chances of survival of a victim increase manifold if medical/surgical intervention is arranged within this hour.

Although no 'Golden Hour' scheme has been launched, Railways are making concerted efforts to accelerate the relief to reach the accident victims within the 'Golden Hour', as much as possible.

(c) to (f) The strengthening of the infrastructure to speed up relief work has been taken up simultaneously in all the Railway Zones. Approximate cost of the implementation of this project is Rs. 400 crores, to be spent in the next three years.

[English]

Juvenile Reform Centres

*412. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the children kept in juvenile reform centres are deprived of the basic facilities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether there have been incidents of running away of the children from these centres;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (e) The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, requires the State Governments to establish and maintain by themselves or under an agreement with voluntary organizations, observation homes and special homes in every district or a group of districts, as may be required. Observation homes are established for temporary reception during the pendency of any inquiry and special homes for reception and rehabilitation of children who are in conflict with law. The management of these homes in the responsibility of the State Governments. The management includes all services, which are necessary for social integration and rehabilitation of these children. No specific report or information regarding children running away from these homes on being deprived of basic facilities like food, clothing and shelter has been received from any State.

Bridge Inspection Equipments

*413 SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of present system of inspection of railway bridges;

(b) whether railway has put effort in regard to upgradation of inspection equipment required for inspection of Railway bridges;

(c) whether there has been inordinate delay by RDSO (Research, Design and Standards Organization) in technology upgradation of inspection equipments; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and time by which the upgraded system of inspection would be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) A well laid down system of multi tier inspection of bridges is followed on Indian Railways. All the bridges including old and distressed bridges are inspected thoroughly once a year at various levels as laid down in Railway Codes and Manuals. For distressed bridges an increased frequency of inspections has been laid down in the Manuals. The steel superstructures of all bridges are subject to detailed technical checks once every five years and once a year for the floor system of early steel girders. The inspection of substructures of bridges is done by close visual inspection and hammer tappings to check for any cracks or hollowness of masonry.

(b) Yes, Sir. Action has also been taken for modernization of Bridge Inspection & Management System as per details given in Para 2.4.5 of the White Paper on Railway Safety which has been laid in the Lok Sabha on 07.04.2003. It is planned to make the existing inspection and monitoring systems more scientific as detailed in above para by importing modern technology for inspection and assessment of condition of bridges by using.

(i) Under Water Inspections.

(ii) Mapping unknown foundations and integrity testing of foundations.

(iii) Non-Destructive Testing Techniques like Ultra Sonics, Acoustic Emission, Strain Gauging and Radar etc.

(iv) Fatigue life and residual life assessment techniques.

(v) Modern Bridge Management System.

Pilot projects for items (i) to (iv) of above activities have been approved. Purchase of Non-destructive testing equipment has been sanctioned for setting up of mobile testing laboratories over 9 Zonal Railways at a cost of Rs. 12.7 crore this year. Two number Mobile Bridge Inspection units have been sanctioned at an approximate cost of Rs. 11 Cr. and are under procurement.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Introduction of new technology on a large network as Indian Railway system has to be done in a systematic and programmed manner. For this a Task Force was formed in 2002 for study of the systems abroad in some advanced countries. The task force submitted its report and accordingly Pilot Projects have been approved in some areas in association with foreign specialized firms and procurement of some equipment initiated as explained in reply to part (b) of question here above. Procurement of the equipment for all Zonal Railways, training of engineers and implementation on the Indian Railway system is likely to take around three years.

Welfare Measures for Disabled Persons

*414. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the year 2002 marked the end of the Asia-pacific decade of disabled persons;

(b) whether during that period, the Union Government had taken a number of measures to help the disabled and elderly persons; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

The highlights of the initiatives taken by the Government of India, for the welfare of the persons with disabilities and elderly persons during the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons 1993-2002 are as under:

(1) Enactment of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.

(2) Enactment of the National Trust for the welfare of persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999. The National Trust has become functional in the year 2000.

(3) Over 7 lakh persons provided aids and assistive devices under the Scheme for Assistance to Disabled Persons for the purchase/fitting of aids and appliances (ADIP).

(4) 839 NGOs funded under ADIP and Scheme for Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities. These organizations provide a range of rehabilitation services that include assessment, fitment of aids and appliances, early intervention support, vocational training, special education, therapy, placement in jobs, manpower development, etc.

(5) Concessional credit extended to persons with disabilities for self-employment ventures through the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation, its State Channelising Agencies, NGOs and poverty alleviation programmes implemented through the Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation.

(6) 3% reservation in education institutions and in jobs in government and semi-government institutions.

(7) Expansion of manpower development programmes in the field of rehabilitation through National Institutes and institutions recognized by the Rehabilitation Council of India.

(8) Outreach activities for improving access to rehabilitation services expanded through the setting up of 5 Composite Regional Centres, 4 Regional Rehabilitation Centres for persons with spinal injuries and 85 District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs).

(9) A Scholarship Scheme covering 500 students with disabilities annually for pursuing technical and professional courses at the post-matric level.

(10). Promotion of a barrier-free environment through ACCESS Exhibitions and training of architects, engineers and civil society organizations in this area.

(11) Steep enhancement of budgetary allocation for schemes relating to the welfare of persons with disabilities.

(12) National Policy on Older Persons announced and National Council of Older Persons set up.

Pending Rail Projects

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

(a) whether more than 200 Railway projects for which survey work has been completed during the Ninth Plan could not be included in the later budgets;

(b) if so, the details of those projects particularly in respect of Tamilnadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra;

(c) whether Government propose to mobilise additional funds for execution of these projects in the Tenth Plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The surveys for following projects falling partly/ fully in the State of Tamilnadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra were conducted during 9th Plan period:

	Description New Line	State	km	Cost (Rs. in cr)
	1	2	3	4
1.	Almatti to Yadgir	Karnataka	154	303
2.	Arakkonam to Tindivanam via Walajapet, Ranipet and Arcot	Tamilnadu	96	121
3.	Avadi-Sriperumbudur	Tamil Nadu	25	60
4.	Bagalkot-Kudachi	Karnataka	111	242
5.	Bangalore City-Belur-Mudigere-Sringeri	Karnataka	99	281
6.	Beed-Jalna	Maharashtra	111	192
7.	Bijapur-Athani-Shedbal.	Karnataka	112	214
8.	Bisanatham to Marikuppam	Karnataka	12	32
9.	Chittor to Bangarapet	Karnataka/ Andhra Pradesh	140	356
10.	Cuddapah to Bangarapet via Madanapalle	Karnataka/ Andhra Pradesh	255	579
11.	Dahanu Road-Nasik Road	Maharashtra	167.67	821
12.	Davangere-Bhadravati via Channagiri	Karnataka	90	141
13.	Dharwad Belgaum via Bailhongal, Kittis	Karnataka	97	229
14.	Dhule-Nardana-Shirpur	Maharashtra	61.77	111.38
15.	Dudda-Tiptur	Karnataka	37	69
16.	Gadag-Harihar	Karnataka	94	428
17.	Ghatnandur-Ambajogai	Maharashtra	21	24
18.	Gulbarga-Hospet	Karnataka	262	511.47
19.	Hyderabad-Raichur	Andhra Pradesh/ Karnataka	190	456
20.	Jalna-Khamgaon	Maharashtra	155	369
21.	Jolarpettai to Hosur via Krishnagiri	Tamilnadu	100	226
22.	Kalyan-Ahmednagar	Maharashtra	240	772.1
23.	Katpadi-Chennai via Guindy-Poonamallee	Tamilnadu	212	47
24.	Kolhapur to Ratnagiri on Konkan Rly via Talwade	Maharashtra	211	1273
25.	Kopergaon-Shirdi	Maharashtra	17	34
26.	Kushalnagar-Channarayapatna via Kananur	Karnataka	80	108

	1	2	3	4
27.	Manamadurai to Tuticorin	Tamil Nadu	126	165
28.	Manmad-Dhule-Malegaon	Maharashtra	98.11	144.5
29.	Medikeri-Channarayapatna	Karnataka	117	212
30.	Mettur and Chamarajnagar	Karnataka	182	496
31.	Nanjangod and Badagara via Vyitri	Karnataka, Kerala	230	835
32.	Nipani-Raybag via Chikodi	Karnataka	97	107
33.	Pandavapura to Shravanabelagola	Karnataka	60	88
34.	Pune-Nasik	Maharashtra	265.9	1044.3
35.	Ramtek-Gotegaon via Khawasa, Seoni and Dhuma	Maharashtra/ Madhya Pradesh	275	528
36.	Sabarimala to Dindigul	Tamilnadu/ Kerala	201	750
37.	Talguppa-Honavar	Karnataka	82	412
38.	Tellicherry-Mysore via Coorg	Karnataka, Kerala	298	864
39.	Thanjavur-Pottukkotai	Tamilnadu	47	101
40.	Tindivanam to Cuddalore via Pondicherry	Tamilnadu	71	134
41.	Tumkur to Davangere	Karnataka	210	300
42.	Wadsa-Armori-Gadchiroli	Maharashtra	49.5	76.25
43.	Wardha-Pusad-Nanded	Maharashtra	260	460
	Gauge Conversion			
1.	Chickballapur-Kolar	Karnataka	85	54
2.	Pachora-Jamner GC with extension upto Ajanta caves	Maharashtra	104	126
3.	Bodinayakkanur-Madurai	Tamilnadu	90	102
4.	Virudhnagar to Manamadurai	Tamilnadu	67	73
5.	Dindigul-Pollachi-Palghat	Tamilnadu	179	191
	Doubline			
1.	Ramanagram-Mysore	Karnataka	93	173
2.	Kolhapur-Pune	Maharashtra	326	647
3.	Pune-Lonavla Quadrupling	Maharashtra	64	322
4.	Daund-Manmad with electrification	Maharashtra	238	522

	1	2	3	4
5.	Panvel-Pen-Roha	Maharashtra	76	192
6.	Nardana-Amalner	Maharashtra	28	52
	Railway Electrification			
1.	Pune-Wadi-Guntakal	Maharashtra/ Karnataka	641	392
2.	Sanatnagar-Wadi	Maharashtra	180	116

(c) to (e) The projects are taken up based on various criteria from time to time. There is no such plan to mobilize additional funds for execution of the above mentioned projects in the 10th Plan. However, a number of initiatives have been taken to mobilize other than budgetary resources for expediting completion of on-going projects.

Introduction of Trains

*416. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the abnormal increase in the number of trains as a populist measure are resulting in endangering the safety of the railway tracks because there is no sufficient time to maintain them;

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

(c) the manner in which the Government justify this compromise on human safety to increase the number of trains as a populist measure?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The introduction of new trains is decided on the basis of travel demand, availability of resources and operational feasibility. All safety parameters and norms are complied with while introducing new trains.

[Translation]

Setting up of Hydel Power Projects

*417. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated action plan to boost co-operation with the neighbouring countries in the Hydel Power Sector;

(b) if so, whether potentialities have been explored to set up hydel power projects in collaboration with Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar;

(c) if so, the places where hydel power projects have been executed in collaboration with the aforesaid countries and the names of the projects executed;

(d) whether outlines of the other hydel power projects in the aforesaid countries have been prepared;

(e) if so, the present status thereof; and

(f) the details of the programme prepared for implementation thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) and (b) Nepal and Bhutan have large hydro-electric resources much in excess of their power requirements in the foreseeable future. Government of India is discussing with the Governments of Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar to explore the possibilities for development of their water resources including power generation from various multipurpose schemes for mutual benefits. There is regular exchange of electric power between India and Nepal, Bhutan for meeting power requirements in the border areas. India and Nepal have also signed an Agreement which provides for free flow of power on a commercial basis between parties in the two countries.

(c) Pokhra (1 MW), Trisuli (21 MW), Gandak (15 MW), Kataiya Power House (10 MW) and Devighat (14.1 MW) Hydro-Electric Projects have been set up in Nepal with financial and technical assistance from Government of India.

Chukha (336 MW) and Kurichu (60 MW) Hydro-Electric Projects have been set up in Bhutan with financial and technical assistance from Government of India,

(d) to (f) In Bhutan, Tala Hydro-electric Project (1020 MW) is under implementation with Indian assistance. Detailed Project Reports have been prepared for Wangchu Reservoir Scheme (900 MW), Bunakha Hydro-electric Project (180 MW) and Sankosh Multi-purpose Project (4060 MW). Royal Government of Bhutan have also offered Mangdechu (360 MW) and Punatsangchu (870 MW) Hydro-electric Projects for development.

In Nepal, Draft Detailed Project Reports for Pancheshwar (5,600-MW) has been prepared and is being finalized. Some technical issues, the most important being the site of the re-regulating dam, would require to be resolved for finalizing the DPR. It has been agreed to set up Joint Project Office for preparation of DPR for Sapta Koshi/Sun Koshi project (3300 MW). To explore possibility of taking up medium project, India and Nepal have been discussing Burhi Gandaki Hydro-electric Scheme (600 MW) and Upper Karnali Hydro-Electric Project.

Government of India has assisted the Government of Myanmar in the setting up of 3 Gauge & Discharge Stations for Tamanthi Hydro-electric Project (1200 MW). Pre-Feasibility Report for this project is proposed to be prepared by the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation.

Import of Crude Oil

*418. SHRI PRADIP YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the value, in terms of rupees, of crude oil imported from various countries;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any effective scheme to bring down the imports;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government are making any alternative arrangement in view of the increasing demand in the country;

(e) if so, whether the Government have entered into agreement with any country in order to enhance the availability of crude oil in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (f) During the year 2002-03, 81.989 million metric tonnes (MMT) of crude oil, valued at Rs. 76,195 crores, was imported in the country. With a view to ensure security of supplies, the Public Sector Oil Companies have entered into term-contracts for supply of crude oil with the National Oil Companies of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, U.A.E., Malaysia, Iran and Libya.

Steps taken by the Government to reduce the oil import dependence include the following:

(1) Efforts made to increase the production of crude oil and gas by:

(i) increasing the exploration efforts through the New Exportation Licensing Policy.

(ii) improving the recovery factor from the existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes.

(iii) exploring new areas, especially in deep water and difficult frontier areas, as also exploring in the deeper layers of the producing fields.

(iv) faster development of newly discovered fields and increased use of new technologies for seismic surveys, work over, simulation operations, drilling of wells etc. in producing areas.

(v) acquiring acreages abroad.

(2) Mandating ethanol blending of petrol in certain States and Union Territories.

(3) Increasing awareness of oil conservation measures.

[English]

Inter-State Dispute on Hydro Electric Power

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

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to call all States meeting to resolve inter-State disputes pertaining to Hydro-electric Power, which has adversely affected the national interest in regard to self reliance in power generation;

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

(c) if not, the effective steps taken by the Union Government to resolve the inter-state disputes pertaining to Hydro-electric power; and

(d) the guidelines issued by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) A large number of hydro-electric projects are getting delayed due to Inter-State disputes. At present, 34 hydro-electric schemes with a total installed capacity of 7,225 MW are held up due to Inter-State aspects in different parts of the country. Recognizing the need to take up such hydro electric projects held up in Inter-State power disputes, the Policy on Hydro Power Development approved by Government in August, 1998, inter-alia, provides for basin-wise optimal development of hydro electric projects without prejudice to the claims of the basin States or effect on the benefits from the existing projects.

Efforts have been made and are being made for a consensus amongst the basin States regarding implementation of power projects held up due to Inter-State disputes. Ministry of Power has taken steps in bringing about an understanding between the concerned States for the development of Cauvery Power Projects. Similar steps are on with regard to Inter-State power disputes amongst the States in the Northern Region.

Sulphur Free Diesel

*420. DR. S. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce sulphur free diesel in Delhi;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether sulphur free diesel is much cleaner fuel than the CNG which is at present used in Delhi;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to phase out CNG and to bring in sulphur free diesel; and

(f) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Presently, diesel conforming to Bharat Stage-II equivalent to Euro II emission norms (0.05% maximum sulphur content) is being supplied in Delhi. In line with the recommendations of the Expert Committee headed by Dr. R.A. Mashelkar on Auto Fuel Policy, it is proposed to introduce Euro-III emission norms (0.035% maximum sulphur content) in Delhi with effect from 1st April, 2005.

(c) and (d) As per report of the Expert Committee, the emission results of Bharat Stage-II diesel bus and CNG bus manufactured by the Original Equipment Manufacturer show that while CNG has an advantage in terms of Particulates and Oxides of Nitrogen, the Carbon Monoxide and hydrocarbon emissions in respect of CNG are higher.

(e) No Sir.

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

[Translation]

Green Oscar Award for Solar Energy Sector

3671. SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a possibility of nominating some of the Indian projects in solar energy sector for Green Oscar awards;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) The 'Ashden Awards', also referred to as 'Green Oscar Awards', are given by the Ashden Trust in the United Kingdom, in association with Green Futures, an environmental magazine. The awards were created in 2001 by the Ashden Trust. In 2003, the Trust announced four awards of £30,000 each along with awards of £7,500 each for runners-up, for sustainable and innovative renewable energy projects aimed at

alleviating poverty and/or improving the quality of life of people. Three of these awards are for projects in developing countries (under the categories of food security, enterprise and community welfare), and one award is for a UK project.

For the year 2003, two Indian organisation i.e. the Barefoot College, Tilonia, Rajasthan won the award for Community Welfare and the West Bengal Renewable Energy Development Agency, Kolkata won the Enterprise Award. A third Indian organization, the Madhya Pradesh Gramin Vikas Mandal (MPGVM) was runner-up for the Enterprise Award. All three awards were given for projects which promoted the use of solar energy.

(c) The Government considers the awards won by the Indian organisations as a recognition of the efforts made in India to use solar energy for meeting energy needs of rural areas and weaker sections of the society in an environment-friendly manner.

[English]

Construction of Houses

3672. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army Welfare Housing Organisation (AWHO) constructs houses for serving/retired Army personnel and their widows;

(b) whether the Army Welfare Housing Organisation had acquired land in Shatabdi Nagar, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh some years ago from the Meerut Development Authority for construction of houses for serving/retired Army personnel and their widows;

(c) if so, the amount paid by the Army Welfare Housing Organisation to the Meerut Development Authority therefor;

(d) the status in regard to construction of houses on that land; and

(e) the reasons for not starting constructions and the time by which the construction of houses is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Army Welfare Housing Organisation (AWHO) constructs various types of dwelling units for serving/retired army personnel and their widows.

(b Yes, Army Welfare Housing Organisation (AWHO) was allotted 30 acres of land at Shatabdi Nagar by Meerut Development Authority in 1989. Complete payment for the land has been made by 30th January, 1990. Possession of land has yet not been taken over by AWHO.

(c) Army Welfare Housing Organisation (AWHO) has paid Rs. 3,82,41,341.00 as cost of land to Meerut Development Authority.

(d) Possession of land has not been taken over by Army Welfare Housing Organisation (AWHO) as yet due to reasons given below:

(i) The plot was not developed and external services like roads, electricity and water supply and sewage were not existing which was to take more time.

(ii) The plot is under occupation of farmers and, is being cultivated. Meerut Development Authority has no control over the land and farmers are demanding enhanced compensation for the land.

(iii) 132 KVA HT Line is passing over and across the plot of land.

(e) Land is not is possession of Army Welfare Housing Organisation. So, there is no plan to start construction on the land. AWHO has been requesting Meerut Development Authority (MDA) to refund complete cost of land alongwith interest to AWHO. AWHO has also filed a case in National Consumer Dispute Redressal Forum, New Delhi for refund of cost of land alongwith interest.

Male Calves in Military Farms

3673. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Military Farms male calves between 14-21 days are given away to the villagers but by then they are so weak that either they do not survive or reach slaughter houses, thereby wasting valuable national resources;

(b) whether at the time of the birth of the male calves are heavier by about 2 kilos but in course of 2-3 weeks, their weight is far less than the female calves;

(c) if so, the reasons for not providing full ration to male calves;

(d) whether Military farms have good quality of Sahiwal bread of cattle but good part of their semen is wasted; and

(e) if so, the reasons for not having proper arrangements for making available the same to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Military Farms have a policy of offering male calves free of cost to cattle breeders, regimental/ private dairies, Government/semi-Government Institutions, recognized religious institutions like Gau Sadan, Gaushala, Gau Ashram etc. for further rearing by them. Military Farms do not send calves to slaughter houses. No brutality or cruelty is done to the calves.

(b) and (c) The average birth weight of male and female calves is about 35 Kgs and 27 Kgs respectively. The male calves are required for 14 days and fed their full entitlement of ration as per the policy. It is incorrect to say that the male calves weigh less than the female calves in 2-3 weeks of their birth.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir, Military Farms are having good quality of Sahiwal breed of cattle. Military Farms are preserving the excess semen of Sahiwal breed for their own use.

Revival of Richardson and Cruddas

3674. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to revive the Richardson and Cruddas Mumbai unit has been finalized;

(b) if so, whether BPCL has taken keen interest in the same;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of the proposal between BPCL and Richardson and Cruddas and the efforts being made by the Ministry in this regard; and

(e) the manner in which the workers' safety and security would be taken care of?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE): (a) to (e) BIFR vide an order dated 25.07.2003 has recommended that Richardson & Cruddas should be wound up under Section 20 (i) of the Sick Industrial Companies Act, 1985 and the same is under examination.

Reduction of at and C Losses

3675. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have so far sanctioned projects to the tune of Rs. 15,642 crore to various States with the objective to reduce the AT &C losses and to make the power distribution sector commercially viable; and

(b) if so, the achievements made by the various projects in various States during each of the last two years?

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

(b) In the year 2001-02, no project was sanctioned. The projects have been sanctioned in the year 2002-03 and 2003-04 (till date). States have started implementing the projects. It is early to assess the achievements of various projects in various States.

Pay Anomaly

3676. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the News Readers of All India Radio belonging to Indian languages are paid less salary than their counter parts of foreign languages; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government to rectify this anomaly and do justice to Indian language News Readers?

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

(b) Does not arise.

NOC for Construction Activities

3677. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Aerodrome constructed during Portuguese regime is under the control of Defence Minister in Daman;

(b) whether the local people have to obtain NOC from local Coast Guard Office for construction activities; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to allow the construction activities in Daman up to the height of the surrounding building without any NOC from Coast Guard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. It is under the control of Ministry of Defence.

(b) and (c) No Objection Certificate (NOC) has to be obtained in accordance with the safety stipulations of Ministry of Civil Aviation for construction around the Aerodrome flight safety area.

[Translation]

Status of Martyr to Soldiers killed in Proxy War

3678. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the status of martyr has been accorded to the soldiers killed in the proxy war in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) whether the status of martyr had been accorded to the officers and soldiers killed in Kargil war also;

(c) whether a practice has been set by allotting petrol pumps by the Union Government and giving monetary assistance by the State Governments to the families of martyrs of Kargil war;

(d) whether the Government propose to accord the same status to the soldiers who lay down their lives fighting terrorism; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Soldiers killed in all operations are given the status of martyr.

(c) to (e) A Statement is attached.

Statement

A special scheme for direct allotment of petrol pumps/ gas agencies was formulated by the Central Government for the next of kin for martyrs of OP Vijaya (Kargil) only. Dependents of soldiers killed in all other operations are eligible for allotment of oil product agencies under 7% defence quota or under discretionary quota of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas. Similarly, various State Governments had also announced special monetary assistance for the dependents of Kargil martyrs.

The families of Armed Forces Personnel, killed by terrorists are given similar monetary benefits as admissible to the families of personnel killed in war or war like situation except in respect of ex-gratia compensation. Families of personnel killed in war/war like engagements are paid an ex-gratia of Rupees 10.00 lakhs and of those killed by the terrorists or in action against terrorists, etc. are paid ex-gratia of Rupees 7.50 lakhs. This distinction has been made keeping in view the different levels of risk, as well as the intensity of action involved in two situations.

Advertisement Expenditure by DVC

3679. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of expenditure incurred by the Damodar Valley Corporation on tenders or decorative advertisements in newspapers and other magazines during the year 2002-2003 and from April, 2003 upto 30th July, 2003;

(b) the number of advertisements out of these given by DVC through advertising agencies on its panel and the number thereof given directly to newspapers or magazines;

(c) the number of advertising agencies on the panel of DVC along with the names and details thereof;

(d) the share of these advertising agencies in the expenditure incurred in advertisements, agency-wise; and

(e) the policy being adopted to distribute equal share of work among all the advertising agencies on panel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The expenditure incurred on advertisements by Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) during 2002-03 was Rs. 1,18,50,653 and from April, 2003 to 30th July, 2003 was Rs. 9,87,418.

(b) The number of advertisement given by DVC through advertising agencies on its panel were 101 and

the number of advertisements given directly to newspapers or magazines were 6.

(c) and (d) The names of the advertising agencies on the panel of DVC and their share in the advertisements is as under:

Sl.No.	Name of Advertising agency	Share of Expenditure (Rs. In Lakh)	
		2002-03	April, 2003 to July, 2003
1.	M/s. Adunique 76	14,85,296	2,67,468
2.	M/s. Advertising Bureau Consultants	11,30,351	1,89,457
3.	M/s. Indian Publicity Bureau	38,08,354	2,44,540
4.	M/s. Kavya Communication Pvt. Ltd.	11,94,430	89,113
5.	M/s. Press & Publicity Syndicate Pvt. Ltd.	17,66,228	1,96,840
6.	M/s. TCP Pvt. Ltd.	23,42,494	—

(e) The work of advertisement is allotted as far as possible on rotational basis amongst the empanelled advertising agencies. However, infrastructural backup, promptness and quality of service of the concerned advertising agency, depending on the urgency of work is also considered while allotting the said work.

[English]

Progress of Almatti Power Project

3680. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on the 290 MW Almatti hydel power project is going smoothly with the Karnataka Power Corporation Limited is poised to commission Unit I two months ahead of schedule;

(b) if so, whether another five units under this Rs. 678.38 crore Almatti dam power house projects have to be ready by July 2005 with an installed capacity of 290 MW;

(c) if so, the progress made so far;

(d) whether the target fixed for July 2005 are likely to be achieved; and

(e) if so, the extent to which it is likely to reduce the power shortage in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) As per information supplied by Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd. who are implementing the project, the works of Almatti Hydel Project (1x15 MW+5x55 MW = 290 MW) taken up at an estimated cost of Rs. 674.38 crore are progressing as per schedule. Commercial operation of first unit of 15 MW is scheduled in April, 2004 and of last unit of 55 MW in July, 2005.

(c) The status of works is as under:

- Excavation in the Power House and appurtenant areas completed.
- Order for the supply and erection of Electro mechanical equipment has been placed with BHEL and generating units are under various stages of erection. Power House concreting is in progress.
- Fabrication and Erection of five Penstocks completed and erection of sixth Penstock is in progress.
- Order for control and relay panels, switchyard equipments and auxiliary system has been placed.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) With the commissioning of this project, the peak shortage in the State of Karnataka will reduce by 250 MW and energy shortage by about 483 MU.

Supply of Inferior Quality of Foodstuffs in Trains

3681. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that on railway platforms, private catering contractors/vendors, do supply the inferior quality of foodstuffs, although there are sanitary/health inspectors;

(b) whether the Government are also aware that lesser quantity of foodstuffs are supplied to passengers than price charged from them and vendors refuse to weigh the foodstuffs;

(c) if so, the facts thereof and the steps taken by the Government to check this;

(d) if not, whether the Government would authorise the Chief Medical Officers of the districts to conduct surprise checks and take samples with the help of G.R.P.;

(e) whether the Government would make mandatory provision for the vendors to weigh the foodstuffs including tea/coffee etc. while supplying to customers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) Railways have taken adequate measures to ensure supply of Food quality food to passengers. Regular inspections and surprise checks of catering units are conducted by officers and supervisory staff to ensure that less quantity of food is not being served to the passengers and deterrent action is being taken against the defaulter.

(d) Railways have their own infrastructure to deal with offenders under the PFA Act and necessary monitoring mechanisms are in place.

(e) and (f) Inspections are being conducted at regular intervals by Commercial and Health Officials to ensure that the quality of eatables and beverages is as per the standards prescribed. Samples of food and beverages are checked regularly to ensure quality under the PFA Act.

Passenger Facilities in Trains in North East Region

3682. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Industries and Commerce of North Eastern Region (FINER) has submitted a representation to the N.F. Railway authority to improve the condition and facilities of coaches in the trains running in the Region to the standard of their maintenance in the rest of the country;

(b) if so, the specific draw-backs and lack of facilities in those in the Rajdhanis and other express trains, were pointed by the FINER; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No such representation has been received from FINER. However, an agenda has been received from them for the 83rd Zonal Railway Users Consultative Committee (ZRUCC) meeting of N.F. Railway to be held on 5th September, 2003.

(b) and (c) No specific draw backs or lack of facilities in Rajdhani or express trains were pointed out except for a general complaint regarding the damaged condition of the bogies of 5603/5604 intercity express running between Guwahati-Tinsukia. This is being attended to.

[Translation]

Fake Rail Tickets

3683. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that fake rail tickets are being sold unchecked around the railway stations especially at the New Delhi and Old Delhi Railway Stations;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) the number of persons apprehended in selling fake rail tickets and the action taken by the Government against them; and

(d) the corrective measure taken/to be taken by the Government to check the racket of fake rail tickets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (d) Recently, a case of sale of fake tickets was detected in Delhi area in which four outside persons were arrested and prosecuted by the Delhi Police. Fake railway tickets are not being sold unchecked around Railway stations. However, a few isolated cases of sale of fake rail tickets have been detected and suitable action has been taken under relevant provisions of law. Regular and surprise

checks are conducted by ticket checking staff and the Vigilance department in association with Police to check the sale of fake tickets.

[English]

Proposals for DTH

3684. SHRI M. DURAI:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have finalized guidelines for DTH;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any company have applied for licence to start DTH services in the country;

(d) if so, the name of company granted licences by the Government with the terms and reference for the same;

(e) whether some companies who are eager to enter into agreement with the Government have complained that the guidelines prescribed by the Government are very tough to implement; and

(f) if so, the steps 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) and (b) Detailed Guidelines for starting DTH service were issued in March, 2001. These, inter-alia, provide that:

- The licensee company shall be an Indian company, registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956;
- Licensee shall adhere to programme and advertisement codes laid down by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting from time to time;
- All foreign personnel likely to be deployed by way of appointment, contract, consultancy etc. by the licensee for installation, maintenance and operation of the licencee's service shall be required to obtain security clearance from the Government of India prior to their deployment;
- All content provided by the DTH platform to the subscribers, irrespective of its source, shall pass through the encryption and conditional access system, located within the earth station situated on Indian soil;
- The licensee shall ensure that its facilities are not used for transmission of any objectionable or obscene content, messages or communication inconsistent with the laws of India;
- The licensee shall provide the necessary facility for continuous monitoring of the DTH broadcasting service at its own cost and maintain the recordings of programmes and advertisements carried on the platform for a period of ninety days from the date of broadcast and produce the same to the licensor or its authorized representative, as and when required;
- The licensee will, if required by the licensor or its authorized representative, provide necessary facilities for continuous monitoring for any particular aspect of the licensee's activities and operations;
- The applicant is required to fulfil the eligibility criteria laid down in the DTH guidelines and is also subject to security and technical clearances from the concerned departments.

The guidelines are available on this Ministry's website: mib.nic.in.

(c) Four companies have submitted applications to start DTH service in India viz.:—

(i) M/s Space TV Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai.

(ii) M/s ASC Enterprises Ltd., Mumbai

(iii) Essel Shyam Communication Ltd.

(iv) Noida Software Technology Park Ltd.

(d) None of the applicant companies has so far been given licence.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Setting up of Power Projects in Maharashtra

3685. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a power station at Vidarbha in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) A site near Mouda in Nagpur district of Maharashtra has been, prima-facie, identified by NTPC for 1000 MW (2x500 MW) thermal power project for conducting a pre-feasibility study. Coal supply to the project is envisaged from Western Collieries Ltd./Coal India Ltd.

Expansion of Rail Lines

3686. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the targets set for expansion of rail lines during the current year;

(b) the length of rail lines in Kilometres expanded so far;

(c) the amount spent on the above expansion work by the Government; and

(d) the length of the rail lines in Kilometres decided to be expanded in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Addition of 1340 km of BG lines has been targeted for completion during 2003-2004 under plan head New Lines, Gauge Conversion and Doublings.

(b) and (c) Expansion of rail network is an on-going process. 63140 route km was existing on the Indian Railway system as on 01.04.2002. The data regarding amount spent on the expansion of rail lines since the start of rail network in the country is not available.

(d) A number of New Lines, Gauge Conversion and Doubling projects are in progress, falling partly/fully in the State, which on completion would add over 1600 km. to the BG network.

Fourth Track Project at Gandhi Nagar Railway Station

3687. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to lay the fourth track and construct a platform at Gandhi Nagar Railway Station and doubling of the rail track between Hapa-Gandhi Nagar under Western Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the expenditure likely to be incurred on these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (d) Construction of additional platform and yard lines at Gandhidham have been taken up in connection with Gandhinagar-Kalol project and the work has already started. Total cost of the project is Rs. 49.96 crore and the cost of construction of additional platform and yard lines is approximately Rs. 3 crore. This work will be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

As regards doubling of Hapa-Gandhinagar rail line, no such proposal is under consideration.

[English]

Delivery of Paper

3688. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Ministry for directing the Hindustan Paper Corporation for early supply of paper for printing of text books;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for the delay; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Andhra Pradesh Government Textbook Press, Hyderabad placed a total order of 9815 Metric Tonnes of white printing paper with Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited (HPCL) during the period 20th March, 2003 to 14th May, 2003. Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh wrote a letter dated 26th May, 2003 to Secretary, Department of heavy Industry requesting him to impress upon HPCL to expedite supply of paper to AP Government Textbook Press. The delay in supply of paper was mainly due to non-liquidation of HPCL's dues of Rs. 18 crore as on 31st May 2003 by the Andhra Pradesh Government.

(c) The Department of Heavy Industry has advised HPCL to expedite the despatch of paper to AP Government Textbook Press, simultaneously requesting the Government of Andhra Pradesh to settle the dues of HPCL at an early date. HPCL have now supplied 7393 MT of paper to AP Government Textbook Press. However, the outstanding dues of AP Government Textbook Press to HPCL have increased to about Rs. 27 crore as on date.

Southern Palace-on-Wheels

3689. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have given an 'in-principle' approval for a Southern Palace-on-Wheels;

(b) if so, details thereof and the circuit in which it is likely to be introduced;

(c) the types of facilities to be provided in the Southern Palace-on-Wheels;

(d) whether any place in Andhra Pradesh has been selected for inclusion in the circuit; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Station Masters

3690. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present strength of Station Masters, Assistant Station Masters and Station Superintendents;

(b) the number out of them belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes category; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to fill up the backlog, if any?

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

[English]

Research and Development Activities in Railways

3691. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need to pay more attention by Railways on Research and Development activities;

(b) the fund earmarked for R&D during Tenth Plan; and

(c) the achievement made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Ministry of Railways is giving Research and Development activities its due importance.

(b) Rs. 100 crores has been earmarked for Research and Development Projects during Tenth Plan.

(c) 16 Important Projects including development of higher axle load wagon, composite brake blocks, Fibre Reinforced Plastic Sleepers, high capacity parcel vans, development of 1400 Horse-Power Diesel Electric Multiple Unit etc. have been completed by Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) in the recent past. In addition to this, 25 Important Projects including improvement in Electric Multiple Unit bogies, Studies on

rail-wheel interaction systems and development of safety devices for Level Crossings are currently in progress in RDSO.

Contract for BMCS

3692. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1511 dated 31st July, 2003 regarding Global Tenders for Ordnance Factory at Rajgir and state:

(a) when was the contract signed with M/s. Somchem, South Africa for Bimodular Charge System (BMCS);

(b) whether it is a fact that many International firms have also offered their Modular Charge System before the finalisation of the contract with Somchem;

(c) if so, whether these offers were considered;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether attention has been drawn to the International Press Report that UK which has also concluded a contract with M/s. Somchem had found BMCS defective and unsuitable; and

(f) whether in the light of the UK's experience with M/s. Somchem, the Indian contract with Somchem will be reviewed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The contract for Bi Modular Charge System was signed with M/s Somchem, South Africa on 23rd April, 2003.

(b) Before the finalisation of contract with M/s Somchem, some International firms had also offered their Uni Modular Charge System which did not meet the General Staff Qualitative Requirements (GSQR).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Not applicable.

(e) No such International Press Report has come to the notice of Ministry of Defence.

(f) Not applicable.

[Translation]

Laying of Tanakpur-Bageshwar Rail Line

3693. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey for laying rail line between Tanakpur and Bageshwar had been conducted long ago;

(b) whether the Government had sanctioned Rs. 86 crores in the year 1984 for this project;

(c) whether the work on the said project has been started;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons for delay alongwith the present status thereof;

(f) whether the Government propose to conduct a fresh survey for this line;

(g) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government for expeditiously completion of this project?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

(e) The proposal could not be considered due to unremunerative nature of the project and constraint of resources.

(f) There is no such proposal at present.

(g) and (h) Do not arise.

[English]

Reimbursement of Expenditure Incurred on GRP

3694. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expenditure of about Rs. 41 crores incurred against creation of 1246 posts of GRP which

are approved by the Railways is still not reimbursed to the State of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the reasons for not reimbursement of expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) whether the Railways has approved the remaining 76 posts of GRP; and

(d) if not, the time by which these posts are likely to be approved and entire expenditure reimbursed to Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No Sir. The total amount of outstanding dues on account of excess operation of 1246 posts of GRP payable to Maharashtra State Government, as on date is Rs. 18.71 crore.

(b) The main reasons for non-payment of arrears is non-submission of details sought from the office of Director General of Police (Railways) Maharashtra, despite repeated reminders.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Proposal for 76 posts in addition to 1246 posts mentioned at (a) has been received for the S.C. Railway portion of Maharashtra and the same is under process. Process will be expedited.

Allocation of Time to Minority Languages

3695. SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of the Government on allocation of time to minority languages spoken in the service areas of each Channel/Kendra;

(b) the total broadcast/telecast time, Channel-wise and Kendra-wise; and

(c) the duration of Urdu programme regularly broadcast by the AIR and telecast by the Doordarshan on the National Channels as well as by the regional Channels/Kendras in U.P., Bihar, A.P., Maharashtra and Karnataka?

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

Production of Films by CFS

3696. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of film produced, distributed and screened by Children's Film Society (CFS), language-wise, during the last three years;

(b) the total number of children films under production, language-wise as on March 31, 2003;

(c) the number of film proposals received and approved by Children's Film Society from the independent private film directors/producers and the total financial assistance/aid given in respect of the film approved;

(d) the number of children film shows organised by Children Film Society in the schools during the last three years, State-wise; and

(e) the details of various activities undertaken by CFS for propagation of culture and education amongst children through films during 2002-03?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Reply to this part may kindly be seen at Statement I.

(b) The total number of children films under production, language-wise, as on March 31, 2003 is as under:

Language	No. of films
Hindi	05
Assamese	01
Marathi	01
Kutchi	01

(c) During the year 2002-2003, the Children's Film Society, India has received 63 proposals from independent private film directors/producers, out of which eight proposals were approved. As the above films were at pre-production stages as on 31.3.2003, no payment were made to the directors of these films during 2002-2003.

However, during this year, an amount of Rs. 234.14 lakhs was released by CFSI to the producers of films which had been assigned in earlier years and whose production had spilled over into 2002-2003.

(d) The reply to this part may kindly be seen at Statement II.

(e) The details of various activities undertaken by Children's Film Society, India for propagation of culture and education amongst children through films during 2002-2003 are;

(1) Production of short, Feature, Featurette and Animation films.

(2) Theatrical and Non-Theatrical Exhibition of Children's films (35 mm & 16 mm).

(3) Organizing animation & Filmmaking Workshops for children.

(4) Starting the Bal Chitra Manch at New Delhi for screening films for children.

(5) Film screenings are organized on Children's day (14th November).

(6) Organisation of Film Bonanzas/Festivals.

(7) Telecast of CFSI's films on-Doordarshan and Satellite Channels.

Statement I

The number of films produced, distributed and screened by CFSI language-wise during the last three years (2000-2001, 2001-2002 & 2002-2003) are as follows:

Production

Year	Language	No. of films
2000-2001	Hindi	04
	Bengali	01
	Manipuri	01
	Marathi	01
	English	01
2001-2002	Hindi	07
	Bengali	01
	English	01
2002-2003	Hindi	02
	Dogri	01

Distribution/screening

	Number of Films		
Language	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Hindi	86	86	92
Marathi	11	10	11
English	07	08	07
Kannada	15	14	15
Telugu	20	19	19
Malayalam	20	18	21
Rajasthani	01	01	01
Punjabi	03	02	02
Tamil	21	19	22
Bengali	06	06	06
Gujarathi	11	09	11
Oriya	05	05	05
Assamese	01	01	01
Kashmiri	01	01	01
Maniuri	—	—	01
Total	208	199	215

CFSI's Films produced originally in a particular language are dubbed into other languages subsequently.

Statement II

State wise Number of Shows of CFSI's Films in Schools/Theatres

Year 2000-01	No. of shows
1	2
Maharashtra	1130
Madhya Pradesh	453
West Bengal	41
Bihar	69
Delhi	121

1	2
Uttar Pradesh	142
Haryana	109
Punjab	25
Tamil Nadu	394
Karnataka	490
Kerala	106
Andhra Pradesh	90
Total	3170
Year 2001-02	
Maharashtra	2094
Bihar	56
Madhya Pradesh	870
Rajasthan	840
Karnataka	310
Tamil Nadu	412
Kerala	30
Pondicherry	42
Delhi	70
Punjab	32
Haryana	73
Uttaranchal	194
Uttar Pradesh	30
Himachl Pradesh	11
Total	5064
Year 2002-03	
Maharashtra	3431
West Bengal	584
Jharkhand	160
Madhya Pradesh	1088
Delhi	14
Haryana	170
Punjab	14
Uttar Pradesh	254
Uttaranchal	104
Karnataka	634
Tamil Nadu	493
Total	6946

Outdated Equipments in DD

3697. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

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

(a) whether many equipments installed in and used by Doordarshan Kendras have become outdated;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to replace them with the modern equipments; and

(d) the achievements made as a result of these efforts made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) Augmentation of facilities at Doordarshan Kendras and replacement of equipment, is a continuous process and schemes in this regard are implemented from time to time, depending upon the availability of resources. For modernization of DD stations and replacement of old equipment, an amount of Rs. 1043 crores has been provided for in the 10th Five Year Plan.

Funds for Development of Power Projects Executed in U.P.

3698. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allocated more funds for the development of various existing development projects executed by the Government in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the funds allocated and disbursed for various centrally assisted schemes in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years;

(c) whether the money allocated for various schemes and projects in Uttar Pradesh State during the above period are not utilized fully; and

(d) if so, the details along with the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The details of funds sanctioned to Uttar Pradesh and its utilization under various schemes during 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 is given below:

(Rs. in crore)

Name of Scheme	2000-01		2001-02		2002-03	
	Sanctioned	Utilized	Sanctioned	Utilized	Sanctioned	Utilized
Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme	62.12	44.57	Nil	Nil	80.12	—
Accelerated Generation and Supply Programme	2.18	2.18	30.77	30.77	Nil	—
Rural Electrification-MNP	45.47	45.47	39.23	39.23	150.00	75.00
Rural Electrification—Kutir Jyoti	12.57	0.02	12.88	Nil	18.34	10.50
Rural Electrification-PMGY	Nil	Nil	94.17	Nil	101.87	101.87

Power Shortage in Chandigarh

3699. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chandigarh Administration is able to cater to the full requirement of the power in the Union Territory of Chandigarh;

(b) whether there were frequent power failures/load shedding recently;

(c) if so, reasons for levying minimum charges irrespective of less consumption;

(d) the total requirement of the City and the total availability;

(e) sources of receipt of power in the Union Territory;

(f) the details of sub stations in the Union Territory; and

(g) the steps proposed, if any, to augment the power supply?

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

(b) There have been no notified power cuts in Union Territory (UT) of Chandigarh during the period April-July, 2003.

(c) According to Chandigarh Administration, minimum charges irrespective of less consumption are levied for the reasons given below:

(i) In general, UT of Chandigarh is following the pattern of Punjab State Electricity Board (PSEB) in respect of electricity tariff. The PSEB and many other State Electricity Boards levy a minimum monthly charge.

(ii) Whenever any consumer applies for connection, the department is required to install transformer and other equipment to maintain the system for feeding that particular consumer whether he is using the load or not. To cover the depreciation and maintenance cost in respect of equipment installed, the concept of minimum charges has been introduced and is being followed in the Electricity Boards.

(d) The power supply position of UT of Chandigarh during April-July, 2003 is as follows:

Energy (MU) April-July, 2003		Peak (MW) April-July, 2003	
Requirement	406	Peak Demand	185
Availability	405	Peak Met	185
Shortage	1	Shortage	0
%	0.2	%	0.0

(e) UT of Chandigarh meets its requirement of power from Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) and its share from Central Generating Stations in the Northern Region.

(f) According to Chandigarh Administration, the details of sub-stations in UT are as under:

(i) 220/66 KV sub-station (s/s) Manimajra.

(ii) 66 KV s/s BBMB Sector 28.

(iii) 66 KV s/s Sector 52.

(iv) 66 KV s/s Sector 39.

(v) 66 KV s/s Sector 12.

(vi) 66 KV s/s Sector 1.

(vii) 66 KV s/s Sector 32.

(viii) 66 KV s/s Industrial Area Phase I.

(ix) 66 KV s/s Industrial Area Phase II.

(g) According to Chandigarh administration, in order to meet the future demand and increased power requirement of existing consumers, the system is being upgraded as under:

(i) 3 Nos. 10/12.5 MVA, 66/11 KV transformers are being added at the existing 66 KV s/s Sectors 52, 39 and 12.

(ii) 2x20 MVA, 66/11 KV s/s is being created in Sector 47 C to meet the load requirement of Phase III Sectors of Chandigarh.

(iii) 2x10/12.5 MVA, 66/11 s/s is being created at Kishangarh, Manimajra.

(iv) Upgradation of existing 33 KV s/s Sector 18 to 66 KV s/s with 2x10/12.5 MVA, 66/11 KV transformers and 1x20 MVA, 66/33 KV transformer.

In addition, Chandigarh will also have entitlements in 7090 MW capacity planned to be added in Central Sector in Northern Region during the 10th Five Year Plan.

Private Sector Participation in Hydro and Thermal Power

3700. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether power generation in private sector is gaining ground;

(b) if so, the details about the private and public sector participation in different States both in thermal and hydel generation and the investment made therein;

(c) whether power distribution channels are also gaining grounds in the hands of the private sector; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The power generation in private sector has gained ground although not up to expectation of the Government.

(b) As per available information, a total capacity to the tune of 7366 MW has been added by private sector since 1991. The State-wise details are indicated below:

(i)	Gujarat	—	1587 MW (All thermal)
(ii)	Maharashtra	—	1570 MW (1420 thermal + 150 hydel)
(iii)	Andhra Pradesh	—	1032.75 MW (1029 thermal+3.73 hydel)
(iv)	Goa	—	48 MW (All thermal)
(v)	Assam	—	24.5 MW (All thermal)
(vi)	Haryana	—	25 MW (All thermal)

(vii)	A& N Islands	_	20 MW (All thermal)
(viii)	West Bengal	—	635 MW (All thermal)
(ix)	Madhya Pradesh	—	13.5 MW (All hydel)
(x)	Karnataka	—	607.1 MW (589.1 thermal+18 Hydel)
(xi)	Tamil Nadu	—	992.16 MW (All thermal)
(xii)	Himachal Pradesh	—	386 MW (All hydel)
(xiii)	Jharkhand	—	240 MW (All thermal)
(xiv)	Kerala	—	185 MW (173 thermal+12 hydel)

Figures regarding actual investment by private sector in the power sector are not maintained. Also, many of the private power projects that have been commissioned did not require techno-economic clearance (TEC) of the Central Electricity Authority. The private power projects commissioned and also those under construction, which have been accorded TEC, envisage a total investment of around DM 238.49 Million+US$ 4950.52 Million+Rs. 13,515.16 crores.

The required details in respect of Central Public Sector Power Projects coming up in the 10th Plan are indicated below:

Name of State	Thermal Projects		Hydel projects	
	Capacity (MW)	Expenditure incurred (Rs. cr) (upto 5/03)	Capacity (MW)	Expenditure incurred (Rs. cr) (upto 3/03)
Uttar Pradesh	1000	805.53	—	—
Andhra Pradesh	500	620.93	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	1000	240.51	1520	1953.83
Orissa	1500	473.73	—	—
Bihar	1000	2.06	—	—
West Bengal	210	278.98	900	364.49
Uttaranchal	—	—	1680	6311.06
Himachal Pradesh	—	—	1800	9031.43
Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	390	3724.16
Sikkim	—	—	510	695.20
Mizoram	—	_	60	102.64
Assam	—	—	25	69.97

(c) and (d) Privatization of distribution of electricity by the States is one of the options envisaged for bringing about a turnaround in distribution. Under the ongoing reforms programme, distribution has been privatized in Orissa and Delhi. As per available information, the following private distribution companies are presently operating in various parts of the country.

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.

[Translation]

Advertisements to Newspapers

3701. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:

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

(a) the number of advertisements and the value thereof given in the dailies, weeklies, fortnightlies and monthlies published in the country during 2002-03 and till date, State-wise;

(b) the month-wise number of advertisements given to each newspaper during the year 2002-03 and till date;

(c) the number of big, medium and small newspapers out of these respectively;

(d) the criteria adopted, the norms and the rules laid for giving advertisements in the newspapers;

(e) whether the Government have received complaints of corruption indulged in and irregularities committed in giving advertisements from January 1, 2002 till date;

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken against the persons found guilty; and

(g) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check the irregularities being committed in giving advertisement?

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

[English]

Procurement of Fuses at Higher Cost

3702. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Defence contracted 7,450 fuses at a cost of Rs. 54.52 crores from a foreign firm during August 1999 knowing fully well that 1,550 similar fuses procured from the same firm earlier were defective;

(b) if so, the facts of the case and the reasons for procurement of 7,450 additional fuses at a higher cost from the same foreign firm which had earlier supplied defective fuses;

(c) whether the Government have ordered any inquiry to find out truth and to identify the officials responsible for ordering procurement of defective fuses at a much higher rates;

(d) if so, the findings of the inquiry and if not the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to avoid such reckless procurement of defective items for use by Armed Forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) 9,000 fuses were procured in two batches i.e. quantity 1,550 on 15.2.1995 and quantity 7,450 on 20.8.1999 at a cost of Rs. 6.34 crores and Rs. 54.32 crores respectively.

Fuses were not defective at the time of procurement. However, a few technical problems were observed in the battery of the fuses, which have been rectified by the firm at their cost and to the satisfaction of Indian Air Force.

Per unit cost of the fuses procured in second lot was less than the cost of fuses procured in the first lot. Hence, it is not correct to say that the fuses in 1999

contract were procured at higher cost than the earlier contract.

(c) and (d) Questions do no arise, in view of answers at (a) and (b).

(e) Scope of inspection activities has been enhanced substantially in all weapon procurement contracts.

Implementation of TPP by NTPC in Karnataka

3703. SHRI R. L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up thermal power projects by National Thermal Power Corporation in Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the present position thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Based on Government of Karnataka's request and in line with the Memorandum of Agreement signed in February, 2000, National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) had examined five sites in Karnataka, i.e. three in Karwar area in and around Kolage and Savantvada villages, Majali and Angadi villages and Shiragunji villages of Uttar Kannada and two in Dakshin Kannada in Bacampadu industrial area near Mangalore and in Brahmavar subtaluk of Udupi district to find out the feasibility of setting up a thermal power station. Further, the proposal for Vijaynagar Thermal Power Project was also examined. On considering the plant siting criteria and techno-economic considerations etc., NTPC have not yet come across a feasible proposal in this regard.

Donation to "Army Jawans Welfare Fund"

3704. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rs. 74.25 lakhs were granted to producers of a serial programme called 'Param Vir Chakra';

(b) whether it was stipulated the net proceeds of the programme would be donated to "Army Jawans Welfare Fund";

(c) if so, the amount out of the net proceeds have been donated to Army Jawans Welfare Fund;

(d) if not, the reasons for not donating the net proceeds to Army Jawans Fund;

(e) whether the Government have made any attempt to ensure compliance of the agreements; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (f) The C&AG in Paragraph No. 5.8 of Report No. 4 of 2003 (Civil) has pointed out that concessions amounting to Rs. 74.25 lakhs granted to the producer of the programme 'Param Vir Chakra' for donating the net proceeds of the programme to "Army Jawans Welfare Fund" were misplaced and Doordarshan failed to ensure compliance.

The C&AG Para is under examination in consultation with Prasar Bharati.

[Translation]

Expenditure on Power Sector Reform

3705. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of expenditure incurred on the power sector reforms in Rajasthan during the last three years;

(b) whether any expenditure has been incurred for this purpose in Jodhpur district of the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and well be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

FM Channels on Doordarshan

3706. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MAANDLIK:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

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

(a) whether F.M. Channels have been opened on Doordarshan by the private operators to enable them to telecast their programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the term and conditions therefor; and

(d) their benefits to be accrued to the Government therefrom and the procedure laid down for putting a control on them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati have provided the infrastructure facilities viz. land and tower at Doordarshan sites, to three private FM operators in Delhi, four in Kolkata and two in Chennai.

(c) Prasar Bharati is charging annual licence fee for its infrastructure as per norms of the Ministry of Finance.

(d) Prasar Bharati is earning revenue from the annual licence fee, being charged in advance. In addition, security deposit equivalent to one year licence fee is also taken from each private operator.

Allocation of Funds for Projects in West Bengal

3707. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government allocated funds for the development of various existing development projects executed by the Ministry in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details of the funds allocated and disbursed for various centrally assisted scheme in West Bengal during the last three years;

(c) whether the money allocated for various scheme and projects are utilized fully; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE): (a) to (d) Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises has under its direct administrative control 49 Central Public Sector Enterprises located in different States including the State of West Bengal. The Government are providing budgetary support for the programmes of these PSEs/ Units which broadly fall into the category of renewals, replacement, modernisation and for improving productivity.

Gap Between Average Cost of Production of Tariff

3708. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gap between average cost of production of power and average tariff collection per unit has widened;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to narrow this gap?

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

(b) The gap between the cost of electricity supply and average tariff has been widening over the years. This gap has increased from a level of 50 paise in 1996-97 to about 110 paise in 2001-2002.

(c) The widening gap between cost of supply and average revenue per unit is primarily due to unduly high Transmission and Distribution (T&D) losses, due to theft of electricity and inadequacy in the distribution system, low collection efficiency and distortion in the tariff structure. The Government of India has been signing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)/Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with States reflecting the joint commitment of the Centre and the States to undertake reforms in a time bound manner. 27 States have been covered by this exercise till now.

Under the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP), projects for bringing about a turn around in identified distribution circles by reducing Aggregate Technical and Commercial losses and improving the quality of power supply are being financed. In addition actual reduction of the gap between revenue and cost in the State is incentivised through grants.

[Translation]

TV Serial on Acharya Shiv Pujan Sahai

3709. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has any proposal to telecast a T.V. serial based on the novel 'Dehati Duniyan' of Padam Bhushan late Acharya Shiv Pujan Sahai;

(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) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

111 Effects of 24-Hours Telecast

3710. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allowed various channels for 24-hours television telecast;

(b) if so, whether the Government had conducted any study to assess the ill effect of 24-hours telecast on general public and the children in particular; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati, a statutory autonomous corporation, has autonomy in programme matters. Government has no role to play in programming decisions of private channels. Television viewing is matter of choice exercised by the viewers.

Pay Anomalies with Radio Announcers

3711. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Radio Announcers are not being treated at par with the Engineering and Programme Personnel of Prasar Bharati;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether successive Pay Commissions have maintained parity in pay scale of these personnel; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not providing pay scale to Announcers of Prasar Bharati at par with the engineering and programme personnel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The pay scales of different categories of Staff in All India Radio (AIR), including the Announcers and employees of Subordinate Engineering & Programme Cadres of Prasar Bharati, are dependent on the nature of duties and responsibilities attached to the respective posts. The posts of Announcers and those belonging to subordinate Engineering & Programme Cadres carry different pay scales.

(c) The successive Pay Commissions have recommended replacement pay scales for Announcers as well as for Subordinate Engg. & Programme Cadre Employees. Replacement scales have already been given to the employees of these cadres.

(d) Does not arise.

Parbati Dam

3712. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent Kullu Valley disaster was due to inferior construction of 'Parbati' dam to generate hydel power against all ecological balance norms there; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government on the hydel power project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no dam in the Garsa valley where the recent cloud burst took place. The cloud burst in this case took place above 14000 ft. and carried trees and other debris leading to flooding. In this valley, the maximum effect of the cloud burst was felt near "Bulya Nallah" where very little construction has taken place.

National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) which is executing Parbati Hydro-electric Project Stage-II (800 MW) is undertaking the construction activities after fulfilling the mandatory requirements and after obtaining the statutory environment and forest clearances etc.

[Translation]

Fares of Rajdhani/Shatabdi Express

3713. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 25 percent increase in the fares of Rajdhani/Shatabdi Express with effect from 1st July, 1999 is owing to the expenditure on catering services;

(b) if so, whether out of the increase 25 percent only 18 per cent fare is paid to catering licenses;

(c) if so, the head for which the remaining 7 percent has been kept reserved by the Railways with them;

(d) the amount collected by the Government from the above mentioned additional 7 percent share from 1st July, 1999 till date and the purpose for which this share is reserved by the Government;

(e) the amount from the above said 7 percent share utilised by the Government so far to improve the catering facilities;

(f) whether the above said seven percent share is included by the Government in its own revenue income; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The increase in ticket fare of Rajdhani/Shatabdi with effect from 1.7.1999 was not solely owing to the revised catering charges.

(b) Out of the catering apportionment charges included in the ticket fare, 18% has been paid to the catering licensees after deducting prescribed licence fee.

(c) The remaining 7 per cent has been kept aside to meet unforeseen expenditure towards catering on these trains on account of late running of trains, extra services involved in case of change of timings, route etc.

(d) to (g) The entire fare collected in respect of Rajdhani/Shatabdi Express trains is credited to the earnings head of Indian Railways and expenditure on account of catering services thereof is part of Ordinary Working Expenses.

Implementation Panel on Conditional Access System (CAS)

3714. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI KAMAL NATH:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:
SHRI M. DURAI:
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

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

(a) whether the proposed Conditional Access System (CAS) is in the interest of consumers, cable operators or the broadcasters;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that the consumers are likely to be the worst sufferers both in terms financial benefit and recreation;

(c) if so, whether the Government have set up an Implementation Panel of Broadcasters, Multi System Operators and Cable Operators to oversee the rollout of CAS;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the time by which the Implementation Panel has been asked to submit its report to the Government;

(f) whether in view of Direct-To-Home (DTH) clearance, the Union Government propose to defer implementation of CAS;

(g) if so, the details thereof and the time by which DTH service is likely to be started and the agency which would supply necessary equipment for the purpose alongwith the amount to be charged from the subscribers therefor; and

(h) the extent to which the CAS would prove to be useful after the introduction of DTH service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (e) Since the proposed Conditional Access System is aimed at bringing in transparency and order, to the cable network, this is in the interest of consumers, cable operators and broadcasters.

CAS is consumer-friendly for the following reasons:

(i) Government has specified Rs. 72/-(Plus taxes) as the maximum price of basic service tier, consisting of not less than 30 free-to-air channels of different genres of entertainment, news, sports, children's programmes and music. Additional free-to-air channels would also be available to subscribers within the maximum amount mentioned.

(ii) Consumers will have the choice to pay for only those pay channels which they choose to watch.

(iii) Consumers will have control over the content, they wish to view.

(iv) It has been made obligatory for cable operators to make provisions for rent, security deposit, repair and maintenance of Set Top Boxes (STB).

(v) Some MSOs/Cable Operators have come out with consumer-friendly schemes through which the STBs will be made available to consumers.

(vi) Government has reduced the duty on import of STB and its components to make the STB more affordable.

An Implementation Committee, comprising various stakeholders has been set up for effective coordination and monitoring of preparedness to implement Conditional Access System in the four metros w.e.f 1.9.2003. The Committee would closely monitor the:

(i) Availability of Set Top Boxes (STBs) and their readiness for installation.

(ii) Modalities of installation, including testing.

(iii) Upgradation of the infrastructure and network for implementation of CAS and steps taken to protect consumers' interest.

(iv) Availability of full information in respect of pricing of channels and the amount that cable TV subscribers will have to pay.

No report will be furnished by the Committee as it will regularly monitor the smooth implementation of CAS.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) DTH and cable networks are two different modes of delivery of content. CAS is a more cost-effective mode of delivery, while DTH provides premium service and is more effective in remote areas. Both the services can co-exist.

Cooking Free Stations

3715. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make railway stations 'cooking-free';

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the railway stations in the country proposed to be covered under the above said proposal initially; and

(d) the time by which the likely aforesaid railway stations are likely to be made 'cooking-free'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) Guidelines have been issued to the zonal Railways to discourage cooking/deep frying on the platforms of non-suburban stations with an annual passenger earning of more than Rs. 6 crores, classified as "A" class stations.

(d) No time-frame has been fixed for making Railway stations cooking free.

[English]

Rehabilitation of Ex-servicemen

3716. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether serving as well as retired defence personnel are facing many problems in civil matters and re-employment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Ministry of Defence has constituted a working group to go into the details and making recommendations on the related issues;

(d) if so, whether the said group has made its recommendations;

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not the time by which the working group is likely to submit its recommendations to the Government; and

(f) the other steps taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (f) Serving defence personnel are generally posted far away from their homes, and, their families need safety/security and helpful attitude from civil administration in solving their various civil problems including settlement of disputes. State Governments have therefore, been requested to advise the civil administration to be more responsive to the civil problems being faced by the families of serving as well as retired defence personnel.

The problems being faced by Ex-servicemen mainly relate to their re-employment. With shrinking job opportunities in civil, difficulty is being faced in providing re-employment to all the ex-servicemen seeking employment assistance. New employment avenues are being explored by the Director General Resettlement in the private sector to provide re-employment to ex-servicemen. Besides, Ex-servicemen are encouraged to take up self employment ventures.

A working group was constituted to carry out a detailed study of working out modalities for lateral transfer and related issues of defence service personnel in Central Para Military Forces and Civil Organisations. The working Group has since submitted its draft report, which are under deliberations.

Various committees were constituted in the past to go into the rehabilitation and welfare matters of service as well as retired defence personnel. Some of these are as follows:

(a) In 1984-High Level Committee was set up under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri K.P Singh Deo.

(b) In 1991-Another Committee under the Chairmanship of Raksha Mantri was set up to review the pension structure and other retirement benefits of the Defence Services.

(c) In 1992-An Inter Departmental Committee under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Defence was set up to examine the problems of ex-servicemen.

(d) In 1999-A committee to evolve a National Policy under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble RM was set up for the welfare of Jawans and ex-servicemen.

Various schemes have been formulated for the welfare and rehabilitation of the ex-servicemen as per the recommendations of the Committees set up in this regard both by the Central and State Government at their level and it is an ongoing process.

Settlement of Old Dues by SEBs

3717. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether all dues against State Electricity Boards has been settled as per the recommendations made by the Expert Group;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the names of the States which have failed to settle all dues as per the recommendation of the Expert Group;

(d) the names of the States which have paid current dues timely; and

(e) the incentives aid to each State during the last one year for timely payment of current dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The process of settlement of outstanding dues of SEBs as recommended by the Expert Group is in progress and the bonds are still to be issued by the RBI.

(b) The details as reported by CPSUs and Railways are in statement I enclosed.

(c) Even though all the State Governments have signed the TPA, the States are yet to complete all the formalities of settlement of SEB dues for issue of Bonds due to reasons given in Statement II.

(d) Details of payment of current dues in respect of the five CPSUs of the Ministry of Power covered in the TPA are given in statement III.

(e) As per the Scheme, the incentives to SEBs on compliance of the scheme is payable after the issue of

bonds, as it is linked to the amount of bond to be issued by each State. As issue of bonds is yet to be completed, no incentive has been paid to the States. However, the incentive for compliance with the scheme for the period from 1.10.2001 till date would be payable to SEBs by the CPSUs concerned on receipt of bonds and subject to the States fulfilling other conditions of the Scheme under the tripartite agreement.

Statement I

Details of SEB dues as on 30.09.2001 to be settled by way of issue of Bonds after waiver of 60% of surcharge & interest as per one-time settlement scheme

(Rs. in Thousands)

Sl. No.	States/Utilities	Total Bond	Reconciled Bond
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	24826305	24361005
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	240742	240742
3.	Assam	8617596	8575316
4.	Bihar	24608078	20101036
5.	Chhattisgarh	5128200	1877700
6.	Goa	0	0
7.	Gujarat	17850811	16743731
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1054373	702486
9.	HSEB	20555260	20273340
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	16058039	16058039
11.	Jharkhand	13413500	5121600
12.	Karnataka	5514388	5509561
13.	Kerala	11582547	11582547
14.	Madhya Pradesh	32506680	32431400
15.	Maharashtra	6239820	4978500
16.	Manipur	1795372	1570951
17.	Meghalaya	141701	141701
18.	Mizoram	455679	455679
19.	Nagaland	794662	794662
20.	Orissa (GRIDCO)	11138603	11138603
21.	Punjab	9512675	9512675
22.	Rajasthan	5379436	4545235
23.	Sikkim	478036	478036
24.	Tamil Nadu	19454580	19435080
25.	Tripura	635088	635088
26.	Uttar Pradesh	56597231	58156013
27.	Uttaranchal	5720000	5720000
28.	WBSEB	20082012	19762112
	Total	320381214	300902838

Statement II

States that have failed to settle all outstanding dues

Sl.No.	State	Status
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Non-reconciliation of dues of Railways.
2.	Assam	Non-reconciliation of dues of Railways.
3.	Bihar	Non-reconciliation of dues of DVC, NHPC & Railways.
4.	Chhattisgarh	Non-reconciliation of dues of NTPC because of dispute over division of assets and liabilities.
5.	Gujarat	Non-reconciliation of dues of Railways.
6.	Himachal Pradesh	Non-reconciliation of dues of NHPC.
7.	Haryana	Non-reconciliation of dues of Railways.
8.	Jharkhand	Non-reconciliation of dues of NTPC & DVC because of dispute over division of assets and liabilities.

1	2	3
9.	Karnataka	Non-reconciliation of dues of Railways.
10.	Madhya Pradesh	Non-reconciliation of dues of Railways.
11.	Maharashtra	Non-reconciliation of dues of Railways & NPCIL.
12.	Manipur	Non-reconciliation of dues of NHPC.
13.	Rajashtan	Non-reconciliation of dues of Railways.
14.	Tamil Nadu	Non-reconciliation of dues of Railways.
15.	Uttar Pradesh	Non-reconciliation of dues of Railways.
16.	West Bengal	Non-reconciliation of dues of Railways.

Statement III

Details of payment of current dues paid by the States in respect of the five CPSUs under the Ministry of Power.

S.No.	Name of the CPSU	Details of payment of current dues by the States
1.	National Thermal Power Corporation	SEBs of Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Goa, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and West Bengal have opened Letters of Credit equal to 105% of average monthly billing. After implementation of the Scheme, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, J&K, Karnataka, Goa, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Assam, Jharkhand and West Bengal are making full payments of monthly bills to NTPC. They are also liquidating the arrears accumulated from 1.10.2001 to 30.06.2002.
2.	Powergrid Corporation of India Ltd.	All States except Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, J&K, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura are making full payment of current dues.
3.	National Hydro Power Corporation	No State has paid current dues in time, though Assam, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Meghalaya, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and West Bengal, have been making regular payments with defaults at time.
4.	Damodar Valley Corporation	West Bengal SEB has been paying their monthly bill regularly since post-securitisation period; while in the case of Jharkhand SEB, the payment of current dues has not improved.
5.	North Eastern Electric Power Corporation	Assam and Nagaland have been paying their current dues regularly. The other five North-Eastern States, namely, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya have been defaulting in payment of current dues.

Status of Board Level Posts After Disinvestment

3718. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Public Sector Undertakings under control of the Government and those likely to remain under Government control after disinvestment;

(b) whether all Board level posts in PSUs after disinvestment are filled up;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action being taken to fill up the vacant posts and their present status?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE): (a) The details of Public Sector Undertakings under the control of the Government as on 31.3.2002 are given in the Public Enterprises Survey 2001-02, laid on the Table of the House during the Budget Session, 2003. The names of PSUs/Units of PSUs disinvested through strategic sale from 1999-2000 onwards are given in the statement enclosed. Rest of the PSUs continue under the control of the Government.

(b) to (d) Once a PSU goes out of Government control due to disinvestment, information regarding filling up of Board level posts in such PSUs is not centrally maintained.

Statement

Disinvestment through strategic sale from 1999-2000 to till date.

1. Modern Food Industries India Ltd.
2. Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd.
3. CMC Ltd.
4. HTL Ltd.
5. Lagan Jute Machinery Company Ltd.
6. IBP Co. Ltd.
7. Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.
8. Paradeep Phosphates Ltd.
9. Hindustan Zinc Ltd.
10. Maruti Udyog Ltd.
11. Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd.

ITDC Hotels Located at

12. Agra
13. Bodh Gaya
14. Hasan
15. Mamallapuram
16. Madurai
17. Qutub-New Delhi
18. Lodi-New Delhi
19. Udaipur
20. Manali
21. Kovalam
22. Aurangabad
23. Airport Kolkata
24. Khajuraho
25. Varanasi
26. Indraprastha, New Delhi
27. Chandigarh Project
28. Ranjit, New Delhi
29. Kanishka, New Delhi
30. Bangalore Ashok (including Airport Restaurant, Bangalore)

Hotel Corporation of India Ltd. Hotels Located at

31. Juhu-Mumbai
32. Rajgir
33. Airport Mumbai

[Translation]

Expenditure Incurred by IOCL on Sports/Cultural Sponsorships

3719. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation Limited spent several crores of rupees for the advertisement of its

productions and brands from 1999 to 2001 through sponsoring or co-sponsoring various sports and cultural activities;

(b) if so, the amount spent in various States during the said period for sponsoring and co-sponsoring cultural activities, State-wise; and

(c) the details of institutes related to sponsoring and co-sponsoring of above activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The expenditure incurred by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) towards promotion of its products and brands, through sponsoring or co-sponsoring of various sports and cultural activities in the country, during the years from 1999-2000 to 2000-2001, was Rs. 6.18 crore approximately. Out of this, the expenditure towards cultural activities was Rs. 1.66 crore approximately.

(c) Some of the Institutes/events, which have received the sponsorship/co-sponsorship during the said period, include Impresario India, Delhi Telugu Academy. Bharat Sevashram Sangh, Shanmukhananda Sangeeta Sabha, Central Calcutta Science & Culture Organisation for Youth, Crafts Exhibition at Chamba and Shimla, Bhartiya Kala Sangam, etc.

[English]

Telecasting of DD Metro Programmes from Bathinda

3720. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to telecast DD-Metro programmes from Bathinda Kendra;

(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) Yes, Sir.

(b) Scheme for setting up of a HPT at Bhatinda for relay of DD2 programmes has been sanctioned. This HPT is expected to be set up during the year 2004.

(c) Does not arise.

Ban on Release of New LPG Connections by IOCL in Bihar

3721. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation Limited has instructed its LPG distributors in Bihar not to release any new connection;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the said corporation has also instructed the distributors in the State not to provide second cylinder to old customers;

(d) if so, the reasons of shortage of LPG connections and cylinders in the State; and

(e) the corrective steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Due to the inadequate inventories of cylinders with LPG distributors of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) in Bihar, company has advised its distributors to suspend the release of connections and Double Bottle Cylinder (DBC) to the customers temporarily.

(d) and (e) Due to increased in steel price, producers of cylinders have defaulted in their supply to company. IOCL has floated a new tender to procure the cylinders to tide over the situation.

[Translation]

Publications of Newspapers

3722. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of small and big newspaper and weeklies being published in the country as per the position in December 2002;

(b) the number of newspapers out of them included in the list meant for giving advertisements to them;

(c) the newspapers whose applications for inclusion in the advertisement list were pending as on December 2002;

(d) whether advertisements from other departments are also given to the newspapers separately besides departmental advertisements; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) As on 31st December 2001, there were 51,960 newspapers of all periodicities registered with the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI), out of which 18,582 were weeklies. As per annual statements received by RNI from newspapers for 2001, 275 newspapers were categorised as big and 3557 as small newspapers on the basis of their claimed circulation.

(b) As on December 2002, the number of small, medium and big newspapers empanelled with DAVP was as under:

Small Newspapers	—	623
Medium Newspapers	—	430
Big Newspapers	—	127

(c) Most of the applications for empanelment and rate renewal had been considered and decided upon by December, 2002.

(d) and (e) DAVP issues advertisements out of funds placed with it by M/o I&B as also other Ministries/ Departments.

Licence Free Power Generation

3723. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make power generation licence free;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any action in this regard so far;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) With the enactment of Electricity Act, 2003 generation has been made licence free. Section 7 of the Act provides that any generating company may establish, operate and maintain a generating station without obtaining a licence under this Act if it complies with the technical standards relating to connectivity with the grid.

However, according to the provisions of Section 8 of the Act, a generating company intending to set up a hydro-generating station is required to submit the scheme to the Central Electricity Authority for its concurrence, if such a scheme is estimated to involve a capital expenditure exceeding such sum, as may be fixed by the Central Government by notification.

No license is required for establishing a capacity generating plant.

[English]

Collaboration with US for Airship Plan

3724. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether US firms has made a request for Indian Collaboration in the airship plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No concrete proposal from any US firm has been received for Indian collaboration in the airship plan.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

New LNG

3725. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to introduce new cheap Liquefied Natural Gas in future; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) In order to bridge large gap between demand and supply of natural gas one of the options is import of Natural Gas in the form of Liquefied

Natural Gas (LNG). LNG has been placed under Open General Licence (OGL) list and with permission for 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). The price of LNG will be market determined and would be higher than the price of domestically produced natural gas.

Petronet LNG Limited (PLL) a Joint Venture Company promoted by four Public Sector Oil Companies viz. GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL), Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) is setting up 5 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MMTPA) capacity LNG terminal at Dahej. The commercial production may commence in the 1st quarter of 2004.

Pilferage of Goods from Railway Yards

3726. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether incidents of pilferage of goods from railway yards during loading and unloading process have increased during the last three years;

(b) if so, the value of good pilfered during the last three-years, till date, Zone-wise;

(c) the number of persons found responsible therefor; and

(d) the action taken against them?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) 1344, 1274 and 1228 persons were arrested for theft and dealt under provisions of RP (UP) Act during the years 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03.

Allotment of Weapons/Arms and Ammunitions to Dealer

3727. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for allotment of weapons/arms and ammunitions to arms dealers by the Ordnance Factories;

(b) whether there is any provision to sale arms and ammunitions to arms licensee as per rate fixed by Ordnance Factories;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government are aware that arms and ammunitions are sold by Dealer at high price in black market;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The allotment of weapons/arms and ammunitions to arms dealers is done on the basis of the licence issued by the District Administration and the quantity authorised therein. The allocation per dealer is also regulated keeping in view the total availability of the weapons.

(b) and (c) Ordnance Factories directly sell 0.32" Revolver, 0.32" Pistol, 0.22" Sporting Rifle and 0.22" Revolver to the valid license holders as per the rate fixed by the Ordnance Factory Board. Ordnance Factories also sell weapons directly to the license holders who are given out of turn allotment by the Government.

(d) to (f) There is no legal framework or mechanism to enforce price control of arms and ammunition. The Ordnance Factory Board has, however, specified that the dealers should charge commission of 10% on the basic price apart from the actual transportation cost. An undertaking accepting this condition is being obtained from the dealers.

Decisions Taken by CMD of GAIL

3728. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:
SHRI SHIBU SOREN:
SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:

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

(a) whether the Minister's attention has been drawn towards the news item published in *Times of India* dated June 25, 2003 under the caption, "Ministry flares at GAIL chief's hot gas";

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that CMD, GAIL has violated the Navratna Board Guidelines;

(c) if so, the facts thereof;

(d) whether it is also a fact that CMD, GAIL has taken major decisions without any accordance of the GAIL Board; and

(e) if so, the details and action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (e) The matter is under consideration.

Import of Oil and Gas from Iraq

3729. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to import crude oil and natural gas from Iraq;

(b) whether Govt. have carried out any negotiation with Iraq in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of Petroleum products imported from Iraq during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) During 2002-03, 4.166 million metric tonne (MMT) of crude oil was imported in the country from Iraq.

During 2003-04, IOC has signed contract with M/s. SOMO, National Oil Company of Iraq, for supply of about 0.75 MMT of crude oil from October, 2003 to December, 2003. BPCL and HPCL also propose to enter into term contract with M/s. SOMO for supply of crude oil during 2003-04.

[Translation]

Medical Certificate to the Handicapped Persons

3730. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that handicapped persons have to undergo medical examination frequently in order to avail the facility to travel in trains;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the clear cut nature of rules for handicapped persons to avail the benefit of concession in train fares;

(d) whether the Government propose to issue any guidelines to accept the medical certificate as valid document on the basis of which disability certificate was issued; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) For Orthopaedically handicapped/paraplegic persons, the concession certificate is valid for (i) five years for persons upto 25 years of age, (ii) ten years for persons from 26 to 35 years of age and (iii) whole life for persons above 35 years of age. For Deaf and Dumb, Blind and Mentally Retarded persons, the certificate is valid for five years. After the above mentioned periods, fresh concession certificate is required to be obtained.

(c) Concessional rail tickets are issued directly at the stations on production of a copy of the requisite concession certificate in prescribed form issued by the prescribed authority. The original certificate is required to be produced for inspection if demanded at the time of purchasing ticket and during journey.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Crude Oil by Mangalore Refinery

3731. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate annual requirement of crude oil by Mangalore Refinery;

(b) whether the Government have taken steps for optimising procurement of crude oil for Mangalore Refinery; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Approximate requirement of crude oil for

Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL) is 9.5 million metric tonnes per annum.

(b) and (c) Imports of crude oil have since been decanalized. The Government has constituted an Empowered Standing Committee for procurement of crude oil for MRPL.

Power Generation by BHEL

3732. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the power generation machinery manufactured/Plants installed by the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) can generate power upto 70.8 per cent of their installed capacity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the power generated by the existing units of the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is comparatively lesser in terms of the above percentage; and

(d) if so, the power generation capacity of its units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) manufactured power generation plants are capable of generating more than 70.80% of their installed capacity.

(b) Power generated by BHEL supplied power generation plants for the year 2002-03 was 74.1% of their installed capacity.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Average capacity utilization (Plant Loard Factor) of BHEL sets comprising 200/210 MW and 500 MW units in the power stations of NTPC has been 84.9% during the financial year 2002-03.

[Translation]

Touch Screen Information Facility

3733. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of railway stations in Bihar and other States where 'Touch Screen' information facility has been provided at present alongwith the funds spent thereon, State-wise;

(b) whether the Railways propose to start this facility at other railway stations also;

(c) if so, the names thereof and the funds earmarked for this purpose; and

(d) the time by which this facility is likely to be provided at these stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) List of stations, State-wise, provided with Touch Screen terminals alongwith the expenditure incurred thereon is given in statement I.

(b) to (d) List of stations where Touch Screen terminals are proposed to be provided alongwith funding details and time frame to install these terminals is given in statement II.

Statement I

State-wise List of Stations provided with 'Touch Screen' Terminals

State	Stations	Expenditure Incurred (Rupees)
1	2	2
Karnataka	Gulbarga	1,78,388/-
Kerala	Ernakulam	Sponsored by private agency
Maharashtra	Mumbai CST Bhusawal Nasik Road	Sponsored by private agencies

1	2	2
	Akola	
	Sholapur	
	Churchgate	
	Mumbai Central	
	Bandra Terminus	
	Andheri	
	Borivally	
Madhya Pradesh	Indore	Sponsored by private agency
	Jabalpur	Rs. 16,56,000/-
	Madan Mahal	
	Katni	
	Satna	
	Sagar	
	Damoh	
	Bhopal	
	Habibganj	
Orissa	Bhubaneswar	Sponsored by private agency
Rajasthan	Jaipur	Sponsored by private agency
Tamilnadu	Madurai	Sponsored by private agency
	Chennai	
West Bengal	New Kollaghat	Sponsored by private agencies
	Fairlie Place	
	Shyambazar	
	Russa Road	
	Burra Bazar	
	Howrah	
	Sealdah	
	Ballyganj	
	Dum-Dum Jn.	
	Howrah (S)	
	Kharagpur	
	Old Kollaghat (Kolkata)	

Statement II

List of stations proposed to be provided with 'Touch Screen' Terminals

Station	Likely Expenditure	Time Frame
1	2	3
Delhi	To be provided on sponsorship basis.	As and when sponsors are found.
New Delhi	To be provided on sponsorship basis.	As and when sponsors are found.
Hazrat Nizamuddin	To be provided on sponsorship basis.	As and when sponsors are found.

1	2	3
IRCA	To be provided on sponsorship basis.	As and when sponsors are found.
Tallyganj	To be provided on sponsorship basis.	As and when sponsors are found.
Khidderpore	To be provided on sponsorship basis.	As and when sponsors are found.
Chowringhee	To be provided on sponsorship basis.	As and when sponsors are found.
Sonarpur	To be provided on sponsorship basis.	As and when sponsors are found.
Sonarpur	To be provided on sponsorship basis.	As and when sponsors are found.
Jabalpur		Likely to be provided by the end of current financial year.
Katni	Rs. 4,80,000/-	Likely to be provided by the end of current financial year.
Satna		Likely to be provided by the end of current financial year.
Ravindra Sadan (Kolkata)	To be provided on sponsorship basis.	By December' 2004
Ranchi	To be provided on sponsorship basis.	By December' 2004
Bokaro Steel City Tata Nagar	To be provided on sponsorship basis.	By December' 2004
Rourkela	To be provided on sponsorship basis.	By December' 2004
Behrampur	To be provided on sponsorship basis.	By December' 2004
Puri	To be provided on sponsorship basis.	By December' 2004
Sambalpur	To be provided on sponsorship basis.	By December' 2004
Vishakhapatnam	To be provided on sponsorship basis.	By December' 2004
Raipur	To be provided on sponsorship basis.	By December' 2004
Durg	To be provided on sponsorship basis.	By December' 2004
Bilaspur	To be provided on sponsorship basis.	By December' 2004
Churchgate		Likely to be provided by the end of current financial year.
Mumbai Central		Likely to be provided by the end of current financial year.
Bandra Terminus	Rs. 24.81 lacs	Likely to be provided by the end of current financial year.
Andheri		Likely to be provided by the end of current financial year.
Borivally		Likely to be provided by the end of current financial year.

1	2	3
Rajkot	Rs. 2.50 lacs	Likely to be provided by the end of current financial year.
Ahmedabad	Rs. 2.50 lacs	Likely to be provided by the end of current financial year.
Ratlam	Rs. 2.50 lacs	Likely to be provided by the end of current financial year.
Ujjain	Rs. 2.50 lacs	Likely to be provided by the end of current financial year.
Mhow	Rs. 2.50 lacs	Likely to be provided by the end of current financial year.
Nagpur	To be provided on sponsorship basis.	As and when sponsors are found.
Wardha	To be provided on sponsorship basis.	As and when sponsors are found.
Betul	To be provided on sponsorship basis.	As and when sponsors are found.
Chandrapur	To be provided on sponsorship basis.	As and when sponsors are found.

[English]

Setting up of Biogas Plants

3734. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of biogas plants proposed to be set up in the country during the Tenth Plan, State-wise; and

(b) the funding pattern of these biogas plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) A target of setting up of 10 lakh family type biogas plants has been fixed for the Tenth Plan under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme—National Biogas and Manure Management Programme. State-wise details are worked out on an annual basis in consultation with State nodal departments and programme implementing agencies. Information on State-wise and agency-wise targets allocated for setting up biogas plants during the first two years of the Tenth Plan, i.e., 2002-03 and 2003-04, is given at statement I.

(b) The pattern of Central subsidy given for setting up of family type biogas plants during the year 2002-03 and 2003-04 is mentioned at statement II.

Statement I

State-wise and agency-wise targets allocated for setting up of family type biogas plants during the first two years of the Tenth Five Year Plan, i.e. 2002-03 and 2003-04, under National Biogas and Manure Management Programme

State/Union Territory/Agency	Target (Number of plants)	
	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	15400	16000
Arunachal Pradesh	300	300
Assam	200	200
Bihar	500	4000
Chhattisgarh	8000	5000
Gujarat	7000	7000
Goa	100	100
Haryana	1000	1500
Himachal Pradesh	250	250

1	2	3
Jammu & Kashmir	100	20
Jharkhand	200	1000
Karnataka	20000	27500
Kerala	1500	2000
Madhya Pradesh	10850	12000
Maharashtra	10000	8000
Manipur	300	300
Meghalaya	200	300
Mizoram	400	400
Nagaland	300	300
Orissa	13000	15000
Punjab	3000	3000
Rajasthan	200	200
Sikkim	400	400
Tamil Nadu	2000	2000
Tripura	300	300
Uttar Pradesh	10000	10000
Uttaranchal	500	500
West Bengal	13000	15400
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	—	15
Pondicherry	—	15
Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Mumbai (for All States, except Orissa)	20000	25060
Sustainable Development Agency, Kanjirapally, Kerala (for Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamilnadu and Pondicherry States only)	10000	—
BIOTECH, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala (for Kerala and Tamilnadu States only)	1000	2000
Total	150000	160000

Statement II

Pattern of Central subsidy given for setting up of family type biogas plants during the years 2002-2003 and 2003-04 under National Biogas and Manure Management 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 & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal (excluding terai region), Nilgiris of Tamil Nadu; Sadar Kursoong and Kalimkpong sub-divisions of the Darjeeling district (WB), Sunderbans, Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Rs. 3,500/-
Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, desert district, small and marginal farmers, landless labourers, terai region of Uttaranchal, Western Ghats and other notified hilly areas	Rs. 2,300/-
Others	Rs. 1,800/-

Freight Subsidy Scheme of LPG in Arunachal Pradesh

3735. SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued a Notification on January 28, 2003 for 'Freight Subsidy' scheme, 2002 for giving subsidy in respect of LPG for the far flung areas in North-East including Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether according to the said notification public of the far flung areas will get the freight subsidy on domestic LPG and PDS Kerosene with effect from April 1, 2002 for the areas mentioned without any discrimination; and

(c) the reasons why the IOCL has not implemented the Scheme and has not passed on the freight subsidy to the people of far flung areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Under the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM), freight subsidy on Domestic LPG and PDS Kerosene supplied to the hilly areas including north-east was provided from the Oil Pool Account. After dismantling of APM w.e.f. 1.4.2002, with a view to continue freight subsidy on Domestic LPG and PDS Kerosene for far flung areas, the Government have announced "Freight Subsidy (For Far-Flung Areas) Scheme 2002" vide gazette notification dated 28th January, 2003. The Scheme provides for freight subsidy on transportation of domestic LPG and PDS Kerosene in Far-flung areas including Arunachal Pradesh with effect from 1st April, 2002.

Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has already implemented the above scheme thereby benefiting the people of the identified far-flung areas.

Dues to Foreign Airlines

3736. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign airlines owe huge amount to Public Sector Oil Companies in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) since when these outstanding are due; and

(d) the steps taken to recover the dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) Tajikistan International Airlines is the only foreign airline which has defaulted in the payment towards the supply of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF). The total principal amount outstanding from the customer is Rs. 50.98 lakhs. Tajikistan International Airlines had been customer of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) from February 1995 to December 1995. Initially the payments were forthcoming on mutually agreed terms. However, over a period of time, the outstanding accumulated and the airline discontinued its operations in December 1995. A principal amount of Rs. 50.98 lakhs has not been paid by the customer. After the failure of all efforts for recovering the dues, legal actions have been initiated by HPCL.

Setting up of Special Monitoring System

3737. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had set up a special monitoring system in association with Central Electricity Authority to monitor each power project and to identify and remove hurdles;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of projects monitored by the said monitoring system so far;

(d) the grids where hurdles were detected; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (e) The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) reviews the progress of power projects on a monthly basis. An in-depth joint review by the Ministry of Power with the CEA is undertaken every quarter. For each project, a nodal officer has been designated in the CEA for monitoring on day to day basis with a view to facilitating resolutions of bottlenecks through interactions with the concerned agencies at appropriate levels.

In the 10th Plan, a capacity of 41,110 MW has been targeted and projects which would enable the achievement of the target are being monitored.

So far, no grid related hurdles have been faced except in case of Pykara Hydro-Electric Project (3x50 MW) in Tamil Nadu where construction of Associated Transmission Line is held up for want of environmental clearance.

Loan Waiver for Burn Standard

3738. SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Loan waiver for Burn Standard" which appeared in the *Telegraph* dated January 4, 2003;

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

(c) whether although the approval of the Cabinet was taken in the month of January, 2003 it is yet to be communicated and no reflection thereof has been made in the Annual Accounts of the Burn Standard Company Limited for the year 2002-2003;

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

(e) the action contemplated by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE): (a) and (b) A Financial Restructuring package for BSCL has been approved involving waiver of outstanding Government loan and interest subject to Joint Venture formation.

(c) to (e) The restructuring package is to be made available only after the selection of joint venture partner. The effect of restructuring can get reflected in the annual accounts of the company only after the locating of joint venture partner.

[Translation]

Implementation of Disabilities Act

3739. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:
SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

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

(a) whether the disabled persons are ignored and discriminated in the matter of meeting their basic needs and providing them education and job opportunities despite the implementation of the Disabilities Act;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) names of the States which have not implemented the basic provisions of this Act;

(d) the action taken by the Government against them; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for proper implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 and National Trust Act, 1999 for the welfare of disabled persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities appointed under the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 has been vested with the powers to take steps to safeguard rights and facilities made available to persons with disabilities and also to look into complaints with respect to denial of rights of persons with disabilities, especially relating to non-implementation of laws, rules, bye-laws, regulations, executive orders, guidelines or instructions issued by the Government. If a specific instance is brought to notice, the matter is taken up with the Government. If a specific instance is brought to notice, the matter is taken up with the appropriate authorities for redressal of grievance. The Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities appointed in States/Union Territory Administration also takes action in this regard.

(c) The implementation of the provisions of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 requires a multi-sectoral collaborative approach of Central Government, the State Governments and local authorities. The State Governments have by and large taken steps to implement various provisions of the Act.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Information is provided statement.

Statement

Action to implement various provisions of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights

and Full Participation) Act, 1995 has been initiated in the right earnest since its adoption. Existing institutions have been strengthened. New institutions/organizations have been set up and the outlay for the disability sector have been increased substantially since 1995-96. Periodic meetings of Central Coordination Committee, and Central Executive Committee are held to review implementation of the Act. The Ministry, as the nodal Ministry for implementation of various provisions of the Act, has also taken up major issues with the concerned State Governments/U.T. Administrations and Central Ministries/ Departments. The Chief Ministers of the States have also been requested to expedite the process of implementation of the Act. After persistent efforts, by now, all States have appointed Commissioners for Persons with Disabilities.

The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is supporting six National Institutes/Apex level institutions set up 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 appliances for persons with disabilities. A scheme has also been approved for setting up of four Auxiliary Production Centres of Artificial Limb Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) to expand the production capacity and for easy availability of quality aids and appliances. 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. Under the Schemes for Promotion of Voluntary actions for persons with disabilities and Assistance to Disabled persons for Purchase and fitting of aids and appliances. (ADIP), grant in aid assistance is released to voluntary organizations for running special education and vocational training programmes, placement services, shelter workshops, home based services, etc. and for purchase, fabrication and distribution of aids and appliances, respectively.

The Government has taken initiatives for ensuring wider coverage and holistic rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. One hundred and thirty districts have been identified for setting up District Centres with the objective of providing 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. Besides, the National Programme for Rehabilitation of persons with Disabilities (NPRPD) scheme has been approved in the State sector for creating infrastructure at State/District/ Block and Gram Panchayat level for providing comprehensive rehabilitation services.

The National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999 has been enacted for the welfare of the target group. The National Trust set up in 2000 under the Act extends support to registered organisations to provide need based services during periods of crisis in the family of the persons with disability and also promotes measures for care and protection of these persons in the event of death of their parents or guardians. Steps are also taken for the welfare and care of persons with autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation and multiple disabilities that 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.

[English]

Damage to protected Archaeological Sites by Ordnance Factory

3740. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ordnance Factory is coming up at Rajgir;

(b) whether the said Ordnance Factory is causing irreparable damage to some protected archaeological sites in the area;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reasons for the Ordnance Factory has been brought within the visible distance of the world heritage sites of peace made sacred by Lord Buddha?

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

(b) No, Sir.

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

(d) After survey of the proposed location, the Archaeological Survey of India accorded the requisite clearance with some conditions.

Vacant Posts in Engineering Service of DD/AIR

3741. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of posts of Engineering Service in Civil Construction Wing of All India Radio and Doordarshan are lying vacant;

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

(c) the number of such vacant posts filled up during the last two years and number of candidates belonging to SCs/STs who have been promoted against these vacancies; and

(d) the details of the categories of SCs/STs employees who have been promoted in engineering service in Doordarshan and All India Radio during the last two years?

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

[Translation]

Dispute between GAIL and Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation

3742. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any differences exists between the Gas Authority of India Limited and the Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation with regard to share holding in the Ahmedabad Exploration Block;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the GAIL is making efforts to obtain the business of supply and distribution of gas in the State; and

(d) if so, the locations of the State where the GAIL is interested in doing business?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL) is trying to tie-up for gas from various sources of domestic production and imported LNG at Dahej and Hazira to distribute to various consumers in Gujarat along its pipeline network.

Power Generation from NCES in Tamil Nadu

3743. SHRI ADHI SANKAR: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the power generated by the solar energy, wind mills, bio-gas and sea waves in each district of Tamil Nadu during each of the last three years and the expenditure incurred thereon;

(b) the power estimated to be generated in each district from the above sources from August 1, 2003 to December 31, 2004 and the likely cost involved therein; and

(c) the subsidy proposed to be provided to each project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) Power generated from non-conventional energy sources in Tamil Nadu during the last three years, i.e, 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 was about 1.7, 1.9 and 2.0 billion units respectively. A power generating capacity of 44 MW, 55 MW and 136 MW was installed during the last three years, involving total investment of around Rs. 1200 crores.

(b) Projects have come up in various districts of the State depending upon renewable energy resources availability and techno-economic viability. Annual electricity generation of about two billion units from 1178 MW of non-conventional energy sources installed as on 31.03.2003 is estimated in the State.

(c) Fiscal and financial incentives are available for non-conventional energy projects such as accelerated depreciation, relief in taxes and duties and term loans from financial institutions, including the Indian Renewable

Energy Development Agency (IREDA). Central Financial Assistance in the form of capital subsidy and interest subsidy is provided for different types and categories of projects.

[English]

Criteria for Opening of Computerised Railway Reservation Centre

3744. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI C.N. SINGH;
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:
SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE:
SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:
SHRI SHASHI KUMAR:
SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for opening of computerized railway reservation centre;

(b) the details of the demands/requests/ representations received from various quarters/State Governments for opening of computerized railway reservation centres during the last two years, station-wise;

(c) the procedure followed for fulfilment of those demands/requests/representations; and

(d) the present status of each demand/request/ representations, separately?

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

Mining along Delhi-Jodhpur Rail Track

3745. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the illegal horizontal marble mining activity in Makarana along the Delhi-Jodhpur railway track endangering the safety of the track;

(b) if so, the whether the Government have made any survey of the illegal mining near the railway track and examined the seriousness of the situation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (d) No mining activity, endangering Delhi-Jodhpur main line, is presently being done. However, earlier the danger arose due to unauthorized mining on Makrana-Parbatsar branch line. No rail traffic is allowed on this line at present. Railway pursued the matter in High Court, Jodhpur to restrain unauthorized mining and also pursued with Chief Secretary, Government of Rajasthan. An amount of Rs. 3.93 crore has been deposited by Sangmarmar Khan Vikas Samiti for alternate alignment of this branch line.

Regular inspections of all Railway affecting works (activities or structures around Railway track which may affect Railway track) are undertaken by Railway officials at periodical intervals and remedial action taken whenever required.

Payment of Royalty to Artists

3746. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to pay royalty to lyricists, composers and publishers to encourage music;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the rate at which royalty would be paid; and

(c) the other steps taken/likely to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that they have recently taken a decision to pay royalty to lyricists, composers and publishers.

(b) and (c) Prasar Bharati has informed that the details are being worked out to implement the decision.

Nomination of Balmiki Member in Film Censor Board

3747. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to nominate a Balmiki Member in the Film Censor Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/likely to be taken by the Government so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) According to the Cinematograph Act, 1952, the Central Government by notification in the Official Gazette constitutes a Board called the Board of Film Certification, consisting of a Chairman and not less than 12 and not more than 25 other members appointed by the Government. The Cinematograph Act does not provide any reservation for any community on this Board. The functioning of the Board is made further broad based with the association in the certification process of the Advisory Panel members in each of its nine regional offices. Any of the members of the Board or the Advisory Panels may belong to the Balmiki or any other community.

Malpractices by Dealers

3748. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil Marketing Companies take into account the malpractices committed by dealers for taking decisions in terms of MDG;

(b) if so, whether such provisions are provided in the aforesaid guidelines and have been informed by OMC's to dealers;

(c) if so, whether such provisions are also applicable for LPG distributors;

(d) if not, the reasons of having a different stand in two set of guidelines; and

(e) the manner in which OMC's can take coercive action against dealers without Government's approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Provisions have been made in the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) for taking various types of action against the erring dealers/distributors for the various irregularities/malpractices made by them.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Not applicable.

(e) Action against erring dealers/distributors is taken in line with the MDG approved by the Government and/or Dealership/Distributorship Agreement entered into with them.

Tender for Supply of Surface Wheel Lathes

3749. SHRI THOMAS HANSDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether COFMOW (Central Organisation for Modernisation of Workshops) has invited tender from indigenous manufacturers for supply of 6 No. surface wheel lathes, which are urgently required by Indian Railways;

(b) whether above said tender had been cancelled after advertising in all newspapers after spending huge amount for advertisement;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Railway propose to import these machines and to suit the importation, tender specifications have been revised;

(e) the reasons Railways propose to import these wheel lathes irrespective of the fact that there are two established manufacturers in the country including one PSU in Bihar;

(f) whether Railways propose to procure all imported machinery irrespective of indigenous capacities, citing Indian manufacturers performance as very poor; and

(g) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir. COFMOW had invited an advertised tender for 6 surface wheel lathes on July 10, 2003.

(b) and (c) Under Bid Invitation Tender No. OPB-194, dated July 10, 2003, offers have been invited for seven different types of machines, one of which is wheel lathes.

The tender for wheel lathes only was cancelled by COFMOW because on June 20, 2003, Railway Board asked them to upgrade the specifications for wheel lathes and to invite Global Tenders.

(d) The tender specifications are being upgraded to meet Indian Railways' requirements for quality, productivity, reliability and lowest life-cycle cost for these costly assets.

The decision to import or to buy indigenous machines would depend on the merits of the offers that are received. The effort would be to buy the lowest technically suitable offer based on the criteria spelt out in the tender.

(e) The two indigenous manufacturers are expected to bid when fresh tenders are invited. They may do so on their own or in technical collaboration with any other supplier, as needed to meet the railways requirements. There is no *a priori* decision to import.

(f) and (g) There is no proposal to procure only imported machinery. Any decision to purchase from a particular source is based on facts applicable to the purchase case in question.

Complaints from Cable Customers in Mumbai

3750. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has initiated action on the complaints received from 50,000 cable customers of Mumbai;

(b) if so, whether cable operators arbitrarily disconnected cable customers' connections;

(c) if so, whether Cable Act (Amended) makes the Police Commissioner responsible to take proper action;

(d) if so, whether any interaction has been taken place between Ministry and Maharashtra Government and Mumbai Police regarding providing protection to cable customers;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the other action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) On the basis of complaints from various quarters, Government had decided to bring forward the amendment Act for regulating the operation of television networks through an addressable system. After monitoring the status of preparedness for introducing CAS and discussions with various stakeholders, viz. Broadcasters, MSOs, cable operators and consumer Groups, it has been decided to roll out CAS in a zonal phased manner in the metros of Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata and in the entire Chennai Metropolitan area w.e.f 1.9.2003. Government has also specified Rs. 72/-(plus taxes) as the maximum price of basic service tier, consisting of not less than 30 free-to-air channels.

(c) to (f) Commissioner of Police, DM/SDM and other officers, notified by the State or the Central Government, have been made authorized officers by the provisions of the Cable Act, 1995. This provision of the Cable Act is in addition to the provision of Cinematograph Act, 1952, the Copyright Act, 1957 and the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has been taking regular action for effective implementation and monitoring of the provisions of Cable Act, whenever any violation is brought to its notice.

Amount Spent on Bridge Works

3751. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of allocation of fund for bridge works out of total Plan allocation in the year 2001-2002 and 2002-2003;

(b) whether total allocated fund has been spent on bridge work in the years given above;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government have taken initiative to rehabilitate bridges under Special Railway Safety Fund; and

(f) if so, details of rehabilitation taken place under this fund and details of number of bridges to be rehabilitated during Tenth Plan period under this fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The percentage of allocation of funds out of the total plan during 2001-02 and 2002-03 under Bridge Works was 1% and 2% respectively.

(b) to (d) During 2001-02 the total allocation (gross) for bridge works was Rs. 111.51 cr, as per Revised Estimate, against which the expenditure was Rs. 108.06 cr. In 2002-03, the expenditure is Rs. 199.50 cr. against the allocation of Rs. 219.84 cr. in Revised Estimate. Funds allocated have been, by and large, utilised.

(e) and (f) Total 2700 bridges have been sanctioned for rebuilding/rehabilitation under Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF). 776 bridges have been rehabilitated up to 2002-03 and balance bridges are planned to be rehabilitated in next four years.

Part-Time Correspondents

3752. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prasar Bharati have decided to appoint part-time correspondents in all the districts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith likely expenditure on the same vis-a-vis fee being paid to PTI and UNI for obtaining their services; and

(c) the reasons which compelled the Prasar Bharati to do away with the services of PTI and UNI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Prasar Bharati has informed that it propose to engage 278 more part-time correspondents, raising their strength to 524. This will entail additional annual expenditure by approx. Rs. 89 lakhs. PTI and UNI are being paid annual fee at the rate of Rs. 710.16 lakhs and Rs. 576.78 lakhs respectively.

(c) The services of PTI and UNI are not being done away with.

[Translation]

Track Condition between Nagpur-Itarasi

3753. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the bad condition of the Nagpur-Itarasi railway track;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether despite the bad condition of the said track, super fast trains are running at the speed of 110 kilometres per hour thereon; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) The condition of track between Nagpur-Itarasi is satisfactory.

(c) and (d) The track is fit for running trains at 110 kmph. Railways have a system of regular inspection of track and maintenance of track is a continuous action for ensuring safety.

Construction of Rail Bridges

3754. SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of funds allocated by the Government for construction of rail bridges during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the number of rail bridges sanctioned during that Plan period and the number of bridges, construction of which have been completed;

(c) the number of bridges still under construction; and

(d) the expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Rs. 401.33 crores was allocated for rehabilitation/rebuilding of Railway bridges during 9th Five Year Plan (1.4.1997 to 31.3.2002).

(b) Rehabilitation/rebuilding work of 3401 sanctioned bridges were completed during IX Plan period.

(c) and (d) As on 1.4.2003, total 5375 bridges are sanctioned for rehabilitation/rebuilding which are at various stages of execution. An amount of Rs. 209.3 crores was allocated and expenditure of Rs. 199.5 crores was

incurred during 2002-03 for rehabilitation/rebuilding of Railway bridges.

[English]

Expansion of Song and Drama Division

3755. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal for the expansion of Song and Drama Division;

(b) if so, the places where the branches are proposed to be set up in the country during 2003-2004;

(c) whether any unit of Song and Drama Division is proposed to be opened in Orissa in that year;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other steps 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) and (b) A scheme for opening of Regional and Sub-Centres at Dehradun, Raipur, Agartala and Aizwal, respectively was included by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in 10th Five Year Plan proposals. However, the Planning Commission has advised the Ministry to undertake an evaluation study of the schemes before going in for the proposed expansion.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. An office of Song and Drama Division is already functioning at Bhubaneshwar.

Environmental Clearance of Hubli-Ankola Rail Line

3756. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have received the environmental clearance of Hubli-Ankola rail line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken to get environmental clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) No environmental clearance is require for Railway projects. However, Forestry clearance is required for Hubli-Ankola new line project for which a proposal has already been submitted to the State Government.

Power Transmission and Distribution

3757. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether major conferences cum business meets were organized from August 2001 to February 2002 in connection with Power Policy; and

(b) if so, the details of follow up actions taken by the Government on the decisions on transmission-distribution etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir. Several International Conference and Business Meets were organized during the period from August, 2001 to February 2002 in connection with various aspects of power policy.

(b) The Electricity Act, 2003 that has come into force w.e.f. 10th June, 2003 consolidates the laws relating to generation, transmission, distribution, trading and use of electricity and provides measures for development of electricity industry, promoting competition therein, protecting interest of consumers and supply of electricity to all areas.

Under the provisions of section 3 of the Act, the Central Government is required to formulate National Electricity and Tariff Policy in consultation with the State Governments and the Central Electricity Authority (CEA). Consultations have been initiated. Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) is required to advise the Central Government on formulation of National Electricity Policy and Tariff Policy. Its advice has been received.

Norms of Navratna Board for Houses

3758. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:
SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have known about the Navratna Board's prescribed norms for total expenditure to be incurred by Public Sector Undertakings/ State PSUs for the residence of Chairman, CMD, MD, members of the Board and senior officials;

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

(c) whether the number of PSUs have purchased a number of houses and thus resulted in blocking public money;

(d) if so, the facts thereof;

(e) whether any enquiry is conducted by the Government to check violations to the norms laid down by the said Board; and

(f) if so, the details/findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE): (a) to (f) No specific guidelines have been issued for providing residential accommodation to the Chairman, CMD, MD, Members of the Board and Senior Officials of the Navratna Enterprises. The general guidelines issued in this regard by the Government on 25th June, 1999 and 5th June, 2003 for all the Central Public Sector Undertakings are also applicable to Navratna PSUs. State PSUs are not covered under these guidelines. The power to decide appropriate leased residential accommodation to these executives of CPSUs has been delegated to their respective Boards of Directors. Any violation of these guidelines is looked into by the concerned administrative Ministry/Department and this information is not centrally maintained.

[Translation]

Control Over Pay Channels

3759. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to bring broadcasting sector within the preview of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) besides the telecom sector in order to tighten its control over pay channels; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith with the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) There is a felt need for an institutional mechanism for regulation of some aspects of broadcasting. Examination of the working of the some institutions/authorities in selected countries and a wider consultation with stakeholders and examination of various possibilities would be necessary for deciding on the appropriate framework.

[English]

Unauthorised Entry in Reserved Compartments

3760. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether daily passengers be allowed to travel in reserved compartments;

(b) whether daily passengers sit on the vacant seats and do not vacate the seat when the person with confirmed ticket request them to vacate the seat;

(c) whether the Government are aware that even ticket collector/inspector do not ask them to vacate the seat, due to which passengers with reserved tickets faced a lot of difficulties during their journey particularly when they are travelling with their family;

(d) whether the Government are also aware that some daily passengers even consumed liquor openly in train and when other passengers objected they started quarrel with them;

(e) whether the Railway is going to initiate any steps to stop this problem so that passengers with reserved ticket will travel without any problem; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Some instances of unauthorised travel by short distance/local passengers causing inconvenience to bonafide passengers have come to notice. The Train Ticket Checking staff ask such passengers to vacate the seats and have instructions to penalise such passengers.

Besides, special checks are also organized to curb this menace.

(d) to (f) Drunkenness is an offence under the Railways Act. Consumption of liquor in trains is not rampant while some stray cases may occur. Such cases are dealt with individually by ticket checking staff and by seeking the assistance of Police. Statistics about such cases are not maintained separately.

Free Power to States

3761. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to do away with the present system of providing 12% free power to the States having hydel projects;

(b) if so, whether the Government have issued any instructions to the State Governments in this regard;

(c) if so, whether some States have already been agreed to this move, which is aimed at reducing tariff;

(d) if so, the other alternative the Government considers to provide to the States to improve the power projects in their States; and

(e) the States at present which lacks power position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The formula for sharing of power of Central Sector Hydro-electric Projects amongst the beneficiary States provides for 12% free power for the Home State(s). However, in some cases, where the tariff is found to be high, the matter has been discussed with the concerned States on a case to case basis, to reduce/do away with the provision of free power e.g. Government of Madhya Pradesh has agreed to forego 12% free power from Omkareshwar Project (520 MW) to make the project viable.

(e) State-wise power supply position is as statement.

Statement

Actual Power Supply Position

(Figures in MU net)

State/ System/ Region	July' 2003				April-July' 2003			
	Requirement	Availability	Surplus/Deficit (—)		Requirement	Availability	Surplus/Deficit (—)	
	(MU)	(MU)	(MU)	%	(MU)	(MU)	(MU)	%
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Chandigarh	110	110	0	0.0	406	405	-1	-0.2
Delhi	1893	1860	-33	-1.7	7240	7125	-115	-1.6
Haryana	1909	1815	-94	-4.9	7000	6737	-263	-3.8
Himachal Pradesh	308	307	-1	0.3	1161	1157	-4	-0.3
Jammu & Kashmir	602	568	-34	-5.6	2320	2147	-173	-7.5
Punjab	3455	3370	-85	-2.5	11418	11234	-184	-1.6
Rajasthan	1700	1684	-16	-0.9	7800	7728	-72	-0.9
Uttar Pradesh	3676	3251	-425	-11.6	14973	13285	-1688	-11.3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Uttaranchal	362	359	-3	-0.8	1354	1332	-22	-1.6
Northern Region	14015	13324	-691	-4.9	53672	51150	-2522	-4.7
Chhattisgarh	782	766	-16	-2.0	3564	3391	-173	-4.9
Gujarat	4055	3707	348	-8.6	17873	15774	-2099	-11.7
Madhya Pradesh	2062	1900	-162	-7.9	9564	7703	-1861	-19.5
Maharashtra	6349	5882	-467	-7.4	27899	25247	-2652	-9.5
Goa	154	154	0	0.0	645	645	0	0.0
Western Region	13402	12409	-993	-7.4	59545	52760	-6785	-11.4
Andhra Pradesh	3467	3352	-115	-3.3	14297	13722	-575	-4.0
Karnataka	2800	2350	-450	-16.1	11067	9566	-1501	-13.6
Kerala	1007	979	-28	-2.8	4281	4109	-172	-4.0
Tamil Nadu	3719	3695	-24	-0.6	15107	14957	-150	-1.0
Pondicherry	124	124	0	0.0	493	493	0	0.0
Southern Region	11117	10500	-617	-5.6	45245	42847	-2398	-5.3
Bihar	658	482	-176	-26.7	2471	1844	-627	-25.4
DVC	682	671	-11	-1.6	2612	2588	-24	-0.9
Jharkhand	276	253	-23	-8.3	1023	982	-41	-4.0
Orissa	1166	1146	-20	-1.7	4512	4446	-66	-1.5
West Bengal + Sikkim	1990	1929	-61	-3.1	7675	7539	-136	-1.8
Eastern Region	4772	4481	-291	-6.1	18293	17399	-894	-4.9
Arunachal Pradesh	17	17	0	0.0	65	63	-2	3.1
Assam	305	292	-13	-4.3	1126	1058	-68	-6.0
Manipur	42	42	0	0.0	145	142	-3	-2.1
Meghalaya	96	96	0	0.0	300	292	-8	-2.7
Mizoram	22	22	0	0.0	87	86	-1	-1.1
Nagaland	27	27	0	0.0	93	92	-1	-1.1
Tripura	60	60	0	0.0	230	220	-10	-4.3
North-Eastern Region	569	556	-13	-2.3	2046	1953	-93	-4.5
All India	43875	41270	-2605	-5.9	178801	166109	-12692	-7.1

Community Listening Scheme

3762. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the supply of receiving sets by the Government under the community listening scheme during each of the last three years, State-wise/Union territory-wise; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to preserve and maintain the relevance and importance of radio in the present T.V. era?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Nil.

(b) All India Radio reaches about 99% of population and 92% of geographical area in the country. Programmes on AIR remain preferred one in rural and semi-urban areas, since the emphasis is more on useful information and meaningful education, like healthy life and living, new and modern agricultural practices, acquaintance with national and international events, news bulletins in many languages and dialects. Phone-in-programmes have also been introduced for live interaction with the audience. FM Radio due to its noise free reception has become very popular in urban areas and the metros. To expand the reach of FM in the country, 72 Nos. of new FM stations have been proposed in the draft 10th Five Year Plan.

Claiming of Tax in Bill

3763. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether NTPC is still claiming income tax in their bills for energy charges although income tax holiday is available for the first 10 years operation of the generating station;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government of Kerala has taken up the matter in this regard; and

(d) if so, the reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The tariff for National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) stations is determined by Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC). Under the existing dispensation 16 per cent post tax return on equity is allowed with actual tax liability being borne by the consumers.

Prior to 31.03.2001, the incidence of tax liability after taking into account rebate, tax holiday etc. under the Income Tax Act was being computed for entire company and was being allocated to the respective power stations in proportion to the operating capacity. Subsequently, CERC vide its notification during 2001 have issued tariff norms to be applicable for tariff period from April, 2001 to March, 2004 and as per these norms, income tax liability shall be computed station wise after allowing benefits etc., as per provisions of Income Tax Act to the respective stations. However, CERC vide its subsequent orders have extended upto 30.09.2003 the pattern of billing charges prior to 31.03.2001 subject to retrospective adjustment on the determination of tariff by CERC with effect from 1.04.2001. NTPC has been billing Income Tax etc., accordingly as per the directions of CERC.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Government of Kerala have raised the issue of payment of income tax. However, the Government of Kerala was clarified by NTPC that the tariff for Kayamkulam station is being charged on provisional basis in accordance with the orders of CERC.

[Translation]

Reduction in Staff Strength

3764. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to reduce the strength of Railway employees from 15 lakhs at present to 12 lakhs by the year 2010;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) the staff strength proposed to be reduced in the Railways in each of the ensuing years; and

(d) the economy likely to be effected thereby, year-wise by the Railways?

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

(b) The Indian Railways has planned to right size the staff strength in the organization by controlling fresh recruitment in the vacancies caused by normal process of superannuation and natural attrition. Indian Railways' right sizing activities are in accordance with the initiative taken by the Government to right size the manpower as reflected in the Budget Speech of 2001-2002 of the Finance Minister.

(c) and (d) With an estimated 3% of staff retiring every year and by restricting the intake to 1% per annum, the staff strength is planned to be reduced by about 2% per annum. Moreover, the Railways have been adopting modern technology in various facets of Railway working e.g. modern track structure, signaling system, improved operating practices, etc. Railways have also been using the benchmarking principles to develop and implement the best practices, which would help in rationalizing the workforce vis-a-vis activities. These would result in reduction in overall expenditure (due to reducing staff costs), which would improve the financial performance of the organization and improve the economy. Improved financial performance of organization would also mean that more funds can be used in further productive areas, which would result in overall boost to the economy.

[English]

Setting up of Production Units in Gujarat

3765. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat had sent a representation to the Union Government for setting up of Defence Production Unit in the State; and

(b) if so, the action taken on the representation so far?

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

(b) A Task Force has been asked to examine the issue.

Modernisation of Retail Outlets by IOCL

3766. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

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

(a) whether IOCL has decided to spend several crores for the modernisatin of retail outlets throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether most of the IOCL retail outlets are neither providing quality of service nor offering better facilities to customers;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government to provide better consumer friendly facilities at various retail outlets in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) In order to meet the challenges of Free Market Economy, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has embarked upon modernisation of Retail Outlets (ROs) to international standards to face competition. Under the modernisation programme, ROs are provided with upgraded facilities for customer benefits such as Canopy, Multi Product Pumps, Digital Air Inflators, Pre Mix Pumps for dispensing Lube blended fuel, etc. Moreover, to improve the ambience of ROs as well as to create customer delight, driveway and yard lighting has been improved at the ROs and a new colour scheme has been adopted alongwith backlit rainbow facia and signages. This is an ongoing process, required to maintain the market leadership in the competitive scenario as customers will have several choices at all the modern outlets of various oil companies in the market. The modernisation of ROs will be based on the type of facilities to be provided and the extent of land available in the RO. The approximate cost of modernisation would be Rs. 20-25 lakhs per RO.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. IOCL always endeavours to ensure availability of customer oriented facilities at all the ROs, including the basic facilities such as drinking water, Air, toilet facility, first aid box, etc. In addition, to provide value added facilities for the customers, facilities such as Convenience Stores, ATMs, Cyber Cafe, Food Parlour, etc. are provided at select RO locations depending upon the availability of space and viability of providing the facilities. IOCL has also introduced Co-branded Credit Cards and also Smart Cards to ensure cash less transaction for convenience to customers. IOCL has introduced premium grade fuels of petrol and diesel under the brand names "IOC Premium" and "Diesel Super", respectively in various markets to reduce the emission of pollutants, increased mileage and life of vehicle. Further, IOCL has also introduced eco-friendly fueling facilities such as Auto LPG and CNG at select ROs.

(e) The availability of various customer service facilities such as provision of drinking water, free air, toilet, telephone, etc. are regularly monitored by field officers of oil companies during their inspections/visits at ROs.

Setting up of Power Plants by BHEL

3767. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether BHEL propose to set up some power plants in the country;

(b) if so, the proposed capacity of those power plants; and

(c) the places where these power plants would be set up?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE): (a) to (c) At present, BHEL has no proposal to set up power plants in the country, on its own.

Compensation to Accident Victims

3768. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the matter of payment of compensation to accident victims, the Railways go by the policy of insurance companies in settling the claims of only ticket holding bonafide passengers;

(b) if so, the manner in which the Railways establish the identity of a bonafide full fare paying passenger travelling in general unreserved coaches;

(c) whether the Railways, as a policy of compassion, pay compensation to all the sundry victims, irrespective of whether they are ticketless passengers, vendors/ howkers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir. Accident compensation claims are adjudicated by Railway Claims Tribunal under Sections 124 and 124-A of the Railways Act on the basis of the evidence led by the claimant to establish that the person injured or dead was a bonafide passenger.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Serial on Amrita Devi

3769. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to telecast any T.V. serial to highlight the timeless story (Amar Kahani) of Amrita Devi of village Khejadali (Jodhpur) in Rajasthan through Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done; 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) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Warehousing Facility

3770. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways is developing terminal and warehousing facilities with the participation of private entrepreneur;

(b) if so, the names of the Railway stations where terminal and warehousing facilities have so far been established;

(c) the share of private entrepreneur therein;

(d) the additional revenue earned by the Railways by constructing these terminal and Warehousing; and

(e) the other steps taken by the Railways to boost the railway's earning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A pilot project for developing a rail side warehousing complex was operationalised at Whitefield, Bangalore in February 2002 alongwith M/s Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC). Further, as announced in the Railway Budget 2003-04, Railways intend to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with CWC to develop warehousing complexes at 22 locations. Development of rail-side warehousing facilities by other parties is also permitted.

(c) Indian Railways will lease out land to CWC/other private entrepreneurs who will construct, develop and maintain the warehousing complexes including the common facilities like roads, lighting etc. at their cost.

(d) Additional revenue of Rs. 19.08 crores has been generated at the Whitefield terminal, Bangalore during the financial year 2002-03.

(e) Some of the other steps to boost Railways earnings include Rationalisation of freight structure, higher powers to General Managers for giving concessional Station-to-Station rates, incentive scheme for Premier Customers, providing port connectivity and computerisation of freight services.

Construction of Road Over-Bridge in Moradabad

3771. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received demands/ requests to construct a road over-bridge in Moradabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to build an over-bridge over rail lines near railway station in Moradabad to enable connectivity of the two parts of Moradabad Town;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) State Govt./Local Authorities have not sponsored any firm proposal for the purpose.

[Translation]

Social Awareness Programmes in Bihar

3772. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have provided funds to Bihar for various social awareness programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the areas selected under these programmes and the funds sanctioned/released for the purpose during each of the last three years and the current year, district-wise;

(d) the number of applications received from various Non-Governmental Organisations in this regard; and

(e) the funds sanctioned and released for the purpose during each of the last three years and the current year, NGO-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL): (a) to (c) The Ministry has not provided any funds to Government of Bihar for carrying out social awareness programmes during last three years and the current year. However, the Ministry implements programmes for Information and Mass Education highlighting various activities of the Ministry through electronic media such as Doordarshan, All India Radio and print media, newspaper throughout the country including Bihar.

(d) and (e) The Ministry has released funds to four voluntary organizations in Bihar for the purpose of awareness generation through its counselling centres against ill effects of alcoholism and drug abuse under the scheme of "Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drug) Abuse" during last three years and current year. A statement showing funds released NGO-wise in last three years is attached at statement.

Statement

List of NGOs of State Government of Bihar receiving Grant-in-aid under the scheme for "Prevention of Alcoholism and substance" (Drugs) Abuse for the Drug Awareness and Counselling centres during last three years and current year

S. No.	Name and Address of the NGO	Name of the Project	Amount released (Rs. in lakhs)			
			2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04 (As on 18.8.2003)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Kedar Pandey Samaj Kalyan Sangh, Lauriya, West Champaran	Counselling Centre	0.00	0.00	8.95	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	Indian Institute of rural Reconstruction and Social Change, East Gandhi Bazar, Jehanabad	Counselling Centre	0.00	3.57	3.57	3.82
3.	Gramin Vikas Avam Kalyan Samiti, Munger, Shekhpura	Counselling Centre	0.00	3.57	0.00	0.00
4.	Sree Narayan Samaj Kalyan Kendra, 511, Lok Dihari, P.O. Karup, Indrahiyan, Rohtas	Counselling Centre	0.00	1.19	5.38	0.00

[English]

Coaches with Life Saving Devices

3773. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:
SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways run any special coaches attached to trains which are adequately equipped with life saving devices, medicines including qualified doctors and nursing staff to attend patients with serious and chronic ailments on board in case of emergency;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the names of the trains in which this facility is currently available;

(c) whether the Railways propose to extend this facility to the other trains also;

(d) if so, the details thereof, train-wise; and

(e) the other measures taken/to be taken by the Railways to provide medical aid/facilities to the passengers in running trains?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) First Aid boxes are provided with guards of all Mail/Express and passenger trains. Augmented First Aid Boxes containing additional First Aid items, medicines and equipments are provided in nominated trains. The frontline staff i.e. guards, Travelling Ticket examiners, Conductors are a trained force who are able to render First Aid to passengers in running trains. Passengers, who are suddenly taken ill can requisition medical help from Railway Doctors enroute who render the same at prescribed nominal charges. Doctors travelling and willing to render professional help are given 10% concession on printed fare for their journeys.

Construction of National War Museum

3774. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction of national war memorial and national war museum was conceived a long back;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether no headway has been made so far in this regard;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the requisite land has been allotted by the Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation for this purpose;

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

(g) whether any consultation has been held with the Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation in this regard recently; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or being taken by Government for early construction of national war memorial and national war museum?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (h) The idea was conceived long back in 1960's. However, the land allotted near Dhaula Kuan was not cleared from the environmental angle. Thereafter, Ministry of Urban Development offered three adjacent plots of land near India Gate complex for construction of National War Museum and National War Memorial. The complex allotted consisted of Princess Park Hostel, Sangli Mess and Syass Mess, measuring totally 17.616 Acre of land. The land was not considered sufficient by Service Headquarters. It was proposed that National War Memorial be set up in the Central Vistas near India Gate and National War Museum in the National Capital Region outside Delhi. Though, after the matter was discussed with the Ministry of urban Development, and proposal sent to them, suitable land acceptable to service Headquarters is yet to be allotted by Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation. Efforts towards finalising the issue of land and proceeding with the construction of National War Memorial are continuing.

Internal Generation of Revenue

3775. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways' internal generation of revenue is not yet adequate to fully take care of replacement requirement;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the funds utilised out the Special Railway Safety Fund to wipe out the arrears of replacement/renewals work during the last one year, zone-wise; and

(d) the replacement/renewals work carried out by the Railways in the country particularly in Maharashtra during the last one year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) Despite the improvement in the Railways' financial position over the last two years, the Railways' internal generation is not adequate enough to fully take care of funds required for complete replacements/renewals. The Government, in 2001-02, constituted a Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF) of Rs. 17000 cr. to wipe out the arrears of replacement/renewals in a fixed time schedule of six years. The amount of Rs. 17000 cr. includes a contribution of Rs. 12000 cr. from the Government as dividend free budgetary support and the balance of Rs. 5000 cr. is to be raised by the Railways through levy of a safety surcharge on passenger fares, over a period of six years.

(c) The zone-wise net expenditure on replacement/ renewal works under Special Railway Safety Fund for the year 2002-03 is as under:

(Rs. in cr)

Railway	Expenditure
Central	346.33
Eastern	258.23
Northern	360.82
North Eastern	76.33
Northeast Frontier	119.60
Southern	194.29
South Central	344.46
South Eastern	466.25
Western	319.98
Metro, Kolkata	0.03

(d) State-wise statistics are not maintained. However, the actual replacement/renewal works carried out during 2002-03 under the main plan-heads of SRSF are indicated below:

Items	Works Carried Out
Track Renewals	3343 CTR Kms
Rehabilitation of Bridges	496 Nos.
Signal & Telecom. Works	169 stations
Track Circuiting	610 locations
Rolling Stock	89 Coaches
	226 Wagons

Abandoned Oil Wells of ONGC and OIL

3776. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many wells drilled by ONGC and OIL have been found abandoned due to non discovery of hydrocarbons;

(b) if so, the amount spent on such abandoned wells during the last three years;

(c) whether the said abandoned area was awarded to other parties under new NELP and whether hydrocarbons found in those areas;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) the reasons for the failure of ONGC and OIL to discover hydrocarbons in those areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (e) At present, it is only after drilling of a well and production testing that the presence of hydrocarbons, crude oil and/or nature gas, is established. Various kinds of surveys, such as Gravity Magnetic and Seismic, only serve to indicate some probability of occurrence of hydrocarbons. The success in discovery of hydrocarbons depends, inter-alia, on the geological model of the area, which in turn keeps on getting refined with technological advancements and fresh data inputs. As such, revisiting exploratory acreages with refined models is a standard Upstream practice all over the world. Oil and natural gas discoveries have been made with improvements in technology and changes in geological insights after initial failures. As such, no adverse inference may be drawn about these failures nor is any study required.

Information regarding the amount spent on abandoned wells, hydrocarbon discoveries by parties under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) in the earlier abandoned areas, etc., is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Silt Erosion in Hydro Power Stations

3777. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hydro Power Stations are affected severely by silt erosion costing Rs. 500 crore every year;

(b) if so, whether Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited has developed a process for preventing the erosion; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Silt erosion poses a serious problem for hydro power stations especially in the Himalayan region.

(b) and (c) BHEL has reported that they have successfully developed the High Velocity Oxy-Fuel (HVOF) thermal spray process. The process developed after experimentation in the laboratory has been tested at hydro power stations (Bairasiul, Shanan) where the results have been satisfactory.

In the thermal spray process, the coating material is melted in a high temperature zone and the molten droplets are propelled on to the substrate to the deposited as a layer.

Tungsten carbide powder is widely used in the HVOF spraying system. This is used to produce dense, high hardness and excellent wear resistance coatings to combat the erosion and corrosion occurring in hydro power plants. Tungsten Carbide Cobalt Chrome powder is preferred for abrasive wear of hydro turbine components when high corrosion resistance is needed.

Advertisements by DAVP

3778. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the total advertisements released by DAVP in 2002-2003;

(b) the total money spent by DAVP on advertisements in all types of media in 2002-2003;

(c) whether DAVP is increasing its outlay for the visual media as opposed to the print media;

(d) how does DAVP decide on the best way to convey a message; and

(e) the details of the decision making process at DAVP?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) A total of 18,397 advertisements were released by DAVP in 2002-2003.

(b) DAVP had committed an expenditure of Rs. 111.09 crores during 2002-2003. (Rs. 100.14 crores for advertisements through newspapers and Rs. 10.95 crores for audio-video spots in electronic media).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Selection of media depends on content of the message, intended reach as well as acceptance and penetration of various media in different social strata and geographical areas as also availability of funds. The media for conveying the message to the target audience/ readership is decided in consultation with client Department. Preparation of panel of newspapers/audio-video producers are governed by Advertisement Policy of the Government of India and Guidelines for Empanelment of Newspapers and Guidelines for Empanelment of Audio-Video producers with DAVP respectively.

[Translation]

Sale of Vehicles' Scrap

3779. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of vehicles lying idle in cantonments/army complexes as on date along with the value thereof;

(b) whether scrap of the vehicles is sold;

(c) if so, the total number of military vehicles and quantity of scrap sold during each of the last three years and the current year so far;

(d) the total amount of revenue earned by the Government/Ministry of Defence from sale of the vehicles and scrap;

(e) whether the Government have set any target in regard to early disposal of useless vehicles and scrap on priority basis; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (f) A total number of 8822 discarded unfit vehicles of estimated value Rs. 35.29 crores are lying in various Ordnance Depots for disposal. Apart from complete unfit vehicles, scrap of vehicle is also sold as Mechanical Transport (MT) Scrap along with the other scraps such as Brass scrap, Mild Steel Scrap, Iron Scrap, Mixed metal Scrap, etc.

The total number of Military vehicles sold during last 3 years and total revenue generated from sale of these unfit Military Vehicles are as under:

Financial Year	No. of Vehicles	Amount
2000-2001	14435	Rs. 59.19 crores
2001-2002	15357	Rs. 61.00 crores
2002-2003	14013	Rs. 56.50 crores
April 2003 to June 2003	2280	Rs. 08.16 crores

The vehicle scrap is being disposed of in the form of MT scrap along with other salvage scrape items. The value of total salvage scrap sold, which includes MT scraps also, is as under:

Financial Year	Amount
2000-2001	Rs. 62.30 crores
2001-2002	Rs. 71.75 crores
2002-2003	Rs. 68.16 crores
April 2003 to June 2003	Rs. 12.23 crores

Yearly target for disposal is fixed based on the stock of vehicles and scarp available for disposal at the beginning of the year and the expectation about the number of vehicles and the amount of scrap that would become available during the year for disposal.

[English]

Supply of Rail Lines by BSP

3780. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 30,000 Kilometre of rail track supplied by Bhilai Steel Plant has unacceptable levels of hydrogen and have been deemed unfit for running trains;

(b) if so, whether over 90% of track fractures have occurred only on rails supplied by Bhilai Steel Plant;

(c) whether any thought has been given to the possibility of slowly replacing this whole type of track to enhance rail safety;

(d) if so, the estimated cost thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Railways to initiate a public discussion on rail safety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir. Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP) had been supplying the rails to Indian Railways with some temporary relaxation without compromising safety to avoid imports. However, these relaxation have been withdrawn since 1.1.1999.

(b) Most of the track fractures have occurred on rails supplied by BSP as Indian Railways track mainly comprises of rails manufactured by BSP.

(c) and (d) Track renewal is an ongoing process and is done on age cum condition basis depending upon the availability of fund. The present cost of track renewal (rail only) is approximately Rs. 45 lakh per Kilometre.

(e) Track renewals have already been discussed in White Paper, Safety on Indian Railways, April' 2003.

Generation of Power by Using Garbage

3781. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects for generating power by using garbage for which LoI has been issued in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the present status of these projects; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) to (c) The Government of Tamil Nadu has selected M/s EDL India Private Limited, New Delhi in March, 1999 for setting up a project on 'build, own and operate' basis in Chennai for generation of 14.85 MW power from about 600 tonnes per day of segregated garbage. The project execution has not started so far. However, the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has sanctioned a demonstration project for generation of 230 kW power from 30 tonnes per day of Koyembedu vegetable market waste, to Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority, Chennai in March, 2003. This project is under installation and is likely to be completed in December, 2003.

[Translation]

CBI Case Against Officers of PSUs

3782. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers of the Public Sector Undertakings under the Ministry of Power against whom cases are pending with the CBI, post-wise;

(b) the nature and details of each of the cases;

(c) the details of the cases against the officers registered by the vigilance;

(d) the time since when these cases are pending along with details thereof, case-wise; and

(e) the average time taken by the vigilance to complete its investigation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Details of the cases in respect of officers of PSUs against whom cases are pending with the CBI are given in statement I.

(c) and (d) Details of other vigilance cases against officers of the PSUs are given in statement II.

(e) Time to complete investigation varies from case to case depending upon the complexity and nature of the case.

Statement I

PSU	Reference No. of Case	Name of Officers	Nature of Case
1	2	3	4
Powergrid Corporation of India Limited	(1) RC 1A/1999	Shri H. Choudhury, Sr. Engineer	Alleged case of fake Appointment letter.
Powergrid Corporation of India Limited	(2) RC-SIL/2003A/004 dated 22.4.2003	Shri A.S.C. Singh, JE-I	Wrongful encashment of demand draft.

1	2	3	4
North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd.	(1) RC 6(A)SIL/2001 dated 9.11.2001	(1) Shri P.K. Kotoky, Ex-CMD (2) Shri P.K. Ghosh, Head of Project, Ranganadi Hydro Electric Project (3) Shri Akhtar Hussain, Sr. Manager (E/M)	Entertainment of extra claim of contractor M/s. GEC Alsthom India Pvt. Ltd for unloading and transport of equipment for thermal turbine project at Agartala
North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd.	(2) RC.4 (A) 2002-SIL dated 20.04.2002	(1) Shri P.K. Kotoky, Ex-CMD; (2) Shri B.P. Barua, Ex-GM (C); (3) Shri B.N. Acharya, Ex-DGM (C); (4) Shri H.S. Dutta, DGM (C) (5) Shri V.P. Singh, Sr. Manager (E/M) (6) Shri S. Chakraborty, Sr. Manager (Fin)	Supply of a Mar Boat for Rs. 15 lakhs without inviting quotations, floating open tenders etc. on the ground of emergency.
North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd.	(3) PE 2(A) 2002-SGH dated 16.01.2002	Shri P.R. Nabam, Assistant Manager (Civil)	Misappropriation of store materials.
North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd.	(4) RC15 (A) 2002-GWH dated 12.06.2002	Shri Biren Borgohain, ED (Security)	Case of disproportionate assets.
Tehri Hydro Development Corpn. Ltd.	(1) RC-14 (A)/94-DAD dated 18.06.1994	Shri V.N. Singh, DGM	Demand & acceptance of bribery.
Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Ltd.	(2) RC-7 (A)/97-DAD dated 17.06.1997	(1) Shr. M.P.S. Tyagi, Gm; (2) Sh. M.S. Gusain, Sr. Manager.	Release of unauthorized payment of Rs. 63 lacs to the contractor.
Tehri Hydro Development Corpn. Ltd.	(3) RC-18(A)/96-DAD dated 17.10.1996	Shri S.C. Mishra, Sr. Manager, BHEL now Sr. Manager, THDC	Cheated BHEL to the tune of Rs. 5.65 lacs and obtained pecuniary advantage.
Tehri Hydro Development Corpn. Ltd.	(4) RC-3(A)/2001-DAD dated 07.03.2001	(1) Shri M.P.S. Tyagi, AGM; (2) Shri D.K. Gupta, AGM; (3) Shri R.S. Sorte, Sr. Manager; & (4) Shri C.P. Singh, Manager.	Causing wrongful loss to THDC in conspiracy with contractor.
Tehri Hydro Development Corpn. Ltd.	(5) RC-5(A)/2001-DAD dated 31.05.2001	(1) S/Shri M.P.S. Tyagi, GM; (2) B.G. Agarwal, AGM; (3) Anil Prasad, DGM; (4) H.L. Arora, Sr. Mgr.; (5) R.K. Vishnoi, Mgr.' (6) Alha Singh, Dy. Mgr.; (7) Manoj Yadav, Dy. Mgr.; (8) A. Gour, Dy. Mgr.; (9) R.K. Bhavnani, DGM; (10) A.B. Goel, Manager.	Causing wrongful loss by cheating THDC in conspiracy with contractor.

1	2	3	4
National Hydroelectric Power Corpn. Ltd.	RC-4(A)/96-JMU	(1) S/Shri Pritpal Singh, Dy. Mgr.; (2) Farooq Ahmed Beig, Engineer; (3) Md. Iqbal Dolwal, Draftsman.	Causing wrongful loss to the Corporation in conspiracy with contractor.
National Thermal Power Corporation Limited	(1) RC-10(A)/99/JBR dated 1.7.1999	Shri Jaideep Das, Manager (F&A), NTPC, Korba	Criminal conspiracy with the officers of SBI, BALCO Township Branch, Korba to cause wrongful loss to the NTPC to the tune of Rs. 1,70,61,649/-.
National Thermal Power Corporation Limited	(2) RC-15(A)/2003/Ker dated 30.06.2003	Shri P.K. Rajeevan, Manager (Civil), NTPC, Kayamkulam	Possession of assets disproportionate to the known sources of income.
National Thermal Power Corporation Limited	(3) RC-16(A)/2003/Ker dated 22.7.2003	Shri K.G. Rajagopalan, Manager (Civil), NTPC, Kayamkulam	Possession of assets disproportionate to the known sources of income.
Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd.	CBI has not taken up any case for investigation against any officer of SJVN.		
Power Finance Corpn. Ltd.	FIR dated 23.07.1992	(1) S/Shri M. Prasad, then Director (Fin); (2) P. Rao, then DGM; and (3) M. Ravi, then DM	Alleged irregular financial transactions relating to investment of surplus funds.
Rural Electrification Corpn. Ltd.	Nil	Nil	—

Statement II

PSU	Case No. and date	Name/No. of Officers involved	Detail of case	Status
1	2	3	4	5
1. PGCIL	(1) 2000/145 dated 15.9.2000	18 number of officers	Causing wrongful loss in construction of Switchyard road drain and culverts in 40 KV S/Stn, Bongaigaon.	Investigation report under preparation.
	(2) 2000/146 dated 27.7.2000	8 number of officers	Causing wrongful loss in site leveling of 400 KV S/Stn, Bongaigaon	Investigation report under preparation.
	(3) 2001/019 dated 17.9.2001	(1) Sh. P. Sreeramulu, DGM (2) Sh. S. Das,	Favours shown to M/s. KEC in Kathalguri transmission	Under investigation.

1	2	3	4	5
		Chief Manager (3) Shri M. Hazarika, DGM (4) Sh. Sunil Agarwal, Chief Manager	system.	
	(4) 2002/010 dated 28.6.2002	Not named	Dispute regarding supply of faulty Spacer-Dampers by M/s. Star Iron Works	Under investigation.
	(5) 2003/0903 dated 26.2.2003	Shri Ramesh Kumar, Sr. Engineer	Claim of false TTA	Under investigation.
	(6) 2003/012 dated 8.5.2003	Shri Joginder Patel, Attendant	Appointment without requisite qualification.	Under investigation.
	(7) 2003/014 dated 24.6.2003	Not named	Complaint regarding tender no. C-02401-L-878-1 Fibre Optic Packages for PDT Project.	Under investigation.
	(8) No. 000/PWR/015 26.5.2003	No officer named yet —CVC has desired further investigation to fix responsibility	CTE Report regarding irregularities in the execution of works of Rihand-Kanpur Loop-in-loop-out and 800 KV Tower Packages for Kishenpur Moga Transmission Line.	Under investigation.
2. NEEPCO	(1) No. nil dated March 2003	Yet to be identified	Irregularities in appointments made in Agartala Gas Turbine Project, Tripura,	CBI has investigated the case and returned back to Vigilance Department of NEEPCO for departmental investigation.
	(2) No. nil dated May 2002	Yet to be identified	Alleged huge loss to the Corporation in making excess payment to the contractor for construction of rockfill Dam at Doyang H.E. project	CBI has investigated the case and returned back to Vigilance Department of NEEPCO for departmental investigation.
	(3) No. nil date June 2003	Yet to be identified	Irregularities in award of work for repair of Doyang-Mepani Road in Doyang HE Project	Under investigation.
	(4) No. nil dated 12.6.2003	Shri Pradeep Das, Asstt. Manager	TA claim based on False/forged documents.	Under investigation.
	(5) No. nil dated 14.7.2003	Yet to be identified	Hiring of buses by Chief Engineer, Doyang HE Project at excessive rent.	Under investigation.

1	2	3	4	5
3. THDC	30.11.1999	No officers named yet.	Regarding financial scam	Committee constituted to look into the matter.
4. NHPC	(1) 27.8.1999	Shri Binay Kumar, Director (Personnel)	Extending undue favour to a private company while working in Powergrid Corporation of India Ltd.	CVC advised initiation of minor penalty proceedings
	(2) 27.9.2002	Shri Binay Kumar, Director (Personnel)	Misuse of official position and machinery	Report submitted to CVC.
	(3) 12.09.2002	6 no. of officers.	Award of contract at 59% higher than the estimated cost.	Under investigation
	(4) 08.01.2003	Shri V.P. Sehgal, Sr. Manager	Irregularity in the procurement.	Under investigation.
	(5). 29.01.2003	Yet to be identified	Discrepancy in measurement of rock excavation.	Under investigation.
	(6) 18.03.2003	Shri Yogendra Singh, Accounts Officer	Delay in payment to the contractor.	Under investigation.
	(7) 31.03.2003	5 no. of officers.	Loss of 58 nos. bronze bushes from the project stores.	Under investigation.
5. NTPC	(1) 17.1.2003	Shri S.B. Sharma, Dy. Manager & Ors.	Irregularity in purchase of safety shoes.	Under investigation.
	(2) 17.3.2003	Dr. J. Gajjar, ACMO	Irregularity in medical claim of Rs. 1.32. lakh	Under investigation.
	(3) 28.4.2003	Sh. A.K. Gupta, Sr. Manager	Irregularity in the award of contract for lifting of rejected coal.	Under investigation.
	(4) 28.4.2003	Sh. S.N. Banerjee, Supdt. (CMM) & Ors.	Favour in selection of vendors for non-metallic expansion joints, etc.	Under investigation.
	(5) 04.07.2003	Shri A.K. Khanjow, DGM & others	Award of contract for anti virus services.	Under investigation.
	(6) 28.06.2003	Shri S.B. Singh, Supdt. & others	Misappropriation of electrodes at Rihand.	Under investigation.
	(7) 02.08.2002	(1) Shri S.S. Bhandoria, Sr. Mgr.; (2) Shri A.K. Mathur, Dy. Mgr.	Favour in selection of vendors for non-metallic expansion joints for main plant package, Simadhari Project.	Under investigation.
	(8) 31.03.2003	Shri P.K. Mishra, Sr. Mgr. & others	Acceptance of substandard wooden sleepers.	Under investigation.

1	2	3	4	5
	(9) 14.05.2003	Shri Brahm Shankar & others	Substandard supply of floor mill grills, Tanda.	Report under preparation.
	(10) 14.05.2003	Shri S.K. Majumdar, Dy. Manager. & others	Theft of scrap in R&D Building.	Under investigation.
	(11) 22.05.2003	Mrs. Sushma Thukral, Sr. Steno	False LTC claim.	Under investigation.
	(12) 22.05.2003	Shri O.P. Singh, Store Keeper	Making false complaint to CBI regarding taking bribe.	Under investigation.
	(13) 9.12.2002	Shri P. Ram, Dy. Manager.	Irregularities in execution of work rewinding of ceiling/exhaust fans.	Under investigation.
	(14) 1.10.2002	Shri P. Subraminian, DGM	Extending undue favour by issuing MDCC along with billing break-up without actually inspecting the material.	Report under preparation.
	(15) 1.10.2002	(1) Shri P. Subraminian, DGM; (2) Shri T.R. Gupta, DGM & others.	Inspecting & clearing of inferior & technically unsuitable material.	Under investigation.
	(16) 1.10.2002	Dr. B.P. Singh, Sr. Astt. Med. Officer	Submission of bogus educational qualification certificate.	Under investigation.
	(17) 1.10.2002	(1) Shri G. Balakrishnan, Sr. Manager.; (2) Shri S.V. Moorthy, then AGM & others	Initiating & approving one incorrect and baseless proposal and thereby attempting to swindle an amount of Rs. 13 lakh for out of court settlement with a private contractor.	Under investigation.
	(18) 16.8.2002	(1) Sh. B. Prasad, Sr. Supdt.; (2) Sh. K.K. Singh, Astt. Controller; (3) Sh. S.K. Sinha, Controller & others.	Negligence in Performance of their duty and acting in a manner prejudicial to the interest of the Corporation	Under investigation.
	(19) 28.6.2003	Sh. C. Ram Kumar, Sr. Manager.	Favour shown in the award of house keeping contract.	Under investigation.
	(20) 15.2.2003	Shri V.N. Pandey, DGM & others	Irregularity in regularizing blades issued on loan to MSEB.	Report under preparation.
	(21) 15.2.2003	Shri M.S. Arora, DGM & others	Irregularity in tech. Approval of HVAC package.	Under investigation.
	(22) 9.4.2003	C&I/C&M officials	Non-issue of LTE & framing of specifications of PCB test equipment to favour a party.	Under investigation.

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	(23) 18.2.2003	Shri N.C. Subba Rao	Procurement of ash brick making machine.	Under investigation.
	(24) 16.4.2003	Shri T. Pundarikakshu, then Sr. Manager & others.	Bi-annual maintenance contract of ash lines-violation of Q.R.	Under investigation.
	(25) 5.7.2003	Dr. B.G. Raja Rao, CMO	Obtained gifts from empanelled hospitals.	Under investigation.
	(26) 31.3.2003	Officers of HR Dept.	Alleged undue financial & administrative favour to DAV schools at TTPS.	Under investigation.
	(27) 25.7.2003	Yet to be identified.	Deployment of buses in violation of norms.	Under investigation.
	(28) 30.4.2003	(1) S/Shri S.K. Tiwari, Sr. Manager.; (2) Bali Ram, Sr. AE; (3) P.C. Saxena, Store Keeper	Pilferage of petrol.	Under investigation.
	(29) 28.6.2003	Dr. S.K. Khare, Specialist.	Indulging in private practice.	Under investigation.
6. Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd.	(1) 24.5.1999	No officer has yet been named.	Alleged irregularities in the execution of the Head Race Tunnel contract no. 2.2.	Reports submitted to CVC who has asked for further investigation to fix responsibility.
	(2) 24.11.2000	Shri O.N. Singh, Director (Fin.); Shri A.K. Gupta, Director (Elec) & others	Undue payment amounting to Rs. 42.46 crores to M/s. Jaiprakash Hundai Consortium	Under investigation.
	(3) 10.2.2001	Shri Arun Gupta, Ex-CMD & Shri O.N. Singh, Director (Fin)	Regarding complaints received from Shri Maheshwar Singh, MP and Shri Suresh Chandel, MP alleging irregularities and corrupt practices.	Under investigation.
	(4) 30.10.2002	Shri O.N. Singh, Director (Fin)	Giving advice against official stand to Govt. Counsel in CWP No. 247/2002	Under investigation.
	(5) 24.10.2002	S/Shri S.C. Agarwal, Sr. Manager; V.K. Chopra, Dy. Chief Engineer; and A.K. Singh, Manager (Finance)	Award of contract to M/s. Encardio Rite for supply of Geological Instruments—Role of Tender Committee, etc.	Under investigation.

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	(6) 6.8.1999	Shri Mohan Bag, Sr. Vigilance Officer; Shri V. Gopalakrishnan, ED (Vig) and Shri V.K. Sharma, GM	FIRs Nos. 2,3,4 and 5 of 1999 registered by HP Vigilance Deptt. for irregularities in payment to contractors	Under investigation as per direction of CVC.
	(7) 2.9.1997	Shri Y.N.P. Sinha, GM	Misuse of official telephone	Investigation completed. Further action in progress.
	(8) 27.7.1998	Shri Y.N.P. Sinha, GM and Shri N.C. Bansal, Sr. Manager	Irregular award of work to M/s. Global Wireless Technology.	Investigation completed. Further action in progress.
	(9) 15.10.1996	Shri Y.N.P. Sinha, GM and Shri S.P. Singh, DGM	Giving undue benefit to M/s. Aurora Film Corporation	Investigation completed. Further action in progress.
	(10) 13.10.1998	Shri S.N. Ghosh, DGM	Giving undue benefit to contractor	Investigation completed. Further action in progress.
	(11) 4.3.1999	Shri Mohan Bag, Dy. Manager	Wrongful claim of LTC	Departmental action in progress.
	(12) 13.7.1997	Shri S. Mathialagan, Sr. Manager & Ors.	Irregularities and malpractices in recruitment.	Investigation completed and investigation report under process.
	(13) 30.11.2000	Shri Mohan Bag, Dy. Manager	Theft of still camera, video cassettes etc.	Investigation completed and investigation report under process.
	(14) 10.4.2002	Shri Mohan Bag, Dy. Manager	Fraudulent claim of LTE, tour T.A. etc.	Investigation completed and investigation report under process.
	(15) 20.3.2003	Shri Yash Pal, PA	Fraudulent claim of medical reimbursement	Investigation completed and investigation report under process.
	(16) 23.6.2003	Dr. M.S. Sehore, Dy. CMO	Misuse of company vehicle	Investigation completed and investigation report under process.
	(17) 15.11.2002	Shri S.K. Biswa, Sr. Manager	Attempted favour in the Award of house-keeping contract	Investigation completed and investigation report under process.
	(18) 10.7.2002	Shri I.S. Guha, Sr. P.O. & Ors.	Embezzlement in LPG cylinders and regulators	Investigation completed and investigation report under process.

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	(19) 1.4.2003	Shri S.P. Vidyarathi, Manager	Misuse of HBA	Investigation completed and investigation report under process.
	(20) 17.1.2003	Shri S.K. Mahajan, Manager & Ors.	Financial favour to contractor	Investigation completed and investigation report under process.
	(21) 15.3.2003	Smt. Prakasho Devi, P.S.	Fraudulent claim of medical reimbursement	Investigation completed and investigation report Under process.
	(22) 23.5.2003	Shri H.M. Sinha, Sr. Safety officer	Irregular reimbursement of inadmissible medical claim	Investigation completed and investigation report under process.
7. PFC	Nil			
8. REC	Nil			

[English]

Joint Venture Partner for Sambhar Salts Limited

3783. COL. (RETD). SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from Government of Rajasthan requesting for handing back Sambhar Salt Areas to Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether the Sambhar Salt Areas now being managed by the Union Government is running in losses whereas all other Salt producing units are earning profit;

(c) if so, the reasons for incurring loss by the Government operated Sambhar Salt area;

(d) whether the Government are considering to have a joint venture partner for Sambhar Salt Limited with off load equity upto 74%;

(e) if so, whether State Government of Rajasthan have sought certain clarification about the Central and State share in the balance 26%, lease conditions for transfer of 74% equity; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE): (a) Government of Rajasthan had requested for transfer back of the area leased to Sambhar Salts Ltd. This request has, however, not been agreed to as it was not in the overall interest of the company.

(b) and (c) The reasons for losses, inter-alia include successive drought condition and obstruction in free-flow of water into the lake from catchment area due to the construction of anicuts and dams on rivulets, tributaries and rivers leading to the Sambhar lake and development of private salt manufacturing on the outskirts.

(d) to (f) The equity of the Sambhar Salts Limited is held by the Hindustan Salts Ltd. (HSL), the holding Company and Government of Rajasthan in the ratio of 60:40. Government of India have decided to disinvest 74% of HSL's equity in SSL. However, Government of Rajasthan (GOR) is yet to take a decision regarding the extent of disinvestment of its equity.

Free of Cost Electricity to SCs and STs

3784. SHRI PRADIP YADAV: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide free of cost electricity for domestic use to the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes living in each village of the country;

(b) if so, the States which have been provided funds for this purpose;

(c) the total number of SC/ST families living in the rural areas of Jharkhand which have been provided free domestic electricity connections by the State Government;

(d) whether the Union Government have quashed this scheme; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) The Electricity Act, 2003 has come into force w.e.f. 10th June, 2003. Under the provisions of this Act the tariff for supply of power to various categories of consumers is to be determined by the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs).

Section 65 of the 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 under section 62, the State Government shall pay in advance and in such manner as may be specified, the amount to compensate the person affected by the grant of subsidy in the manner the State Commission may direct. Accordingly, the issue of providing subsidy to a class of consumers comes under the purview of the concerned State Government.

Displaced Persons of DVC

3785. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of land acquired for Damodar Valley Corporation, the agreement made with the land loosers/ displaced people and also the number of displaced persons;

(b) the details of the compensation paid and employment provided to the displaced people;

(c) whether the whole catchment area of DVC, power generation centre, water reservoir etc. are located in the State of Jharkhand;

(d) if so, whether the Government are contemplating to shift the Regional Headquarter and Central Headquarter of DVC from Kolkata to Dhanbad or Jamshedpur in Jharkhand;

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

(f) it not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The details of the land acquired for Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) and the employment provided to the displaced persons are as under:

Name of the Project	Total land acquired (in Acres)	Number of persons employed
Maithon Project	23139	260
Panchet Project	21208	75
Konar Project	5368	12
Tilaiya Project	16107	12
Bokaro TPS 'A'	1018	264
Bokaro TPS 'B'	10	—
Mejia TPS	2671	247
Durgapur TPS	400 (approx.)	80
Chandrapura TPS	—	31

Preparation of displaced persons panel for Bokaro TPS 'B' and Chandrapura TPS is under process in consultation with Dy. Commissioner, Bokaro, Jharkhand. Although there is no formal agreement between DVC and the displaced persons for providing employment but as per policy approved by the Corporation 30% quota in the available vacancy of the unskilled posts (Gr. 'D') is kept reserved for the displaced persons. Compensation as per approved rates of the State Governments has been paid to the displaced persons.

(c) to (f) The catchment area of DVC is located in both the States of Jharkhand and West Bengal. Any decision to change the Regional/Central Headquarters of DVC has to be taken jointly by the three participating Governments, viz. the Central Government and the State Governments of Jharkhand and West Bengal.

Guidelines to PSUs on Expenditure

3786. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued guidelines to all Public Sector Undertakings to cut short their expenditure;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE): (a) to (c) The Central PSUs have their own policies to effect economy and austerity in their operations. Besides these, general guidelines issued by the Government from time to time on austerity measures are also to be followed by these PSUs.

Insurance Scheme for LPG Cylinders

3787. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has announced an insurance scheme for its domestic cooking gas users to cover for loss of life and injuries due to an accident with an LPG cylinder;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether other public sector oil companies such as Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) are also likely to take steps in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has taken an exclusive insurance scheme for its domestic cooking gas customers to cover for loss of life, injuries and property damage due to an accident involving gas cylinder. Under this scheme, liability at law for compensation in respect of any accident resulting in death or bodily injury to any person or damage to property are as under:

(i)	Per event	—	Rs. 25 lakhs.
(ii)	Per person	—	Rs. 10 lakhs.

Similarly, personal accident cover to third parties and property damage at authorised customer's premises is as under:

(i)	On death	—	Rs. 1 lakh per person per event.
(ii)	Medical Expenses	—	Rs. 15 lakh per event.
(iii)	Property damage	—	Maximum Rs. 25 thousand per event at authorised customer's premises.

(c) and (d) Other Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are also having an insurance policy which is legal liability and No fault Liability policy covering personal accident, medical expenses and property damages arising out of LPG accidents at customers' registered premises, registered dealers' premises and whilst the cylinders are in transit.

Procurement of Weapon Locating Radars

3788. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are making any effort to develop weapon locating radar indigenously;

(b) if so, what is the status of the efforts; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has taken up indigenous development of Weapon Locating Radar (WLR) jointly with M/s. Bharat Electronic Ltd. (BEL), Bangalore.

(b) WLR, based on technology of phased array radar, is in advanced stage of development. Software has already been developed and evaluated. The platform vehicle and other activities are progressing as per schedule.

(c) Not applicable.

[Translation]

Construction of Platform at Jamnagar Railway Station

3789. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any demand from the public Chamber of Commerce and

Member of Parliament of Jamnagar to construct a four way rail track and one more platform at Jamnagar railway station in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this track and platform are likely to be constructed alongwith details of the construction plan project and cost estimates thereof?

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

(b) At present, Jamnagar has 3 lines (tracks) in the station yard and 2 platforms. The demand is for provision of an additional 4th line (track) and one more platform at Jamnagar.

(c) The facilities already existing in Jamnagar are adequate to deal with the traffic requirement. Additional track or platform at Jamnagar are neither operationally required nor financially justified.

[English]

Expansion of Institutes of Indian Mass Communication

3790. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal for the expansion of the various institutes of Indian Mass Communication;

(b) if so, the branches proposed for expansion during 2003-04; and

(c) the details of the expansion proposed to be made?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Inspection of LPG Agencies and Retail Outlets by Vigilance of IOCL

3791. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of LPG agencies and retail outlets inspected by vigilance wing of IOCL in Delhi during the period April-July, 2003;

(b) the findings of inspection carried out by the aforesaid team;

(c) whether the samples of Tank Lorries which supply the product to retail outlets in Delhi have also been failed in specification;

(d) if so, the action taken to improve the supply of quality of MS/HSD to retail outlets in Delhi;

(e) whether IOCL has penalised the dealers on account of sample failure even though their tank lorry samples have also been failed; and

(f) if so, the justification of giving penalty to dealers in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The Vigilance Wing of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has not conducted inspection of any LPG distributorship in Delhi during the period April-July, 2003. However, during this period, 1 Retail Outlet of company, M/s. Ridgeview Service Station, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi was inspected.

(b) During the inspection by Vigilance team, stock variation beyond permissible limit was detected. Subsequently, the Motor Spirit (MS) and High Speed Diesel (HSD) samples drawn by Vigilance team failed in RON test and distillation as well as furfural test respectively.

(c) Yes, Sir. The HSD tank lorry retention sample failed in furfural test, whereas MS tank lorry retention sample was not tested as sample genuinety was in doubt, since the signature of TT driver on delivery challan and on sample tag are not matching.

(d) IOCL has increased the frequency of RO sampling as well as tank lorry inspection to eliminate the possibility of adulteration of petrol/diesel by some unscrupulous elements.

(e) and (f) IOCL has issued a show cause notice to the dealer. However, the final decision about the penalty as per Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG), 2001 would be taken after the due investigation, in the matter.

Container Train Operation to Private Parties

3792. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has issued a policy in 1994 regarding opening up of container train operation to organization other than Container Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the number of applications received by the Railways in this regard;

(c) whether any other agency has been allowed to operate container trains;

(d) if so, the terms and conditions therefor; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) (1) Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC).

(2) Pipava Rail Corporation Ltd. (PRCL).

(c) Pipava Rail Corporation Ltd. (PRCL) has been allowed, in principle, to operate container trains.

(d) Detailed proposal from PRCL is awaited.

(e) Does not arise.

Comments on Farakka Barrage Project

3793. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has received a draft note on Farakka Barrage Project from the Ministry of Water Resources;

(b) if so, whether Railway has given comments on the note;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Ministry of Railways in its comments have expressed the following views:

(i) The capital cost of Farakka Barrage and its annual maintenance charges should be borne by all beneficiaries including Government of West Bengal and Kolkata Pot Trust.

(ii) Railway have already shared Rs. 11.04 crores towards capital cost of Farakka Barrage and also paid Rs. 1.78 crores (approximate) towards its share of maintenance charges.

(d) Does not arise.

Gap between International and Domestic Prices of LPG and Kerosene

3794. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the gap between international and domestic prices of LPG and kerosene; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to bridge the gap between domestic and international prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Domestic LPG and PDS Kerosene are subsidized products. After the dismantling of administered pricing mechanism in the petroleum sector effective 1st April 2002 the Government subsidies on these products are on flat rate basis. The changes in the consumer prices of these products, after taking into account the flat rate of subsidy, are to be made by the oil marketing companies.

Tenancy Rights of Petrol Pumps in Mumbai

3795. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of controversy regarding tenancy right to petrol pump in Mumbai;

(b) if so, whether various landlords have refused to renew the lease of petrol pump land;

(c) if so, the facts thereof;

(d) the number of petrol pumps going to have this problem and steps taken to resolve the issue;

(e) the number of petrol pumps whose lease has expired or going to expire in next two years; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Out of the cases where the period of lease in respect of the land leased to the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) in Mumbai for their retail outlet dealerships (petrol pumps) has expired, in about 58 cases, the land-owners have refused or are not interested to renew the lease agreement.

In some cases, the land-owners have approached the court. The OMCs, on their part, are conducting negotiations, wherever feasible, with the land-owners/land-owning authorities for renewal of the lease agreements.

The Oil Industry have also made a representation to the Government of Maharashtra seeking, inter alia, protection against eviction, to be provided through legislation, in line with that provided to other Government/ local authorities under the Maharashtra Rent Control Act, 1999.

(e) and (f) In Mumbai, there are 112 cases, where the period of lease for land provided to the OMCs for their retail outlets, has either expired or is going to expire in the next two years.

Community Radio Scheme

3796. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved a Community Radio Scheme for the educational institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the educational institutions in the country particularly in Maharashtra, where these Community Radio Stations are to be set up during current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Govt. has decided to grant Licenses to recognised educational institutions, including Universities and Institutes of Technology/ Management, for setting up low power FM Community Radio Stations, as per the guidelines. These guidelines are also available on this Ministry's website: www.mib.nic.in.

(c) A number of institutions including three institutions from Maharashtra, namely (i) G.D. Sawant Arts, Science & BCS College, Nasik, (ii) Bhakti Kala Kshetra, Mumbai, (iii) Film & Television Institute of India, Pune, have applied for license for setting up a Community Radio Station.

Hassan-Mangalore Rail Development Company

3797. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has submitted the proposal to the Union Government for setting up the Hassan Mangalore Rail Development Company;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the approval of the Union Government is likely to be granted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) Hassan Mangalore Rail Development Company (HMRDC) is being set up by Ministry of Railways, Government of Karnataka, Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Limited (K-RIDE) and other strategic investors to implement Hassan-Mangalore Gauge Conversion project. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the formation of HMRDC.

Expansion of Transmitters in Maharashtra

3798. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 3814 dated August 17, 2001 and state:

(a) the latest progress of expansion of high/low power transmitters at Sangli and other places in Maharashtra; and

(b) the proposed date of commissioning of high power transmitter at Sangli?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) All the eleven DD2 transmitters (HPTs-2, LPTs-9) including LPT at Sangli, indicated in reply to Unstarred Question No. 3814, dated 17.8.2001, have been commissioned.

(b) There is no scheme to set up a high power transmitter at Sangli.

Navratna Board Norms on PSUs

3799. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

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

(a) whether Navratna Board have prescribed any norms for total expenditure to be incurred by PSUs/State PSUs for the residence of Chairman/CMD and other members of the Board and senior officials;

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

(c) whether PSUs under the Ministry of Petroleum have purchased a number of houses and thus resulted in blocking public money;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any enquiry has been conducted to check violations to the norms laid down by the said Board;

(f) if so, the findings thereof and action taken thereon; and

(g) if not, the reasons for not appointing any monitoring agency to check such wasteful expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Government have not issued any specific guidelines with regard to providing residential accommodation to the Chairman/Chairman & Managing Director (CMD)/Members of the Board and senior officials of Navratna Enterprises. However, the general guidelines issued in this regard on 25th June, 1999 and 5th June, 2003 for all the Central Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) including oil sector PSUs are also applicable to Navratna PSUs. State PSUs are not covered under these guidelines.

(c) and (d) While Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. purchased 31 houses at a cost of Rs. 1.5 crore from Delhi Development Authority (DDA) during 1982 to 1987, GAIL (India) Ltd. purchased 15 DDA flats and one house in Delhi at a cost of Rs. 5.08 crore from 1982 onwards and two flats at a cost of Rs. 12 lakh each at Vadodra (Gujarat).

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

[Translation]

Fake Advertisements in Newspapers

3800. SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

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

(a) whether some fake and unrecognised educational institutions tend to allure people through their advertisements in newspapers;

(b) if so, whether the Government verify the genuineness of these institutions before the publication of such advertisements;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the policy of the Government in this regard; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to prevent the publication of such advertisements and to save the people from such misleading advertisements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) Some instances of advertisement in newspapers by fake and unrecognized educational institutions have come to notice. Publication of advertisements by newspapers is a commercial transaction between the publication and advertiser. The Government follows a policy of non-interference in the functioning of newspapers. Section 24 of the University Grants Commission Act 1956 provides for penal action against fake educational institutions operating in contravention of the provisions of Section 22 and Section 23 of the Act. The University Grants Commission (UGC)

on knowing of the existence of fake universities/institutions, advises the promoters to stop their activities and, if necessary, legal action is initiated. Simultaneously, the State Government in whose jurisdiction the institution is located is requested to take immediate necessary action as per the law. At the beginning of each academic session, the UGC also issues Press Releases to caution students against existence of such fake educational institutions.

[English]

National Electricity Policy

3801. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Confederation of Indian Industry is working to evolve a uniform national power tariff policy document for the promotion of healthy competition between power companies by giving the consumer the option to choose a supplier for quality power;

(b) if so, whether the CII has drafted a national electricity policy on the lines of its demands;

(c) whether the Centre has not yet spell out the details and the rules governing them; and

(d) if so, the time by which the Government are in a position to provide rules governing this Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) Under Section 3(1) of the Electricity Act, 2003, the Central Government shall, from time to time, prepare the National Electricity Policy and tariff policy, in consultation with the State Governments and the Central Electricity Authority. The consultation process has been initiated. Under section 79 of the Act, the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) shall advise the Central Government in the formulation of tariff policy. The advice of CERC has been received.

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has prepared a preliminary paper and suggestions on Tariff Policy.

Strengthening of Rail Network

3802. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI KAMAL NATH:
SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have now decided to explore possibilities of forging partnerships with State Governments and private companies to strengthen further their existing rail network;

(b) the details of the modalities worked out in this regard; and

(c) the extent to which the Railways would be benefited by this partnership?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Indian Railways is exploring possibilities of forging partnerships with State Governments, multilateral agencies and lending institutions in funding of rail infrastructure projects. It is primarily through cost sharing, participation in equity in case of implementation through creation of Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), Build-Own-Transfer (BOT) models and in some cases privately owned infrastructure viz. port railways, freight terminals. Share of State Governments in some of the on-going projects is one-third to two-third of the total project costs providing additional resources for completion of the projects.

Justification of Projects

3803. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in terms of Rules 201 and 204 of Indian Railways Financial Code-Volume I, it is necessary that a new projects to be undertaken by Railways should be financially justified and that the Rate of Return (ROR) should not be less than 10% of the estimated cost;

(b) if so, the reasons for sanctioning the work of gauge conversion (from narrow gauge to Broad gauge) on Yelahanka-Chikballapur-Bangarpet section which resulted in an infructuous expenditure of more than Rs. 60 crores after the projects was abandoned midway as commercially unviable; and

(c) the reasons for Railways not providing adequate funds for commercially viable projects like Hassan Mangalore broad gauge conversion for the last 10 years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The projects on Indian Railways, chargeable to Capital, are generally sanctioned on financial consideration, where the rate of return should not be less than 10% (since revised

to 14%). However, at the same time, in case of major projects, Indian Railways Finance Code also provides that, inter alia, costs and benefits likely to be realized by the economy as a whole should be kept in mind as Railways are considered an important instrument of economic and industrial development.

(b) The work of gauge conversion of Yelahanka-Chikballapur and Kolar-Bangarpet section had been taken up under Project Unigauge and had since been commissioned.

(c) Gauge conversion of Arsikere-Hassan-Mangalore MG is being progressed in Phases and funds are being provided commensurate with the works planned. Work on Arsikere-Hassan-Sakleshpur section of the project has been completed and commissioned. Work on Mangalore-Kabakaputtur is nearing completion. It is targeted to complete the section upto Subramanya Road from Mangalore end during 2003-04. The work on ghat section between Subramanya Road and Sakleshpur is also in progress and is expected to be completed during 2004-05 subject to availability of resources. This is one of the projects being implemented through KRIDE.

Old Age Social and Income Security Committee

3804. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Report of Old Age Social and Income Security Committee (OASIS) has been referred to Group of Ministers;

(b) if so, the salient features of the recommendations of Report;

(c) whether the Group of Ministers has submitted its Report;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action proposed to implement the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Old Age Social and Income Security (OASIS) Report has recommended a pension system for workers in the unorganized sector, which will enable them to obtain old age income security at the price of modest contributions through their working career. The report contains recommendations on the scheme and actions that the Government may take to ensure that every worker can build up enough savings during his/her working life, which would serve as a shield against poverty in old age and reduce the burden on the State.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

LPG Connections in Rajasthan

3805. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHONOI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the LPG agencies functioning in Rajasthan have been allotted equal number of LPG connections;

(b) if so, the number of LPG connections allotted to them;

(c) whether LPG connections allotted to LPG agencies are not transferable; and

(d) if so, the action being taken to facilitate transfer of LPG connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) At present, LPG distributors of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are releasing connections on demand in the State of Rajasthan and the distributors are free to enroll as many customers as possible. The number of connections enrolled by a distributor depends upon the potential of the market.

(c) and (d) LPG customers are transferable and OMCs can advise distributors to transfer the customers as and when the need arises to restructure the market in view of customers' convenience and supply logistic.

[English]

Entertainment Channel for Advertisement Revenue

3806. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to start an exclusive entertainment channel by the Government considering the advertisement revenue is considerably covered by private channels;

(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) The Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 mandates Prasar Bharati to organise and conduct public broadcasting services to inform, educate and entertain the public. The Corporation is presently operating 25 television channels that telecast entertainment, educative as well as news and current affairs programmes.

Siding Charges

3807. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the C&AG Report No. 9 of the 2002 has been examined by the Railways/Zonal Railways;

(b) if so, the reasons for not fixing the siding charges correctly; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against the officials held responsible for causing financial losses to the exchequer?

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

(b) Siding Charges were fixed by the Railways as per extant instructions.

(c) Undercharges have been recovered and there is no financial loss to the exchequer.

Information Technology Centre at Hyderabad

3808. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4836 dated 24.4.2003 regarding setting up of information technology centre at Hyderabad and state:

(a) whether the proposal has been examined and finalized;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay; and

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

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

(b) Since Indian Railways have no specific project at present, hence, setting up of a full-fledged Centre of Information Technology for the Railways at Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Hyderabad is premature. However, Indian Railways may consider IIIT alongwith other institutions of repute for training Railway Officials in the area of Information Technology.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Opening of RNI Offices

3809. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of newspapers which have active registration with the Registrar of Newspapers all over the country as on date;

(b) the State-wise break-up of such registered newspapers which are being published;

(c) whether there is a proposal to open various offices of the Registrar of Newspapers of India in different States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) A total number of 51,960 newspapers/periodicals were registered with the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) as on 31st December 2001.

(b) State-wise break-up of registered newspapers/ periodicals as on 31st December 2001 is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to open various offices of the Registrar of Newspapers for India.

Statement

State-wise Break-up of total Registered Newspapers/ Periodicals as on 31st December 2001

S.No.	State/Union Territory	Number of Newspapers
1	2	3
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	52
2.	Andhra Pradesh	2398
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	11
4.	Assam	430
5.	Bihar	1513
6.	Chandigarh	376
7.	Chhattisgarh	345
8.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1
9.	Daman & Diu	2
10.	Delhi	6926
11.	Goa	91
12.	Gujarat	2257
13.	Haryana	1036
14.	Himachal Pradesh	187
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	402
16.	Jharkhand	190
17.	Karnataka	2556
18.	Kerala	1854
19.	Lakshadweep	5
20.	Madhya Pradesh	3555
21.	Maharashtra	6018
22.	Manipur	144
23.	Meghalaya	75
24.	Mizoram	132
25.	Nagaland	15
26.	Orissa	929
27.	Pondicherry	69
28.	Punjab	1204
29.	Rajasthan	3310
30.	Sikkim	30
31.	Tamil Nadu	2838
32.	Tripura	106
33.	Uttaranchal	768
34.	Uttar Pradesh	8397
35.	West Bengal	3738
	Total	51,960

[Translation]

Transportation of Washed Coal

3810. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether washed coal from Central Coalfields Limited is transported even for a short distance through Railways instead of road transport of various thermal power stations of Damodar Valley Corporation and specially to Bokaro Thermal Power Station;

(b) if so, the total quantity of washed coal transported specially from Kargali Washery of CCL to Bokaro Thermal Power Station and various other thermal power stations during each of the last three years and the current year;

(c) the total expenditure incurred as rail freight on transportation of washed coal during each of the last three years;

(d) whether transportation through road is cheaper as compared to the railways; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Washed Coal was received from Central Coalfields for Chandrapura Thermal Power Station (CTPS) and Bokaro Thermal Power Station (BTPS).

For the year 2001-02, 2002-03 and till July, 2003 of the current financial year, Washed coal from Central

Coalfields Limited (CCL) was received by Bokaro Thermal Power Station (BTPS) through Railway. No washed coal from CCL was transported to Chandrapura Thermal Power Station (CTPS) for the last three years.

(b) and (c) No washed coal was received for Chandrapura Thermal Power Station and Bokaro Thermal Power Station during the year 2000-01. Quantity of washed coal received by Rail for BTPS during the year 2001-2002, 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 is 16,450.96 MT, 590957.67 MT and 219148.75 MT respectively and the total expenditure incurred on transportation was Rs. 1,89,283.57, Rs. 4,99,06,375.23 and Rs. 1,23,38,074.62 respectively.

(d) and (e) Transportation rate for transportation of coal to Bokaro Thermal Power Station for the year 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 through Rail was Rs. 84.45 per MT, Rs. 84.45 per MT and Rs. 56.30 per MT respectively and that through road was Rs. 57 per MT, Rs. 56.60 to Rs. 58.03 per MT and Rs. 58.19 per MT respectively.

[English]

Track Circuiting of Rail Lines

3811. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether railways had planned to carry out "track circuiting" of rail lines at main line interlocked stations at about 4700 out of 7200 railway stations;

(b) whether such "track circuiting" has been done only at 2500 railway stations;

(c) if so, the time by which the balance of the targeted railway stations have "track circuiting" completed;

(d) the expenditure incurred so far on this work;

(e) whether financial constraints have prevented completion of this work; and

(f) if so, the steps proposed to complete the remaining work to avoid collisions?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The works of providing various types of track circuiting at balance stations on Broad Gauge is in progress under Special Railway Safety Fund. All the sanctioned and in progress track circuiting works are likely to be completed by 2006-07.

(d) So far, expenditure to the tune of about Rs. 96 Crs. has been made for track circuiting works under SRSF.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) The work shall be completed by 2006-07 as indicated in part (c) above.

T.V. Transmitters/Studio in Tamil Nadu

3812. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Government are receiving frequent complaints about the erratic functioning of T.V. Transmitters in rural and backward areas of the country including Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government to ensure that the T.V. Transmitters function properly;

(c) whether construction work of certain studio building/T.V. Transmitters in Tamil Nadu is in progress;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present status of work; and

(e) the time by which such studios/transmitters are likley to be completed and commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Complaints regarding erratic functioning of some T.V. transmitters, including those in rural and backward areas in the country, are received from time to time from various quarters. Transmitters in Doordarshan network are generally functioning satisfactorily. Faults in the equipment are attended to promptly, as and when these occur. It is Doordarshan's constant endeavour to maintain high standards of transmission. All the transmitters in Tamil Nadu are reported to be functioning satisfactorily.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Construction of Studio building at Madurai has been completed and the Studio is technically ready. Construction of Studio building at Coimbatore is at an advanced stage of completion and the project is expected to be completed during 2004. Commissioning of above studio centres will depend on availability of requisite staff. Work of the HPT Building at Dharmapuri and Tirunelveli is yet to be awarded. These projects are expected to be completed and commissioned in about two to three years time.

[Translation]

Telecom Trade by PGCI

3813. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money earned so far by the National Power Grid Corporation from the telecom trade along with year-wise break-up thereof;

(b) whether any parameters were prescribed for the Power Grid Corporation at the time of its entry into the telecom sector as to the items of work on which the money earned from the telecom trade would be spent;

(c) if so, whether the said amount was utilized on the works earmarked therefor along with details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the economic burden on the power consumers has lessened as a result of entry of the corporation into the telecom sector; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The revenue earned by POWERGRID in the telecom sector during 2001-2002 is Rs. 2.47 crore and that during 2002-03 is Rs. 8.38 crore.

(b) to (d) No specific parameters were prescribed for Power Grid Corporation at the time of its entry into telecom business. The additional revenue generated by POWERGRID through telecom sector would be ploughed back for development of transmission sector.

(e) and (f) POWERGRID is in the process of implementation of schemes for modernization of its Regional Load Despatch Centres which include modernization of its dedicated communication system. The telecom scheme of POWERGRID envisages high capacity optical fibre at an incremental cost which could be harnessed for commercial use without any extra cost to the consumer.

Mujjaffarpur Thermal Power Plant

3814. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether sanction has been granted to Mujjaffarpur Thermal Power Plant in Bihar for addition of 500 megawatts power to its existing capacity;

(b) if so, whether Government of Bihar is unable to execute it due to the financial crisis;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to get it done through NTPC by giving financial package;

(d) whether the State Government has sent proposal in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) Mujjaffarpur Thermal Power Plant (TPP) Extension (2x50 MW) as an expansion project was sanctioned by Planning Commission in December, 1995. The responsibility for execution of this Project lies with Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB)/Bihar Government. Project implementation could not be taken up due to paucity of funds. National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has given a proposal to BSEB/Government of Bihar for doing the Renovation & Modernization of Mujjaffarpur TPP after the plant is handed over to NTPC. Extension of Mujjaffarpur TPP (2x250 MW) is part of proposed special package in power sector of Government of Bihar.

[English]

Grounding of MIG-21 Aircraft

3815. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to frequent air crash of MiG-21 trainer aircraft the Government propose to ground all the Trainer aircrafts for indepth inspection to establish its air-worthiness;

(b) whether in the absence of user friendly advanced Jet Trainers for transitional training, Air Force is forced to use second generation aged MiG-21 twin seater trainers;

(c) whether these single engined ageing MiG-21 with several design limitations are highly forgiving to errors advanced Jaguars, Mig-29 or Sukhois;

(d) if so, whether the Government are considering to discard these ageing MiG-21 twin seater trainer aircraft to save precious lives; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir. Airworthiness of all aircraft is checked at scheduled intervals.

(b) and (c) The MiG-21 trainers used by Indian Air Force in lieu of Advanced Jet Trainers are more demanding than other aircraft.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The MiG-21 trainers are used for operational conversion during training and are certified fully airworthy.

Functioning of HEC, Ranchi

3816. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to revive the functioning of Heavy Engineering Corporation at Ranchi;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the economic package for the purpose;

(c) the details of the land acquired by HEC and the policy of the Government in connection with the unused land;

(d) whether the management of HEC is sub-leasing the unused land or plans to return back the land to its original owners;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE): (a) and (b) Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited (HEC), Ranchi is under reference to Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) since 1992. BIFR sanctioned a scheme for revival of the company in 1996 which was declared as failed. On 7.5.2003 BIFR has directed the Operating Agency (OA) to invite Expressions of Interest (EOI) for change of Management of HEC.

(c) Bihar Government during 1958-634 acquired 6530 acres of land for HEC for establishment of plants, township and other ancillary and allied purposes. HEC paid a sum of Rs. 242.62 lakhs to the State Government and State Government has paid compensation to the owners of the land.

(d) and (e) HEC has sub-leased about 350 acres of land to a number of Organizations/Agencies for various purposes.

(f) Does not arise.

Expansion of Bidadi and Torangalu Expansion Projects

3817. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Electricity Authority has given Techno-Economic Clearances to Torangalu Expansion Project and Bidadi Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the cost of these power projects;

(e) the cost escalated due to delay in granting the Techno-Economic Clearances; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government for their early clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (f) The Detailed Project Report of Torangalu TPS Expansion (2x250 MW) having an estimated cost of Rs. 2118.56 crore was received in Central Electricity Authority in February, 2001. The Detailed Project Report of Bidadi Combined Cycle Power Project (2x350 MW) having an estimated cost of Rs. 2266.4 crore was received in Central

Electricity Authority in September, 2001. The same were returned to project authorities for tie up of environmental clearances and administrative clearance from State Government etc. According to Electricity Act, 2003 which came into force from 10th June, 2003, the Techno-Economic Clearance from Central Electricity Authority is now not required for these projects.

Criteria for Introduction of Trains

3818. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria/norms adopted for introduction of trains;

(b) whether demands/requests/representations from various quarters/State Governments are also considered while introduction of trains;

(c) if so, the procedure followed for fulfilment of those demands/requests/representations;

(d) the details of the proposals/demands/ representations received from various quarters/State Governments for introduction of new train during the last three years, State-wise; and

(e) the present status of the each demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) The introduction of new trains is decided on the basis of travel demand, availability of resources and operational feasibility. Proposals for additional train services are finalised at Inter Railway Time Table Committee Meeting every year. These services are introduced during the course of the financial year on availability of the rolling stock, completion of gauge conversion works, development of requisite facilities etc.

(d) and (e) Requests for introduction of new trains are received at different levels of the Railways—Stations, Divisions, Zone, Ministry etc. on a continuous basis and become too voluminous to be compiled and are not being maintained in the Ministry. However, these are examined and action, as found feasible and justified, is taken.

Irregularities in Power Generation in IB Thermal Power Station

3819. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the frequent disruption of power generation in the IB Thermal Power Station in Orissa in 2002 and also during the current year 2003;

(b) if so, the number of times such irregularities in the generation of power has taken place in the above power station in that State along with the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to plug the loopholes so that there is no disruption in power generation in that thermal power plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) There were 49 trippings of the generating units during 2002-03 and 17 trippings during April-July, 2003 at IB thermal power station in Orissa due to problems in plant and equipment.

According to Orissa Power Generation Corporation Limited (OPGC) there is no irregularity in the generation of power from IB thermal power station and both the units of the plant have been performing satisfactorily. The Plant Load Factor achieved by the station during 2002-03 and April-July, 2003 was, 71.1% and 73.8% respectively.

(c) Preventive maintenance of the power plant is done every year at the time of annual overhauling by OPGC to minimize technical snags and ensure smooth running of the plant.

Retail Outlet at Mulund, Mumbai

3820. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Petrol Pump at Mulund (East), Mumbai has not been started till now;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the name of PSU to which this pump has been allotted; and

(d) the time by which the same is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has a proposal to set up a retail outlet

dealership (petrol pump) at Mulund (East), Mumbai, for which the Company has approached the State Government of Maharashtra for allotment of a suitable plot of land. Commissioning of the outlet will depend on allotment of land by that Government. In the normal course, BPCL is expected to commission the retail outlet in about three months after allotment of land.

Slots to M/s Rainbow Production of Deviating Rules

3821. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

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

(a) whether M/s Rainbow Production, a Calcutta based company has been allowed to capture slots for seven serials out of ten major serials in Kolkata Doordarshan;

(b) whether these allotments were made deviating the rules and norms applicable;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether further clearance for a mega serial Janmabhoomi was given to the above company in spite of huge outstanding to the tune of Rs. 5,17,78,520 during the material time of clearance by the Director of Programme, Kolkata Doordarshan;

(e) whether similar fresh allotment of slot has also been made to another programme named "Khas Khabor" from February, 2003 onward through it had outstanding to the tune of Rs. 1,64,57,165 during that period;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

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

Advertisement Revenue Rules for Pay Channels

3822. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to redefine advertisements revenue rules for pay channels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether most of the channels are earning more from advertisements and deliberate attempts are being made on consumers and cable operators to pay in huge amount for their channels; and

(d) if so, other steps Government propose to take to pull those channels who are deliberately harassing consumers and cable operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The matter of regulation of advertisement of pay channel raised by various quarters is being examined.

(c) and (d) Government is not maintaining any record of the earnings of T.V. channels from advertisements. All programmes transmitted/retransmitted through the cable TV networks are to adhere to the Advertisement Code prescribed under the Cable Act. However, with the introduction of CAS, consumer will pay only for those pay channels which they watch and will thus have control over content they wish to view and the money they wish to spend.

Procurement of WAG-6 Locomotives

3823. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the World Bank assistance, the Railways procured 18 numbers WAG-6 locomotives of 6000 HP at a cost of Rs. 200.00 crores;

(b) whether periodical overhauls of these locos were not carried out on stipulated dates due to non-availability of spares and technical know-how and manufacturing drawings, tool kits etc.;

(c) whether these locos were declared unsafe in September 2000 and withdrawn from traffic service;

(d) whether any investigation has been made into this lapse and to fix accountability; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Indian Railways had procured 18 Nos. prototype WAG-6 6000 H.P. Electric Locomotives (six WAG 6-B type and six WAG 6-C type from M/s Sumitomo Corporation, Japan and six WAG 6-A type from M/s ABB, Sweden). The locomotives were received in the year 1988. FOB (Free-on-Board) price of the locomotives was Japanese Yen 5,278,370,600 and Swedish Kroner 133,384,570 respectively. The FOB cost of these locomotives was Rs. 88 crore (approx).

(b) and (c) Due to the less number of these prototype locomotives and non availability of all required spares, the periodic overhaul (POH) of these WAG-6 locomotives has been delayed. These locomotives were temporarily withdrawn from service. Two WAG-6A locomotives and four WAG-6C type locomotives have since undergone their POH and are in service from 1.4.2003. POH of two WAG-6A and two WAG-6C locomotives is presently in hand. POH of remaining 8 locomotives is programmed thereafter.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Rail Projects in Rajasthan

3824. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the new/on-going/pending rail lines, gauge conversion, doubling, electrification projects and surveys in Rajasthan alongwith the progress made thereof, project-wise;

(b) the amount sanctioned and expenditure incurred on each of the project;

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

(d) whether some projects are lagging behind the schedule;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) the steps taken by the Government for timely completion of these projects;

(g) whether the Government of Rajasthan has requested the Union Government for extra financial package for these projects; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) (i) The details of the new/on-going rail projects in Rajasthan alongwith cost of the project, allocation of funds, expenditure incurred, progress made and target date wherever fixed are given as under:

(Rs. in crore)

S. No.	Name of project	Anti-cipated cost	Anticipated expenditure incurred upto March, 2003	Funds allocated 2003-04	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6
	New Lines				
1.	Dausa-Gangapur City	208.83	15.3	10.00	Final location survey has been completed. Land acquisition papers for entire section submitted to State Govt. Rs. 5.70 crore deposited with State Govt. for land acquisition. Work will be taken up once the land becomes available.
2.	Ajmer-Pushkar	67.00	10.00	5.00	Final location survey has been completed and land acquisition papers submitted to State Govt.

1	2	3	4	5	6
					Rs. 9.90 crore deposited with State Govt. for land acquisition. Land is yet to be handed over by the State Government.
3.	Kolayat-Phalodi	163.93	6.00	80.00 (funds from Ministry Of Defence)	Final location survey has been completed. Tenders for earthwork and bridges are under finalisation 620.67 hectare out of 628.15 hectare of land taken over. This project is funded by Ministry of Defence.
4.	Ramganjmandi-Bhopal	425.00	18.58	20.00	Land acquisition papers has been submitted to State Govt. for 7 villages out of which 10.88 hectare of land acquired. Work of geo-technical investigation of bridges, deep-cutting and designing of major bridges is under progress.
	Gauge Conversion				
5.	Agra-Bandikui	161.03	39.38	40.00	Work of all major bridges completed except bridge No. 67 which has to be done during mega block. Work of minor bridges is in progress. Bharatpur-Bandikui is targetted for completion during 2003-04.
6.	Ajmer-Udaipur-Chittaurgarh including material modification for extension from Udaipur to Umra	455.18	65.82	30.00	Earthwork, bridge works and other works are in progress.
7.	Bhildi-Samdari	244.74	1.87	30.00	The detailed estimate has been sanctioned. Tenders for ballast supply and civil works for about 120 km. are under finalisation.
8.	Luni-Barmer-Munabao	283.94	88.26	60.00 (Funds from Ministry of Defence)	The entire section has been planned to be opened in phases. The work from Luni to Samdari has been completed and section commissioned on 14.12.2002. Samdari-Jasai section has also been completed and being commissioned shortly. In Jasai-Munabao section, earthwork, minor bridges and ballast collection is in progress. This section is planned for completion during 2003-04.
9.	Pipar Road-Bilara	33.44	5.56	5.090	Detailed estimate has been sanctioned and preliminary arrangements have been taken up to take up the work.

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Rewari-Sadulpur incl. Material modification from Sadulpur-Hissar	282.76	0.1	7.32	Final location survey has been completed. Tenders for earthwork and bridge work processed.
11.	Sriganganagar-Sarupsar	106.09	0.09	4.83	Preliminary arrangements are being made to take up the work.

The projects completed have not been indicated above.

(ii) The details of new/on-going surveys partly/fully in Rajasthan are as under:

S.No.	Name of Projects	Km.
	New lines	
1.	Extension of Kolayat-Phalodi rail line upto Balotra via Shergarh, Shaitrawa and Dechhu	16
2.	Jaisalmer-Barmer	170
3.	Jhunjhunu-Pilani	20
4.	Anupgarh-Bikaner	155
5.	Rewari-Bhiwadi	27
6.	Bari Sadri-Nimach	50
7.	Jaisalmer-Kandla	600
	Gauge conversion	
8.	Udaipur City-Himmatnagar-Ahmedabad	346
	Doubling	
9.	Delhi-Ahmedabad	934
10.	Jaipur-Merta Road	219

These surveys are in various stages of progress.

(d) to (f) The works are progressing as per availability of resources. A number of initiatives have been taken to mobilise other than normal budgetary resources to expedite completion of ongoing projects.

(g) No such request has been received in the Ministry.

(h) Does not arise.

[English]

Notification on CAS

3825. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have propose to issue two notifications on the Conditional Access System (CAS);

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the time by which the same is proposed to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Notifications on CAS have already been issued by this Ministry at different times.

Vide Notification dated 14.1.2003 Government had decided to implement CAS in the four metro cities w.e.f. 15.7.2003. After monitoring the preparedness of stakeholders to introduce addressability and after discussion with various stakeholders, Government, vide Notification dated 10.7.2003, has decided to roll out the CAS in a zonal phased manner, in the metros of Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata and in the entire Chennai Metropolitan area w.e.f. 1.9.2003. Government has, through notification issued on 7.5.2003, specified Rs. 72 (plus taxes) as the maximum price of basic service tier, consisting of not less than 30 free-to-air channels of different genres of entertainment, news, sports, children's programmes and music.

The Cable Television (Amendment) Rules, 2003, notified on 6.6.2003, specify the manner of publicizing the subscription rates for pay channels, submission of quarterly report by cable operators, declaration of channels as "free-to-air" and "pay" etc. All these Notifications are available in Ministry's website www.mib.nic.in.

Consortium on DTH

3826. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prasar Bharati has approached State-owned telecom service providers BSNL and MTNL to participate in a consortium for its DTH (direct-to-home) telecast through the digital KU-band proposed to be launched by Doordarshan;

(b) whether the DD is hiring four satellite KU-band project to covering the remaining 20% of the population that does not get its transmission due to limitation of the terrestrial system's reach;

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

(d) whether the Planning Commission has approved Rs. 500 crores for Prasar Bharati, DD-DTH Project forax to be spent over five years; and

(e) if so, the concrete steps Government propose to utilise this fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (e) The Tenth Five Year Plan of Doordarshan, inter-alia, includes a scheme for expansion of T.V. coverage, through satellite transmission in Ku-band with an outlay of Rs. 500 crores approximately. A pilot scheme of "Ku-band transmission" has been formulated, which is yet to be approved by the competent authority. Prasar Bharati had held preliminary discussions with the Department of Space and MTNL, in connection with the above scheme.

Procurement of Helicopters

3827. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) when orders have been placed by the Ministry of Defence for purchase of some luxury helicopters; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No such orders have been placed.

(b) Question does not arise.

Non-Availability of TTEs/Attendants/Security Personnel in Trains

3828. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attendants, TTEs and Security Personnel are not available in trains particularly in AC compartments on duty during night hours;

(b) whether passengers are not woken up at proper times to dis-embark at their stations;

(c) whether passengers are frequently disturbed at night by unauthorised people;

(d) if so, the facts in this regard alongwith the reasons thereof;

(e) the action taken against the officials found negligent in their duty; and

(f) the details of guidelines issued to all zonal railways to ensure that staff remain alert at night and accessible to the passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) Coach Attendants remain available in Air-Conditioned Compartments. Travelling Ticket Examiners are normally required to man more than one coach and have to move for checking and other duties. Security Personnel also move for patrolling. Travelling Ticket Examiners and Coach Attendants wake up the passengers when they are to disembark at odd hours.

(c) to (e) Some instances of unauthorised entry at night come to notice. Suitable action is taken against such unauthorised persons by the train staff. The staff are also taken up when they are found negligent in their duty.

(f) Instructions are issued from time to time for providing assistance to passengers.

[Translation]

Selection of SCs and other Classes Students for Higher Studies

3829. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether students belonging to the Scheduled Castes have been sent to foreign countries for higher studies;

(b) if so, the number of students sent to foreign countries during each of the last three years and the current year, country-wise;

(c) the existing rules regarding selection of students of SCs and other classes for this purpose;

(d) whether the Government have started any advertisement and incentive scheme for selection of such students; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The last selections under the scheme was made in July, 2000, in which 18 candidates were selected. 13 students have gone abroad during the last three years, out of which 8 have gone to U.K. 2 to USA and one each to Germany, Australia and Hungry.

(c) to (e) The scheme provides financial assistance to selected Scheduled Caste students for pursuing higher studies abroad in specified fields of confirmed Master level courses, Ph.D. and Post-Doctoral research programmes. The maximum age for availing the scholarship is 35 years and the total income of the candidates, if employed or his/her parents/guardians should not exceed Rs. 12000/-per month. The continuation of the scheme beyond 2000-2001, with modifications to further improve the scheme is under process.

[English]

ONGC Tender for Deep Water Rigs

3830. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has advertised a Rs. 5000 crore tender for two deep-water rigs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the life span of these two rigs;

(d) whether such rigs could be hired;

(e) whether the Government propose to review the need to buy such expensive deep-water drilling rigs; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) The deep water exploration programme of Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) for the Tenth Five Year Plan, inter-alia, envisages drilling of 47 wells, some of which may be drilled in water depth upto 3000 meters. Accordingly, based on an international tender, ONGC have placed orders for hiring for three years each, of "Discoverer Seven Seas" rig of M/s Transocean Offshore Deep Water Drilling Inc., for drilling upto water depth of 1800 meters and for rig "Belford Dolphin" of M/s Dolphin Drilling Ltd. for drilling upto water depth of 3000 meters. The estimated value of tender was Rs. 4,177 crores.

(e) and (f) ONGC has intimated that any acquisition of deep water drilling rigs by it would depend upon the success of exploratory efforts and subsequent development plans.

[Translation]

Target set for Telecom Sector by PGCI

3831. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not achieving the targets set for telecom sector by the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited so far;

(b) whether the above company had set unrealistic targets for telecom sector during the last year;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) if not, the reasons for spending only one-fourth amount of the total amount allocated under the telecom head to it;

(e) whether Power Grid Corporation itself is responsible for not getting the timely approval of the competent authority to award the contract of packages for Telecom Base Network; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (f) The Feasibility Report submitted by POWERGRID for establishment of backbone telecom network was taken up for investment approval in June, 2000. In anticipation of Government approval for the project, a provision of Rs. 472 crore was made in the budget for 2002-03 for this project. Since this was a new venture taken up by POWERGRID, certain issues were required to be resolved in consultation with Department of Telecommunication, Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) and Ministry of Finance. These issues were ultimately resolved and the investment approval for the project could be issued by the Government only in March, 2003. Consequently an amount of Rs. 83 crore alone could be utilized by POWERGRID during 2002-03.

Potential of Hydel Power in NES

3832. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position of progress made by various hydel power projects in the North Eastern Region; and

(b) the steps taken to expedite implementation of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The latest position of progress made in respect of various Hydel Power Projects in the North Eastern Region and the steps taken to expedite implementation of the same are as under:

On going H.E. Project:

At present, 5 nos. of schemes aggregating to an installed capacity of 359 MW are under construction in North Eastern Region as per details given below:

Sl.No.	Name of Scheme	Installed Capacity	Likely Benefits
1.	Myntdu (Leshka) Stage-I, Meghalaya	2X42 = 84 MW	10th Plan
2.	Karbi Langpi, (Lower Borpani), Assam	2X50 = 100 MW	10th Plan
3.	Kopili Stage-II, Assam	1X25 = 25 MW	10th Plan
4.	Tuirial, Mizoram	2X30 = 60 MW	10th Plan
5.	Loktak down stream, Manipur	3X30 = 90 MW	11th Plan

(i) H.E. schemes cleared by CEA and awaiting investment approval:

5. Nos. of H.E. schemes of North Eastern Region with an aggregate installed capacity of 4390 MW have been accorded TEC by CEA and awaiting investment approval as per details given below:

Sl.No.	Name of Scheme	Installed Capacity
1.	Kameng (NEEPCO), Arunachal Pradesh	4 X 150 = 600 MW
2.	Subansiri Lower (NHPC), Arunachal Pradesh	8 X 250 = 2000 MW
3.	Tuivai (NEEPCO), Mizoram	3 X 70 = 210 MW
4.	Bairabi Dam (NEEPCO), Mizoram	2 X 40 = 80 MW
5.	Tipaimukh (NEEPCO), Manipur	6 X 250 = 1500 MW

(ii) H.E. schemes under Three-Stage Clearance:

11 H.E. schemes with an aggregate installed capacity of 18600 MW are at present under survey and investigation in North Eastern Region under Three-Stage Clearance procedure as per details in statement.

Government of India is according high priority to the development of hydro-electric projects in the country including the North Eastern Region. The hydro-electric projects being executed under Central Sector, State Sector and Private Sector are being regularly monitored at various levels. Moreover, the Government has introduced three-stage development of hydro-electric projects in the Central Sector with the object of reducing time and cost overruns during the implementation of these projects. A basin wise 'Ranking Study' of all the balance hydroelectric potential has been carried out by the Central Electricity Authority. The Ranking Study gives inter-se-prioritization of the projects which could be considered for the further implementation including their survey & investigation so that hydro power development is carried out in an appropriate sequence. Based on these studies, the Government has launched 50,000 MW Hydro Electric Initiative under which Preliminary Feasibility Reports in respect of 60 schemes with aggregate installed capacity of 30427 MW in North Eastern Region are to be prepared by different agencies.

Statement

Details of Clearances of Cost Estimates for Stage I, Commercial Viability and Cost Estimates for Stage II activities of Hydro Projects in N.E. Region under 3 stage development

Sl. No.	Name of Schemes/ State/Executing Agency	Benefits		Date of CEA clearance/ cleared cost (Rs. in crores)		
		I/C (MW)	Energy (GWh)	Stage I	Comm. Viability	Stage II
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Kameng Ar. Pradesh/ NEEPCO	4x150 =600	3592	—	—	CPIB clearance 24.07.01
2.	Subansiri Lower* Ar. Pradesh/ NHPC	8x250 =2000	7422	—	17.7.01	5.9.01 (33.31)
3.	Subansiri Middle Ar. Pradesh/ NHPC	8x200 =1600	4875	14.3.01 (8.52)	10.9.02	4.02.03 (24.09)
4.	Subansiri Upper Ar. Pradesh/ NHPC	8x250 =2000	6581	14.3.01 (8.27)	10.9.02	7.02.03 (21.36)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5.	Siang Middle Ar. Pradesh/ NHPC	4x250 =1000	3747	14.3.01 (8.85)	10.9.02	21.2.2003 (23.05)
6.	Siang Upper Ar. Pradesh/ NHPC	11000	—	14.3.01 (9.88)	—	—
7.	Ranganadi St-II Ar. Pradesh/ NEEPCO	2x65 =130	387	—	16.10.02	11.02.03 (15.37)
8.	Dikrong Ar. Pradesh/ NEEPCO	2x50 =100	—	14.11.02 (2.03)	_	—
9.	Lower Kopili Assam/ NEEPCO	3x50 =150	612	—	20.02.03	Under examination
10.	Hirit Ar. Pradesh/ NEEPCO	50	—	24.6.2003 (2.80)	—	—
11.	Papum-Pam Ar. Pradesh/ NEEPCO	60	—	24.6.2003 (3.28)	—	—

*TEC issued by CEA on 13.01.2003.

[English]

Special Central Assistance Under SCP

3833. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from Government of Rajasthan for increase of Special Central Assistance under Special Component Plan for giving subsidy under individual beneficiary programme for Welfare of SCs from Rs. 6,000/- to Rs. 10,000/; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal received and the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Rajasthan has proposed to increase the amount of subsidy from Rs. 6000/- to Rs. 10,000/- from Special Central Assistance during 2002-03. The guidelines on Special Central Assistance issued by the Government of India in 2000 provide for subsidy at 50% of the cost of the project subject to a maximum of Rs. 10,000/- per individual beneficiary. The State Government sent a proposal for the sanction of Rs. 70.00 crore covering 85,000 beneficiaries. Rs. 34.23 crore under Special Central Assistance was sanctioned to the State Government for the year 2002-2003, on the basis of the criteria for allocation of SCA to SCP of States.

Oil Trading and Risk Management Desks

3834. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allowed IOCL and ONGC to set up oil trading and risk management desks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent the oil companies would be benefited from oil trading and risk management desks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) The Government has constituted Empowered Standing Committees for import of crude oil by IOCL, BPCL, HPCL and MRPL.

Risk management or hedging of imports/exports of crude oil/products has been allowed by the Government since September 2000 on the condition that there should be a physical underlying import/export transaction and hedging of refining margin has been allowed since June 2002 with underlying crude import transactions. The Government has also decided in June 2003 to permit ONGC to hedge their underlying exposure to price risks with respect to crude oil, natural gas and other petroleum products produced by them/sold in India.

In a deregulated scenario, the oil PSUs are free to set up their own oil trading and risk management desks. Since the oil PSUs are directly affected by the volatility in the international oil prices, risk management or hedging tools can help them in risk mitigation.

[Translation]

Kargil Anniversary

3835. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided not to commemorate the fourth anniversary of the Kargil Day; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The Services are celebrating Vijay Diwas on 16th December every year to commemorate Indian Armed Forces Victory during 1971 Operations. As recommended by the services, it has been decided to celebrate only one Vijay Diwas on 16th December to pay homage to our martyrs. In view of this the Government have decided not to commemorate the fourth anniversary of the Kargil Day.

[English]

Provision of Coach Attendant and Fire Extinguisher in Trains

3836. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether provision of Coach attendant and fire extinguisher in each coach and coaches with fire resistance capacity as per recommendations made by the sub-committee of Consultative Committee for Ministry of Railways on October 26, 1994 have been implemented so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether as per recommendations of said committee, institution of Instant Action Group in selected and all long distance trains, awareness among public about hazards of carrying inflammable goods and articles on trains, have been satisfactorily implemented;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor and action taken/ proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) At present, Coach Attendants are deployed in upper class coaches. Provision of one Coach Attendant in each Sleeper Coach would require creation of additional posts. Moreover, considering the total quantum of work required to be done in the reserved coach and financial implications involved in providing a Coach Attendant in each Sleeper coach, it is not considered desirable to provide Coach Attendant in each coach. The Railways are continuously upgrading the fire retardant properties of the materials used in coach construction so that the coach can sustain prolonged exposure to fire. Fire extinguishers are provided in locos, Guard's compartment, pantry car, air-conditioned coaches and generator cars. In other coaches the provision of the same is not considered feasible.

(d) to (f) The scheme of Instant Action Group was introduced in 1994. At present a set of staff of certain categories alongwith a Train Superintendent have been provided on 30 long distance trains to assist passengers for safe and comfortable journey. Instructions exist to conduct checks against carriage of inflammable materials in trains and for exercising vigil to prevent carrying of such articles. Publicity is done through Press and media to educate the public regarding the safety hazards in carrying inflammable materials. These instructions are reiterated to all concerned for strict compliance.

Channels Through DTH

3837. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prasar Bharati Corporation's plan to launch DTH has been cleared by the Department of Space as reported in the "Hindustan Times" dated July 23, 2003;

(b) if so, whether the Government now propose to telecast all the channels through DTH to check interferences of cable operators etc.; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the further reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Doordarshan have formulated a scheme to provide T.V. coverage through satellite transmission in Ku-band. Under the scheme it would be possible for the viewers to receive the signals directly from satellite, with the help of a small dish antenna and set top box alongwith T.V. receiver. The scheme of "Ku-band" transmission is yet to be approved by the competent authority. Department of Space have informed Doordarshan that they would be able to provide the required number of Ku-band transponders for the above service.

Petrol Pumps In Sri Lanka

3838. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC is planning a bid to take over petrol stations in Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, whether ONGC will use petrol from MRPL refinery to supply the Sri Lankan petrol pumps; and

(c) if so, full details of the basis for taking over petrol stations in Sri Lanka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir;

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

[Translation]

Allotment of Land to Private Parties

3839. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Defence land measuring 1343.96 square metres in Jalandhar has been allotted to the private parties;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions thereof;

(c) whether rent of Rs. 10.16 lakhs only had been recovered during the year 1996-1997 to 2000-2001 as against the commercial rent of Rs. 24.29 lakh applicable on it, consequently which led to a loss of revenue worth Rs. 14.13 lakh;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir. No defence land has been allotted to private parties in Jalandhar Cantonment.

(b) to (e) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

[English]

Incident In PGCI

3840. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people who have died at various transmission towers of Power Grid Corporation located on the banks of the rivers all over the country;

(b) whether any financial assistance have been given to their kins;

(c) if not, whether there is a demand to send a team of experts to meet with local people and learn the cause of such deaths in Power Grid Corporation of India;

(d) if so, the details of such interaction;

(e) the time by which the inspection and interaction are likely to be completed; and

(f) the reasons for delay in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) In the recent past only one fatal accident at a transmission tower near Godavari river occurred on 29.05.2002.

(b) In accordance with the provisions of Workmen Compensation Act, POWERGRID deposited compensation for the kin of the deceased with the Labour Commissioner, Nasik in September, 2002.

(c) to (f) Do not arise.

Commitment with Defaulters of Doordarshan

3841. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prasar Bharati is managing the affairs of Doordarshan and All India Radio who has given four defaulting producers a three month time period to come out with a definite payment plan of dues they owe to Doordarshan;

(b) if so, whether these four producers who together owe around Rs. 34 crores come out with a repayment plan soon;

(c) if so, the progress so far made alongwith any time had been fixed; and

(d) the extent to which they have made commitment to adhere to the date and if they fail, the action Government propose to take against them?

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

[Translation]

DRM Office at Singrauli

3842. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the then Minister of Railways has laid foundation stone of office of the DRM, Singrauli in November, 1997;

(b) whether no progress has been made in this regard even after lapse of six years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the work of the DRM office is likely to be started?

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

(b) to (d) Not much progress could be made during these years as the issue remained under review owing to the resource crunch faced by the Railways. As per decisions taken during 2002, keeping in view the necessity to have unity of command in loading of coal from various coal fields served by Dhanbad Division, creation of Singrauli Division was not considered justified. Therefore, at present, it is not proposed to start the work of a Division at Singrauli.

[English]

Educational Facilities to the Disabled

3843. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM:
SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

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

(a) whether the Government are running various schemes to provide educational facilities for the disabled;

(b) if so, the details of each scheme and financial assistance provided thereunder during each of the last three years and the current year, scheme-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to make a firm policy in order to ensure education for the handicapped;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which this policy will be formulated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL): (a) and (b) The Department of Secondary and Higher Education in the Government of

India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Education for Disabled Children (IEDC) that has the primary objective of integration of mild to moderately disabled children in regular schools. Under this scheme, 100% financial assistance is being provided to State/Union Territory/non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for providing facilities that include books & stationery, uniform, transport, reader & escort allowance, etc. Ministry of SJ&E provides assistance for special schools under the Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities. Financial assistance provided under these schemes is given at statement enclosed. Besides, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment in supporting 500 scholarships for students with disabilities for pursuing technical and professional courses at post matric level onwards.

(c) to (e) The aspect of education of the children with disabilities is included in the National Policy on Education. Besides, the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 casts an obligation on appropriate governments for ensuring access to free education for every children with disability till 18 years of age, promoting integration of students with disabilities and setting up special schools wherever needed and equipping the students with vocational training facilities, making schemes for part-time classes, non-formal education, imparting education through open schools, providing free of cost books and equipments, etc.

The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) supported by the Ministry of Human Resource Development is a National Progrmame for Universal Elementary Education. It has the goal of eight years of elementary schooling for all children in the group of 6-14 years by 2010. Children with special needs will also be covered under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. Special training of teachers to encourage inclusive education, barrier free school facilities to enable differently abled children to participate in school, provision for meeting special needs of such children on the basis of a District Plan, providing funding at the rate of Rs. 1200 per disabled child, per year, is provided for under the SSA.

Statement

Assistance to States/UTs (including NGOs) under the Scheme of Integrated Education for Disabled Children (IEDC) during 2000-01 to 2003-04

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04 (up to July)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	11.19	89.98	23.36
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.99	—	—	—
3.	Assam	1.42	4.83	23.08	—
4.	Bihar	—	12.54	12.54	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	37.58	10.58	10.58
6.	Gujarat	337.62	554.64	798.15	125.24
7.	Goa	—	1.37	1.37	—
8.	Haryana	21.24	26.54	68.32	—
9.	Jharkhand	—	3.33	—	3.33
10.	Karnataka	226.31	310.48	517.02	—
11.	Kerala	267.31	153.96	379.78	165.34

1	2	3	4	5	6
12.	Madhya Pradesh	31.87	333.75	583.64	313.22
13.	Manipur	—	—	132.87	33.68
14.	Maharashtra	44.55	4.68	160.66	5.23
15.	Mizoram	22.41	13.67	33.58	19.41
16.	Nagaland	—	31.31	22.61	11.47
17.	Orissa	80.22	148.37	150.33	24.38
18.	Rajasthan	154.44	30.00	33.66	—
19.	Tamil Nadu	206.07	230.39	139.60	76.59
20.	Tripura	—	15.81	8.20	14.30
21.	Uttar Pradesh	9.86	40.98	16.94	—
22.	West Bengal	2.72	45.16	103.24	1.85
23.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	15.43	14.81	16.49	—
24.	Chandigarh	—	—	3.34	—
25.	Delhi	61.29	101.34	57.77	106.63
26.	Daman & Diu	0.17	0.19	0.17	—
27.	Pondicherry	3.69	4.49	6.41	—
28.	Meghalaya	—	—	1.73	—
29.	Sikkim	—	—	12.35	—

Grant in aid assistance given to NGOs under the Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities for Education/School programme during 2000-01 to 2003-04 (as on 1/8/03)

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04 (as on 1/8/2003)
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	938.21	906.70	1334.42	561.71
Arunachal Pradesh	-	12.66	9.73	-
Assam	10.42	19.12	35.32	8.07
Bihar	92.59	156.96	134.14	32.09
Chandigarh	2.05	2.09	2.00	-
Chhatisgarh	9.06	12.49	8.81	6.95

1	2	3	4	5
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	1.53	-	-
Delhi	266.70	217.28	352.95	124.17
Goa	12.64	24.07	24.28	8.95
Gujarat	35.95	59.59	60.64	3.15
Haryana	33.53	25.11	66.46	23.43
Himachal Pradesh	15.04	21.10	18.31	4.64
Jammu & Kashmir	-	1.64	2.51	-
Jharkhand	-	5.27	14.86	3.88
Karnataka	521.10	541.40	695.81	289.59
Kerala	258.23	265.78	295.84	80.17
Madhya Pradesh	16.88	48.93	61.25	27.73
Maharashtra	68.58	84.23	127.65	35.31
Manipur	41.33	43.40	57.10	26.76
Meghalaya	46.38	60.10	49.60	12.51
Mizoram	23.35	25.07	25.17	11.17
Nagaland	-	1.78	-	-
Orissa	128.75	129.43	200.41	68.43
Pondicherry	6.59	5.85	6.13	-
Punjab	80.22	72.26	83.61	38.31
Rajasthan	79.46	113.00	103.45	36.70
Sikkim	-	1.94	5.67	-
Tamil Nadu	107.97	137.06	233.43	51.77
Tripura	6.02	6.50	10.26	4.68
Uttar Pradesh	493.31	539.45	545.98	176.79
Uttaranchal	64.91	14.55	48.95	10.88
West Bengal	233.50	210.59	286.41	83.82

Finance to Films

3844. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Film Development Corporation of India is reluctant to finance to make films;

(b) if so, the NFDC does not give or finance to make film in other languages more than Rs. 45,00,000 each; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) National Film Development Corporation Ltd. (NFDC's) operations *inter alia* include producing/co-producing and financing good quality films, with special emphasis on small budget film makers, subject to the appraisal procedure followed for such purposes.

However, NFDC has limited resources and provides upto Rs. 40 lakhs for producing a film. In case the production costs tend to be higher, the Corporation may allot funds based on project appraisal. The main focus of the Corporation is to help new and deserving filmmakers to make low budget films. For films with bigger budgets, funds are available from commercial banks and IDBI.

Institutes of ONGC

3845. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has several institutes for closing technology gaps;

(b) if so, their contribution in this regard;

(c) whether these institutes are active in their fields of fundamental research, innovation and acquisitions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has eight Institutes engaged in Research & Development (R&D) activities in Exploration & Production (E&P) related matters.

(b) ONGC has informed that the major contributions of these Institutes, have been interalia, in the following areas:

(i) Expansion of exploration activities and opening of new areas.

(ii) Geoscientific data processing and interpretation.

(iii) Reservoir Characterization, Reservoir simulation, Enhanced oil recovery and Reservoir management.

(iv) Adoption of right Drilling practices.

(v) Production optimization.

(vi) Engineering & Construction activities.

(vii) Safety and Environment management.

(viii) Biotechnology aspects and

(ix) Human Resources Development in E&P activities.

(c) and (d) In addition to the above, ONGC Institutes are informed to be actively involved in adoption and acquisition of innovative practices, skill upgradation and technical and technologies improvements, being R&D activities in line with ONGC's business and corporate goals.

Non Payment of Dues by Oil Companies to Reliance

3846. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reliance Industries forwarded to Government a bill for Rs. 613 crore against refusal to pay by the State owned Oil marketing companies on account of cooking gas and kerosene bought from the company's Jamnagar Refinery;

(b) if so, whether the Oil Companies owe Reliance several crores for Kerosene and Cooking Gas; and

(c) if so, the reasons for such non-payment by oil marketing companies together with the Government's action in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) The oil marketing companies have

entered into product off-take agreement with M/s Reliance Petroleum Limited/Reliance Industries Limited for the period 01.04.2002 to 31.03.2004 covering *inter-alia* PDS Kersoene and domestic LPG. Further, subsidy on PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG is to be provided as per the provisions under "The PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG Subsidy Scheme, 2002" notified by the Government on 28th January 2003. The oil marketing companies have made a reference to the Government seeking clarifications/ guidelines regarding payment of purchase price for these products to the refineries/producers in terms of the product off-take agreement read with the aforesaid subsidy scheme.

Non-Audition of News Department

3847. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the News Department of Doordarshan is audited by the C&AG;

(b) whether since 1998 the News Department of Doordarshan has not been audited by the C&AG; and

(c) if so, the details alongwith the reasons therefor?

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

Rail Bijlee Company

3848. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY:
SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE:
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways has recently set up 'Rail Bijlee Company Limited' For in-house production of electricity for its requirements;

(b) if so, the details thereof including total equity of the company and the share holding of Railways in the company;

(c) the number of generating units to be set up and the total Mega Watt capacity of the proposed company;

(d) whether the company has obtained all the clearances;

(e) if so, the time limit by which the company will be starting its operations;

(f) whether the Railways has worked out the economics of power generation by Rail Bijlee and its transmission over long distances; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Not yet Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is proposed to install 4 units of 250 MW capacities each.

(d) Not yet.

(e) Not yet fixed.

(f) and (g) Yes Sir. Central Electricity Authority in consultation with Power Grid Corporation of India Limited has worked out the transmission arrangement required to be created/supplemented. As per this, about 75 Paise per unit (tentative as actual will be decided by Central Electricity Regulatory Commission) will be required to be paid to Central Transmission utility for taking power to different states from proposed power plant location. In addition, certain wheeling charges to be decided by State Electricity regulatory Commission will be required to be paid to State utility. Even after the payment of above charges, electricity rate per unit to Railways at different load centers is expected to be lower than the present rate at which Railways are purchasing power.

Dues of Employees in BSCL

3849. SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge employee-related liabilities approximately Rs. 150/-crore is being suppressed to deprive the employees of Burn Standard Company Limited from getting their legitimate dues instead of having the order passed by the Hon'ble Court, Kolkata in January 21, 2003;

(b) whether the valuation of Assets of BSCL are yet to be conducted and no transparency is being maintained as per the directives of BIFR;

(c) whether irrational downsizing of manpower is taking place in BSCL causing serious threat to the revival of the Company;

(d) whether the funds released on account of V.R. to BSCL as "interest-bearing loan" instead of 'Grant-in-aid' and during 2002-2003, Rs. 45.00 crore has been earmarked towards the interest payment for Government loans and interest has rendered the Company to reel under huge interest burden;

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

(f) the action contemplated by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE): (a) All admissible employees related liabilities have been reflected in the accounts of the Company.

(b) Valuation of the assets of BSCL has been started by Assets Valuer as a part of Disinvestment process.

(c) No Sir.

(d) to (f) The Interest on Government loan as on 31.03.2003 is Rs. 58.02 crore (provisional) of which an amount of Rs. 29.62 crore (provisional) is on account of interest on VRS loan. The Government have decided to restructure their loan and interest as on 30.09.2002 subject to location of joint venture partner.

Welfare Package to Airforce Personnel

3850. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose some welfare package for the Air Force personnel and their families; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The Married Accommodation Project (MAP) and the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) are two welfare packages introduced recently.

(b) As a part of Married Accommodation Project in the first phase, 16109 houses are planned to be constructed for Air Force personnel commencing from 2002-03. Ex-servicemen Health Scheme in a tri-services medical project for Establishing polyclinics in the country, that will be fully implemented by 31st March, 2008.

[Translation]

Constitution of Task Force to Use New Herbal Diesel

3851. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a task force has been constituted under the chairmanship of Shri D.N. Tiwari, a Member of the Planning Commission to conduct a study about making use of a new fuel—the herbal diesel;

(b) if so, whether the above Task Force has submitted its report to the Government;

(c) if so, the details of the report; and

(d) the action taken by the Government on that report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) A Committee on Development on Bio-fuels was constituted under the chairmanship of Dr. D.N. Tiwari, Member, Planning Commission to look into various aspects connected with blending of bio-diesel with mineral oil based fuels.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Committee has recommended launching of National Mission on Bio-Diesel to enable 20% blending of bio-diesel in diesel by 2011-12 in two phases.

(d) The Committee submitted its report only in July, 2003.

[English]

Pending proposals for acquisition of Defence Equipments

3852. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals pending the acquisition of defence equipments;

(b) since when these proposals are pending; and

(c) the steps taken to clear the proposals at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The modernization of Armed Forces is an ongoing process. The procurement of the equipment necessary for maintaining full operational preparedness of Armed Forces has been taken up as per the prescribed procurement procedures. These are in various stages of procurement. In view of the sensitive nature of information it is not in the interest of national security to disclose the details of the equipment under procurement.

Disposal of Assets of BSCL units

3853. SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the names and locations of closed units of Burn Standard Company Limited, whose assets are yet to be disposed of;

(b) whether BSCL has to incur Rs. 3.00 crore per annum for security and maintenance purpose from its internal generation/working capital which has become an impending factor for the growth of the operating units of BSCL;

(c) whether there is a demand that the above cost of Rs. 3.00 crore may be reimbursed by the Government to the BSCL as these units were closed down by the directive of the Union Government and not by the decision of BSCL; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon and the action Government propose to take in this matter and when?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE): (a) The closed units of Burn Standard Company Ltd. whose assets are yet to be disposed of are:

(i) Raniganj Group of Works including No. 2 Works, Raniganj, Burdwan; Lalkoti Works in Raniganj, Burdwan; Durgapur Works in Burdwan and Ondal works, Ondal, all in West Bengal.

(ii) Gulfurbari Works in Distt. Dhanbad, Jharkhand.

(iii) Jabalpur Works in Jabalpur, M.P.

(iv) Niwar Works in Niwar, M.P.

(v) Jellingham Yard in West Bengal.

(b) The company has reported that it had incurred an expenditure of Rs. 1.10 crore during 2002-03 for security and maintenance of these units.

(c) and (d) While the company had proposed an amount of Rs. 1.00 crore for maintenance of these units for 2003-04, it was felt that with reduction in manpower through VRS, the company should have sufficient saving to meet these expenses. Further the company has been advised to minimize the expenditure on closed units.

Full Time Director in BSCL, Kolkata

3854. SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no full time Director (Finance) in the Burn Standard Company Limited, Kolkata and as a result thereof the performance of BSCL is seriously affected specially for the revival of this Company; and

(b) if so, the measures contemplated by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE): (a) and (b) There is no full-time Director (Finance) in the Burn Standard Company Limited at present. As a part of organizational restructuring of the Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Ltd. (BBUNL) Group, it has been decided not to fill up the posts of Directors that may fall vacant due to retirement/resignation of the present incumbents. Director (Finance), BBUNL holds the additional charge of the post of Director (Finance), BSCL. This has not affected the performance or revival of BSCL.

STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1438 DATED 30/7/2003 REGARDING PRADHAN MANTRI SWASTHYA SURAKSHA YOJANA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): I invite attention to the reply given to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1438 answered on 30th July, 2003, regarding Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana. Due to mix-up in the nomenclature of the names of the schemes, complete position could not be given in the aforesaid reply. The Correct factual details are as under:

(a) whether the Government have launched the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana recently;
(b) if so, the main objectives thereof; and

(c) the target set thereunder for the year 2003-2004?

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Considering the Need for providing specialized treatment to needy and poor people in the under-served areas, Government of India has launched a Scheme by the name "Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana". The Scheme envisages the following:-

(i) Setting up institutions on the pattern of AIIMS in certain under-served States. This Scheme has been inaugurated

by the Hon'ble Prime Minister by laying the foundation stone for one of such Institutions at Bhubaneswar on 15/7/2003.

(ii) Upgrading existing institutions in certain remaining under-served States/regions to meet the demand for super speciality health services.

(iii) Introduction of Janani Swasthya Yojana by augmenting and clubbing the existing schemes to reduce infant mortality rate and maternal mortality rate.

(iv) Setting up of Container based mobile hospital for providing emergency medical relief under Sanjivani Scheme.

(v) "Universal Health Insurance Scheme" to provide health cover to the poor. This has already been launched by the Prime Minister on 14th July, 2003.

Inconvenience caused in regretted.

STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO STARRED QUESTION NO. 154 DATED 30.7.2003 REGARDING 'TELE-DENSITY IN RURAL AND URBAN AREAS'.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): In the reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 154 on 30.7.2003 regarding Tele-density in rural and Urban areas, a mistake has crept in inadvertently.

The existing part (a) of the answer may be read as under:

(a) The total land line connections (inclusive of WLL) provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. and Private Basic Service Operators in rural and urban areas separately at the end of 2002-03 are given as under:

Urban	305.23 lakh lines
Rural	114.06 lakh lines

Immediately after the detection of the mistake, action has been initiated to correct the reply.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the statement (Hindi and English versions) correcting the reply given on the 24th July, 2003 to Unstarred Question No. 695 by Shri A. Narendra, M.P. regarding "Earnings of Doordarshan/AIR".

In answer to parts (a) & (b) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 695 answered on 24.07.2003 regarding revenue earning in respect of AIR were given as follows:-

(Rupees in crores)

Year	Revenue Earned AIR
1998-99	93.74
1999-00	80.84
2000-01	93.90
2001-02	96.69
2002-03	131.05

The corrected portion of part (a) and (b) of the reply in respect of AIR will now read as:

(Rupees in crores)

Year	Revenue Earned AIR
1998-99	93.74
1999-00	80.84
2000-01	73.90
2001-02	96.69
2002-03	131.05

The inconvenience caused to the Lok Sabha is regretted.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7980/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Biologicals, Noida, for the year 2002-2003, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Biologicals, Noida, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7981/2003]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, Shillong, for the year 1998-1999 along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, Shillong, for the year 1998-1999.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, Shillong, for the year 1999-2000 along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, Shillong, for the year 1999-2000.

(5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

(6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, Shillong, for the year 2000-2001 along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, Shillong, for the year 2000-2001.

(7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.

(8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, Shillong, 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 North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, Shilling, for the year 2001-2002.

(9) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (8) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7982/2003]

(10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, for the year

2000-2001 along with Audited Accounts under sections 18 and 19 of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences Act, 1956.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7983/2003]

(11) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (10) above.

(12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the MNJ Institute of Oncology and Regional Cancer Centre, Hyderabad, for the year 1996-1997 along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the MNJ Institute of Oncology and Regional Cancer Centre, Hyderabad, for the year 1996-1997.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7984/2003]

(13) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (12) above.

(14) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Avert Society, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Avert Society, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Avert Society, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7985/2003]

(15) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (14) above.

(16) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the AIDS Prevention and Control Project (APAC), Chennai, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the AIDS Prevention and Control Project (APAC), Chennai for the year 2001-2002, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the AIDS Prevention and Control Project (APAC), Chennai, for the year 2001-2002.

(17) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (16) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7986/2003]

[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): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following statements (Hindi and English versions) showing action taken by the Government on the assurances, promises and undertakings given by Ministers during various sessions of Tenth, Twelfth, and Thirteenth Lok Sabha:—

TENTH LOK SABHA

1. Statement No. XXXIV Eleventh Session, 1994

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7987/2003]

TWELFTH LOK SABHA

2. Statement No. XXV Fourth Session, 1999

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7988/2003]

THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA

3. Statement No. XXIV Second Session, 1999

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7989/2003]

4. Statement No. XXIV Third Session, 2000

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7990/2003]

5. Statement No. XIX Fourth Session, 2000

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7991/2003]

6. Statement No. XVIII Fifth Session, 2000

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7992/2003]

7. Statement No. XV Sixth Session, 2001

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7993/2003]

8. Statement No. XV Seventh Session, 2001

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7994/2003]

9. Statement No. XII Eighth Session 2001

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7995/2003]

10. Statement No. X Ninth Session, 2002

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7996/2003]

11. Statement No. VII Tenth Session, 2002

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7997/2003]

12. Statement No. V Eleventh Session, 2002

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7998/2003]

13. Statement No. III Twelfth Session, 2003

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7999/2003]

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 Fourteenth Report presented to the House on 19th August, 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 Prakash V. Patil	21.04.2003 to 05.05.2003
(2)	Shri A.B.A. Ghani Khan Choudhary	21.04.2003 to 09.05.2003 07.04.2003 to 10.04.2003 and
(3)	Shri Hannan Mollah	21.04.2003 to 07.05.2003
(4)	Shri Ambareesh	21.07.2003 to 22.08.2003
(5)	Shri N. Ramakrishna Reddy	21.07.2003 to 22.08.2003
(6)	Shri Sunil Dutt	25.07.2003 to 20.08.2003

Is it the pleasure of the House that leave as recommended by the Committee be granted?

SEVERAL HON MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Leave is granted. The Members will be informed accordingly.

12.02½ hrs.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON OFFICES OF PROFIT

Seventh Report

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Sir, I beg to present the Seventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit (Thirteenth Lok Sabha).

12.03 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Twelfth and Thirteenth Reports and Minutes

[English]

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur): I beg to present the Twelfth and Thirteenth Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table (2003-04) and Minutes relating thereto.

12.03½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND WELFARE

Thirty-third Report

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Sir, I beg to present a copy of the Thirty-third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare on "The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 9

Dr. B.B. Ramaiah — Not present.

Shri A.C. Jos — Not present.

12.04 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Reported Detection of Pesticides in Soft Drinks

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to lay a Statement in regard to Report in newspapers in pesticide residues in soft drinks.

A report on analysis of pesticide residues in soft drinks conducted by Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), an NGO based in Delhi, was recently covered prominently by the media. The spokesperson of CSE had alleged in the said report that in the case of 12 soft drink brands, of which samples had been taken, CSE found pesticide residues which exceeded EU norms ranging from 11 to 70 times. Hon'ble Members may kindly recall that on 6th August 2003 serious apprehension was expressed in the House on the quality of soft drinks and their safety from the health point of view, especially for popular brands like Pepsi and Coca Cola, manufactured and marketed in the country.

I would first like to apprise the Hon'ble Members of the legal position with regard to safety standards of soft drinks in our country. Soft drinks are non-alcoholic beverages, categorized as sweetened carbonated water under the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Rules. There are standards prescribed for the percentage of total sugar expressed as sucrose, total plate count per ml, coliform count in 100 ml, yeast and mould count per ml. Individual limits of metal contaminants namely, lead, copper, arsenic, tin, zinc, cadmium and mercury have been prescribed under PFA Rules for carbonated water. There are no separate limits at present set for pesticide residues under the PFA Rules for sweetened carbonated water which includes all the soft drinks.

Soft drink manufacture is covered under Fruit Products Order 1955 administered by Ministry of Food Processing Industries. In part II (D) of the said Order, soft drinks are defined as aerated water meaning potable water impregnated with carbon dioxide under pressure in properly sealed container. The Bureau of Indian Standards also lays down standards for carbonated beverages but they do not lay down any standards for water. So far as the other constituents are concerned, the standards are harmonised with PFA specifications which are mentioned earlier. The term 'potable water' finds mention in the PFA Rules which state that wherever water is used in the manufacture or in preparation of any article of food, such water shall be free from micro organisms likely to cause disease and also free from chemical constituents which may impair health.

The House may recall that Govt. of India has recently issued a Notification prescribing limits for pesticides in packaged drinking water. These limits are as per EU norms and will become applicable from 1st January 2004. This was done on the basis of the recommendation of an Expert Group constituted by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare to examine standards under various national laws including FDA and EU norms.

I would now like to inform the Hon'ble Members of the action we have taken following the report published by CSE. We have collected samples for analysis from the market for the 12 brands of soft drinks belonging to the same bottling units from which CSE had collected the samples. Two sets of samples were sent to the Central Food Technological Research Institute, (CFTRI) Mysore, and Central Food Laboratory (CFL), Kolkata, for analysis. The results have since been received from both the laboratories CFTRI has reported that out of 12 samples, pesticide residues were below the EU limits in

[Shrimati Sushma Swaraj]

three samples. In the remaining 9, where they were found above the limits, the number of times the residues are higher than EU limits ranges from 1.6 to 5.2 whereas the CSE report alleges that the number of times the residues are higher than the EU limits range from 11 to 70 times. Results from CFL, Kolkata also states that in 3 samples, the total pesticide residues were below the EU limits whereas in the other 9 samples, the number of times the residues are higher varies from 1.2 to 5.22. Another important observation of both the laboratories is that Malathion which was alleged to be 87 times the EU limit as per the CSE report, was found to be totally absent in all the samples. The CFTRI has also conducted an additional sophisticated test using GCMS method for identification of the molecular structure of all the pesticides contained in the samples. This is a confirmatory test not done by CSE.

The results clearly show that all the 12 samples do not have pesticide residues of the high order as was alleged in the CSE report. In some cases they are well below the EU standards and in some, a few times higher than the EU limit. However, according to the standards prescribed under PFA Rules, all these are well within the safety limits as per the existing standards of packaged drinking water.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter is being daily reported in newspapers alongwith photographs. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Please let me finish. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, Interruptions should not be made during statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Paswanji, please let her finish.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, apprehensions were expressed in the beginning. ...*(Interruptions)* How do we trust this. Do we trust their, analysis or get convinced by this statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Raghuvanshji, please hear the statement first. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: The other day you were expressing concern and now you are certifying. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: When you will sit down to listen you will come to know ...*(Interruptions)*. Who is issuing certificates. ...*(Interruptions)*

It is also to be noted that the assertion of the soft drink manufacturers that their product is within the EU limits has also not proved to be correct for 100% of the samples. ...*(Interruptions)*

In the meantime Hon'ble Members are aware that the Delhi High Court in its order dated 11 August 2003 on a petition made by the representatives of M/s Pepsi have asked the Central Government to test the samples of the products manufactured by the petitioner in a laboratory which has the wherewithal to test samples. They have asked for the results to be made available within three weeks.

I would like to assure the Hon'ble Members that the soft drinks tested are well within the safety limits prescribed for packaged drinking water at present. I would also like to assure the Hon'ble Members that despite the fact that the existing standards of safety are met by the soft drink manufacturers, the Government is considering to introduce EU norms for water content in soft drinks from the date from which the norms would be made applicable for packaged drinking water to bring in harmonization of standards. Government would also ask the CCFS to examine application of these standards to other beverages also where water is the main constituent.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: How it is to be trusted. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: For the information of the House, I am reading Rule 372. The Rule is clear on the issue. It says:

> "A statement may be made by a Minister on a matter of public importance with the consent of the Speaker but no question shall be asked at the time the statement is made."

[Translation]

Any question cannot be asked after the Minister has made his statement in the House. There is no such

convention in this House. Therefore, it is not possible for me to give you permission to ask the questions. If the Members agree then as a special case I can allow only two-three members to ask questions. I cannot allow all the members to do so.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have already introduced the bill here in the House but the Chief Minister of Delhi Shrimati Sheela Dixit says that Congress party does not support that Bill. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let me listen to the Minister. Please sit down. Discipline should be maintained in the House. Let the Minister say whatever she wants to say.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a serious question and since some hon'ble members think that this statement has been made in connivance with the major companies *...(Interruptions)*. Sir, I would like to request you that though rules does not permit any clarification on statement, please do not confine it only up to two-three questions only. If the hon. members wants a fullfledged discussion on it, let all the hon'ble Member whoever want to raise their questions may ask *...(Interruptions)*. The Hon. members who want to ask the questions would be permitted. I would like to reply all the questions. Because allegations are being levelled and I would like to refute all the allegations. *...(Interruptions)* Please permit all the members to ask questions, I would like to give reply to each and every question. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. There is no point of order. There is a question before us.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please allow all the Members to ask questions. I shall reply to all the questions. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to ask one thing. *...(Interruptions)* I want to say one thing. Last week I was travelling in shatabadi express. Boarding the train at Lucknow, we were served water bottles of a reputed brand. I am forgetting the brand name right now. A small industrialist was also travelling in the same train and he was also served the water bottle and when he poured the water into a tumbler he spotted worms in that water. When the employee who served the water came to know about it he came running and took the bottle away. I wanted to take the bottle to show you but before I could do anything he ran away with the bottle. I want that you should reply to this and JPC should be constituted to look into the matter. This matter is not related to any political party. This matter is related to crores of people of the country. This is a serious threat to the life of people. Numerous diseases are spreading and we people are having indifferent attitude towards such things. *...(Interruptions)* Pollution level is very high and contaminated water is being served in trains and aeroplanes. *...(Interruptions)* It is beyond doubt that contaminated water is being provided. It is hoped you will do something good. I request you to constitute JPC on this subject to ascertain the facts. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, I have a point of order. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): Sir, what is the point of order here? *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, you will have to tell under what rule your point of order comes?

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, my point of order is under Rule 372. The Minister has made a statement and in response to that you are allowing only two to three Members to ask questions. In that case we would lose the opportunity to ask questions. This is an alarming issue and so a discussion should be allowed on this. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I have already said that not only two three hon. members be allowed to ask questions rather all the hon. members to ask the questions. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Yes, correct.

Sir, you please allow a discussion on this issue. Everybody will participate and then Members can make a demand either for a JPC or for an investigation and Government can respond to that. But if you are allowing only two to three Members to ask questions on this then, we are losing the opportunity to express our views. That is my point of order.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ BABBAR (Agra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, JPC should be constituted. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Raj Babbarji, please sit down. The hon'ble Members from opposition want that questions be asked on this subject.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: If you want JPC on this issue. It is alright. ...*(Interruptions)* I am not going to defend any one. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not an issue for the Members to get agitated. I am talking about the procedure, as you want to put questions. The hon. Minister is ready even for discussion on this subject. But, we have time constraint. I have, therefore, decided to allow some Members to ask questions. This will enable you to put your questions in proper shape so as to elicit their replies.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank you for having agreed to deviate a bit from the established convention. I am going to ask a small and simple question. Hon. Minister, Sir, perhaps you may not have enough information for the reply. Nevertheless you have the option to first collect information and inform me later on or you can reply with whatever information is available at hand. I just want to know how much donation has been given on this count, before you took up this report to read it out in this House?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I shall disclose the name of the concerned party also in whose favour the donation has been made. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please take your seat. Please listen to the reply being given by the Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister is competent enough to give reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot say that this should be allowed or this should not be allowed.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, I cannot allow everybody.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): How much donation was received when Pepsi cola was allowed entry during your party's rule. Please tell us. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: I want a brief answer to my brief question. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister is giving to your question, why are you standing?

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: She is standing to reply you. Do you want to hear her.

[Translation]

What does she want to say through the reply, please listen to that first.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have not allowed you.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): I also associate myself with the suggestion given by Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav that a JPC be set up to go into this matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi has raised a question.

[Translation

Paswanji why are you standing, the hon. Minister is giving reply.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: First of all, I would like to say that I myself offered you an opportunity to ask questions and in doing so I am deviating from the convention. Not only that, I offered the members to ask as many question as they want. Only then, they came out with the demand for setting up a Joint Parliamentary Committee. I told them that they need not raise slogans and if they were in favour of constituting JPC with immediate effect, they were free to do so. I am giving this offer. *...(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Satyavarat Chaturvedi stood up to ask a question. *...(Interruptions)* Raghuvanshji, if I am not acceding to it, then you can say. Nobody is refusing it. You form the JPC and let there be no member from the Government side on that committee, only opposition members be associated as members and Raghuvanshji be made Chairman of the Committee. *...(Interruptions)* Let there be not a single member on the JPC from the Government side, only opposition members may constitute the committee. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): Let he come up with a motion.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Let us establish a new convention. Let the committee consist of only opposition members. There would be no member from Government side. But I want to respond to their queries. The moment, Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi got up. I never expected that he would raise such a question. I consider him a very responsible Member but I would like to add to his information. *...(Interruptions)* This report which is before us, has not been presented by the Government. This has been sent by the CFTRI Laboratory, Mysore which is not under the Ministry of Health. CFTRI is the only accredited lab in India which is not under the Ministry of Health. This has been presented by that lab. *...(Interruptions)* when you say that donation has been taken, it directly amounts to discredited lab of the country.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: When the Minister is giving reply, you have no patience to listen to her.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, attempts have been made to damage the credibility of this lab. *...(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, a single sentence of his, can put a question mark on the credibility of this lab *...(Interruptions)*. He is resorting to such tactics to serve his political interests. *...(Interruptions)*. Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is one of the reputed lab of India in global arena. *...(Interruptions)* whose reputation has been harmed. If you intend to appoint JPC, you are free to do so, I have no objection. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed Shri Ram Vilas Paswanji, so nothing would go on record except what he says. Raj Babbarji, please take your seat. There is no need to repeat it.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Vilas Paswan will put his question now.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: The Government is ready for any inquiry. You just decide about it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in matters relating to health, whomsoever it may concern, but the responsibility of the Parliament. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If both of you will speak, I shall not be able to understand. You please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: I shall allow you to ask two-three questions and then I shall constitute the JPC.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: After Shri Ram Vilas Paswan's question is replied to, I will go to form the JPC. Let me know what Shri Ram Vilas Paswan has to ask.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no need to discuss it at length. Hon. Sushma Swaraj is the hon. Minister. Ministry of Health is responsible to care for the health of the people and bring improvement therein. *...(Interruptions)* Whichever lab it may be, but the Minister of Health is accountable towards the Parliament. Whatever information the hon. Minister wants to collect, she may do so. This House would not do injustice to anybody. The people have stopped patronising all the companies like coca-cola, campa and pepsi because they are concerned about their health. Still the news are pouring in through the newspapers and television and sometimes with the proof in bottle to show how much infected it is and you have been given them the clean-chit, no matters it is through the lab.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: You first go through the statement. Please read the report, which has been presented. I cannot create the report myself. You are requested to go through the report and then speak about it. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: She has given the clean-chit. *...(Interruptions)* She is fond of speaking. *...(Interruptions)* The entire House has listened to her. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta-North West): She has laid the report, she did not give the clean-chit, you are in the habit of lecturing. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: If the hon. Minister is ready for the JPC, she should give it in writing. Multinational companies have suffered loss to the tune of billions of rupees because of some institute. I would like to know whether the Government of India or the Ministry of Health has on any occasion conducted inquiry and presented report earlier to it. *...(Interruptions)* I want to know whether the Government of India have conducted inquiry or not. Whether the fate of a company now depends on some NGO who would decide about the quality of their products. I would like to know as to when the Government conducted the inquiry? *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU: Sir, please allow me to speak. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Can I not allow the Minister to speak? Do not you know the rules? Let the Minister reply when the question is asked. She has to reply. Please sit down.

[Translation]

You do not know even the simple rules. One question has been raised let us wait for the reply.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has asked whether such inquiry has been conducted on an earlier occasions also. I would like to tell him that at that time, when the matter relating to bottled water came up. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Before that.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Not this matter, I am talking about an earlier matter. I am not talking about the soft drinks. Before that, when the case of bottled water came up. *...(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, soft drinks and bottled water are two different things. *...(Interruptions)* You don't want to listen. According to you all are corrupt, and all wisdom and knowledge belong only to you. You do not allow other to speak and you get up to interrupt others. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Paswan, you are expected to listen to the entire reply.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the issue of bottled water was raised in the House earlier you had asked whether the Government got the matter examined by the NGO. The samples of coca-cola and pepsi were taken and tested by the CFTRI prior to presentation of the report by the NGO, but the matter was not raised before the Parliament at that time. When

the report was presented by the CSE, the conclusions arrived at the CFTRI were similar. The same thing has been established now in the 12 brands tested by them. The same CFTRI had conducted test on its own before the report of the CSE and the conclusions of that report were at par with that of present report.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Rule No. 2 says that when the Chair stands, the Member has to sit down. This is rule No. 2. The third rule is, the Member can ask a question and the Minister can reply.

Now, I am making my observation.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody can prohibit me from making an observation.

Hon. Members have asked for appointment of JPC in the matter. I have permitted one or two Members to put their questions also. Since the JPC is to investigate the whole matter, I would request the Minister to follow the procedure. The procedure is, you have to bring a Motion. You can bring a Motion for appointment of JPC. The Speaker has absolutely no objection. You can do that and the Report can be brought by the Committee as early as possible. The Government will bring a Motion and I think this is the best procedure in the given circumstances.

Therefore, I go to the next item. The matter is over.

Shrimati Sushma Swaraj may move the Motion.

12.32 hrs.

MOTION RE: FIFTY-FIFTH REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to move:

> 'That this House do agree with the Fifty-fifth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 19th August, 2003.'

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

> 'That this House do agree with the Fifty-fifth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 19th August, 2003.'

The motion was adopted.

12.33 hrs.

RE: PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO COWS BILL, 2003

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House may take up item No. 12. Shri Rajnath Singh.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for effective measures for the prevention of cruelty to cows and for matters incidental thereto. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have received notices from the following Members and I am going to permit all the Members to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have received notices from Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, Shri G.M. Banatwalla, Shri E. Ahamed, Shri Basu Deb Acharia, Shri Moinul Hassan, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Shri Suresh Kurup, Shri Shivraj V. Patil, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, Shri E.M.S. Natchiappan, Kumari Mamata Banerjee, Shri S.S. Palanimanickam, Shri Anil Basu, Shri Lakshman Seth, Shri Rupchand Pal, Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi, Shri K.H. Muniyappa and Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal. I am going to permit you all.

I have also received notices from Prof. A.K. Premajam, Shri Mahboob Zahedi, Shri Yerrannaidu and Dr. Krishnan. I am going to allow every Member to speak in the House. These Members do not want the introduction of the Bill. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I ask Shri Radhakrishnan to speak now. I permit Shri Radhakrishnan to speak and I am going to allow every Member to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Your name is also there. You can also speak on this issue. I have no problem in allowing Members to speak. Those Members who are opposing the introduction of this Bill will be permitted to speak. Shri Varkala Radhakishnan's name is the first in the list. So, I have permitted Shri Radhakrishnan to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I oppose the introduction of this Bill. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seats. I am going to permit the Members to speak on this issue. Your name is also there. Kumari Mamata Banerjee, your name is also there.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rajnath Singh has asked the permission of the House to introduce the Bill. Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan has given notice to oppose the introduction of this Bill. S, he may speak now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI V. VETRISELVAN (Krishnagiri): Sir, we are opposing the introduction of this Bill as this is against the fundamental right of the citizens. *...(Interruptions)* Sir, how can we allow him to introduce this Bill? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I can understand your sentiments. I think you are opposing the introduction of this Bill. Dr. Krishnan, I am going to allow you to speak. Your name is also there. Please go to your seats. Let the proper procedure be followed in the House. The proper procedure is, the Minister has asked the leave of the House to introduce the Bill.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have expressed your desire to speak. When I permit you to speak and if you do not speak, then, without your speeches, I will have to go ahead.

...(Interruptions)

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH (Nagar Kurnool): Sir, this Bill is against the fundamental right of the individuals. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House that, as per well established practice, the Speaker does not decide whether or not a Bill is constitutionally within the legislative competence of the House. The House also does not take a decision on the specific question of *vires* of a Bill.

Therefore, the Members can put up their views. But it is not within the competence of the Speaker as to whether the Bill can be introduced or not.

Now, would Shri Radhakrishnan like to speak or not? I have permitted Shri Radhakrishnan to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am ready to permit all the Members who want to speak. They can oppose the introduction, if they do not want the introduction of the Bill.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I oppose the introduction of the Bill.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): We want to hear everybody. *...(Interruptions)* Let us speak one by one. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Sushmaji don't you want consensus on this Bill? *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I adjourn the House for ten minutes.

...(Interruptions)

12.41 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till fifty-one minutes past Twelve of the Clock.

12.51 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at fifty-one minutes past Twelve of the Clock.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I am requesting the Parliamentary Affairs Minister to speak now. Please sit down. Khaireji, do you want to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say that cow is regarded as mother. This is one among the 33 crore deities revered by Hindus. I, therefore, request that the bill that has been moved to ban cow-slaughter should be passed. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There is no debate on the Bill now. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am telling you that there is no discussion on the Bill now. Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are presenting here the view point of our party 'Shiv Sena' which wants that this bill should be introduced to put a ban on cow slaughter. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We are not going to take up the Bill.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have already told you that we are not going to take up the Bill. Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: The cow is revered as our mother, so its slaughter should be banned. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the bill which. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): This is an election stunt. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Banatwallaji, please tell me, will you take your seat or not, you please take your seat. If you want me to continue, please take your seat.

Mr. Speaker, the bill moved by the Minister of Agriculture, Shri Rajnath Singhji regarding banning the cow-slaughter. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDER PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): It has not been moved yet. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): It is yet to be introduced. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He wants to introduce it.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: He has sought leave to introduce the motion. ...*(Interruptions)* The Minister of Agriculture has sought leave to introduce the bill relating to ban on cow-slaugher and going by the sentiments expressed thereafter in the House, we have reached the conclusion that an all party meeting should be called first. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Were you not aware of it before-hand?

MR. SPEAKER: Banatwalla ji, you please take your seat.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: No, we had no inkling about it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: How could they know before the bill was moved. Please take your seat.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have decided to call an all party meeting in this regard and bring up this bill only after arriving at a consensus. Hence, you may please take up the next item now.

MR. SPEAKER: You will try to reach a consensus.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: We will seek your help also in this matter.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, now I am going to the 'Zero Hour'. Please sit down.

Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava to speak now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you, please go to your seat first. Girdhari Lal Bhargava ji, please speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Sir, the way of functioning of the Government is very strange. They do not even take their allied parties into confidence. *...(Interruptions)* You should at least take your allied parties into confidence. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That subject is already over.

[English]

That Subject is already over.

[Translation]

Bhargavaji, I have allowed you. If you are interested in putting forward your point of view, please speak out.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do you know that Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava is waiting for raising an issue for the last one month?

[Translation]

He has been waiting for the last one month. This way, he may lose confidence in democracy.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, What I want to say is that Rajasthan is still deficient of rains. The water level in all dams and wells of Rajasthan has not risen considerably and there is acute shortage of drinking water in Rajasthan. The Banas Yojana which has been formulated by Rajasthan Government with the cooperation of the Union Government to resolve the drinking water problem of Rajasthan, particularly of Jaipur, is not being completed. The scheme has been inaugurated and foundation stones laid at several places, but it is yet to get off the ground. I request the Central Government to allocate some amount for the scheme so as to enable the Rajasthan Government to complete the scheme by arranging funds from the World Bank to solve the problem of drinking water in Jaipur city. Then only the problem of drinking water in the city can be solved. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If there will be peace in the House then five to ten members will get an opportunity to speak. If you will interrupt like this you will be the sufferers.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, earlier water used to be supplied twice a day in Jaipur city. But today water is supplied only for half an hour and in some parts of the city it is not supplied at all. Therefore, I request you to kindly ensure supply of potable water twice in a day and water crisis be solved at the earliest. The Union Government should provide funds to complete the Banas scheme. Inauguration by laying of foundation stone as has been done by the Rajasthan Government, will not do. I request you to kindly implement the Banas scheme.

Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Madan Lal Khuranaji, please speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall allow you all one after another. If you will stand like this then I will adjourn the House. It is already one o'clock. If you will co-operate then five to ten members can get opportunity to speak. If any member still keeps standing up then I will adjourn the House.

[English]

You will all lose your opportunities.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You will also get a chance. If you will not take your seat, I will adjourn the House. Right now I have called Shri Madan Lal Khurana to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, people of Delhi have been demanding statehood for Delhi right from the time first elections were held in Delhi but the Congress Government at the centre never acceded to this demand of the people of Delhi. Delhi has always received step motherly treatment at their hands. Sometimes C-class Assembly and sometimes a corporation and metropolitan council and sometimes a fragmented Assembly had been given to Delhi, as a result of which Delhi is becoming a slum due to multiplicity of authorities (multi-system authority). After so many efforts, on the direction of the hon'ble Prime Minister the hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister introduced the Delhi statehood Bill here in the House. This Bill has been introduced after taking into confidence the Chief Minister of Delhi and after receipt of the proposal for it from her. But you must have heard that Shrimati Sheela Dixitji had said yesterday that according statehood to Delhi is a fraud with the people of Delhi and Congress party will not support this Bill. I want to know. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: When this change of stand has come about?

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: I want to say this has been done in consultation with the Congress and now she says they have objection to it. I said that this Bill will be referred to the Standing Committee chaired by Shri Pranab Mukherji. If you have any amendments in this regard please put them before the committee. If it is in the public interest we will support it. It appears to me that Shrimati Sheela Dixit ji has been reprimanded by the party high command otherwise why she is backing out from her earlier stand. I don't care whether Congress support it or not but the constitution will have to be amended for which two-third majority is needed here in the House that is why I am asking the Congress party whether it support this Bill or not. Had Shrimati Sheela Dixit ji not discussed this matter with Congress high command, I want to know whether Congress want to betray the people of Delhi.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, what he has said. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It appears to me that you are not interested that Zero-Hour should continue today. If you don't want that the House should run then I will adjourn the proceedings of the House.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, I also endorse this view. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, Dr. Anita Arya, both your names will be associated with what Shri Madan Lal Khurana cannot raise such issues at the last moment in a political manner and if we are not allowed to say anything on that, it is not fair.

MR. SPEAKER: You are allowed to have your say.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: That is why I am on my legs. I am seeking your permission.

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you afterwards.

[Translation]

SHRI SOHAN POTAI (Kanker): Mr. Speaker, Sir, teachers have started an agitation from 25th July, 2003 and they have resorted to hunger strike from the 7th August 2003. The condition of a number of teachers sitting on hunger strike is critical. A number of teachers out of the number of teachers resorting to hunger strike have slipped into comma but the Government of Chhattisgarh and Chief Minister of the State Shri Ajit Jogi is not ready to hold talks with the striking teachers.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform that there are single teacher schools in my Parliamentary constituency. Bilaspur and Sarguja divisions which are entirely tribal areas where there are ravines and forests, no teacher attends to school regularly there. Teachers have been posted in schools in those areas but teachers do not resume duty there because adequate facilities have not been provided to them. Teachers are agitating since 25 July 2003 and from 7th of August 2003 they resorted to hunger strike as a result of which imparting of education in entire constituency has been affected adversely. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now only the speech of Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh will go on record.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOHAN POTAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, ...*(Interruptions)**

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the time of bifurcation of Bihar the hon'ble Prime Minister and the hon. Home Minister had said that the loss to be suffered by Bihar as a result of bifurcation would be borne by the Union Government and a special economic package would be given to the State of Bihar. But despite the assurance given by the hon'ble Prime Minister and the hon'ble Home Minister neither the loss of the State has been borne by the Union Government nor special package has been given to it till now.

Sir, Bihar is suffering loss for the last seven years. This State is in ruins due to floods, droughts, waterlogging and scarcity of water but no assistance is being given to the State by the Union Government. I demand from the government to fulfill its assurance of giving economic package to Bihar. Bihar should be made free from floods, droughts, waterloogging and scarcity of water. Besides status of special State should be given to Bihar and sincere efforts should be made to solve the problems facing the State.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given my name to speak on this subject. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Paswanji you have given the notice for calling attention motion. If you do not want to insist on the Calling Attention Motion then I am ready to give you time to speak on this subject right now.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, besides insisting on the Calling Attention Motion I would like to speak on this subject also.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not possible. Time will not be allotted to speak on every matter. It is not correct. Please sit down.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, full statehood to Delhi. ...*(Interruptions)*

13.04 hrs.

(DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*)

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to raise an important question about the matter relating to teachers. ...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Punnu Lal Mohaleji, please sit down. Shri Shivraj Patiliji has stood to speak before you. Please take your seat. Chance will be given to all. You will also get a chance. Please maintain peace in the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the issue of according statehood to Delhi was raised by the Chief Minister of Delhi Shrimati Sheela Dixit and also Shri Madan Lal Khuranaji. The government have brought a Bill in this regard in the House before Assembly elections in Delhi. It does not appear to me that this Bill has been brought to grant statehood to Delhi rather it has been brought to get political mileage before the elections. Whatever the government have done would be discussed in the standing committee. We are not satisfied with that Bill at all and why we are not satisfied with the Bill we will be telling in the meeting of the Standing Committee. They should also come in the meeting and put forth their viewpoint. But with due respect to Shri Khuranaji, I would like to say that he is not talking about statehood to Delhi rather he is concerned about elections in Delhi that is why he is raising this issue. This should also be borne in mind. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. I will call all the Members one after another.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Khuranaji, you have already made your point, now I have called Shri Murmuji to speak.

SHRI SALKHAN MURMU (Mayurbhanj): Sir, the Union Government have introduced a Bill in the House to include the Bodo language in the eighth schedule of the Constitution. Sir, I demand that Santhali, Munda, Ho and Uran languages should also be included in the eighth schedule of the Constitution. Earlier the government had said that a high power committee will be set up to fix the criteria to solve the issue of recognition to languages, but the government had decided to included the Bodo language in the eighth schedule of the Constitution without laying down any criteria and setting up a high power committee. This is wrong on the part of the Government.

Sir, the West Bengal government have passed a resolution unanimously to include the Santhali language in the eighth schedule of the Constitution and forwarded it to the Union Government but this resolution is not being considered. The population of Santhali speaking

people is more than one crore whereas the Bodo population is about one million. The Chief Minister of Jharkhand has made an announcement that during his visit to Ranchi the Prime Minister will announce on 15 November, 2003 inclusion of Santhali language in the eighth schedule of the Constitution. That is also proving wrong.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Vijyanji, please speak. Shri Murmuji, now even a single word of your speech will not form part of the proceedings.

*...(Interruptions)**

[English]

**SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN (Nagapattinam): Hon. Chairman Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of this august House what has happened to our Indian fishermen particularly Tamil fishermen living in my constituency yesterday. The Sri Lankan Navy has captured and took away 60 of our fishermen and 11 of our fishing boats from our Indian seas yesterday.

I would like to bring to your notice again that this particular atrocity against our fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy is continuing for the past many years now. These are fishermen from Tamil Nadu and it is to be noted that they are our Indian nationals.

When this is happening for so many years now and so many of our fishermen have lost their lives and property at the hands of the Sri Lankan Navy in our Indian waters why the Government of India is remaining a mute spectator? More than 100 of our fishermen have been shot dead by the Sri Lankan Navy. Heavy loss of property and damage to our vessels have been caused. I cannot understand why our Tamil fishermen are meted out with a step motherly treatment at the hand of the Centre when their lives are at peril when they pursue their occupation to catch fishes in their traditional fishing areas. I want to know what is it that our External Affairs Ministry, our Defence Ministry particularly Indian Navy and our Coastal Guards are doing. Why do they ignore the safety and security of Indian fishermen in that part of our country? The fishermen from Tamil Nadu are also Indian nationals. Is there not a responsibility that lies with the Centre? At a time when drought is hitting hard that part of our country, at a time when death due to hunger is becoming a common thing there, these poor hapless fishermen are facing grave danger in carrying out their traditional occupation.

In my Nagapattinam constituency there is a fishermen village called Akkaraipettai. About 60 fishermen in 11 fishing boats left for fishing in the high seas yesterday. But they have been brutally assaulted and captured and taken away by Sri Lankan Navy. This is not the first time it is happening. Already there are 4 fishermen and 4 fishing boats taken away by Sri Lankan Navy still languishing in the Sri Lankan prisons for over 170 days now. Though it was brought to the notice of our beloved Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister they have not been released as yet. I would like to know when will there be a full stop to all this. When will the Centre initiate appropriate action? I would like to know through you when will the Union Government take suitable action to save the interests of our fishermen in our Indian territory.

I urge upon the Union Government to ensure the safety and security of our fishermen and create a conducive atmosphere to enable our fishermen to carry out their traditional occupation for earning their livelihood.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea): Sir, I have given the notice first. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: All the hon'ble members will be accommodated. None will be left out.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Sir, the importance of the question should also be considered. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Turn by turn all the members will get the chance.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: All the members can get a chance to speak if only you desist from wastage of time like this.

...(Interruptions)

13.10 hrs.

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS

(i) RE: Reported weeding out of important files in the Army Headquarters.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Sir, the hon. Defence Minister is here and I am very happy to raise this very

*Not recorded.

**Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Shri E. Ahamed]

important and sensitive issue which appeared in the *Asian Age* today, giving the very heading 'Army shreds corruption files'. The matter is that there was a security breach in the Army Headquarters. The military officials, presumably under the instructions from the Defence Ministry, have made the security branch by opening the office at 10.30 a.m. on a holiday and have taken some very important and serious files from the almirah. These have been shredded into pieces, put in the gunny bags and taken away.

This, according to the newspaper report, a clear breach of security. I may be permitted to read one portion of it. It says:

> "The material was put in gunny bags and sought to be disposed. Some files and documents were also taken by the two officers."

Again, it is mentioned, according to an official, there were 90 files and most of them were pertaining to financial irregularities worth crores of rupees. I do not want to mention the names of the military officers. The hon. Defence Minister knows everybody but I would like to say that such allegations have appeared in the newspapers about our Army. Our Army is very fine and there is no complaint about our Army, but some of the officers are involved in such irregularities. There is also a belief that this is being done presumably under the instructions from the Defence Ministry. I hope the hon. Defence Minister will clarify the position for the benefit of the House. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, he is ready to answer.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now you take your seat.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): I can clarify it right here. ...*(Interruptions)*

13.13 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal and some other hon. Members left the House)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: This case came to me earlier also and the court of inquiry has already been appointed which is examining the same. Whenever the findings of this inquiry come, proper action will be taken thereon.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Why are they resorting to walk out? This is a wrong tradition, an improper way. Will such things happen every day?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the whole nation is always aware of the greatness of those whose contribution towards the country's independence has been remarkable. Out of the 100 crore people of the country, those who contributed the most during the British regime have always been taken care of by the House. You know Bhupendra Narayan Mandal ji who was the president of the socialist party was a freedom fighter who fought with the British. He always worked shoulder to shoulder with Dr. Lohia, but the country, the House and Bihar—none of them showed any concern about Bhupendra Narayan Mandal ji. Postal stamps have been released to commemorate the memory of a number of people. I wrote to the Government so many times to release a postal stamp in his honour to celebrate his birth centenary, but no direction has so far been given in this regard. Secondly, you know it well that Fanishwar Nath Renu, the noted literateur belonged to my place. You are a renowned scholar, professor, but about eminent Hindi literatures like Renuji and Dr. Sudhanshu Narayan Singh, I talked to the Government so many times, I personally met the then Minister, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan in this regard and urged every time to get commemorative postal stamps released in their memory. I also demanded birth centenary celebrations especially of personalities like Renu ji and Bhupendera Narayan Mandal. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, mine was the first notice.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: You should direct the Government of Bihar to celebrate the birth centenary of Bhupendra Narayan Mandal ji.

MR. CHAIRMAN: O.K., now take your seat.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: You should direct the Government to release postal stamps in the memory of these three leaders-Shri Bhupendra Narayan Mandal, Shri Fanishwar Nath Renu and Dr. Sudhanshu Narayan Singh. This is my request.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: This issue is related to the poor. I have to speak after him. You can speak after obtaining the permission of the Chair. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this matter in respect of Bihar is very important. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have also given a notice. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Acharia Saheb, kindly let others speak. ...*(Interruptions)* Every now and then you rise to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to raise a matter of public importance. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the morning I had given a notice for adjournment of the Question Hour. That time I was assured by the Chair that during the Zero Hour mine would be the first matter to be taken up. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Chaturvediji, you should speak after me. I have started speaking. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, my name does not figure in the list after you. ...*(Interruptions)* Will you allow a discussion on such an important matter only after everything is over. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall allow you if your name figures in the list.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: There is no justice here ...*(Interruptions)*. Now I do not want to raise my question.

13.16 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi left the House)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a matter of public importance. Delhi is the capital of our country. There are 25 lakh such people in Delhi who have come from Purvanchal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal and they are living below the poverty line. They are otherwise 60 lakh in all but about 25 lakh of them are living below the poverty line in Delhi. They live in Jhuggi-jhopris, unauthorized colonies and on pavements and footpaths. Only 3 lakh people out of these 25 lakh have been issued red cards. I would like to submit that identification work in respect of 22 lakh people who are living below the poverty line has not so far been done for the purpose of issuing red cards. If they are not issued red cards then the centrally sponsored programmes, Targetted PDS which is meant for BPL (below poverty line) category of people would not be implemented. Similarly, there is another scheme namely 'Antyodya Anna Yojana'. Targetted PDS is in force since 1st June, 1997 under which BPL category of people are provided wheat and rice at cheap rates. Similarly, the Antyodaya Ann Yojana' was introduced in 2001. Under this scheme wheat is provided at the rate of Rs. 2 per kg and rice is provided at the rate of Rs. 3 per kg. to the BPL category people. But the said 22 lakh people are not getting the benefit of these two schemes.

I would like to know who is responsible for this? We want that the Central Govt. should intervene and do its monitoring. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Allright, you have completed your speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I also associate myself with him. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Allright, I also associate you with him.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: This is very important matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, if their red cards are not issued. ...*(Interruptions)*. An agitation is in the offing. ...*(Interruptions)* People of Purvanchal live in Delhi ...*(Interruptions)* for taking votes the poor of Delhi. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, you should instruct the Govt. of India. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You all please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister is sitting here. ...*(Interruptions)* How should we keep quite ...*(Interruptions)*. It is a matter of entire Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support what Devendra Prasadji has said just now. I also support what he said about Bihar. I would like to submit that the flood situation is alarming. The Parliament session lasts till tomorrow i.e. tomorrow is the last day of this session. The next session of Parliament will be held in November. By then the flood affected people would be ruined. The same issue was raised in this House last time. That time it was assured that the Govt. would make a statement or there would be a discussion. I am not aware whether there would be any statement by the Govt. tomorrow. You are from Bihar and I also came from Bihar, but the constituency of Shri Ramchandra Paswan is worst affected. I want that he should also be given a chance to express his views. Shri Pappuji and Devendraji have all similar problem which they want to raise. This problem concerns entire Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. That is why I want that the matter should be taken seriously. There is no arrangement of medicines, boats for the affected people. The Central Govt. is not providing any help to them. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have all completed your speech, now Shri Paswan is speaking. So let him speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: There is no arrangement for those people. I would like to request that the Govt. should make a statement or hold a discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramchandra Paswan also associated himself with that. Discussion on that subject is now over.

SHRI RAM CHANDRA PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Chairman, you have put forth your views about Bihar. I should also get a chance to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Sukhdeo Paswan also associates himself with that.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM CHANDRA PASWAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Bihar is affected both by floods and drought simultaneously. At the time when Rig Dam was constructed in 1960 there was also a planning to construct canals keeping in view the drought situation and it was hoped that flood affected States would get a relief from Nepal. But we are not aware what sort of talks were held with Nepal. Every year when there are floods we hear that talks are to be held with Nepal. Through you I would like to say that all the roads got badly damaged by flood waters last year. I would like to know if the Govt. has any account of the actions taken in this regard. There is no arrangement in North Bihar which is flood affected. The Govt. should methodically work out a separate agenda to undertake development of that area so that the people there get rid of the problem ...*(Interruptions)*. I also demand that books and relief materials should be provided in the areas; which were hit by floods last year and this year also. We also demand from the government that construction of damaged roads, bridges and building should be undertaken and compensation should be given in respect of the damaged crops of the ruined farmers.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have given the notice for Calling Attention Motion in this matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can take your seat.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: You should associate me also with them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right.

13.23 hrs.

(ii) RE: Need to provide security to Shri Ramsagar Rawat, MP and his family.

SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT (Barabanki): Mr. Chairman, Sir, with a deep sense of grief I would like to raise a demand which is personal and concerning my family and would like the Govt. to issue necessary instructions. The Mayawati Govt. of Uttar Pradesh is indulging into witch hunting against the leaders workers of the Opposition parties and they are being implicated in false cases in an effort to damage them. I belong to a dalit family. I have been elected four time. Before being elected here I had been elected for State Assembly three times but what is happening today? Being an MP of Samajwadi Party from Baramula now I would like to refer to local incident which had nothing to do my family. On the 12th instant when Mayawati came to Barabanki. She

ordered the authorities to arrest thrice of my real brothers under false cases. Not only that, a man like me is getting constant threat that I would be ruined along with my family Members. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, now you can resume your seat.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: It is a very serious matter.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, he alone speaks in every matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: No purpose will be served if every hon. Member speaks like this at one time. He raised a question. The Govt. is listening. Now resume your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a very serious matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It may be a very serious matter, but he raised it and the Govt. has heard it. Now Basudev Achariaji will speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the erosion of the River Ganga leading to River Pagla joining with River Ganga has endangered the entire Malda district and parts of Murshidabad district. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SAGAR RAWAT: Not only that, one month back. ...*(Interruptions).*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: It is a very serious matter. There is witch hunting there. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: He raised a question. Now what do you want? Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you want that other Members should not speak. As many as four Members stand up at a time. Please take your seat. The Govt. is not bound to reply. The Government has taken a note of it, the Government is listening.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: This erosion has endangered the railway track connecting North India and West Bengal with the North-Eastern States. This erosion has endangered the Farakka Barrage also. ...*(Interruptions)* In 1996, the Planning Commission constituted an Expert Committee and that Expert Committee recommended short-term as well as long-term measures. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have raised the question. Please keep quite.

SHRI RAM SAGAR RAWAT: There is a matter of my security as well as the security of my family. I have told every thing. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may please sent the document.

[English]

13.28 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Ramsagar Rawat came and sat on the floor near the Table)

13.28 hrs.

(At this stage, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please all of you go to your seats from here. You people have raised the issue. Now go to your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: What they are speaking will not go on record. Only those who are speaking from their seats will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: The Government should explain in this case. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE

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*Not recorded.

IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will bring this matter in the knowledge of hon. Home Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, you have raised the issue. Please go to your seats. You are not helping them in this manner. You can help them only if you go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please go to your seats.

13.30 hrs.

(At this stage, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, UP): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a very serious issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister is responding.

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will convey this matter to the hon. Home Minister as ordered by you.

13.31 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Ram Sagar went back to his seat).

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I have not completed. *...(Interruptions)* This erosion has endangered the railway track connecting North India and West Bengal with the North-Eastern States. The entire North-Eastern States will be disconnected. It has endangered the Farakka Barrage also. *...(Interruptions)* Sir, let me complete. The Expert Committee recommended short-term and long-term measures. The Committee made two sets of recommendations:—

(i) short-term measures with aggregated estimated costs of Rs. 315 crore and

(ii) long-term measures costing Rs. 612 crore.

The Central Government has, so far, released only Rs. 30 crore. *...(Interruptions)* It is a national problem. I demand that the Central Government should consider the erosion of Ganga as a national problem and should release the amount immediately. *...(Interruptions)* It is not possible for the State Government to tackle such a problem. Thousands of villagers have lost their houses as well as agricultural lands. The entire Malda district is in danger.

Therefore, the Government of India should come forward and assist the State Government, as recommended by the Expert Committee.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House towards the Lokpal Bill. The Lok Pal Bill was also discussed during the course of discussion on the No-Confidence Motion just now. The members of treasury benches said that the Lokpal Bill would check corruption. Therefore, the Lokpal Bill should be passed to check corruption. But it seems that the opposition is not concerned about it. The Members of the treasury benches have been demanding since a long time that the Lokpal Bill should be passed. Until the Lokpal Bill is not passed by this House, we cannot check corruption in the country. Therefore, I urge that the Lokpal Bill should be passed immediately to check corruption in this country.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, 23 December, 2002 was the birth centenary day of Chaudhary Charan Singh ji. The Government of India had announced that it would celebrate the birth centenary of Choudhary Charan Singh. In view of that, a 40 member committee was also set up under the Chairmanship of the Vice President, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat. But the effective initiatives which should have been taken in organising the birth centenary celebrations of Chaudhary Charan Singh, have not been taken so far. A meeting of this Committee was held on 7 January, 2003, a decision was taken therein that a Chaudhary Charan Singh Foundation would be set up and his philosophy and messages would be publicised. Besides, this was also decided that a writing series would also be started on him to keep his memories afresh for ever. This is a very serious issue. Chaudhary Charan Singh was not only the Prime Minister of India but he was also a Messiah of the rural people and farmers. Therefore it is incumbent to organise his birth centenary celebrations. This Government has been adopting the lackadaisical approach towards birth centenary celebrations of great leaders. Therefore,

you kindly direct the Government to take seriously the birth centenary celebrations of Chaudhary Charan Singh.

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA (Meerut): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I also associated myself with what Sumanji has said about Charan Singhji. Chaudhary Charan Singh was a leader of the farmers, everyone knows about that. Therefore, the Government should pay attention towards that.

The second thing, I would like to take up the problems of farmers. Hundreds of villages have been badly damaged due to floods caused by the Ganga in my Parliamentary constituency, Meerut. Several villages have been washed away and people have been rendered homeless. I have demanded the State Government and Union Government several times that Tokhar or Pusthas should be raised there to protect people from the flood caused by the Ganga but the Government has not made any such arrangement. Thousands of acres of land have been washed away there, hundreds of villages have been badly damaged. Therefore, the Government should provide assistance to them.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the existing pay scale for category (1) of the teachers in Chhattisgarh starts from Rs. 1200 as basic and the dearness allowance is 182 per cent. Thus, in all they get Rs. 3384. In the pay scale category (2) basic pay starts from Rs. 1000 and dearness allowance is 182 percent. Thus, they get Rs. 2850/-in all and in category (3), the basic starts from Rs. 800 in addition to 182 percent dearness allowance which comes to Rs. 2256 in all. Whereas they should get the benefits as per the Fifth Pay Commission of the Government of India. They have not yet been given 49 percent sanctioned dearness allowance. Keeping all these things in view, 14000 teachers of Chhattisgarh have been sitting on a hunger-strike from 25th July in Support of their demands for increasing their pay scales and release of dearness allowance and several teachers are on the brink of starvation. They are being medically examined. I would like to urge upon the Union Government to compel the Chhattisgarh government in giving them increased pay scales and release their dearness allowance.

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar): Sir, during the debate on the No-Confidence Motion, the hon. Leader of the Opposition Shrimati Sonia Gandhi has raised some vital issues and I will mention here about the problems of the farmers and workers only. The farmers are committing suicides in the country. The Government of India have not taken care of the farmers. The workers are suffering due to starvation. The disinvestment of PSUs leads the workers to the roads. Lakhs and lakhs workers are suffering.

On these two issues, I urge upon the Government to take proper steps to protect the farmers and the workers. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (Jodhpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, though the Motor Vehicle Act is a central Act but the officers are engaged in collecting more money from truck owners resorting to different ways in the name of golden token in different States.

The Business of transports is on large scale in Rajasthan. Trucks bound for Bihar and Uttar Pradesh generally moved together 15-20 in number. The officers of the Transport Department and police harass them a lot. Some days back one truck driver Devaram was first beaten by the officers of Transport Department under the Kudra police station in Bihar and then he was trampled upon by a truck. This matter was also raised in the Bihar Legislative Assembly. Our trucks bound for Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, a threat to the lives of truck-drivers always lies there. Therefore, I would like to urge upon the Government through you that there should be safety arrangements for them in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar where our trucks pass through and officers should be instructed that the truck drivers passing through these should not be harassed.

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (Tamluk): Sir, recently the hon. Supreme Court has banned the right of the working class to strike. The Government of India is totally silent on this. They are not submitting any application to the Full Bench of the Supreme Court. I demand through you that the Constitution can be amended suitably to incorporate the rights of the working class to strike. There is an ILO Convention also in this regard. I think in the year 1989 there was also an order by the hon. Supreme Court that the working class has a right to strike otherwise. This should be looked into.

Otherwise, the workers will be put to difficulties by the employers. We should see how will they be saved. ...*(Interruptions)* How will the working class achieve their

demands if they lose the right to strike? That is why I am requesting the Government of India to please bring a Constitution (Amendment) Bill so that the right of the working class is incorporated in the Constitution. ...*(Interruptions)* Otherwise the right of the working class cannot be protected. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Sir, it is a very important matter. The working class will be seriously affected. I request the Government to take some action. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members Shri Rupchand Pal, Shri Sunil Khan, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan and Dr. Mahender Singh Pal are permitted to associate themselves with Shri Lakshman Seth on the issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Sir, I also associate myself with this issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Shri Muniyappa also associates. All are associated.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Sir, this pertains to the judgement pronounced by the Supreme Court stating that the workers have no fundamental right to strike. Nonetheless, as pointed out by Justice Ahmadi in B.R. Singh's case, the right to strike is an important weapon in the armoury of the workers and has been recognised by almost all democratic countries as a mode of redress for resolving the grievances of workers. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Sir, thank you for permitting me to raise a couple of very important issues. One is regarding the senior citizens. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Sir, please let me speak about what Shri Soli Sorabjee, Attorney-General of India has stated. Sir, please allow me to read the point made by him on this matter, and then come to a conclusion.

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Various federations, organisations, and associations of the senior citizens have represented their grievances to the Government regarding *Varishth Pension Yojana* to convert it into a single policy for husband and wife jointly on either or survivor basis, and also declaring 60 years and above for senior citizens to be eligible for the benefits under Income Tax Act and for Air Travel concessions instead of 65 years as per present prevailing rules. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Shri Soli Sorabjee stated that: "The judgement reflects a mindset which does not regard employees as an important and vital segment of our society but considers their existence to be solely for the benefit of the Government as employers and whose interests are subordinate to the convenience of the public. Such an approach is not in tune with the ethos of our Constitution and the Directive Principles whose unmistakable signature tune is social justice."

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Similarly, increase a bit in interest rate on savings to 2 per cent instead of prevailing half a per cent. The unreasonable conditions imposed by Indian Airlines and Jet Airways, for example, one way journey not permitted, minimum stay of seven days at destination and confirmed ticket to be purchased at least seven days prior to departure, may be removed.

I, therefore, urge the Government to consider the matter at the earliest and to take necessary actions to resolve the problems of senior citizens.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Sir, right to strike is an important right of the workers which they have achieved throughout the world after winning many struggles. Even ILO recognises the right to strike as a fundamental right of the workers.

In view of the opinion of the Attorney-General of India, I demand that 'Right to Strike' should be recognised as a 'Fundamental Right', and suitable amendment of the Constitution should be made forthwith.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now what you say will not go on record.

[English]

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE (Udupi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government of Karnataka had surveyed the potential of irrigation facilities by harnessing west flowing rivers in the districts of Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, and North Kannada districts by constructing a series of vented dams.

The coastal Karnataka has perennial shortage of potable water as the ground water sources near the sea provide only saline and brackish water which is not even fit for irrigation. Large volume of water from these rivers is drained out into the Arabian sea.

It has been found feasible to harness such waters through a series of vented dams without any ecological effects. This will provide a source of drinking, irrigation, etc. apart from checking river bank erosion during monsoons.

I would urge the Centre to get the proposal revived by the Central Water Commission where it has been lying for a long time.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA (Etawah): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Gwalior-Bareilly road falls in my constituency, Etawah. This issue was raised in the House earlier also. This road has been declared as National Highway, but this road has not been made afresh rather it has been repaired while it was required to be made afresh. Whatever has been done, does not conform to the standards. I would like to submit to the Minister of Road Transport and Highways that the road constructed by his Ministry is in a bad shape. I would like to urge the Minister through you to give a separate package for the development of this road so that this could be repaired and relief could be provided to the people.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to raise a very serious issue. One girl was kidnapped on 31.3.03 in Moradabad JP Nagar district of Uttar Pradesh four months ago. The girl belonged to a dalit community and her name is Deepmala Bharati. This girl is still missing. A report was also registered in the Police station, but with no outcome. The Shive Sena of Uttar Pradesh held a big demonstration in its protest. Four months have passed since this incident occurred but no arrest has been made so far. Deepmala Bharti is the daughter of a big leader of the ruling party. Despite staging a big demonstration, no action has been taken in this direction. This is a serious issue. I would like to tell the hon. Home Minister that the law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh has deteriorated badly. And I urge upon him to look into this matter and trace the girl so as to hand over the said girl to her parents as soon as possible.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Sir, the spectres of Chernobyl and Three Mile Islands are still haunting us. In the history of Indian atomic energy, on 21st January, a radiation exposure has been detected which had already affected a number of employees in KAPS. However, the Government has not yet made any statement as to whether this radiation exposure has affected our environment or not. Even the BARC Employees Association reported to have alleged that the radiation exposure affecting the workers was the worst in the history of the Department of Atomic Energy, and the BARC was keeping the inquiry report a secret.

In the din and bustle of other issues, the most serious issue, which we are concerned about, has not yet been answered. The Government should come out with a statement because this is detrimental to our environment and health. We are totally in the dark of what actually happened there.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Hon. Chairman, Sir, a huge cache of spurious drugs has been seized several times in the national capital, Delhi and other parts of the country. And the efforts made to completely check the menace of spurious drugs' business have proved a failure. Such drugs are playing havoc with the lives of the people. People are dying as a result of consuming spurious drugs. I would like to urge upon the government to legislate a strict law to effectively check the business of spurious drugs and police should firmly deal with such mafia groups and the Drug Control Department should be revamped. The number of Drugs Inspectors should be increased to keep a close eye on this. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you would be astonished to know that in 2000 and in 2001 four and eight cases of spurious drugs were registered in Delhi and in 2002 also, 8 cases of spurious drugs were registered. Spurious and substandard drugs worth crores of rupees of multi-national brand were seized this time around. Such people are playing with the lives of people. The drugs available in hospitals are not proving efficacious. I request the Government to take strict action against those engaged in the business of spurious drugs.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Sir, I would like to invite the attention of the Union Government

regarding the proposal under consideration of the Task Force on inter-linking of rivers of the diversion of water from *Pamba* and *Achankovil* rivers of Kerala to Vaipar basin in Tamil Nadu on the basis of a feasibility report on *Pamba-Achankovil-Vaipar* link prepared by the National Water Development Agency in June 1995. This has created a lot of hue and cry in the State of Kerala. The proposal is based on the wrong assumption that *Pamba-Achankovil* rivers have surplus waters and, therefore, 20 per cent of the water should be diverted to the benefit of the people in *Vaipar* River basin in Tamil Nadu.

Sir, the fact is that the two rivers are already facing shortage of water to meet the requirements of the people in the basin spread over five districts of Kerala, that is, Alleppey, Patanamthitta, Kottayam, Kollam and Ernakulam, which means, almost one-fourth of the population of Kerala. Any attempt to inter-linking these rivers is going to adversely affect the interests of Kerala. It will also pollute the *Vembanad* Lake. I request the Union Government to drop this proposal. Otherwise, the entire Kuttanad area will be destroyed. Also, as per the water studies which has been carried out by the State Government, there is no excess water in these two rivers in Kerala. Kuttanad area is facing acute drinking water problem. The natural beauty of this area will also be destroyed. I, therefore, request the Minister of Water Resources to put up this proposal to ensure that one-fourth of the population of Kerala is saved. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL (Daman and Diu): Mr. Chairman, Sir, in my Constituency, Daman and Diu which is a Union Territory, Shri A.K. Patendy was posted as Development Commissioner but he has been called back after 15 months only. He has only one year of service before he retires. As per Government orders, an IAS officer is posted for three years to a place but due to official demand he has been called back just after 15 months. I urge the Government to pass order to retain him there.

13.51 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till fifty minutes past fourteen of the Clock.

14.52 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at fifty-two minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, the House shall take up Item No. 13—Matters under Rule 377.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(I) Need to open an LPG outlet in Bhanvad in Jamnagar District, Gujarat.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL (Jamnagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, no gas agency has yet been allotted in the Bhanvad town of my Jamnagar district in Gujarat.

Bhanvad town is the estate of Baro Municipality, it is a big Mathak of the Taluka. Its population is about 25,000 and it is a centre of business also.

The Government have said that each and every area with a population of 15,000 will be allotted a gas agency and an advertisement was published in this regard three years ago but Bhanvad Taluka is still waiting for a gas agency.

So, I urge the Central Government to allot a gas agency to this area immediately.

(II) Need to ensure appointment of Junior Overman in Eastern Coalfields Limited on the basis of examination conducted in 1997.

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, written test and interview were held in 1997 for the post of Junior Overman in the Eastern Coalfields Ltd. For this purpose names had been obtained from the employment exchange in 1995, but the selected candidates have not yet been appointed. In this regard, a number of hon. Members have drawn the attention of the Government in the meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Coal, but no action has been taken so far.

Though there are a number of vacancies of this post of various attached companies of the Coal India Ltd., the

work is being done by the Management and the Directorate General of Mines Safety, as a result of which mining accidents are taking place. The apex officers of the management are taking the credit of efficient management despite the vacancies of Overman and reaping Government benefits and contrary to that the selected candidates are just getting overage for appointment.

So, the Government are requested to appoint the selected candidates immediately.

(iii) Need for effective implementation of National Malaria Eradication Programme in Keonjhar District and other parts of Orissa.

[English]

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK (Keonjhar): Sir, the casualty due to malaria is on the increase in the State of Orissa, in general, and Keonjhar District in particular. The cases of malaria detected from the State range from 2000 to 3000 every year during the last five years. The National Malaria Eradication Programme launched in the State since Independence has failed to eradicate the dreaded disease, due to which hundreds of people from Keonjhar district are dying untimely every year.

Unless immediate steps are taken to provide adequate treatment to the malaria-affected people, particularly, in the far-flung area of Bhuian Pidha and Gonashika area, many more deaths may take place. The people are facing untimely death at a time when the Government has promised to provide health for all.

I, therefore, demand that special attention may be paid to eradicate malaria and also to provide adequate fund to implement programmes to treat the patients suffering from the dreaded disease without any further delay.

(iv) Need for construction of an overbridge on railway crossings at Bhoete Nagar and Mukayee Nagar in Jalgaon Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra.

[Translation]

SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN (Jalgaon): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the district headquarters of my constituency, Jalgaon is a major station under the Bhusawal division of the Central Railway which has a population of about 4 lakh. There are two such railway crossing in Jalgaon—one on the central railway near Bhoete Nagar towards Mumbai and the other on the Western Railway near Muktayee Nagar which remain closed for hours due to heavy railway traffic and the traffic on road is jammed causing a lot of difficulties to the local residents. These two railway crossings are quite close and one over bridge on both of them is very much needed. This will be quite convenient for the people of the area.

In view of the difficulties being faced by the people of the area due to these railway crossings, the engineers of Jalgaon Municipal Corporation and the Central Railway have conducted a joint inspection of these railway crossings.

So, through you, I would like to urge the hon. Minister of Railways to pass necessary orders for construction of an over bridge on both the railway crossings falling under my constituency Jalgaon.

(v) Need to provide stoppage of Jodhpur-Howrah and North-East Express trains at Mirzapur railway station, U.P.

SHRI RAMSHAKAL (Robertsganj): Sir, carpets, brass and porcelain utensils and idols are manufactured in my constituency, Mirzapur, U.P. which are in demand throughout the country. People from here go to various States for business purposes, but their business is hampered as there is no stoppage of some important trains at Mirzapur railway station. So through you, I would like to urge the hon. Minister to provide a two minute stoppage of Jodhpur-Howrah Express and North-East Express at Mirzapur railway station.

(vi) Need to clear the proposal of the State Government for inter-linking of regional rivers in the Dakshina Kannada region of Karnataka.

[English]

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE (Udupi): The Govt. has woken up very late to the problem of falling ground water tables all over the country and is in desperate search of long-term solutions like inter-linking of national rivers at a colossal cost of more than Rs. 5,76,000 crores.

I would urge the Centre to explore short-term solutions with much less capital outlay. The District Panchayat of Udupi had drawn up a modest scheme for inter-linking regional rivers of Dakshina Kannada which now drain out to Arbaian Sea. This proposal with a capital outlay of only Rs. 5,000 crores aims at harnessing the

[Shri Vinay Kumar Sorake]

waters of these regional rivers both the irrigation and drinking water requirements of the region apart from mini-hydel power generation. This project will also help controlling floods and check soil erosion of river embankments. The proposal was vetted by the Govt. of Karnataka and sent to the Central Water Commission long back for critical appraisal and assistance. Till now no action has been taken on this proposal.

International experts have commented that India should go for small and localised solutions for its water problems with the active involvement of the local community. I would urge the Centre to consider this proposal on its merits.

15.00 hrs.

(vii) Need to sanction special package to check pollution in Kanpur, U.P.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Central Pollution Control Board had declared Kanpur as the most polluted city of the world, but despite such a report having been received, as per my knowledge, the Government have not taken any concrete steps to check the pollution of this city even though I have raised this matter in the House on a number of occasions. This is worsening the situation in Kanpur. The sewerage system is faulty and the sewers are overflowing heaps of garbage are a common sight in each and every mohalla. Almost all the parks of the city have been converted into garbage yards. In the absence of any well planned scheme for upcoming colonies, the new colonies are also faced with dangerous pollution levels.

For this, it is needed that the Central Government grant a special package for the city so that the city roads, sewerage system, drainage system, the parks and the greenery may be maintained in order to keep the city clean and keep the pollution under control.

(viii) Need to ensure early completion of Agartala-Sabroom extension of Railway Line *via* Belonia project in north-eastern region.

[English]

SHRI KHAGEN DAS (Tripura West): I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that the survey of Agartala-Sabroom Extension of Railway Line *via* Belonia was completed in May, 2000 for a length of 110 km. at an estimated cost of Rs. 370 crore. It may be mentioned that this project is not only one of the long-standing demands of the people of Tripura, but it would also connect one of the remotest regions of the country by rail services for both passengers and goods. There is also a possibility of trade through Chhittagong Port in Bangladesh, which is only about 75 km. from Sabroom. This could lead to transformation of the North-Eastern region.

I would urge upon the Government to take up the project at the earliest.

(ix) Need to open a Navodaya Vidyalaya in Parbhani Parliamentary Constituency.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the population of my constituency Parbhani is 25 lakh and there are 12 lakh voters there. There is not even a single Navodaya Vidyalaya in my constituency. After the division of Parbhani district, the Navodaya Vidyalaya located in Wasmat, which was previously in my parliamentary constituency, is now under the Hingoli district of Maharashtra. My constituency is already a backward area from the point of view education facilities and there is an urgent need to set up a Navodaya Vidyalaya in this district. Despite my repeated requests, no action has been taken in this regard so far.

I, therefore, request the hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development through this August House to issue necessary directions to open a Navodaya Vidayalaya in my constituency Parbhani at the earliest.

(x) Need to evolve pilot schemes for constructing check dams for ground water contaminated with fluoride in Tamil Nadu and other parts of the country.

[English]

*SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (Tiruppattur): Level of water table has receded much below in several drought-hit districts in the country especially the northern districts of Tamil Nadu. In places where water level is far below 300 ft., the water drawn from the bore wells is contaminated with fluoride compounds which could endanger denture and bone system, leading to cancer. The level of water table can rise if check dams are constructed in such areas which are mostly rain irrigated. This will help people

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in tamil.

to draw water from bore wells and common wells without risking their lives. For instance, in Thakarakuppam Panchayat and Thekkupattu Panchayat that come under Natrampalli Panchayat Union in my Tiruppathur Lok Sabha Constituency, the necessary check dams have not been constructed for want of funds though survey and estimates have been made long back. Places like Vaniambadi and Ambur in the neighbourhood and many places in the neighbouring districts like Thiruvannamalai and Dharmapuri are the hard hit ones. Hence I urge upon the Union Rural Development Ministry to evolve a special scheme to construct check dams in all areas where ground water is contaminated with fluoride compounds posing great threat to public health. I also urge upon the Centre to experiment a pilot scheme for this purpose in my Thiruppathur (Tamil Nadu) Lok Sabha Constituency, immediately.

(xi) Need to expedite construction of power sub-station at Forbesganj in district Araria, Bihar by Power Grid Corporation of India.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria): Sir, Araria is a bordering district in Bihar. Entire Bihar is a backward State and no development work is taking place in the State and particularly in Araria. There is acute power problem there. The Union Government had approved the construction of 132/32 K.V. 2x20 M.W. sub station in Forbesganj by the Power Grid Corporation of India so as to strengthen the power supply arrangements in the district but the Powergrid Corporation of India has not started any work there so far.

Sir, in this House, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Power and request him to give orders to start the construction of sub-station by the Power Grid Corporation of India without any delay so that the power supply arrangements may improve in this area.

15.06 hrs.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK (TRANSFER OF UNDERTAKING AND REPEAL) BILL, 2002

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the transfer and vesting of the undertaking of the Industrial Development Bank of India to, and in, the Company to be formed and registered as a Company under the Companies Act, 1956 to carry on banking business and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto and also to repeal the Industrial Development Bank of India Act, 1964, be taken into consideration."

Sir, this is the Industrial Development Bank (Transfer of Undertaking and Repeal) Bill, 2002. The Bill has already been introduced. It was referred to the Standing Committee on Finance. The Committee, on examination, has submitted its report. It has, among other things, recommended that suitable provisions be incorporated in the Bill to ensure that the new banking company also continues to be a development bank which will provide term-lending to large, medium and small scale industries. The Government has accepted this recommendation of the Committee so that the IDBI will continue to do business as a development bank and the Bill will be amended accordingly.

The other recommendations of the Committee related to addressing the question of Non Performing Assets of IDBI, giving IDBI tax exemption under Income Tax Act, 1964, retaining a minimum of 51 per cent of the equity holding of the IDBI with the Government and introducing VRS in IDBI. Sir, I will respond to each of these recommendations in a minute. But they are recommendations that actually do not require any amendments to the proposed Bill and they really can be addressed adequately enough through executive action.

The summary of Committee's recommendations—for the benefit of the Chairman of the Committee, who is also present in the House and other Members—is, for example the Committee recommended that more steps be taken by the Government to achieve the targeted deposits by the converted entity and the original mandate of the IDBI should also be kept in mind. We had the RBI's comment on this. RBI really has no difficulty with it. IDBI has confirmed the Government that after conversion into a bank, the IDBI will continue to perform its development role also.

Another recommendation of the Committee was that suitable provisions be incorporated in the Bill to ensure that the new banking company ensures the development aspect also. I would like to share the RBI's comment, that this would be incorporated into the Act and that the IDBI will also continue to discharge its development finance role.

[Shri Jaswant Singh]

The Government impressed, through another recommendation, upon the management of the IDBI to make concerted effort to realise the Non Performing Assets which have grown to a sum of about Rs. 15,000 crore. This does not require any amendment to the proposed Bill. We will do so.

There was a recommendation about tax exemption. We are examining the tax exemptions. So far as tax exemption is concerned, I have to be rather careful in announcing tax exemption. We will examine this and take a suitable decision.

The next recommendation was about the shareholding of the IDBI that it should not be less than 51 per cent. The Government of India holds the view that in nationalised banks the shareholding is now 33 per cent. Therefore, the correct shareholding pattern should exactly be the same as in other nationalised banks. We will examine this and, of course, adhere to also but not the 51 per cent because we do not think it is in harmony with others.

The other recommendation was about sufficient management. It does not require any explanation as it is self-evident and we will do so. As regards special VRS package, the IDBI will certainly address this sympathetically.

Sir, you will observe that all the recommendations of the Standing Committee have been adopted. This Bill was really introduced in the month of December, 2002 with the intention that we move quickly into reforming the IDBI considering we have Rs. 50,000 crore package of non-performing assets. We are committed to doing so. I would, therefore, appeal to all the Members now-since this has gone through the Standing Committee route also-to lend their support to this Repeal Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Motion moved:

> "That the Bill to provide for the transfer and vesting of the undertaking of the Industrial Development Bank of India to, and in, the Company to be formed and registered as a Company under the Companies Act, 1956 to carry on banking business and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto and also to repeal the Industrial Development Bank of India Act, 1964, be taken into consideration."

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Sir, I would request you to give me sufficient time to express my views on behalf of the Congress Party and myself also. My second request is that you may please allow me to read out my speech so that I could be more precise and non-repetitive.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Sir, the Chairman of the Standing Committee is from the Congress Party and we had a very detailed discussion on this Bill in the Committee. I do not think we should require much time for discussion. Moreover, at 4 o'clock, we have discussion on *dalits* and many Members including our party Members are intending to speak on that.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Business Advisory Committee has allotted two hours but we would like to finish this Bill before 4 o'clock. That is our intention.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: My submission is that the legislative measures of this type should not be hurried. Everybody should be given an opportunity to speak. If any hon. Member wants to express his views in detail, he should have the opportunity. To save time, I am reading out my statement on this Bill.

This Bill is introduced to achieve three objectives, namely, to repeal the Industrial Development Bank of India Act of 1964; to transfer the assets and liabilities of the undertaking to Industrial Development Bank Limited-a new company; and to transfer officers of IDBI to the new company, that is, IDBI Limited. In short, these are the three objectives. Why is this being done? According to the Government, the undertaking is in a bad financial condition. It is not possible for the Government to provide funds to the undertaking to keep it green and working. It should get funds from the open market, for which purpose, it should have the permission to carry on multipurpose activities. The Narasimhan Committee and the Khan Committee suggested that it should be allowed to carry on banking and multipurpose activities. Hence, according to the Government, this Bill is introduced to turn this undertaking into a company.

Why has it become weak? The main reason is that NPAs to the tune of Rs. 15,000 crore have been creating a burden on this institution. It has happened because of their not getting the funds from the Government and the market and also because of not having a very good management. So, the Government says that they are turning this into a company.

Sir, sometimes, some of the hon. Members from the other side were asking, what else can be done to see that this institution does remain capable enough to achieve the objectives for which it was created? The main point

I want to make in this respect is that the NPAs should be liquidated. The Non-Performing Assets should be recovered. But instead of recovering these NPAs, this Undertaking is being turned into a company. Why is it that the Government is not in a position to recover the NPAs? If the Government is not doing this duty, then should not the Members of this House ask the Government as to why it is not performing its duty, why it is not asking the Undertaking to recover these NPAs? The main thing is that the Undertaking should have been managed in a proper manner.

Sir, if there is a Board of Directors and it decides that beyond a certain limit the credit facilities or the loans should be given by the Board of Directors and if it is provided in the law and if this responsibility is transferred to only three persons in the Board of Directors, then is that kind of a decision correct? It has happened because of this kind of a modification. If the funds have been given to the companies and industries to which they should not have been given, then who is responsible for this? Why is it not possible for the Government to stop anything of this kind? This is exactly what has happened in this institution. That means, this Undertaking has not been managed in a proper way. That is why it is suffering and there are NPAs. So, instead of taking steps to remedy these defects, if this Undertaking is transferred to some persons as a company, as a private company, then it is very difficult.

Sir, the Undertaking was brought into existence to encourage the development of industries. I repeat, this Undertaking was created to encourage, to help the development of industries in the country. It was meant to provide funds to the entrepreneurs who were keen to set up small, medium and big industries. Term Loans could be given by it for entrepreneurial purposes. It did achieve some of these objectives. But when it was used for adventures by some unscrupulous persons for their interest, it became weak.

Sir, ICICI was a financial institution. It has been turned into a bank. It has given loans to the persons who wanted to buy cars and build buildings and houses, but it is not in a position to provide big term loans for sufficient number of years to develop industries in this country. The result is that to that extent the industrial development in the country has suffered a setback. This can happen to IDBI Ltd. also. This company's capacity to provide funds to private cooperatives and public sector units would be reduced and that would not be in the interest of the entire industry in the country. The company would earn profits, but that would be done at the cost of industrial development in the country. The profits that are earned by the Government and the public sector units are the profits earned by those who are helped by them. They should be seen in the development that occurs in the shape of advancement of the country as a whole. This would not be done by a company created under the Company's Act. It would earn profits by enhancing the charges it levies for the services it renders which may or may not be just and equitable. If they are equitable, nobody should object to it. But, if they are exploitative, that would not be in the interest of the country as a whole. If it does not earn profits of cannot earn profits, it can be closed down which may affect the entire advancement of the industry of the country.

15.22 hrs.

(DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*)

We are asking the Government institutions and all the public sector undertakings to earn profits. We are not saying there is anything wrong in doing that. We should do that. But what is the profit which the Government or the public sector undertaking earns? The profit is the sum total of the profits earned by all those to whom the services are provided. If this fact is lost sight of, we will have the companies which will close down immediately. If the profit does not come to them, in that case the companies which were assisted and helped by an undertaking of this nature will suffer and loss of all other companies would be the real loss of the country as a whole and the loss of the Government also. Why should we, the representatives of the people, sitting in this House forget this fact?

We are just taking into account the account books of the company and the money which is earned by them. But we are not assessing the assistance given to the people who earn profits, who get encouraged, and who establish new industries. That is the benefit and that is the profit the Government and the country as a whole earn. But this is not going to happen if the company is in the private hands. They will say, 'Look, we are here to earn profits. If the profits are not available, we are not charitable institutions; we will better close down.' So, when a financial institution closes down, all the companies which could have received funds from that financial institution will be deprived of the resources and that will entail the losses that the country as a whole would incur. Why should the Government forget this aspect?

[Shri Shivraj v. Patil]

I think we who are sitting here are interested in seeing that the individual gets the benefit and an institution runs. But, at the same time, we are not going to sacrifice the institution for an individual or the interest of the country for an institution or an industry. This exactly appears to be happening and this appears to be the policies which are made by the Government sitting at the apex of the country, which should look ahead into the future. If they are just looking at an institution only and if they are feeling helpless that they are not in a position to bring that institution out of the red, well, that speaks of the lack of confidence of the Government in itself.

It speaks of the deficiency in ingenuity. It speaks of the helplessness or negligence to find out ways and means which can really help that institution and the entire activity as such. What is important is development. It should be done by running the institution in a proper manner as well as by seeing that those who depend upon the institution are not deprived of the assistance that can be given to them. There are banks which are also not doing well. Unfortunately, if this happens to this new banking company also, what will happen to the small holders of the stake in the bank? There is no guarantee that the company will succeed where the undertaking has failed. What is the guarantee? The undertaking was with you. It was manned by people who might have been selected by the Government as quite efficient managers and yet, it has failed. So, instead of finding out something new, something innovative and something helpful, if helplessly the Government itself is also transferring this undertaking to someone else to manage and earn profit, then that someone else will not be responsible to this House and to the society, and at any time he can close it down. What happens to the industry which could have been helped by them? But it is certain that the industrial development would suffer a setback to the extent to which the funds from it would be diverted to non-productive and small activities. I have no doubt about it in my mind. If the multipurpose activity can be done, if it can be carried on without affecting the capacity of this undertaking to provide funds to the industry as it used to do, then, with the increase which is expected to take place every year, we cannot quarrel with that idea. But I am not sure that this is going to happen. I am apprehensive that this may not happen and this company also will fail to produce the dividends which it is required to produce.

The Bill was referred to the Standing Committee of the Parliament. The Committee has given the Report. The Government has accepted some recommendations and has not accepted other recommendations. The position in this respect is as follows. I would not read out this written statement. The hon. Minister has said that some of the recommendations have been accepted, some of the recommendations do not need to be a part of the law. By executive orders, they can be implemented. He has also said that some of the recommendations can be looked into for future action.

Now, what would the Government do if the small holders of shares in this company suffer as they are suffering in some co-operative banks, as they are suffering in some banks? You are giving them the money in order to protect their interest but grudgingly in a delayed manner. If this also happens there, this will happen in this company also. That has to be looked into and so, I will pass this on right up to the hon. Minister for his examination and for his kind consideration. I will not read it now. He was very kind enough to refer to the recommendations of the Standing Committee and, to a great extent, he has been able to accept the recommendations of the Standing Committee. But some recommendations till remain to be accepted by them. We do think that the Government should have accepted all the recommendations, and specially the recommendation in respect of 51 per cent shareholding. I think there is a scope for the Government to look into it.

The Bill has the following provisions relating to the officers and other employees of the Development Bank. I will draw the attention of the hon. Minister to these provisions. I seek the permission to read out these clauses in the Bill.

Clause 5 (2) reads as follows:-

"Where an officer or other employee of the Development Bank opts under sub-section (1) not to be in employment or service of the company, such officer or other employee shall be deemed to have resigned."

Further Clause 5 (3) reads as follows:

"Notwithstanding anything contained in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947..."

The point is that the Industrial Disputes Act was brought into existence to protect the interests of the officers and the employees of the industry. This law is saying:

"Notwithstanding anything contained in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 or any other law..." It is extending the scope of this provision to any other law also.

I quote clause 5 (3):

"Notwithstanding anything contained in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 or in any other law for the time being in force, the transfer of the services of any officer or other employee of the Development Bank to the Company shall not entitle such officer or other employee to any compensation under this Act or under any other law for the time being in force and no such claim shall be entertained by any court, tribunal or other authority."

Why is this provision there? Mr. Minister, you are ousting the jurisdiction of the judiciary or the court or the tribunal or the authority. Why are you doing this? This is a very draconian provision provided in the Bill. By saying this thing, we are saying that the courts shall not entertain any application or any petition. We are saying that the tribunals which have been created also shall not entertain any application or any other authority created for this purpose shall not entertain it. Why should we do this? We are doing this thing to those who have functioned in this organisation for the last so many years.

It is true that this Undertaking is suffering since the last few years. But before that, it did help the country's development in the industrial area.

Then, clause 5 (6) reads as follows:-

"Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or in the Companies Act, 1956, or in any other law for the time being in force or in the regulations of the Development Bank, no director of the Board, chairman and managing director or any whole-time director or any other person entitled to manage the whole or substantial part of the business and affairs of the Development Bank shall be entitled to any compensation against the Development Bank or the Company for the loss of office or for the premature termination of any contract of management entered into by him with the Development Bank."

What kind of a provision is this? Why should we have this kind of a provision? We are saying that anything may be there in this law and yet even if an employee is entitled to the kind of compensation under the existing law or the Companies Law or any other law, he should not be given that kind of a compensation. Why should we have a law of this nature? What does this mean? What is the meaning of this thing? I do not understand this. Why are we doing these things? Those who have worked as officers and employees in the Company, if they are entitled under the law for compensation or any benefit, they should be given that compensation or benefit. Why are we getting a sanction of this House to the fact that even if they are entitled to any compensation or benefit under any law—the Companies Law or the Industrial Disputes Act or under this law also—he should not be given that compensation? Why is this thing being done?

We would like to ask as to why is it so. Is it not against the interest of those who belong to the working class, those who do not have property, those who are not industrialists, those who are not traders; and those who are not part of the land-holding community, but are working in these institutions putting in their efforts and sweating for its development. If any compensation can be given under the law, why should it not be given to them? I fail to understand why it should not be given to them. If a law of this nature has come before this House and we all are sitting here and approving it, how will we be able to face the people outside? This can happen to anybody. If these people are entitled to any compensation, they should be given that compensation. This is my submission. I do not know why the Standing Committee also has not examined this issue in greater detail. If the law is there. If the Company Law entitles them to get compensation, this law says that they have the right to get compensation under any other law but we, by this law, are providing that they are not entitled. Why is this kind of provision there? Why is this being done?

I would request the hon. Minister to convince us about the logic behind this kind of provision in the law. What is it that we are trying to gain out of this? Why are we doing such things? Now, if the people have worked in this undertaking for 30 years or 40 years and this undertaking is not having branches spread throughout the country, and you say that we would start the branches of the company at some corners of the country and if they do not go, then their services will be terminated and they will not be entitled to compensation, this not correct. Those people who have taken a sum of Rs. 15,000 crore from this institution, they are not returning it. You are not penalizing them, but you are penalizing those persons who are working and who were working in this undertaking. Why is it so? Is it right? Is it correct? Is it just? Is it equitable? Should we do it?

We do not understand only one aspect of it. I do understand the government's anxiety to see that the industrial undertaking functions well. But I do not understand the Government being insensitive to the fact

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

that those who have worked for these institutions not for one year but for 30 years and 40 years are being told that they will not be getting any compensation under this law, even if they are entitled to compensation under any other law. Now, this is not the correct position.

I would request the hon. Minister to see as to how this can be avoided. I do not know whether in the time which is available to us this Bill shall be passed because at 4'O Clock the other subject has to be taken up. I am not sure if it would be possible for us to consider and pass this Bill even in this House. So, if it is not taken up today and it is not passed today, tomorrow is the day for Private Members' Bill and then it would be difficult in getting it passed. This Bill also has to go to the other House, it has to be passed and only then it has to go to the President. But my only submission to the hon. Minister is that before this Bill is taken up for consideration in this House, it was considered by the Standing Committee and we are deliberating on this Bill today. The Government would come tomorrow and say: "Look, this Bill is not passed by the House. So, we are adopting the Ordinance route to get it passed and say that this is an Ordinance and you are duty-bound to accept this Ordinance and pass it." Let this not be done. How, Heavens are not going to fall if it comes in the next Session or is considered. But if you are doing it, we are entitled to put forth our point of view. You shall have to convince us as to how this institution, which was initially created to help the development of the small-scale and medium-scale industry is going to help, if it is going to be a trading company, if it is going to be a commercial institution not concerned with the development but with the commercial activities which is expected only to earn profit in the shape of money earned and not in the shape of assistance given to those people who are in the industrial development.

I have given the example of ICICI. In the Committee on Finance, we wanted to examine them. The ICICI came before us and said that they are no more a financial institution and that we have no jurisdiction to examine them. They said that they are a private company now and we, the hon. Members sitting over there, had to tell them that we would like to examine and ultimately they submitted to us. But this is going to happen with this institution also and you will have no control over this institution.

Sir, the Government has directed that 40 per cent of the lending of all the commercial banks should be given to the people living in rural areas, to the agricultural sector and the priority sectors. Now, the Minister knows very well as to what is the position. We have examined it in the Committee also and found that 40 per cent of the lending of the commercial banks is not given to these areas and then the Government had to change its direction and say that if any commercial bank has not given on loan this amount of money, then it would be given to NABARD and NABARD would give it to the State Governments and they would give this money to these areas. But even after giving this money to NABARD, it has not been able to see that that amount is given to those who need the amount. NABARD has come back to the House and before the Committee saying that they do not have their branches spread all over the country and that is why they are not is a position to spend this money. That is the reason why we have not been able to spend 18 per cent of the money on agriculture and only six per cent of the funds were spent on agriculture.

This is the position now. Your own directions are not followed by the commercial banks and now this bank is also becoming a commercial bank. If you want to see that the industry develops in the North-Eastern States and in the backward areas of the country where the funding has to be done, you will not be able to compel this bank to give that kind of loan to the industries which will come up in the North-Eastern States and in the backward areas of the country. You will see that the funds are given to the companies which are coming up in the already industrialised and developed areas. There will be a mismatch. There will be uneven development and you will not have any instrument in your hand to see that proper development takes place in the North-Eastern States and in the backward areas of the country. What will you do? Then, when we ask a question, you will come back and say. "Look, they are a private company, they are governed by the Company Law and so we cannot compel them. What can we do?" Now, the instrument is in your hand today. You can ask them to give money to the companies that are coming up in Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and in the backward areas of Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Orissa. But if the commercial banks refuse to do that, you will have no power to compel them to do so. You have seen what had happened to the directions that you had issued that 40 per cent of the lending has to be on the priority sector.

So, my only point is that this is an instrument available to you. If you are not using it properly, you will feel yourself very helpless and then, when we ask a question or when the Members sitting in Opposition

Benches ask the question, you will come back and say: "This is a Company, we are helpless and we cannot help you." But this is not the kind of answer we can give to the people.

So, I would submit that let the Government not take the route of Ordinance to see that this Bill becomes a law. If you take it, I would very respectfully submit that we would feel very unhappy and we would feel entitled to oppose it tooth and nail. With numbers on your side, you may get it passed in the House and yet we would be feeling unhappy. I know that the Minister is a very sensitive representative of the people. I have seen him accepting the views expressed on the floor of the House and also outside while seeing that his Budget is passed. Now, this is a Bill which we are not opposing for the sake of opposing because it has come from him. We have sincere apprehensions. We do feel that this is a wrong step.

And yet we see it coming with some changes and modifications. If you are able to protect the interests of the private industry, the cooperative industry, the public industry, industrial development, we would be happier. That is the only request we have to make. Thank you.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I am now really trapped. When this Bill was introduced in the last Winter Session, I had made an appeal to the Chair that if you send it to the Standing Committee, please request that Committee to return it quickly.

Hon. Shri Shivraj Patil is now recommending that we do nothing about this particular thing and we take it forward to the Winter Session. That will be one whole year of deliberation on this. I must, in all honesty, share with hon. Member that in this one year of uncertainty, not only have the NPAs of Rs. 15,000 crore added on, but the lending ability of the IDBI has also declined. I can give no assurance to the House that in the remaining months, the IDBI's functional capacity to lend for all the noble intentions, hon. Shri Shivraj Patil, will be enhanced in any fashion. The non-performing assets of Rs. 15,000 crore is not my doing.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Whose doing is this?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: It is the Government's doing. ...*(Interruptions)* I had not been here for five years.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: You might not have been there but your Government is there.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Your Government had created this. ...*(Interruptions)* Here is a question being raised that I created these NPAs of Rs. 15,000 crore. ...*(Interruptions)* It is an inherent liability, which I am trying to correct. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: To what extent?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I can give the figures. The Standing Committee has fully considered it. I can give no guarantee to the House. Certainly, the House is its own master. If you want to stop this Bill, do stop it. But I must put it on the floor of the House. I can, therefore, give no guarantee about the health of the IDBI in the future. It is not possible.

The NPAs got created in the IDBI because the entire borrowing system got changed. Development financial institutions had access to cheaper finance when the entire financing system was changed in the 90s so that credit, that was accessed by development finance, will have to be accessed at commercial rates. When that was done, the very nature of development financial institutions had to be altered.

If we are recommending that it become a bank with no SLR liability for five years so that there is no bond, it is because the Bank will then have an access to cheaper rates of borrowings, not the current rates of borrowings. But if the House does not want to do it and you want to prolong the discussion, by all means, prolong it. I can certainly give no assurance to the House about the health of the IDBI.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: This is very strange. If the Government cannot give the assurance to the House that it will take steps to see that this undertaking functions in a better and efficient manner, who will give it? I cannot give it. The Chairman of the Finance Committee cannot give it. Now, the NPAs is the money given to the people. It has to be recovered from them. Why is the Government sleeping? Why is the Government not taking steps to see that the money is comes back? When it is throwing out the workers and handing over this company to someone else, who else it is? Then, we are told: "We are obstructive." We have given concrete suggestions.

We are also saying that if it is necessary, do it. But do it in such a fashion that the individual development does not suffer. If it is thrown at us as a Bill of this

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

nature, if the institution responsible for the development of the industry for the last 40 years, by passing a law, has to be handed over to some persons who are not responsible to this House nor responsible to the Minister what should he do. We do not expect this thing. If you do it, we have only the right to question you and take it to the people. We have no other thing to do.

Now, you are ousting the jurisdiction of the courts, the tribunals, and the authorities. You are ousting the jurisdiction of the law that you yourself have framed. You are handing over the assets of the public, to some people and then you are saying that you cannot guarantee that this institution cannot function. Because we are using very soft, very responsible and use respectable words, should the Minister brush it aside like this? Only when we shout and shout at the top of our voice, rush to the well, should he heed to it? He has never done that. I know it. That is why I have said that he has been sensitive. I can understand his difficulty. But I cannot understand his incapacity to control it. He has the capacity to control it. I would have done that if I were in his place. If he is not able to do, allow me to say that at least he is not doing it because he does not want to do it or he is not doing because he has not paid attention to it or he is not doing it because he has some other design.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Sir, the anxiety expressed by the hon. Finance Minister is to be taken with all seriousness because the Members of the Standing Committee on Finance, under the Chairmanship of Shri N. Janardhana Reddy, have very efficiently dealt with the whole issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The Parliament is above the Standing Committee also and the Executive is responsible to the Parliament. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, with all importance to this issue, in the Standing Committee we discussed the issue in detail and ultimately it was decided that IDBI will function as a bank only.

As far as the NPA question is concerned, we are all concerned and all this belongs to the captains of the industry and the common people have no movement in this. So, we believe that it is to be passed in this Session itself. We should all take care and see that the future of the bank is not jeopardised and that it can function properly.

SHRI JAWANT SINGH: I wish to respond only to the very strange allegation waged against me by hon. Shri Shivraj Patil that I am acting ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: If there is any personal allegation, I shall withdraw it.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: He has just made it. It is a very strange allegation. He must be highly excited. He said that I was acting under some strange compulsion.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I did not say that. He can check the record.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I do not need to check the record. If he is not saying, it is all right. But he is excited at the moment.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: It is probably because he does not understand soft language.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The Standing Committee fully considered this issue. This was introduced in the Winter Session of last year. Now I am being told that all the recommendations of the Standing Committee have been accepted and we are pursuing the path.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: No, that is not correct. In his statement also, he has said that some of the recommendations can be implemented through Executive order and some of the recommendations, he has said, he will consider later. That is part of the record.

Now, he will go to the people and say that I am speaking like this, I am excited and all that. I am not excited. I am old enough not to be excited. I am just speaking out what I feel in my heart. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: So many recommendations of the Standing Committee have been accepted.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): No, all of them have not been accepted. He is not accepting the major recommendation about 51 per cent Government stake. He is saying that at par with other commercial banks, where the Government proposes to dilute it to 33 per cent, the same will be applicable to IDBI also, which is the major recommendation of the Standing Committee.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I am relieved to hear that hon. Shri Shivraj Patil is not excited. But nevertheless the fact remains that the issue here is of the health of

IDBI and if we continue to prevaricate upon reforming the IDBI, then certainly you cannot say that the Government is not responsible for any reforming and yet is responsible for it. I have to reform it in a manner-that is the Government's consideration-in consultation with RBI after examination by the Standing Committee. The House is certainly well within its right to continue to debate this issue for one more year, if necessary.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Let him accept all the recommendations and see that the Bill is passed.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: The major recommendation is not accepted by the Government, that is, 51 per cent Government stake, and the Government is saying that it will bring it down to 33 per cent. What will happen after five years?

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: All this will be covered in the discussion.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: The major decision is that IDBI will operate as a bank.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: It will continue to operate as a development bank. I have given that assurance and I stand by that assurance. The Government currently holds about 68 per cent equity of the IDBI. It will continue to hold that in the foreseeable future. ...*(Interruptions)* I do not know what is the excitement. I have to reform because I am responsible for this organisation.

Exactly, the same criticisms were heard about Unit Trust of India when we came forward with a reform package. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: What about ICICI?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I do not control ICICI. ...*(Interruptions)* It is more interesting that Shri Shivraj Patil, who is not excited, has now engaged in cross-chatting with me when I am trying to explain the position. But the fact remains that this is an important development and financial institution. It does require reforms. The reforms that we would like to recommend have been taken as per the examination by the Standing Committee. Even then we wish to say that if you do not want to pass it now, certainly the House can continue to debate it for as long as it wants.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to congratulate the hon. Minister of Finance for not only declaring revival package of UTI but also giving a direction to its revival. I want to cite an example that there was a fall in US-64 of UTI upto the year 1998 for which the Government had provided an amount of Rs. 3300 crore under a scheme which cam down to Rs. 1500 crore sometime around 1.1.1999. Because of this revival package its value has become Rs. 3900 crore today for this, I congratulate him.

I want to convey to the hon. Minister of Finance that I support the restructuring of IDBI,

[English]

the actual and particular word is consolidation and universal banking.

[Translation]

May be, I conclude 1 or 2 minutes after or before the allotted time. My first suggestion is that if you are going in for universal banking and consolidation has become a principle today, then IDBI and IDBI Bank should be merged. I do not give any argument.

[English]

I have already discussed with him.

[Translation]

ICICI is coming out today. ICICI had a similar concept. Merger of ICICI and ICICI Bank took place. It will not be useful to keep IDBI Bank separate, so my first demand is that it should be merged.

[English]

There is a little difference between other Government companies and IDBI.

[Translation]

It has not been clear, neither in finance committee nor the RBI and Ministry of Finance have been able to make it clear as to what will happen to the holding of IDBI Bank currently held by IDBI as whether it will go to trust as two banks can not remain together. This bank will slip away from our hands, that is why I am requesting for this.

My third request is that

[Shri Kirit Somaiya]

[English]

IDBI was established by an Act of Parliament and the UTI was also established by an Act of Parliament.

[Translation]

I express my agreement to the statement by hon. Shivraj ji Patil. Hon. Finance Minister, Sir, I congratulate you for making provision of.

[English]

Election of share holders' directors

[Translation]

and rescuing small investors in US-64. Today, IDBI has an NPA of Rs. 15000 crore. Small bond holders and deposit holders must be more than eight crore and once it comes out of the IDBI Act to become a company, then it can go to BIFR also.

[English]

He will have to give an assurance to the small depositors that they are properly secured.

[Translation]

This, I am requesting as a representative of small investors. I have another request the IDBI is still collecting Rs. 3000-4000 crore from the market through bonds.

[English]

Let us make it clear, it is not Government's guarantee or he can say that it is the Government's guarantee.

[Translation]

I am sure, you will clarify on this issue. I have another request that.

[English]

Some clearity is required.

[Translation]

This topic is being discussed for the last two years in the Parliament as well as outside. A clause has been inserted before the year 1998 in relation to the public sector banks that

[English]

One-third of the Directors will be elected by the small shareholders.

[Translation]

It does not include all the depositors. Some handful of people have elected director, the same provision will continue in relation to IDBI also.

16.00 hrs.

I would like to draw your kind attention in this regard also that you should make some declaration in this regard also. You have said that the bill relating to 33% holdings in public sector banks is still before the finance committee. My humble submission is that if you wish to refer to IDBI then there is a clause regarding protection in public sector that

[English]

though the Government holding may go below 51%, it will remain a Government Bank.

[Translation]

There is no such clause in it. Kindly include this protection clause in it. This is my request to you and with this, I support the bill.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, what will be the fate of this Bill? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Business Advisory Committee has allotted two hours for this.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Will it be taken up tomorrow? Let it be passed now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will take it up tomorrow.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, will this Bill be discussed tomorrow? The Minister expressed his annoyance that if passing of this Bill is delayed and if this Bill goes to the Winter Session, then the total bank's

future will be Jeopardised. So, he is very much appealing to the House to pass this Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will discuss over it for as much time as has been allotted by the Business Advisory Committee.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Sir, you have allotted two hours for this Bill. How can it be passed now? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, what I am saying is perfectly in order because I am a member of the Standing Committee on Finance. This Report was prepared under the Chairmanship of the Congress Party member. ...*(Interruptions)* This recommendation was made by the Standing Committee on Finance. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are wasting time. Please sit down. This matter will be taken up for discussion after the allotted two hours time is over. If it is not completed today then, it will be taken up tomorrow. Shri Ram Vilas Paswanji can speak under Rule 193.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: It is the Report of the Standing Committee on Finance that is being discussed. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Sir, you have allotted two hours for this Bill. Only one hour is over now. So many Members want to speak on this Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today there is a programme of unveiling the statue at 6.30 o'clock. So we cannot sit here beyond 6 o'clock. This is a very important subject. So we should take it up directly. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Whether the discussion on this subject which was going on has been stopped for today?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Today Kirit Somaiyaji has delivered his lecture.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Will you take it up in winter session or it will be taken up tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will get some spare time tomorrow before taking up the Private Member's Bill.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: That will be decided by the hon. Speaker. He will take care of it. If the discussion on the Bill introduced by me is not completed today then that will come up for discussion tomorrow also.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Chairman, during the discussion on the bill Kiritji completed this speech. After that the hon. Minister was to make a reply and thereafter we could have taken up this matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Two hours are allotted for that.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will that be taken up tomorrow?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Of course, Paswanji, now you can speak.

16.04 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Atrocities on Dalits in various parts of the country

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: (Hajipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank the Chair for providing me an opportunity to discuss this important issue. This matter was pending for a long time and today I have been provided the opportunity but the time allotted to me is very short. When this issue was scheduled to be discussed on the last occasion, then the scheduled time for discussion was from 2.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. or till the House was adjourned. But objections were raised even at that time. At that time it was said that it would be taken up for discussion just after the question hour is over. But today we are starting discussion on this issue at four o'clock. Before starting discussion on the issue related to the dalits, first of all I would like to read out some extracts

[Shri Ram Vilas Paswan]

from the speech delivered in the Constituent Assembly by Baba Saheb Ambedkar, the maker of the Constitution on 26th November, 1949. He had said—

> "We should make our political democracy a social democracy also. What do we mean by social democracy? It means a life system which recognises the principle of equality, liberty and fraternity. Principles of Liberty, equality and fraternity should not be treated as three different principles. The spirit of an individual to take initiative even with equality without liberty would come to an end. This is the confluence of three streams in that sense and their trifurcation would mean-defeating the very purpose of democracy. Liberty cannot be separated from equality and equality cannot be separated from liberty and equality cannot be separated from liberty. Likewise liberty and equality cannot be separated from fraternity. In the absence of equality, some people enjoying liberty would dominate the others who are in large number, and in the event of equality without liberty, an individual will lose his capacity to the initiative. Liberty and equality cannot become co-existent without fraternity. They would require some authority to enforce them. We should take it for granted that two things are altogether absent in the Indian society. One is equality, the other is that Indian society is based on the principle of inequality which means that at the social level, some people have high status whereas others have low status in the ladder. At the economic level, there are some people in our society who have enormous wealth and contrary to it, there are many people who are living there lives in abject poverty."

16.07 hrs.

(SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*)

Sir, the next sentence is quite significant—

> "On 26th January, 1950 we are going to enter a life of a society riddled with inner contradictions. We will have equality in political rights but inequality in our social and economic life. In politics, we shall adopt the principle of one man one vote and one value. In our social and economic life, we shall continue to deny the principle of one man, one vote and one value due to our social and economic structure. For how long shall we continue to live a life full of self-contradictions."

Through you, I would like to say one thing. I am pleased to know that the matter was taken up in the Lok Sabha through the Calling Attention Motion on 25th July and the discussion was changed into a full fledged discussion on the demand of the House. I have read the statement given by the hon. Minister on that day. Our main issue is regarding atrocities and excesses committed against the dalits. I will not go into details because the Government have all figures. The Government have the answers to all the questions which were asked. But of the four-five issues on which the Calling Attention Motion was admitted, one related to Jhajjar. Hon. Deputy Prime hide, when I alongwith at here MPs, reached the spot, we found to our utter dismay that neither there were trace of any cow nor any FIR had been lodged. Nothing of the sort had happened there. Minister is present in the House as well the hon. Minister of Home Affairs. I am happy that the responsibility to handle the case concerning excesses and atrocities on the dalits lies with the Ministry of Home Affairs so as to take a serious note of it.

Fifty six years have passed since we got independence. We are entering in the 57th year of independence. Nobody can even think of it today. I would like to clear one thing that this is neither a party matter nor a matter concerning any State or a Government instead we raise this issue in the Parliament time and again because members from all sides take part in such discussion and pledge to eradicate this blot on the country by rising above party politics.

Mr. Deputy Prime Minister, Sir in Jhajjar, which is located hardly at a distance of 30 to 40 km. from here in Haryana State and which has dalit population of not just one or two percent but as much as twenty four percent and living a much more happy and prosperous life than the people living in Bihar, eastern U.P. or other parts of the country, five dalits were burnt alive there just one hundred metres away from the police-station at about four o'clock in the evening on Dussehera. What can be more shameful than this? They were killed on the pretext that they were skinning off the cow. They were killed in the police station. What have you written in your reply? The hon'ble Minister of State for Home Affairs has given a reply in this regard. In reply it has been stated that Haryana Government has informed that a special investigation team has been constituted to investigate the killing of five dalits in Jhajjar on 15th October, 2002. Who is investigating? The Divisional Commissioner of Rohtak has conducted the magistarial inquiry of the matter. The government have accepted the investigation

report of the commissioner and action has been taken thereon. Action is being taken against all the officers responsible for the incident. It appears that the Jhajhar incident occurred due to the misunderstanding that a cow is being slaughtered openly. Mr. Speaker, Sir, this incident took place on the 15th and we visited the spot on the 16th. The Chief Minister of the State issued a statement that a cow has been slaughtered. Five people were killed because of the misunderstanding that day have slaughtered a cow.

16.13 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, where did the murder take place? It was committed in the police station. What is the reason of murder? Five people were going and they had some money with them. They were well off business people from scheduled castes. They used to trade in leather. Police personnel stopped them near the police station and demanded money which they refused. Thereafter, they were taken inside the police station and were asked as to how much money they are having with them. Kailash Kedar revealed he is having sixty thousand rupees in his possession. He was asked to pay commission an on refusing to pay two of the persons were killed there itself. About rest of the three people the police personnel thought they will report the matter so they hatched a conspiracy and called the people that these people had come to slaughter a cow. There was one Swami Param Hansa who came with a number of people who burnt the five people alive. How is it possible that the people who were in the custody of armed police were taken out and burnt alive. It has been said that a strong mob of ten thousand people did this. This is a flimsy ground. I want to know as to what is the situation as on date. Even not a single person has been put behind the bars for killing the five dalits. No action has been taken against the errant police personnel. In the wake of naxalism law and order situation in the country is discussed. We will have to cleanse our system itself otherwise such incidents will keep on taking place. Five persons were killed at Jhajhar which is not far away from Delhi. This matter has already been raised here in the House a number of times. When demand was being raised to arrest the killers a handful of people blocked the roads and chanted slogans saying that we regard cow as our mother and cow slaughterers should be awarded death sentence. ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I, therefore want to ask the Government as to under which sections action has been taken against those who had killed five dalits and also about the number of people who have been lodged in jails otherwise it would be construed that the action the police has taken, they are in connivance with the Government and no one is going to be punished.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the other incident occurred in Kaithal district of Haryana where 200 people have fled from their village. Shri Ram Chandra Paswan of our party and others have visited this place. 200 people have so far fled away from there. Besides, one more incident occurred in Telhan village of Punjab. The case there related to a Gurudwara. We also had taken out a cycle march. Whatever the Government may say in this matter but we assume that be it Sikhs, Muslims or Christians, most of dalits and people of backward classes among them feel that somewhere or the other injustice is being done with them and they are converting under compulsion. The population of the said village is five thousand and out of that 70 per cent are dalits. There is the mazar of Baba Nihal Singh in that village where people from across the country and abroad visit there. Some people have constructed a Gurudwara there and people pay their offerings. The worth of these offerings is Rs. 4-5 crore annually. The Government has the figures and it will tell in its reply as to the worth of offerings offered there. The 70 per cent dalit population of the said village has asked for their representation in the Gurudwara Management Committee but it rejected their demand. And in the brawl that ensured the photo of Sant Ravi Das was thrown away. This worsened the situation. On blocking the road, police resorted to firing in which one person was killed. This led to setting up of a Dalit Action Committee and a compromise was reached. I want to give my thanks to the Chief Minister captain Amrinder Singh, who was instrumental in negotiating the said compromise. The people of the dalit community moved the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court ordered that the people of each section should be given representation in the management committee. But the dalit community has not been given representation in the management committee till today.

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN (Sangrur): They have been given representation.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: But so far as I know, there are two committees— Management Committee and Sewadar Committee. Two people have been given representation in the Sewadar Committee but no one has so far been given representation in the Management

[Shri Ram Vilas Paswan]

Committee. If this has been done, then I would like to thank the Chief Minister of Punjab. But as per my information the dalits are not given representation in the management committee as yet.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, an agreement was reached in relation to the persons who are lodged in jails that cases against them would be withdrawn. This is not a case of hindus and sikhs as communities but an internal matter of sikhs only. Nor this is a matter arisen out of casteism. Sikhism wishes-'sarbat da bhala'. This is not an issue of religion. Instead, I make a demand that the sikh people should come forward to own responsibility. Efforts should be made to solve this issue, this is our demand. As far as Gurudwara is concerned, all the religious people should get equal representation there. As the Chief Minister is a party to the agreement, it is the responsibility of the Government to give suitable place to the people of that class.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had raised the matter of Bihar also in this august House. In Bihar, four members of the family of Shri Dervan Paswan, District President of Dalit Sena, were murdered. The Government in their reply have said that they have received information regarding the murder of three dalits in January, 2003. I am talking about village Laxmipur in Fatehpur block of Gaya district, I am talking about the places where I have been personally. I never talk about places where I have not been. On November 1, 2002, Devan Paswan who was District President of Dalit Sena, was asked to give Rupees five thousand for constructing a house. He expressed his inability to pay the said amount as he was a poor man. After that, his parents, wife and his sister-in-law (Bhabhi) were murdered. Dead bodies of Karu Paswan and Ram of Tola Nathuni Bigaha, village Digghi, Koch block of the same Gaya district was brought there. There is a village Saidpur in the same district. I have got a lot of letters. I shall forward these letters to hon. Home Minister for action. In Saidpur village of police station Bajirganj, a rickshaw puller Kedar Paswan was beaten up mercilessly. A bomb was thrown on Sanjay Paswan who contested election for a berth as Ward Commissioner in Gaya. I received this letter only two days back from village Bhikhana in district Purnea. In this letter, it is written that in village Bhigana, under Rupauli police station Nutan Kumari d/o Butal Ram, age 16 years was raped and shot dead at 3.00 p.m. On 27 February, 2003. These are the incidents.

In respect of Uttar Pradesh, it is said that a 'dalit ki beti' is governing the State. Prevention of Atrocities Act enacted by Parliament in 1989 when at that time I was Minister of Welfare in the erstwhile Government led by Shri V.P. Singh. The said act has been in force since then but it has not been implemented in Uttar Pradesh. It is said that only the cases of rape and murder. ...*(Interruptions)* I agree with you, but in 1989 when I was a Minister, the notification was issued. It is in force in the entire country barring Uttar Pradesh. It is enforced only in murder and rape cases. As per the legal provision, action shall be taken against a person for murder or rape irrespective of his caste or religion. Here, I would like to know whether the rules and regulations have been suspended in Uttar Pradesh. If it is not so then I would urge the hon. Minister to reply to it. But as far as I know the rule has been suspended and I have documents to substantiated my claim. You have named three-four places in your reply. Wherein it has been claimed that action has been taken against criminals at places like Meerut, Shajahanpur and Maharajganj where such crimes were reported. I have several newspaper cuttings with me. Seventy dalits were injured in a case of land dispute in Tejopur village in Mau district. In Khar Khali, Khanpur Garhi and Mehmudabad villages of Mawana tehsil of Meerut district, 191 people were allotted land long back on 27.4.1989. But the Tehsildar cancelled their allotments despite the recommendations from the Chief Secretary and the Commissioner of Meerut.

Similarly, I received information of an incident in Secunderabad on 16th where a girl was raped and thrown in mud. Her body was found in a dirty pond. I have all with me newspaper cuttings wherein headlines like "Dabangon ne Nabalig Sunita ko Garbhavati banaya. Mujjaffarnagar mein balika ke saath samuhik balatkar" have appeared. A woman was abducted and gangraped in Mujjaffarnagar. There is not a single district where such an incident has not taken place. It took place in Haidergarh also. I have a copy of Jansatta with a news item 'Sansad mein gunjega Dalit Mahila ke saath dushkarm ka mamla. So rahi dalit Mahila ki goli marker hatya". Durachar ke baad balika ne phansi lagakar atamhatya ki." "Balatkar karke dalit ko kuen mein fenk kar hatya." The Government must be having entire information. I merely want to say that if such incidents continue and by saying that in the name of dalits... Sonlaji went to Amethi. Every political party should go there.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur): Madam, visited Haryana also.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Yes, she also visited Haryana. I have said it time and again that if atrocities

are committed against dalits and dalits raise voice against it, likewise if Muslims, people belonging to backward classes and uppercaste people raise their concern about the atrocities committed against their particular communities, then there will be no communal harmony in the country.

Social harmony would prevail only when the issue of the Muslims is raised by the Hindus and that of the dalits, by the brahmins. When the people belonging to upper castes will raise the issue of the people belonging to backward classes, it is only then that social harmony would prevail.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): This is what we do.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: You do it but who treat communist as the Hindu-Muslim? It is not happening at any isolated place but such things are happening throughout the country. I want to request you that the matter is not confined to this much only. Yesterday, I had wanted to speak but I did not speak because the proceedings were being telecast live and I did not want to dilute the matter. Now for a few acres of land in Ayodhya, people are making lot of hue and cry throughout the country as if the glory of Lord Ram is at stake. Everybody is concerned about building an abode for Lord Ram but nobody is bothered about the temples of dalits and Saint Ravi Dass temples which are being demolished by the Government of India. You go anywhere in Delhi and you will find a temple on every road side. There is one Tughlak Road where Chaudhary Sahib used to live in number 12. In 1977 we used to go there and at that time there was not any temple there. Now, we can see that a temple has been constructed there. No one can dare demolish that temple. Swamiji is sitting here. I would like to thank you that you have called the Minister of Home Affairs and directed the Minister of Urban Development. Three days back we had met him I would like you to direct him to give a reply in this connection. It may be that he may not be having full facts. We had gone to him alongwith Ramji Lal Suman, Ramdas Athawale, Ram Chandra Paswan. All of us had gone there. He had invited us. But you will be surprised to know that I have never seen the Minister loosing temper in such a way. He was briefed incorrectly. When we told him that there are 37 temples in R.K. Puram and out of them, one temple of Sant Ravidasji has been demolished by the Ministry of Urban Development and then you had said that hereinafter nobody will interfere in it. As we came to know that from here, honourable Speaker has said, then the next day people went there and started surrounding the temple. Thereafter we came to know. I talked to you. You talked to the Minister. Then I talked the Minister on phone. But then he was wrongly briefed and when I told him before his officers to come with me and inquire into the matter, then the Minister said that he will inquire into the matter. I would like to thank the Minister that he inquired into the matter and then he became angry with the officers. I want to say that after then example of R.K. Puram and Tughlakabad, there is one PGI in Chandigarh. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): The Minister of Health and Family Welfare had stated that since the matter falls under her jurisdiction, she will tell in details in this regard. But she did not tell.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: There are as many as seven temples in the P.G.I. There is one Ravidas temple here, then there is a Gurudwara by its side, there is one Harmandir and one Church also. None of them has been demolished and only that temple was demolished. You will be surprised to know that the Minister of Urban Development has demanded that the records be sent to him. Both are the Ministers in the Government of India, but till the day before yesterday, the report had not been sent to the Government of India. They are saying that they do not know they will not give. I said that okay, you tell Sushma Swaraj ji, the Minister of Health and Family Welfare to come to the Parliament House and give a reply. Thereafter they have been asked to submit it.

Sir, I do not know whether the report has been sent or not. You go to Tughlakabad and there you can see one road by the name of Sant Ravi Dass Marg. There is one pond stretched up to half Kilometer. It is know as Chamaran Pond i.e. it has been named after the name of a caste but you go there and see that Sant Ravi Dass temple has also been demolished. Who had established that temple and when was it established. It was established in 1959 by Babu Jagjivan Ramji. It is a three hundred years old pond. Now the position is that if someone puts some stone alongside the road after applying tilak of Sandalwood on it, then people start adoring that stone as God and construct a temple there. No one can dare go there to remove that. If that will be removed, then there would be riots but when there is any case of some dalit, the police would reach there. Temples of dalits constructed for the last fifty years are being demolished under the protection of Police. All the incidents I am quoting here have occurred at places which come under the Jurisdiction of the Government of India.

[Shri Ram Vilas Paswan]

I am not talking of any State Government. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the most surprising thing is this that when with your kind permission, I had brought this matter to your notice in the Parliament, then this matter was taken very seriously but even after nothing is happening. What the dalit society should do?

Sir, the Government is adopting same policy in regard to delimitation of reserved seats. I do not want to mention here the other House. In the other House, the Minister has clearly stated that delimitation would be applicable after the year 2004. After 1970, the matter of delimitation was set aside till 2000 by enacting an Act. After 2000, Dalits thought that they would get their rights after the census 2001 takes place, they thought that their reservation of seats would increase, they would get more seats and based on that their strength of seats would increase in Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies. It is not because their population has gone up, rather it is due to the fact that more castes have been added in the list of Dalits in various States.

Sir, in your State Maharashtra, there has been six to seven percent increase in the seats meant for dalits because of providing 13 percent reservation to neo-buddhists. Baba Saheb Ambedkar had thought that we would provide reservation to them. When I was the Minister then we had passed the resolution to provide the status of Scheduled caste to the people belonging to neo-buddhists sect. According to that, their reservation percentage rose by 7 percent automatically. According to the Constitution, their seats should increase in accordance with the size of population and according to it the number of Lok Sabha seats meant for them should go up by 20 an for Legislative Assemblies, it should go up by 60. And if it is done on the basis of 1991 census, then Lok Sabha seats should go up by 17 but you do not want to go for delimitation. Earlier it was said that it would be done on the basis of 1991 census and when we said that okay, you go as per 1991 census, then you said that it would be done based on the census of 2001. Fear is being created among the dalits that their seats would be deserved and upper caste people are being told that seats would be reserved for them.

Sir, I want that my seat should be dereserved. I have not made it certain that I should contest for Hajipur seat. There are the fellows also. Let this seat be dereserved and some other candidate should be given the chance. I may be an M.P. or may not be, but it is not essential that people should continue to come having won the same seat and that seat should be kept reserved. Sasaram seat is a reserved constituency since 1952. I want that seat should also be dereserved and instead of that seat, some other seat should be reserved so that some other candidate may win the reserved seat but you do not do So. You create fear among the dalits that their seats would be dereserved and say to others that their seats would be reserved.

Sir, Ram Vilas Paswan may remain or may not remain, Ramji Lal Suman may remain or may not remain, but we will not allow our twenty seats to go. We are not going to tolerate it. As such I request that all the facts be given to the delimitation commission and Registrar General of India be asked that he should notify the figures of 2001 Census at an early date and general elections be held based on that. Sir, if this will not happen, then today I would like to say that I will start hunger strike in front of the statues of Gandhiji and Ambedkarji. We will not allow such a conspiracy to be hatched against our poor brethren. If we cannot ensure implementation of the constitutional rights ensured for us by Baba Saheb Ambedkar, who fought all alone for the course, then what for we are here? I would like to urge the Leader of Opposition also not to fall in the trap of the government. It is government's tactic. We have been told that you have also accorded your party approval to it. It will be very good to do it on the basis of 2001 but if anyhow it is not done on the basis of 2001 then it could be done on the basis of 1991 and based on that 17-18 seats will increase and it can be done on the basis of 2001 in the next general elections. I see no logic for holding elections on the basis of 1971.

Sir, the hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister is present in the House and I wish that he should given a reply in this regard. I have heard the speech of the Law Minister delivered in the other House and on the basis of his speech I can say that he has clearly said that is not possible. The delimitation commission has already said that they are ready to do it if RGI report of 2001 is made available to it early. Sir, similarly there is the matter of reservation. I have information pertaining to every ministry. There is a department namely Prasar Bharati under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. An unstarred question pertaining to Prasar Bharati was asked on 29th July in the Rajya Sabha seeking the information.

[English]

> "Whether it is a fact that Prasar Bharati got 21 anchor-cum-news readers selected from a private company for Doordarshan news."

[Translation]

the reply to the question was that—

[English]

"Prasar Bharati has informed that it has engaged 21 newscasters/anchors on contract basis for a period of one year through a private agency."

[Translation]

There is not even a single person belonging to SC and ST category. What does it mean? Was Prasar Bharati created to discriminate against the persons belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes? I want to know how appointments are made for these posts and whether it is a technical post. The people belonging to scheduled castes have been Director General of Doordarshan and grade one officers in the Ministry of External Affairs.

[English]

"There are total 51 posts at the B stations. Then, there are total 26 posts at the C/C* stations."

[Translation]

Ministry of External Affairs has awarded grades to various countries of the world and America, France and England are 'A' grade countries. The officials belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes communities are demoted and deliberately posted in the third grade countries. Only Shri K.R. Narayanan was posted in America but at present no official of these communities is posted in America. I do not want to reveal the name of the person who has sent me the representation of one Shri Vijay Kumar. He is the senior most officer and he has been demoted and posted in Mauritius or Zimbabwe. I want to know from the government as to how many people are there.

[English]

"How many HMOs and HPOs have super A/A stations? Out of that, how many are Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes?"

[Translation]

HMS means head of the mission, second one is HOP i.e. head of the post.

[English]

"How many Head of Missions and Head of Posts have B stations and C/C* stations? Out of that, how many are Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes?"

[Translation]

Maximum number of these official i.e. 40 per cent are posted in C-grade countries. Today I have received a letter from the All India Syndicate Bank. SC and ST Employees Association. In that letter they have written as to how their office bearer i.e. Secretary Shri Prem Kumar is being victimised. When we demand reservation for SC/ST in judiciary we are termed as crazy. It is argued as to why these people are demanding reservation in higher judiciary.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you know we have three vital organs of the Government namely Legislature Executive and Judiciary. We never have any problem in our legislature because representatives of every political party and community are represented in the legislature. In case of any dispute it is resolved amicably but there are hurdles in the executive. Even the number of people belonging to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and backward classes is negligible even after 56 years of independence. Report of Mandal Commission has been implemented recently. The people belonging to SCs and STs have been inducted in the group three and four posts but they have not yet been inducted in the group two and group one posts. Policy decisions are taken at the secretary level. Sir, a number of Members out of us have been Ministers at some point of time and we all know that the secretary of any department has more information about the department as compared to the Minister concerned. The secretary happens to be in direct touch with the cabinet secretary and the cabinet secretary is always in touch with the Prime Minister Office. Policies are framed there and the Ministers come to know about them later on. There are a handful of group two and one officers belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. When this matter is raised we see an unprecedented haste. Any law passed by the legislature remains pending for a long time with the executive and if the matter is any how cleared by the executive then it remains pending with the judiciary. I would like to cite an example in this regard. When it came to implementation of Mandal Commission Report, the matter relating to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes came before this House. The hon'ble Supreme Court observed on 16th November, 1992 that

[Shri Ram Vilas Paswan]

there would be no reservation in promotions after five years from the date of observation. Reservation was done away with in 1997. The Government got three G.O.'s implemented out of the five G.O.'s by way of amendment in the constitution by the Parliament. Even after implementation there was a further amendment in the constitution and that matter is lying pending with the Supreme Court even today. First thing, I would like to say is that there was no mention of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in the Mandal Commission's report. There was only a mention of other backward classes and the Supreme Court observed that there would be no reservation in the promotions. I would like to say that when reservation has not been given to the backward classes then how does the question of reservation in promotions arise. This matter was referred to the Supreme Court and that matter is still held up after the amendment effected in the constitution by the Parliament. I am not aware of the exact position in this regard perhaps Shri Satyanarayan Jatiyaji can say something about it. That has not been implemented as yet, I suppose. If you want to say something in this regard, I will yield. I want to know whether the provision of reservation in promotions has been implemented or not?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): That has been implemented.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: The matter is still in the court. I am not blaming the Government but some people took this matter to the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court has stayed the matter.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: There is no such stay.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: All right. I would like to urge that the hon'ble Prime Minister had assured about the remaining two G.O's on 18.3.99 particularly. The GOs dated 2nd July and 23rd August that the same would be withdrawn but those have not been withdrawn till date. I request to fill up the roster points as early as possible. I know there is time constraint.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not want to know as to how much time will you take because there are a number of members who want to speak on this subject.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I am concluding in 10 minutes. Therefore, I want to request you that as long as reservation is not extended to the judiciary, as it is there in the legislature and the executive, despite our enacting several laws here is not going to serve their purpose. I want to say that any institution be it an autonomous or whatever it might be, that is not above the constitution. Here they say that there will be no reservation in the Army. Advani saab you first raise a dalit regiment on experimental basis. Let us take the example of the Gorakha regiment in the President's security. Earlier it was said that the height should be five feet and seven inches. Today the technique of war is such that height has no meaning in that. America just pushes a button to attack over Iraq. Where is the need of a person with fiv feet and seven inches height there. I, therefore, demand that give a separate representation to the dalit community or give them reservation in the army. If that is not possible raise a separate dalit regiment. We all the people belonging to the dalit community were opposing POTA. But once it was enacted it was implemented too. You just do it on experimental basis, then you will realise that we will not come across incidents of atrocities on dalits like the one occurred in Jhajjar. Then you will see that such incidents would not occur. Once it comes to an end, everything would be normal. There is no dearth of leaders in the country as also there is no dearth of policies. But the major weakness is the lack of good intentions in our leaders. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): There should be one tribal regiment in the Indian Army.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I agree with you raise one tribal regiment also. But do raise one regiment of Bodos. Likewise, it should be done in private sector. You go to America or go to England there is no provision of reservation there but when any appointment is made to Government job or in private sector, you will find that the Government there asks for a list as to know how many whites and blacks as the case may be, are there in the job. You also ask for such a list and you will come to know everything. You will know as to how many SC/ST/ OBC, women, persons belonging to upper castes and minorities are there in any private company. Then you extend reservation on that basis. As per the Government figures assests worth Rs. 30 thousand crore were sold off out of which the share of SC/ST comes to twenty two and a half percent. But that share was not given to them. When you say that they should compete with General category candidates, how can they compete? Where have they the resources? I demand that as much assests as you sell and the proportionate share of

SC/ST in that should be spent in giving employment and training to the children of SCs/STs. That should be spent to enable them so that they could compete with general category candidates. Otherwise, it would be said that no suitable SC/ST candidates were found.

I will conclude after making one more point. Hon. Jatiaji is sitting here. He might know that we brought forward a bill in 1989-1990. The Government jobs are already shrinking, thus reservation will also come to end in that process. Again they are talking about giving reservation to the poor among upper castes. We have no objection to that. Backward classes have got reservation. Likewise there is reservation for dalits and tribals but how that would be implemented. The drafted bill of 1989-90 which is lying in the Welfare Ministry, you just go through that. The reservation is being provided on the basis of G.O. only which never contains any penal provisions, until that is converted into Act. Therefore, that should be enacted first and include that in the 9th schedule of the constitution. Baba Saheb Ambedkar used to say that reservation will be done away with in 10 years, everybody will get benefit of reservation. And that dream of his would also come true. Until and unless there is no provision of any punishment, no legislation is enacted in this regard, it would go on increasing even if you extend reservation upto 100 years. Therefore, what I want that when the hon. Prime Minister makes a reply, that should not be a formal one. Everybody knows that the crimes are on the rise. You take concrete action on behalf of the Government. The issues on which the Calling Attention Motion were moved, be it the Jhajjar incident or issues related to Bihar or Uttar Pradesh, what action has been taken thereto, kindly tell about that to this House. We talk of four varanas. Dalit community belongs to Pancham varan who were deprived of education. It is said in the Manu-Smirit that killing of a dalit or an untouchable is only as sinful as killing of a dog or a cat. So, they were kept out of the mainstream and so long as they are not brought to the mainstream, be it in the Government job, private job or business, nothing better is going to happen. Nobody is going to take care of them financially under the 'India Awas Yojana' only four people have been given financial assistance in one panchayat in my area.

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV (Alwar): But there in Alwar one thousand people have been given financial assistance. The BJP Government is not there in Bihar.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I want to give thanks to the Rajasthan Government since one thousand people have been given houses there in one panchayat under the 'Indira Awas Yojana'. In my State Bihar the collector has announced that not more than 4 persons can be provided houses in one panchayat. I told him that if we calculate it as per the existing population, the poor would get houses in four hundred and fifty years in this manner. Therefore, I want to lay that allegations are levelled against the Government of India that for the Indira Awas Yojana, it. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Just you were talking about the Congress. Sonia ji had visited Bihar, thon why did she not speak there. ...*(Interruptions)* Tell this thing to Sonia ji. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have not allowed you. Please sit down. You speak on this subject when you will be allowed.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, I had said this much only that from the funds available with the Bihar Government only four persons could be given assistance. He said that in his State one thousand people have been provided assistance. I also thanked him. He should not have risen at his seat and if he had risen at all, he should not have felt bad. ...*(Interruptions)*

Lastly, on the one hand I give my thanks to you since you allowed a discussion on this issue, on the other, I also demand from the Government of India that be it the care of dalits, tribals or backward classes, their constitutional rights should be protected. It is the responsibility of the Government to raise their economic, social and educational standard and the Government cannot escape its responsibility. Therefore, I ask the Government to take this matter seriously, otherwise violence could break out in the country. The people are unemployed particularly those belonging to the dalit community. I do not want to mention it here but I am forced to say that 60 per cent people of weaker sections are involved in Naxalite activities. Why are they heading towards violence? How they are being misguided. The Government should take this aspect into consideration. And their constitutional rights should also be protected.

With these words, I thank you since you allowed a discussion on this subject and gave me an opportunity to participate.

MR. SPEAKER: About 20-22 members, who have sent their names, are desirous of taking part in this

[Mr. Speaker]

discussion. All of you are aware that today the statue of Maharaja Ranjit Singh is to be unveiled. So, I request all the members to complete their speech within 10-12 minutes. The proceedings of the House will continue even after the unveiling ceremony. Those who are willing to make a speech must get a chance to do so. The session is scheduled to conclude tomorrow. So, I want that the discussion is completed today. The House will not be adjourned till the discussion is completed.

Now, Shri Rattan Lal Kataria will make his speech.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (Ambala): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am pained to say that even after 56 years, since we got independence, we are still in the process of making review in this august House on the atrocities being committed against dalits. It is not the time to consider what Gandhiji resolved to protect dalits. He said:

[English]

"For the sin committed against them in the olden days, by our fathers and forefathers, we have to become harijan sevaks."

[Translation]

Whether his dreams are being realised today? Sardar Pateliji echoed his sentiments in the same manner—

[English]

"We are the trustees. We have given pledge to share power under the Pune Pact. Have they fulfilled that pledge?"

[Translation]

Shri K.M. Munshi, who was one of the constitution makers also dreamt on the same lines that this society would make progress in the field of social and economic integration as the time in the post independence era pass-by. But we are the witness to the excesses being committed even today on the soil which gave birth to great men like Guru Govind Singh and Gur Nanak Dev. Babu Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar who is revered as messiah of dalits and who struggled seventy years back to get them the right to drinking water, ironically the dalits are still struggling to have that right.

16.56 hrs.

(SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*)

Bihar, which is called the place to Buddha, the apostle of 'Ahinsa' is today witnessing lots of atrocities being committed against dalits. Whether it is Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh or Bihar, one after another such figures are mounting by lakhs. This is not the question as to whether or not the percentage of the atrocities being committed against the dalits have declined. The question which can be raised today is that whether the same psyche is making its way into our society and manifesting itself in the form of such incidents taking place now even after 56 years of independence? What happened in Talhan? The people used to offer their prayers at the tombs of the martyrs, Baba Nihal Singh and Baba Hamam Singh, but as soon as Congress came to power there, Amerendra Singh ji became the Chief Minister, the atrocities against dalits rose in an unproportionate manner and the mutual confrontation reached such a point that on 5th June. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, please don't make any wrong assertion like this. How does this reference to Congress has come in between.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Irrelevant things shall not be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: I am not talking about just one killing. I consider Punjab as one of the most prosperous States of the country. My allegation is that conversions, which took place in Punjab during the last year, was on such a large scale that it has no parallel elsewhere in the country. The funds are trickling in Punjab from outside. Dalits are being converted into Christians. This move could not be launched prior to getting independence and at that time nobody could either convert the dalits but today the demographic changes are taking place in Punjab. Dalits are being converted to Christianity there under a well thought-out strategy. I request the hon. Advaniji to get the entire scam investigated. In the same manner dalits in chakvara of Rajasthan are being victimized on the issue of drinking water-forty six people have been killed, 134 rapes committed and 93 incidents of heinous crimes took place there. Now-a-days, newer type of crimes are being perpetrated against dalits. Some killers, flesh traders operate the dalit basti's in tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar and Maharashtra and abduct our daughters from those areas by luring

them with the offer of money in order to sell them off in the gulf countries.

17.00 hrs.

They are exploited there and those unfortunate girls are left out in the lurch there. Their lives are being spoilt. These State Governments have never taken this matter seriously. Had these Governments taken the matter seriously, then the atrocities on dalits would not have continued like this.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, just now the reference to Bihar has been made. It was said that Madam Sonia paid visit to Haryana and Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)* I know when 61 dalits in Laxman Bathe and 19 dalits in Laxman Bigha were massacred, madam did pay a visit to Bihar, on seeing the dead bodies, madam had said that the Rabri Government must go now but as soon as she landed in Delhi she changed her stand. In my view Rabri Government in Bihar must be held responsible for the massacre of dalits in the State. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I allege that the Congress party is responsible in Bihar and perhaps Madam Sonia ji is not aware. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Anything irrelevant will be expunged from the proceedings. You please sit down.

[English]

Please address to the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, sitting by the dead bodies of dalits, Soniaji would perhaps have thought that her Bihar visit will end the atrocities on dalits. She might be thinking-Unk dekhe se aa jati hai chehre per raunak, woh samajhte hain ki bimar ka haal achchha hai" But I would like to tell her that things are not so. Dalits are being massacred there even today. Incidents of atrocities on dalits are taking place in Madhya Pradesh also. What is their fault? A dalit woman was elected on a general category seat, she was paraded naked in the public and was told-

[English]

It is not your right to contest from a general seat. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Such a thing has been done by you people.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: All this is happening in your government's regime.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Bansal ji, you will speak when your turn comes, you please sit down.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is the BJP people who have been inflicting atrocities on the dalits in such a way and are still doing it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to tell you that I have seen one visit of Madam Sonia ji and another of Hon. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee who visited Bevli-Sadhupur 23 years ago. His heart aches for the dalits. This is what has been a reason for his becoming the Prime Minister of the country. Not only one, but he has made three constitution amendments for the welfare of dalits. Shri Paswanji was speaking just now. He is a senior leader, a champion of dalits. Wherever the dalits are oppressed, he raises his voice. But then, it is another thing that he raises his voice only when he is in the opposition. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You speak out your views within your time. All of you please be seated.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Had they used their influence at that time. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not allowing you. Please take your seat.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, mine is a point of order. He does not know that DOP was implemented in 1997 and Shri V.P. Singh had become Prime Minister in 1990. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is a point of information and not a point of order.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: I am talking of Shri Deve Gowda. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Neither Shri Deve Gowdaji was the Prime Minister then, perhaps you are not recalling it. If you do not know, try to recall it. Neither Shri V.P. Singh nor Shri Deve Gowda ji was the Prime Minister at that time. Elections were to be announced then and by the order of the Supreme Court, the Lok Sabha elections are announced. The Supreme Court at that time had pronounced its judgment on the Mandal Commission Report on 16 November, 1992 saying that it would come into force after five years i.e. in November, 1997.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: He is concealing the facts, all this was done in his regime. ...*(Interruptions)* This was done in his time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Katariaji, you kindly address the Chair. Don't speak anything to each other. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: I would like to submit that the demolition of Ravidas Mandir in PGI and another temple in R.K. Puram is very much in the knowledge of hon. Sushma Swaraj ji and Shri I.D. Swami. I request that these matters should be taken seriously and the temples should be rebuilt.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: In addition you should also say that the Government should give compensation therefor. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea): Punish the culprits, mere compensation is not going to do. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: The case may relate to Jhajjar or somewhere else, but atrocity is atrocity. When we are talking of atrocities on dalits, we should cut across party politics and we should think. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kataria ji, there are more hon. members from your party to speak.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Sir, they are not allowing me to speak, they are interrupting me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have invited them for yourself. Now you conclude. Half a dozen people from your party are yet to speak.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: I would lie to state that today the Ministry of Social Empowerment is talking of social and economic empowerment of dalits under the special component plan with various ongoing schemes, segmented schemes and under the National Finance and Development Corporation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I would like that in all the ongoing schemes if funds are provided in proportion to the population of dalits, it would be of great help in tackling the social problems. We see that even after so much time since independence about three lakh posts of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are lying vacant out of which most of the posts are of class-I and class-II, vacancies are there is the IT sector, Science sector and today all these posts are required to be filled. The way globalization and liberalization have taken over during the last decade, the dalits are losing their rights to employment day by day. We would also like to demand that in the wake of liberalization and globalization, a white paper should be released about the number of dalits who got employment. So, the people are now demanding reservation in the private sector also. Until and unless they are provided reservation in the private sector, they would not get economic and social justice.

Special courts are needed today for the protection of dalits, and in the atrocity prone areas of the country, there is a need to run special police station and special courts. I also demand an amendment in the Evidence Act because whenever cases of atrocities on scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are tried in courts, the witnesses have to go to the courts and they have to face sheer pressure. That's why if one lakh cases are registered in a year in 95 per cent of them, the culprits are acquitted and only five per cent are given punishment. If Evidence Act is amended and Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people are protected, the cases of atrocities on them can be reduced sharply. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Katariaji, now you please take your seat.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: He has just started.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please you do not speak. Pappuji, why are you interrupting? You should cooperate in conducting the House. A maximum number of hon. Members have to participate in the discussion. Hon. members can participate only if you cooperate. There are half a dozen hon. members on the list.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Sir, National Crime Records Bureau has said that they do not take notice of any individual incident. These figures include incidents of only group atrocities on dalits. If individual incidents are

taken into account by the National Crime Records Bureau, this number will run into lacs.

I request all the helmsmen of the nation present in this august House, who run this nation, that the issue of atrocities on dalits should not be linked with any caste rather this is a social issue and all of us should join hands to minimise the problems of this class because in fact dalit samaj is the backbone of this nation. If one tries to break this backbone, this will be an attempt to break the nation.

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman Sir, for giving me an opportunity to speak.

I really thank my senior colleague, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, who has set the tone of a very serious and important discussion in this House. However, I am extremely sorry that one of the speakers from the BJP has attempted to convert it into party politics.

I am going to speak on this very serious subject without attributing any motive to any party because, according to me, as far as the atrocity on Scheduled Castes is concerned, no political party is responsible. The entire responsibility lies on the social customs and beliefs which have the sanction from a particular religion. We must thank Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. We must thank Jyotiba Phule and Vivekananda and many other social reformers of this country who, prior to Independence, were concerned and worried about one of the most social disability of crores and crores of people of this country, known as untouchability.

As I was to participate in this debate, I went through the debate of the Constituent Assembly as it took place while framing Article 17 of the Indian Constitution. It says: "Untouchability is abolished and any disability arising out of untouchability shall be punished under the law of the land." That Article of the Constitution was enacted on 26th January, 1950. But the then Parliament took five years to have an Act for the removal of untouchability. The Untouchability Offences Act came into existence in the year 1955. However, it was not working effectively because the very purpose of putting the Article into the Constitution by the Father of the Constitution was defeated as the courts were relieving one by one all those who were facing charges of the offences of untouchability.

I am extremely sorry to go on record that it was in this very Parliament that a great leader of the BJP argued that untouchability may be an offence but preaching untouchability is not an offence. It was spoken in this very Parliament. ...*(Interruptions)*

Then, I had an opportunity of having a direct dialogue with one of the Shankaracharyas. ...*(Interruptions)* Please do not disturb me. As I was saying, I had an opportunity of having a direct dialogue, rather a discussion, with one of the Shankaracharyas 25 years before in Ahmedabad in a meeting called by the Chambers of Commerce and Industry. I put a straight question to the great Shankaracharya like this: "What is your opinion about untouchability? Do you believe in untouchability or not?" The answer given by the Shankarcharya was: "I do not touch my own daughter when she is in menses time." This was the answer given to me. So, the very idea of purity or impurity is this. The Shankaracharya of this country is comparing crores of people belonging to the Scheduled Castes to a woman who is in menses. It was so according to a custom in a particular religion. A woman, when she is in menses, is untouchable to the family members. Similarly, what did the Shankaracharya mean? It means that the Shankaracharya did believe that the *dalits* are untouchable and it has got the sanction of the religion.

I went through the Parliamentary Debates held at the time of framing the Indian Constitution. The Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, has gone on record that he does not want to take birth again. I would like to quote the page number and everything. I quote from the Constituent Assembly Debates, Book No. 2, Volume No. VII, from 4.11.1948 to 8th January, 1949. Shri V.I. Munuswamy Pillai from Madras, Dr. Monomohan Das from West Bengal, Shri Shantanu Kumar Das from Orissa, Shrimati Dakshayani Velayudhan and Shri K.T. Shah participated in the debate. (pages 665 to 668). Mahatma Gandhi's wish was quoted. I quote:

> "I do not want to be reborn, but if I can reborn, I wish that I should be born as a Harijan, as an untouchable so that I may lead a continuous struggle, a lifelong struggle against the oppressions and indignities that have been heaped upon these classes of the people."

This was the admission of the Father of the Nation. This very Constituent Assembly thanked Dr. B.R. Ambedkar for framing this very Article. It was in that very debate where another speaker has said:

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> "It is an irony of fate that the man who was driven from one school to another, who was forced to take his lessons outside the classroom, has been entrusted with this great job of framing the Constitution of Free and Independent India and it is he who has finally dealt the death below to this custom of untouchability, of which he himself was a victim in his younger days."

The speaker, Dr. Monomohan Das from West Bengal, is referring to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. What does in indicate? It is this custom and religious belief, it is this social stigma which is growing on in the rural India.

According to the Census figures of 2001, the total population of this country is more than 102 crore as admitted by the Registrar General of India. The population of the Scheduled Castes is nearly 18 per cent which means that we are nearly 19 crore or 20 crore people in this country. I want to know from Shri Swami who is representing the Home Ministry, and Shri Ram Naik and Dr. Jatiya who are Cabinet Ministers as to how much time is allotted for this Parliament to discuss the issue of 20 crore people. I will request Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Shri Ramji Lal Suman and others to take account of this Parliament, whether it is discussing drinks like coca-cola or it is discussing this burning issue of 20 crore people. I am very much concerned about it.

I feel very sorry that when the debate took place regarding the No Confidence Motion, it was only the hon. Leader of the Opposition who came out with a proposition that let there be a comprehensive Bill to protect the rights of *Dalits*. I would like to know as to what are the rights of the *Dalits*. They do not want wealth, they do not want ornaments, they do not want big bungalows; and they are not demanding air-conditioners. Their only demand is the implementation of the Constitutional provisions which are there in Articles 14, 15, 16, 45, 334 and 335. They just want the right to implement them.

Sir, I went through various books and also the Constituent Assembly debates. I went through the Fifth Report of the National Commission on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the year 1998-99. I want to know from the hon. Minister as to when are we going to discuss this Report. I have got another Report. It was given by Shri Dileep Singh Bhuria. He was the Chairman of the National Commission on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It is a Commission appointed under Article 338 of the Indian Constitution. Another Report is the Sixth Report which is given for two composite years. He has given Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment as to how and when he is going to discuss this Report.

I also want to know from the Government of India as to what happened to the Committee appointed by His Excellency, the President of India. He appointed a Committee consisting of seven Governors headed by one of the senior most Governors in this country, the Governor of Maharashtra, Dr. Alexander. The job given to that Committee was to find out the problems of the Scheduled Castes, how they could be solved, what is happening to the Special Component Plan; and what is happening to the Tribal Sub-Plan which were introduced by the then Government. I do not want to give the name of the party which introduced them. Otherwise, they would be saying that I am talking about the Congress Party but it is on record that the Special Component Plan and the Tribal Sub Plan were introduced during the regime of Shrimati Indira Gandhi. It is rightly admitted by Shri Ram Vilas Paswan that the Prevention of Atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Act was framed during the regime of Shri Rajiv Gandhi and the Notification was published during the regime of the subsequent Government.

Now, I come to the Report. I would like to tell you the opinion of the Commission appointed by the Government of India. For that, I would like to quote from that Report. The Fifth Report tells us about the cases of murders and rapes. The worst position in this country is not that of a *Dalit* man. The worst position in this country is that of a *Dalit* woman. Women are suppressed in this country and amount them *Dalit* women are the worst affected. Molestation of *Dalit* women takes place quite often in this country. I was just listening to what Shri Ram Vilas Paswan was telling.

But no action is being taken all over the country, on these cases. This is not the case with the BJP Government or the Congress Government or the RJD Government, but this is a case of human dignity. Whenever a *Dalit* woman or any other woman is molested, the concerned department should act, but that is not happening. I would like to give the figures of only murders and rape that happened in the year 1998 and the number is 25,777. These are the reported cases. The Commission's Report says further:

> ".... better performance of Special Courts and to improve the rate of conviction. According to the figure of conviction and acquittal, one per cent of the cases is being proved in a court of law. The reason is, Special Courts are not established all over the country, as is required under the Act."

Sir, there is another provision in the Act which says that the investigation should be conducted by an officer above the rank of the Deputy Superintendent of Police, but we do not have sufficient officers at that level in the country. In one incident, a case was proved before the Special Court that a man had committed an atrocity and he was punished. The matter then went to the High Court and the High Court gave a judgment saying: "It is true that the case is proved, but the investigation was done by a Sub-Inspector." So, the High Court acquitted him. This has happened in Gujarat. I am not blaming the Government there, but the High Court took shelter of a loophole in the implementation procedure of the law. Instead of the Deputy Superintendent of Police doing the investigation, the investigation was done by a Sub-Inspector and the High Court ordered that the man could not be punished even though it was true that he has committed the atrocity. In such cases, what should we do?

Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment that the rate of conviction is only one per cent and I would like to know the reason for the from him. But the rate of acquittal in these cases is 98 per cent I would like to quote only one case here. I do not want to quote more cases here because atrocities against *Dalits* are of many kind. I would like to quote only one example which is given here in the Sixth Report of the Commission. It says:

> "District Collector, Naupara, Orissa State belonging to a Scheduled Caste was physically assaulted by one Shri H.K. Bagassi, President of the Zila Parishad on 27th September, 2000 in the presence of police officers. Anticipatory bail was obtained from the High Court and arrest could not take place."

So, an officer belonging to a Scheduled Caste was attacked by a President of a Zila Parishad in the name of caste, but he could not be arrested because anticipatory bail was given to him. Now, I would like the hon. Minister to go through the entire Act. There is no provision for bail in the Act. But how are the courts giving bail all over the country? Once a person is accused of an offence under this Act. He should be arrested and produced before the court of law because there is no provision for bail and even the courts cannot give bail. But bails are being given all over the country. Not only that. One *sadhu* in Gujarat—and it has gone on record—said that this Act is a black Act, and no action has been taken by the Government of Gujarat till today against him. I am not blaming that Government for this. This incident happened about 10 years ago.

Sir, you should not think that I am telling all this because a person from the *Sangh Parivar* is the Chief Minister of Gujarat now. But I am extremely sorry to inform this House that the Chief Minister of Gujarat did flag hoisting on the 15th August by wearing a black cap. The Sixth Report mentions the number of cases. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): He has made a remark against the Chief Minister. Is it proper? ...*(Interruptions)* It is not proper. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Let him remove that cap. It was black.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should talk about the atrocities. You should come to the subject.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seats.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: It is not an allegation against the Chief Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): Sir, the colour of the cap was black. ...*(Interruptions)* That was a Gandhi cap. What is the harm?

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: It was a black cap. Do not defend it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seats.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Black cap and Gandhi cap-No less a person than Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs is saying this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please come to the main point.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: The National Commission has given figures in its Sixth Report. It says that the number of cases brought forward were 1,00,464 and the new cases were 15,667. The total comes to 1,16,131. The cases that were disposed of were 8,956.

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Out of that, the conviction was only in 982 cases. There were 11,605 acquittals. The cases pending on the last day of the year were 1,00,891. Out of that, 12,956 cases were decided during the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001. Only 982 convictions took place. The acquittals were 11,605.

Now, I want to take up another case of Gujarat.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rashtrapal, please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: He has just started. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is a list of other members of your party also.

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: I have another volume *"Broken People"* written by Human Rights Watch, which is one of the most renowned institutions in the world. It is on the basis of caste violence against India's "untouchables". This book has not been written by one man but it has been written on the basis of interviews of 300 people all over the country. Now, what are the conclusions?

> "The plight of India's untouchables elicits only sporadic attention within the country. Secondly, the political mobilisation that has resulted in the emergence of powerful interest groups has largely bypassed the *dalits*. Thirdly, the *dalits* women face the triple burden of caste, class and gender. Fourthly, most *dalits* continue to live in extreme poverty, without land or opportunity for better employment and education."

As a result, the "Commission on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, in its Report, has very rightly suggested that some of the major causes of atrocities and other offences against the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are related to issues of land and property. Access to water, payment of wages, indebtedness, bonded or forced labour, issues of human dignity, including compulsion to perform distasteful tasks traditionally forced on the Scheduled Castes, and molestation and exploitation of *dalit* women are also involved. Caste related tension is exuberated by economic factors, which contribute to violence. It is the assertion of their rights, be they economic, social or development, which often invite the wrath of vested interests." This is the observation by the National Commission. So what is the solution?

The solution is, I would request the hon. Ministers-both the Ministers of State for Home and Social Justice-to please see how best we can implement the Prevention of Atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Act.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: I would request them to please see that the required number of Special Courts are established for deciding the cases of atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The third is that there should be no bail, according to the provision of the Act. The fourth is that the investigation should be by the appropriate officer. Last but not least, as suggested by Shri Suraj Bhan-who belongs to BJP and it was he who came out with the figure that there are crores of acres of land in this country which is wasteland and who wrote a letter to the hon. President of this country that the wasteland in some powerful villages is utilised by the people who belong to higher caste or class; in some States it is given to the rich people or it is converted into *Gochar*, more than the requirement-unless rural poor belonging to the Scheduled Caste are given land, they will not have any profession of dignity for livelihood, for education, for safe drinking water, for abode, to walk on road or to go to temples. All these things they will not be able to achieve unless we implement what is enshrined in the Indian Constitution. If we do not do this, all these provisions become redundant.

Now, I come to the last but not the least point which relates to one of the most shocking judgement delivered by a court in Gujarat. That shows what is the mindset of the Judiciary. I am extremely sorry. I am going to quote the Best Bakery Case, but not the judgement delivered by the same judge. The ignorance of the judge can be seen in this. On page 20, para 59 of the Vadodra Best Bakery Judgement it is stated, and I reproduce the English version of the paragraph.

> "The provision of reservation was enacted only for ten years. The subsequent increase in the reservation in view of the vote bank is painful."

The court is criticising the Government of India's policy, the constitutional provision, the Parliament, saying—

> "It is a fact that violent riots took place on account of reservation."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Mr. Chairman Sir, let me go on record. I am taking certain important points on behalf of the *Dalits* of the country.

"....Reservation for disabled is tolerable, but on account of improper reservation...."

My dear Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, please note that the entire Parliament is being abused by a judge in Gujarat court.

"....brain drain takes place and youths are attempted to go out of the country."

Who are going to America? Are the Scheduled Castes going to America? The people belonging to Scheduled Castes are not going to America. I do not want to tell the names and surnames of those who are going to America. The judgement says:

"Till date, there is none who can be compared with Chanakya in the field of politics and economics. According to Chanakya, only merit should be the criteria for any appointment. Qualified people are ignored and those without qualification are appointed in the name of reservation. This is against the human rights. The only logic in this anomaly is to attract vote bank."

This is the judgement delivered by a judge.

Now that judge does not know that reservation under article 334, for legislatures and Parliament, has a limit of ten years but the reservation in service matters, in the Indian Constitution, has no time limit. But the judge has delivered like that.

Dr. Ambedkar has written in article 335 that Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will be given appointment, adequate representation, but not at the cost of efficiency. That care has been taken. But here is a judge in Gujarat, who goes beyond his limit, criticising and delivering that riots took place only because of reservation. I object to that. No riots have taken place on the basis of reservation. Yes, riots did take place when Mandal Commission was introduced. It was opposed by which party, I do not want to name it. Now, that very party wants reservation for the higher castes. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, we would like to know from the Government, if the Government has made a part of this judgement as one of the grounds for appeal, which is filed in the High Court; and if it has not filed an appeal in the High Court, should we amend it to make this portion of the judgements one of the grounds?

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Sir, I would request the Minister of Social Justice to reply to this.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: If he has an answer, he should reply to it and if he does not have the answer right now, I would request him to collect the information.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Government will cover this in its reply.

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: I am concluding.

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, a man who had to agitate at the banks of Chauda Tank in Mahad, was the person who started the struggle. Gandhi himself visited Vaikom in Kerala. What I want to convey is that I am not blaming the Government. But one thing is there. In the recent past, there is no concern by the Government on the burning issue of removal of utouchability. I am not blaming only this particular party, but all over the country, this problem is there.

The question is how can you stop atrocities on Scheduled Castes? There are two ways or preventive steps. One is by telling the people who believe in customs and religious beliefs that insulting a man in the name of caste is an offence under the law of the land. Not only it is an offence, it is inhuman because this country has signed all covenants of the UNO on Human Rights.

In an international conference in Durban, where the subject was discrimination on the basis of caste and descent, I am extremely sorry to say that the present Government of India took a stand that there is no discrimination in this country on the basis of caste and race. But one member and the Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission were there in Durban and they went on record saying that in India there is discrimination on the basis of caste and descent.

The National Human Rights Commission is not an ordinary body. I do not understand why the Government

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of India is shying. I am not blaming the Government for untouchability. They should admit that there is social stigma in rural India. I do say that the situation has changed. The things which were there in 1950s are not there in 2003 in the cities and in the metropolitan areas. But what happened in Ghatkopar? What happened in Aurangabad? What happened in Gujarat? On 14th August, a *Dalit* youth, aged 35 years in the constituency of the Deputy-Prime Minister, Shri L.K. Advani, under the Sabarmati Police Station was arrested at 5.30 a.m. for a minor offence of theft. You can verify from the records. What was the theft? The window grill of an ST bus was stolen. That was the charge. He was arrested at 5.30 a.m. and he died at 8 o'clock in the police custody, which is 10/4 and where the PSO is sitting. A youth of 35 years, a son of a widow, died in the police custody in the Sabarmati Police Station, which is within the constituency of Shri L.K. Advani.

Till today, the family has not been given the *postmortem* report, a copy of the FIR or any compensation from the Government of Gujarat or from the Government of India. You can verify. If I am wrong, I will withdraw it.

I can quote such cases from all over the country. I am not quoting them. I have just got the first hand information of this very case of Ahmedabad. From Patan I visited this family. A youth of 35 was killed by the police for a theft. What was the cost of that grill? It was only Rs. 250. So, the life of a *dailt* is only Rs. 250. They can kill a *dalit* for a theft of Rs. 250.

I do not want to go in to the details of Jajjhar. It is a shame on the part of this country; it is a shame for the ruling party; it is a shame for all of us; and it is a shame for the humanity as a whole that you are not able to arrest one person. I am asking you as to who had lynched five *dalits.* And such lynching takes place everyday in this country. What are we doing here? We are 20 crore people in this country. You do not have time to discuss our issues. The Social Justice Minister is here. I am a member of the Committee on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The representatives of the Ministry of Social Justice were called before the Committee and we asked them a question, "Are you the nodal agency for implementing the reservation?" The answer was, 'No'. We asked the representatives from the Department of Personnel before the Committee, "Are you the implementing agency?", and the answer was, 'No'. Shri I.D. Swami, I want to know as to who is the nodal agency for the implementation of the Reservation Policy.

Shri Ram Naik is here. A booklet is printed with a beautiful photograph of the Prime Minister.

[Translation]

He has recently had a good hair cut. It is a nice photo.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. There are many Members from your Party who want to speak on this.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Sir, I am concluding shortly.

It is a 30-page booklet with a beautiful photograph of the Prime Minister and it is published by the Government of India. It is on record that the Ministry of Petroleum has got 17 schemes under the Special Component Plan. It is published in this booklet. In this very Session, I put a question to the Ministry, "What is the amount of the Special Component Plan spent by the Ministry during the last three years? I want the detail about my own State, about my own constituency, that is partly Mehsana and partly Patan. Which policy do you have?" The answer was, "The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has no Special Component Plan." I am going to write a letter about this misinformation to a Member of Parliament in the form of reply to an Unstarred Question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: So, I have written a letter. I wrote to my leader, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. I do believe that implementation of SCP and TSP is on the basis of the State Government programme; 50 per cent share is to be given by the Central Government and 50 per cent share is to be given by the State Government. But there is no monitoring. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, there are State Governments which have purchased furniture out of the Special Component Plan money.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am just concluding my speech. Mr. Minister, you tell me where should I go, where should Shri Ram Vilas Paswan go, where should Shri Ramjilal Suman go, where should all the Scheduled Caste MPs go? We belong to Scheduled Castes. We have been elected in the name of Scheduled Castes. We are 79 Members of the Scheduled Castes. I know Dr. Sarkar. He was a member in the Commission. Dr. Sarkar, do you know as to what the Ministry is doing?

DR. BIKRAM SARKAR (Panskura): I will tell you. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: I am telling another thing. If you recommend a scheme, it will not be sanctioned. I have recommended a scheme and it is not sanctioned. You recommended a scheme and investigation is ordered. They will see that Shri Pravin Rashtrapal, MP is talking too much in Parliament, he belongs to the Congress Party, so do not sanction the scheme. Why are you punishing my people for my speaking over here? You will not succeed. I only want the Government to show a concern for these 20 crore people. You cannot remove untouchability from this country. Only *jagatgurus* can remove it. The *saints* and *sadhus* who move in the villages can do it. You do not go to the villages.

They tell the people

[Translation]

that they are down trodden, illiterate and untouchable.

[English]

Let me conclude by making only one sentence. I am extremely sorry that the present Chairman of the National Commission of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has gone on record that when Dronacharya cut the thumb of Eklavya, it was not a mistake. ...*(Interruptions)* Yes, I have got his speech. ...*(Interruptions)* I am concluding.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Who is the Chairman?

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Shri Sonkar Shastri.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This will be your last sentence.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: I had written to you and there also, an answer was not given.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please complete your last sentence.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: When the Chairman of the Commission says that Dronacharya has not committed a mistake by cutting the thumb of a Scheduled Tribe young boy, the right of education is taken away.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: How can the Chairman say?

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir in the Mahabharat, Dronacharya got the thumb of Eklavya cut, in Ramayan, Ram killed Shambuk-

[English]

How can you justify in the name of Mahabharat or in the name of Ramayana? Are you justifying that?

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it will be better if we confine the discussion to the issue which we are discussing today. The suggestions or views expressed by hon. members should directly relate to the main issues. This will lead to optimum utilization of the time of the House.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the issue we are discussing is more important than the parties. This relates to our mindset and approach. If the people with such mindset are in power then the public are not going to get justice.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: This is a very big commission, what responsibilities have you entrusted to it. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Chairman, Sir whatever the Chairman of the Commission has said, he is not present here in the House.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: What will happen if they give such type of report and give written reply in the House? If it is not so, then it is not fair, and if it is so, then they should clarify.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, now you respond to explain this.

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: I have the clippings of Hindi newspapers. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: If the Chairman has written like that, then this is most objectionable. It should be

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

decided as to whether he should continue as Chairman or not.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a very serious question. If you have such type of information then please give it to Dr. Jatiya.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: I asked a question in the Parliament but he did not give its reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Mr. Minister, please take care that all questions which have been raised here, are answered when you reply to the debate.

[English]

I think this is the main thing.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, I am not allowing you. You please take your seat.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Mr. Minister, kindly inquire this. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please take your seat. You will be the next speaker.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: I was present in the meeting. I have got all the documents. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Pravin Rashtrapal, you make your last sentence.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: A Shankaracharya in Varanasi inaugurated a meeting in which Chairman of the National Commission of SC and ST delivered a discourse after which it was reported in the newspapers under the caption: "Anusuchit Jati, Anusuchit Jan Jati mein hungama".

[English]

I have got the copies of all the Hindi newspapers published from Northern India. I will give you the copies. You forget about that. You will inquire.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please make your last sentence.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: I have got a letter dated 2.7.2003 addressed to the hon. Prime Minister of the country. It was received in the PMO on 3.7.2003. It was signed by eight Members of Parliament and they are all from the Ruling Party. They have requested the hon. Prime Minister to investigate into the malfunctioning or misfunctioning of the present Chairman of the National Commission of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. *...(Interruptions)* I am concluding.

I do not want to score any political point but I only want that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment should be empowered. It should be the nodal Ministry and the entire Special Component Plan and the Tribal Sub-Plan should be monitored by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. All cases of atrocities should be investigated under the instructions of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, I want to give a personal explanation because a reference was made to me and to my Ministry saying that the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas is not doing anything about the Special Component Plan. This was the allegation or the charge or statement made by the hon. Member. My simple point is that till last year the total annual Budget of the Ministry was just below Rs. 9 crore and that comprised only the salary of the staff. So, the developmental aspects which are in the other Ministries are nowhere in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. That whatever work is done is done by the public sector undertakings is a different matter but so far as the Ministry is concerned, there is no Special Component Plan. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Then, why has the Prime Minister given it in the book that these schemes are there?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have called Shri Basu Deb Acharia. Nothing should go on record except what Shri Basu Deb Acharia says.

...(Interruptions) *

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very grateful to you as Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, after a long time has initiated a discussion on the issue

*Not recorded.

of continuing atrocities injustice to and exploitation being meted out to dalits. It is true that in my 23 years in this House, we have seldom got such occasions. Whenever some incident takes place, we discuss but we have not discussed the issue pertaining to dalits, their problems, atrocities, injustice and exploitation meted out to dalits in the manner in which it should have been discussed after 56 years of independence.

Our friend has termed it as a very serious issue. We hardly discuss the issues relating to those who constitute more than 20% of our population. All of us should be concerned about it. On the situation like the present one, during the times when our Constitution was being framed, Gandhiji and Dr. Ambedkar said on 26 November, 1949 that—

[English]

In his final address to the Constituent Assembly on the 26th November, 1949, Dr. Ambedkar, a crusader of social justice, emphasising the importance of social democracy stated:

> "We must make our political democracy a social democracy as well. Political democracy cannot last unless there lies at the base of it social democracy."

18.00 hrs.

[Translation]

This is very important thing. He said that—

[English]

> "In our social and economic life, we shall by reason of our social and economic structure continue to deny the principle of one man one value. How long shall we continue to live this life of contradiction?"

We still continue to this life of contradiction.

[Translation]

The way the things are happening, we had a discussion in this House when an incident took place at Jhajjhar in Haryana.

[English]

When five dalits were lynched and burnt to death in front of police station.

[Translation]

Recently, in Punjab, the first ever such incident has taken place. Punjab is the State which never witnessed such incident.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: Sir, I have a point of order under rule 352.

Sir, I want to tell Shri Basu Deb Acharia that the incident of Dulina which he has just mentioned, does not fall in the category of atrocities on dalits. It was a misunderstanding. In that incident, the killers also were dalits. The fact should be brought before the House. The victims as well as the killers were dalits. The hon. member has some misunderstanding. Sonia ji and Paswanji too made a mention of this incident. Why do you want to disrupt the harmony in our State? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no point of order in it.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The incident takes place in front of the police station.

[English]

Sir, I am not alleging. I am only narrating the incident ...*(Interruptions)*.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The incident is being narrated.

[English]

Please take your seat.

[Translation]

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: I am saying that the incident is being focussed time and again. They are trying to create tension in our State ...*(Interruptions)* .

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Sushil Kumar Indora, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: These people are opposed to dalits, they are not allowing us to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: While I am on my legs, you please sit down.

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH (Nagarkurnool): The Home Minister has given information in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. I am on my legs. Dr. M. Jagannath, please take your seat.

[Translation]

...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am going to resolve it. You please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Sushil Kumar Indora, please take your seat.

[Translation]

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Every body is condemning it and he is rising to say that the killers too were dalits. ...*(Interruptions)*. Do you not get dalit votes. ...*(Interruptions)*.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: The fact should come to light ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You take your seat and listen to the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why do you embroil with each other? Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: My only request is that you should not mention the same thing time and again as it may cause communal tension in our State. My request to the Chair is that the fact should come to light....*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are a senior member, please sit down. This is not the convention. When the presiding officer is on his legs, you sit down.

The point of order you have raised, is not a point of order rather it is a point of disorder.

...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, we will have to mention all these incidents again and again. If we mention those incidents here on the floor of the House, I do not think that communal situation will be aggravated in some State. I am not alleging to the State Government. We must state here as to what has happened. ...*(Interruptions)*.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not speak while sitting. Speak only when it is your turn.

...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Sushil Kumar Indora, you may make your submission when you are given time to speak. Please do not interrupt like this while sitting.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: A *dalit* was killed for entering a temple in Gujarat. Gujarat is known to be one of the progressive States. A *dalit*, Bitasi in village Anand was killed in Gujarat for entering a temple. Not everyone in this Gujarat village was shocked. In fact, this 28-year old *dalit* man died on Friday after being thrashed severely by upper caste residents merely for sitting on the *verandah* of the temple. It was not in Haryana but in Gujarat. ...*(Interruptions)* In Gujarat, not in Haryana.

There are a number of articles enshrined in the Constitution for the protection of the under-privileged, *dalits* and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. The Constitution seeks to ensure for all the citizens, among other things, social justice, equality of status,

opportunity and assured dignity of the individual. With a view to achieve these objectives, certain specific provisions have been made in the Constitution. I quote article 15 (2) of the Constitution:

> "No citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them, be subject to any disability, liability, restriction or condition with regard to—
>
> (a) access to shops, public restaurants, hotels and places of public entertainment; or
>
> (b) the use of wells, tanks, bathing ghats, roads and places of public resort maintained wholly or partly out of State funds or dedicated to the use of general public."

In the State of Tamil Nadu the *dalits* are not allowed to use or take water from the well which belonged to the upper castes. I want to know whether this article of the Constitution is being observed or not. I want to know whether this article is being blatantly violated in a number of States or not.

There are a number of instances taking place.

[Translation]

Instances are taking place on a daily basis.

[English]

Dalit women are paraded naked. Article 17 of the Constitution says:

> "Untouchability' is abolished and its practice in any form is forbidden. The enforcement of any disability arising out of 'untouchability' shall be an offence punishable in accordance with law."

Yesterday I was watching a programme on television. At Nashik, the *dalit Sadhus* are not allowed to take bath along with the other *Sadhus*. Is it not a practice of untouchability? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, will you please yield for a minute?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, are you yielding?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA; Yes Sir.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, can you tell me from where you got this information? ...*(Interruptions)* Lakhs and lakhs of people are taking bath there.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA; I watched it on TV.

SHRI RAM NAIK: It is not true. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Thousands of *dalit Sadhus* are bathing; separate arrangements are there. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK: It is not so.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: You please find out.

SHRI RAM NAIK: That is why I am speaking. I am aware of what is happening in Nashik ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): How do you find out that he is a *dalit Sadhu?* Is there any mark on him? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Kharabela Swain, please take your seat.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA; Sir, in order to implement this article, an Act was enacted in 1955 which is called the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 which primarily deals with offences relating to the practice of untouchability. There are atrocities on the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes in spite of article 17 of the Constitution. In spite of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 this untouchability is still continuing. It is being practised in the villages of our country.

Sir, *dalits* are continued to be subjected to most inhuman persecution such as forcing persons of such communities to drink and even eat human excreta, parading them naked in public places, dumping carcasses or other obnoxious materials in their premises, polluting their drinking water sources, subjecting their women to various sorts of indignities and implicating them in false cases.

In 1989, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act was enacted. If you compare the number of incidents of atrocities committed on *dalits* with the number of persons convicted for violation of this Act, for committing atrocities on *dalits,* you will be surprised to know that it is not even one per cent. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the House always sits till six o'clock and it is ten minutes past six now, you have not extended the time of the House as yet.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. members are yet there to speak, if the House agrees, we extend the time of the House to sit till the discussion on this subject concludes. Mr. Speaker has already given his ruling on this subject.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: Sir, I want to know till what time the House will sit?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Speaker has already given his ruling that the House will sit till conclusion of the subject. We cannot help if you do not understand. The House which is supreme is agreed, the time of the House is extended with the consent of all the parties.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: I want to know till what time, eight, ten or twelve o'clock, the House will sit?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have said in plain terms that the House will keep sitting till the discussion on the subject concludes.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: On the number of incidents of atrocities committed on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, I have the figures of 2000 and 2001. ...*(Interruptions)* In 2000, the number of such incidents in Andhra Pradesh was 1,784 and it increased to 2,056 in 2001. Similarly, the figure was 7,408 in Uttar Pradesh in 2000 and it increased to 8,191 in a State where a *dalit* woman is the Chief Minister.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Achariaji, BAC had fixed time for two hours but given the seriousness of the subject, the time has been extended. If you take less time, then we shall be able to finish soon.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: You should take up the discussion the next morning.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We shall be able to conclude soon if you take less time, it depends on the hon. members of the House. For this only, I advised Achariaji to make his submission in the least time.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: Who will appreciate the seriousness of the subject at midnight? ...*(Interruptions)*. You promise now to take up this tomorrow after Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have said that it will finish soon if you take less time.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Now, I come to the number of *dalits* murdered. In Madhya Pradesh, the figure was 45 in 2000 and it increased to 66 in 2001. In Uttar Pradesh, the figure rose from 321 to 328. So, in all cases, the incidents are increasing year after year.

[Translation]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: You tell something about Bengal. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: In West Bengal, the figure is zero for the years 1997 to 2001. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: They have sent wrong report. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I am referring to the incidents of murder of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in West Bengal. In West Bengal, the number of incidents in the year 1997 was zero.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, this is not a report because there is no such report. You cannot find any such report.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Bandyopadhyayji, you will have an opportunity to present the facts when you will be speaking.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The number of incidents of murder in West Bengal are as follows. In the year 1997-zero; in 1998-zero, in 1999-zero, in 2000-zero, and 2001-zero.

[Translation]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: This report is sent by the state Government, this is a wrong report. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: How it can be that the reports of other States is correct and that of West Bengal incorrect?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN; Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please address the Chair.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: In case of crime against the Scheduled Tribes in West Bengal-he wants the figures for West Bengal—in 1997-zero, 1998-zero, 1999-zero, 2000-zero and 2001—two. I will come to the reasons later as to why such incidents are not taking place in West Bengal.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY; It is because the CPM Government is in power there. That is the reason for that.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA; Sir, the main question is poverty and landlessness. Sir, West Bengal has implemented land reforms.

DR. BIKRAM SARKAR: And now they are taking it back.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, he was Secretary to the Government of West Bengal, and he knows all as he was associated with Operation Bargha and land reforms.

Sir, why such incidents are not taking place in West Bengal? It is just because of land reforms. Sir, whatever land has been distributed in our country, out of that 25 per cent land has been distributed in the State of West Bengal. Who are the beneficiaries of that? Sir, 90 per cent of the beneficiaries belong to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Sir, the sharecropper has been recorded in their name. So, landless Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes got land, and because of this the incidents of oppression against *dalits*; atrocities against *dalits* in West Bengal are zero.

Sir, what is the main problem? Sir, I have seen that the Scheduled Tribes of our country have been affected due to bigger projects. Whose land has been acquired for the Coal Mine projects? It is the land of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and *dalits*. Their land was acquired, but no rehabilitation was made.

Sir, new State has been created, that is, Jharkhand whose Chief Minister is a tribal. Sir, 50 years back Ranchi used to produce tea, and Dr. Sarkar knows that. But, today there are no tea gardens there. When the Britishers were there, they took away the land from the tribals, and when they left, they gave the land to the land *mafias*. After creation of the new State, when the tribals demanded that their land be given back to them, the land *mafias* killed the tribals. They got bullets from the police.

What is not being done in most of the States or what is necessary is land reforms. There is a concentration of land, that is, 30 per cent of the land is with five per cent of our population. In order to reduce the number of incidents of atrocities on *Dalits*, what will we have to do? First is, land reforms, that is, giving land to the landless people. We have 20 crores of landless labour: most of them are Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Dr. Jatiya, who was the Labour Minister, knows about it. Since they have no land, they are the most exploited people. Why can the Government not bring a comprehensive law to protect the interests of agricultural labourers, most of whom belong to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please be brief.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the liberalisation also has an impact on *Dalits*. Our public sector undertakings are now being privatised or handed over to the private sector.

Sir, both of us were in the same Committee; we worked together in the Public Undertakings Committee for, at least, two to three years. I was also the Chairman of that Committee in 1990. When the public sector undertakings are being handed over to the private sector, is this reservation policy being maintained by the private sector? The answer is 'no'. What then is the meaning of this reservation policy? Why can the Government not bring a legislation so that reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are also done in private sector? The Government is not bringing any legislation to protect the interests of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

After the Supreme Court's judgment, what is happening to the tribals? As you know, generally, the

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

tribals like to live in the forests. They live in the forests because they do not have their own land and most of them are landless. After the Supreme Court's judgment, most of the State Governments are trying to evict the tribals from the forest land. The demand was made from this House that the Government should bring forward a legislation to protect the interests of the tribals, who are living on the forest land.

How can the interests of the tribals be protected? I have met the Deputy Prime Minister and he has given me time tomorrow also. Santhali language is one of the oldest languages spoken by more than one crore Santhali tribal population. Their language is not being recognised. Whenever we asked for or demanded for the recognition, we were told that a high-powered committee is being constituted to look after the question of recognising a few languages. Santhalis are one of the major tribes, who fought for Independence. The first freedom struggle was the Santhali Revolution. You know, Sir, about Bhagalpur, Birbhum and Sidu-Kano, who went to gallows. We remember Birsa Munda, whose statue is here in the precincts of the Parliament House. Their interests, that is, their language and culture, are not being protected.

What is necessary today is restoration of land to the tribals. What has been done in Tripura? Tripura is the first State in the country where an Autonomous Tribal Council was constituted and it was brought within the purview of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. Their language Koch Barak is also recognised there. After the Left Front Government came to power in Tripura, the land which was earlier taken over by the non-tribals was restored to the tribals. Restoration of tribal land, plugging legal loopholes, check on fraudulent land transfers, in all these issues the main question is that of land. The central question is, as I have already stated, effective implementation of land reforms and ensuring distribution of surplus land to the landless *adivasi* families, Scheduled Castes and *dalits*. About 15 per cent of the tribals have been evicted from their land due to industrial and developmental activities in the post-Independence period. Their demands of proper rehabilitation, compensation and employment remain unfulfilled.

I visited the Vasundhara area of Mahanadi Coalfields in Orissa a few months back. What have I seen there? The lands of the tribals were acquired for the coalmines project. Production started four-five years back. However, not a single tribal youth was given employment in Mahanadi Coalfields so far. Three youths were given employment not by the coal company but by the contractors. I have been hearing Government replies for the last ten years to the effect that a National Rehabilitation Policy was being formulated. However it is yet to be finalised. As a result of that, tribals, *adivasis*, *dalits* and Scheduled Castes are being displaced. They are becoming landless and homeless. So, some concrete steps have to be taken for the welfare of the tribals.

18.28 hrs.

[SHRI P.H. PANDIAN *in the Chair*]

Sir, I hope I will get another five minutes to speak because you are very liberal.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Dada, Please conclude early.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I will have to obey you. As you inform me over phone in the morning as to which topic is important.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot have a private talk inside the House.

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I am concluding. The first and foremost thing is that land reforms are imperative. Secondly, the landless people or the people who are displaced from their land should be rehabilitated properly. Thirdly, everyone has equal share in the national property which is being sold. All Bauxite mines are on the land belonging to tribal people. Though Dr. Sarkar is my colleague in the committee yet sometimes differences crop up between us in the House. Sir, I want to say that law should be enacted to provide reservation in private sector also.

The Government should enact law to protect the interests of Adivasis and landless farmers.

[English]

With these words, I thank you very much for giving me the time to speak. I am really grateful to my friend Shri Ram Vilas Paswan for raising this discussion on a very important subject.

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH (Nagar Kurnool): Respected Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to participate on the discussion on Atrocities on Dalits in various parts of the country.

We must, first of all, thank the hon. Speaker because in spite of the busy business schedule, he has taken up this issue for discussion in the House, which is a burning issue. I would also thank the hon. Deputy Prime Minister who was present for some time during the ongoing debate. We had made a request to him in this regard.

Sir, the Constitution of India has provided certain rights and guarantees to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes people in respect of service, education, political and social conditions. Certain Acts were also enacted by Parliament to protect their civil rights and acts against committing of atrocities on them.

Sir, there are various articles in the Constitution on Right to Equality. Article 14 gives an opportunity of equality before law. Then, article 15 is about prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth. Then, article 16 is about equality of opportunity in matters of public employment. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is very serious issue. The hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister is not present in the House. The attendance in the House is also very thin. It is true that the hon'ble Minister had said that this is a serious issue and the discussion on this issue will continue till all the members who intend to participate in this discussion are accommodated. I suggest that discussion should be held on this topic tomorrow from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. This is very important topic. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The attendance of Members shows how interested they are when the discussion on atrocities on Dalits is going on.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Yes. It is unfortunate. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: We cannot compel for the attendance of the Members. Hon. Speaker has said that we must conclude the discussion today.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is important to you may not be important to somebody else.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. BIKRAM SARKAR: Sir, it should be postponed for tomorrow. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): Sir, it is a very important discussion. I would, on behalf of all the Members, request that the hon. Prime Minister or the hon. Deputy Prime Minister should kindly come to the House and be present during this important debate. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of State for Home Affairs is already present here.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, you adjourn the House for tomorrow. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Sir, this is a very serious issue and the Deputy Prime Minister and the Home Minister should be present in the House. Therefore, we can have a discussion on this issue tomorrow from 1 PM to 3 PM. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: It has been already agreed that the debate should be over by today.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: No, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not able to hear everybody at a time.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Sir, the topic is very serious and the Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister should be present in the House.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: They have gone to the function being organised.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: Sir, the hon. Speaker has said that the debate should be over by today. *...(Interruptions)* They have gone to the function. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA (Chandrapur): Sir, there may not be quorum also. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you raise the question of quorum, I will give a ruling.

On certain occasions, when we had discussions about reservation of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, all the parties' leaders were present, and the House was full of attendance. I do not know as to why there is very thin attendance. You ask your leaders as to why they are not present now. The seats are vacant only today. When there was a debate on the Reservation of Scheduled Castes for the Assembly and Parliamentary Constituencies about 20 years ago, I saw that 540 Members were present there. The leaders of different parties were also present. I do not know as to why they are not present today.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is there no atrocities in their States?

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Manda Jagannath, you may continue your speech.

...(Interruptions)

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Sir, under these circumstances, it is very difficult for me to continue my speech. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please do not stop the discussion.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Tomorrow is the last day of the Monsoon Session, and after 3.30 p.m. we will have to take up Private Members Business.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no time limit. The hon. Speaker has said that this should be over today.

...(Interruptions)

DR. BIKRAM SARKAR: This is not the way. We protest it. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Members who are raising these issues before this House should tell their leaders to be present here.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The discussion should continue tomorrow. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why not today? Why are your leaders not present today?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: They have gone to attend the function. *...(Interruptions)*

DR. BIKRAM SARKAR: We are here. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You had your say. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

DR. BIKRAM SARKAR: He is with us. You just take a vote. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am also with you. That is why we are interested in deliberating further.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, what should we do now?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I have one suggestion. I know you are in the Chair. The Speaker has already given his ruling that they will start the function, and let the House be continued. That is why, I know, you cannot

take any decision. It is because the ruling of the Speaker is already here. My only request and the opinion of the whole House is that nobody wants to raise this quorum issue, and this should not be raised. This is a very important issue.

[Translation]

I would like to request that you should run the House for some time but the Hon'ble Speaker should be informed about the sense of the House.

[English]

The views of all the members belonging to all political parties are that the House should be adjourned today, and tomorrow from 1 o'clock this discussion should be started. ...*(Interruptions)* Before 3.30 p.m., or before Private Members' Resolution, within two hours time, let it be finished. I have come to know, I may be wrong that the hon. Deputy Prime Minister has got some appointment and perhaps today he may not give the reply. If he does not reply today, why do you not adjourn the House now? Let it be continued tomorrow. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It is the consensus of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK: I have also a submission. On many occasions what we do is that those who want to speak, they should speak. Many times it has happened that the debates on Railway Budget even goes up to 4 o' clock in the morning. So, my suggestion would be that those who want to speak, should speak today. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, Uttar Pradesh): There should be a full fledge discussion on such a serious issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK: Those who want to speak today should speak today, and the Minister can give his reply tomorrow. Half an hour should be carved out of that. The reply can be given tomorrow. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, what do you think about that? Let the Members, who want to speak today, let them do so. The Minister can reply tomorrow.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Tomorrow is the most pressing day. You would not get more time. If you want to speak, you can take time and speak today.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think, he is agreeing to that.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: No. We do not agree to this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should not say like this, when you have completed your speech. All the Members were present to hear your speech. You got enough time to speak also. You got 40 minutes.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please resume your seat. Dr. Jagannath may continue now. Let the Members speak and let the Minister give his reply tomorrow. The Minister is agreeable to that.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: If you want the discussion to continue now, the Minister also should reply today. Why should he reply tomorrow?

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: If the House wants the reply today, then we will certainly reply today.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is agreeable. Okay, we will continue now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I cannot pass any comment on thin attendance today, because there is some other problem today.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur): How long the Chair wants the House to continue?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will continue till the Members finish their speeches, though there is a time limit for that also.

SHRI SALKHAN MURMU (Mayurbhanj): I would like to say that some of us never get time to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Today, you will get your time.

SHRI SALKHAN MURMU: Today if we continue, it is okay. Suppose if you postpone it to tomorrow, there should be some guarantee that those who have given notices would get chances to speak. Otherwise, what will happen is that again tomorrow we may not get our chances.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. It is going to be completed today itself. The Minister's reply will also be completed today itself. In half-an-hour we will complete it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: May I know whether the Deputy Prime Minister will reply?

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: No. We will reply to that today itself.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs will reply to that.

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: Our Deputy Prime Minister will not be coming. He has some other appointment. He cannot come and give reply. I am here; Hon. Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment is here; we will reply.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: No.

DR. BIKRAM SARKAR: Sir, it has to be given due importance. Hon. Home Minister should give reply.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, if we want to make this discussion fruitful then the Deputy Prime Minister should reply the debate. Therefore, he should be summoned here in the House.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are aware that a calling attention motion on this topic was admitted for discussion on 25th but the hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister was not present on that day. There was an uproar in the House. Shri Swamiji was present in the House on that day. Sir, as I have said in the beginning that perhaps the Deputy Prime Minister has engagement after half past six in the evening but all the Members have made up their mind to sit beyond the scheduled time if the Deputy Prime Minister give reply and if he is not in a position to give reply today then this can be postponed for tomorrow.

[English]

Let it be postponed to tomorrow. This is not the view of only one side of the House. This is the view of the whole House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister of State for Home Affairs says that he is going to reply. We cannot compel that such and such Minister only should give reply. The Chair cannot compel.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, both the Ministers are very good Ministers; they are very good friends also. But this is not the question of friendship. This is the question of authority.

[Translation]

This is the question of authority. If the Deputy Prime Minister comes here to reply then we would be able to maintain gravity of this discussion. On that day we boycotted it because Shri Swamiji was here and the Deputy Prime Minister was not present in the House.

[English]

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: I agree with whatever Shri Paswan has said. I have all respect for him. If all the speeches of the hon. Members are finished today, the hon. Deputy Prime Minister will definitely be replying to the debate tomorrow. Today, it is not possible for him to come to the House because of an important engagement. ...*(Interruptions)* If the House deliberates today, I will be noting down all the points. The Cabinet Minister for Social Justice is also present in the House. He will note down all the views expressed by the Members and will intervene also in the debate. We can have the reply of the Deputy Prime Minister tomorrow.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Shri Swamiji, you have seen how much cooperation has been extended in the House. The supplementary demands of Ministry of Railways has been passed within one hour. Yesterday no item of work was left. Tomorrow it will be the Private members' business day and you have to take up the private members' business from half past three. There will be Zero Hour from 12 a.m. to 1 p.m. therefore, this should be scheduled for 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Thereafter we will have two and half an hour for the private members' business. There is no problem in it.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Shri Paswanji, all of us know that if the debate is required to be replied to by the Deputy Prime Minister himself, then it should be completed today itself so that it could be replied tomorrow. Otherwise it

will be difficult to reply it tomorrow if any new topic is taken up for discussion. It would be better if all the members put forth their views. There has been a practice of having the debate till late night and replying the same next day. We have been cooperating. Tomorrow is the last day of the session.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: We have no objection.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: As per tomorrow's Agenda, a number of Bills are to be deliberated tomorrow. They have to be considered tomorrow.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (Arrah): The opposition has cooperated a lot with the government but the government are not reciprocating as it is not ready to listen to us. The topic of debate is very important. The population of dalits in the country is about 25 per cent. This issue is related to their problems and livelihood as well as their exploitation. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: By this time Shri Jagannath would have finished his speech. Let the Member speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Please, call the Deputy Prime Minister,. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Tomorrow if it is deliberated again, there will be full attendance and everybody will be asking for time to speak. There will not be enough time. Today, at least those Members who are interested to speak and are waiting for their turns, will get an opportunity to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: It is the sense of the House that Zero Hour should be cancelled and this topic should be taken up for discussion, and the Deputy Prime Minister should reply the debate. *...(Interruptions)* Otherwise we will not allow the House to function. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SALKHAN MURMU: This is not fair. We never get a chance to speak. I am a tribal Member. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will get a chance today.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SALKHAN MURMU: Tomorrow also we will not get a chance. This has been happening every time. Now the Members are asking for the Home Minister to reply. *...(Interruptions)* Every party is responsible here. All the big leaders have already spoken and they are now asking for the reply. We are never allowed to speak. This will happen even tomorrow. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Nobody is asking for the Minister's reply today. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Jagannath, you may continue your speech.

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: I am getting disturbed. I am unable to concentrate on the subject. This is the problem with me. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SALKHAN MURMU: Let the Members give their views today and the Home Minister can reply to the debate tomorrow. What is the harm in it? If it is replied tomorrow, I do not think there will be paucity of time. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Murmu, a definite procedure should be followed in the House. This is not the way to represent.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SALKHAN MURMU: Sir, I am trying to make my point known that we never get a chance to speak. *...(Interruptions)*

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Certain Acts were enacted by the Parliament to protect their Civil Rights as also to protect them from atrocities being committed on them. Article 14 gives equality before law. Article 15 is

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regarding prohibition of discrimination on the basis of caste, cadre, sex and place of birth. Article 16 gives equality of opportunity in the matter of public employment and article 17 talks of untouchability. We got our Independence 55 years ago. As has been mentioned by several hon. Members, there are many Acts to protect the interest of the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe people. But when we look at the implementation of these laws, it is not even one per cent. I do not want to politicalise this issue. I would say that whichever party has come into power, it has not thought of protecting the interest of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. In spite of all the guarantees and Acts made for the protection of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, there is an increase in the cases of crimes committed against Scheduled Castes.

When we look at the number of crimes committee against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, we find that in the year 1999, the number of crimes against Scheduled Castes were 25093 and 4450 against Scheduled Tribes; in 2000 crimes against Scheduled Castes were 25455 and 4190 against Scheduled Tribes; in 2001, the number was 25562 for Scheduled Castes and 4121 for Scheduled Tribes. This data shows that there is a marginal decrease in the case of Scheduled Tribes but the atrocities on Scheduled Castes are increasing. This also shows that in spite of all the acts and provisions, the crimes against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are increasing. This is a fact which we have to remember. If we look at the monthly crime rate, in November 2002, the total number of cases recorded were 553 murders and 1129 rapes. This shows that the atrocities are committed unabated particularly the rapes on helpless Scheduled Caste women.

If we see the State-wise number of atrocities committed on women, we find that Uttar Pradesh stands at the top with 321 murders and 370 rapes followed by Madhya Pradesh with 66 murders and 302 rapes; Andhra Pradesh with 22 murders and 54 rapes; and Gujarat with 20 murders and 11 rapes. This is as per the monthly crime report. In case of Scheduled Tribes, Madhya Pradesh is on top with 14 murders and 45 rapes followed by Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. The total for the month of November 2003 is 86 murders and 398 rapes.

The instances of crimes against Scheduled Caste people are unabated. My hon. friends have quoted a number of cases. I would also like to give one example. In Rajasthan, on December 14, 2002 Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were not allowed to take bath in the village pond. This is the position after 55 years of Independence. I am not going to blame any political party for this. This issue relates to the entire country. I would only say that no political party is trying to curb this menace with conviction. As my hon. friends have stated, you have to have consensus on this issue. We should not politicalise this issue. One of my friends was objecting to it. Nobody wants to allege anybody. But we only want to bring to the notice of the House how these crimes are being committed.

Recently in Jhajhar, Haryana some *dalits* were murdered. One Member from Haryana has mentioned in his statement that *dalits* were killed by *dalits*. The hon. Minister has also mentioned that hundreds and thousands of people had gathered there. They were under the impression that a cow had been slaughtered. I want to ask whether all the people who had gathered there were *dalits*. It is a very funny thing. If we compromise like this, how would things improve? My request is that please do not take this issue from the political angle. We should not politicalise it. This is a humanitarian issue because human beings are burnt alive. So we should see the humanity aspect. It was also mentioned by the hon. Minister that the report says that as the day was becoming darker, the police feared if they go for any dispersing method or *lathi* charge or firing, many people would die. This was mentioned by the hon. Minister.

Sir, it means that there is no value for the *dalits*. The *dalits* have been burnt but police were afraid of the persons who are committing crimes against them and their deaths. As has been mentioned by Shri Pravin Rashtrapal, no action has been taken against those persons in one single case. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan said, not a single person has been convicted for such crimes and sent to jail. This is because of fear of those people. It is a shame for a civilized society.

Sir, in the capital itself, in the Delhi University *dalit* students have been beaten with rods, but no action has been taken against the culprits so far. Recently in a village in Uttar Pradesh around 70 *dalits* were manhandled by the *Thakurs*. It happened because of a land dispute. The *thakurs* never wanted to give away that land to the *dalits*. They were socially boycotted.

Sir, the picture is no better on the employment front. Since time is running out and there are many more Members to speak on this subject, I would not like to quote statistics here. But if you go through the records on the question of recruitment, promotion and even

conviction of persons for committed against *dalits*, you would find that it has always been the *dalits* who have been harassed. A *dalit*, how intelligent he may be, how good he in his performance may be, but whenever the question of his promotion comes, the people who are sitting higher up, those who have to implement it, would come out with a case of complaint against him. On a very small pretext they would not allow the *dalit* candidate to get promoted. But in such similar cases where the candidate is from the upper caste such factor does not come in the way of his/her getting promoted. They go higher up in the promotion ladder. But the *dalit* candidates are deprived.

Sir, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan was referring to a case. That has come to my knowledges as well. It is regarding the postings of the *dalit* candidates. This is found not only in the cases of postings in India but also in the cases of foreign postings as well. I know of such case of one Shri Vijay Kumar. He has won a number of awards. Whenever foreign dignitaries visit India and when these people do a commendable job, even thereafter they are not considered for promotion. The glaring example is that of Shri Vijay Kumar who was eligible to become the Secretary. But he has been denied of his due because in such an event a *dalit* would become a Secretary. Such type of a discrimination is going on.

Sir, all these instances are only the tip of the iceberg. When you put a piece of ice into water, one can see only the tip of the ice, the lump keeps hanging in water. These instances of injustice against the *dalits* are only the tip of the iceberg. If the official figures have been quoted at 25,000 or 40,000, then in reality it is four to five times more than that figure. This is because of so many factors.

Sir, the first is police apathy. The police does not register cases under the influence of the landlords and the rich people. The second is that the landlords use money power and make the witnesses to the case hostile and purchase the witnesses So, such official figures do not give the correct picture. When the figure is quoted as 25,000, then in reality it must have been something around a lakh or one and a half lakhs of murders and rapes.

Sir, there is another kind of a 'rape'. I would name it a 'ape' only and it is about the discrimination in education of the *dalit* students. There is a provision in the Constitution that students belonging to the *dalit* community—the Government also claims—would be given scholarships. There is a provision for opening coaching centres for these students for training them for the Administrative Services. One instance has come to our notice. It has happened in the State of Rajasthan. I do not want to name the party since I do not like to politicise the issue. The name of the institute was Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Coaching Centre for Administrative Services. This has been in existence for the past three years. Nearly 12 to 15 students who were undergoing coaching in that centre were evicted forcefully. Where would these students go? What for have these coaching centres been opened? There was an apathy on the part of the people. If in this way these students are treated, then how can we expect these people to compete the students who read in air-conditioned rooms and move around in air-conditioned vehicles? How do we expect the son of a labourer, howsoever intelligent he may be, to compete with these people unless such type of facilities are provided to them? My request to the Government of India is to see that these things are rectified.

19.00 hrs.

The Government of India says whenever this issue comes up that under the Seventh Schedule, it is the responsibility of the State Governments to take care of all these things. The Home Ministry will be only guiding them from time to time. Acts are made by the Parliament. Constitutional provisions are given by the Parliament to the State Government. The Central Government should not shirk their responsibility and wash away their hands. They must evolve a procedure to act firmly against whichever erring State Government it is.

Shri Rashtrapal was telling about the Special Component Funds being misused for purchasing furniture. What action has the Central Government taken against such States? Because of the blatant misuse of the funds allocated for this purpose, the poor people have not come up above the BPL. Because of the fact that you are not going to take any action against this kind of misuse, there is no effective monitoring system also.

I was going through a Report published by the Department of Rural Development some time back. I could see that when the question of implementation of the Special Component Plan comes, some of the States' performance is zero per cent. I do not want to name the States. If the Government want, they can have the Report from the Rural Development Department. This is a publication in which specifically the SCP issue has been discussed. Some of the States have gone to the extent

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of 15 per cent. It is a good thing. But what action is the Government of India taking against others? If the Government acts firmly against those States which do not utilise funds meant for SCs and STs, then only there will be some fear instilled in them and they will come up with proper implementation.

Shri Ram Naik said that he did not have any programmes under SCP in his Ministry. How is it possible? Every Ministry has been allocated 22.5 per cent of funds meant for the betterment of SCs and STs. Why is it not being done in his Ministry? The Report shows how reluctant the State Governments are and even the Central Government is. We always make tall claims and say that *dalits* have been given so many things. But all these claims practically come to nought when the question of implementation comes.

There are provisions to prevent atrocities on *dalits*. For instance, we have got the Civil Rights Act, 1955 and above all, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. This Act has been made with a specific purpose to provide for exemplary punishment to those who perpetuate abuse and violence on *dalits*. What is its implementation rate? Not even one per cent of the accused has been convicted. Your record shows that you have arrested so many people. You have also taken so many people to the court. These Acts provide setting up of special courts which are named as Session Courts. In spite of all these provisions, atrocities continue because of the disinclination and non-seriousness on the part of the district administration which has been assigned the responsibility of taking care of this issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Please give me five more minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thirty Members are yet to speak.

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: I know, Sir. I have not even taken ten minutes.

Section 21 of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 provides for the State Government to take such measures as may be necessary for effective implementation of the Act. But, as I said earlier, there is no action. What has happened to the district administration? The Collectors and the SPs do not even respond properly because they are under the influence of the landlords and the upper-caste people who wield a lot of influence. They just do not care.

I have got a specific instance. Some of the top IPS cadre police officers do not even know about the provisions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. It so happened that one *dalit* was burnt alive in my constituency. When I went to an IPS cadre officer of the rank of ASP, he just threw a book at me and asked to show him where he should go and his DSP should go to investigate the matter. This is the condition and this is the apathy shown by the police officers. And when I asked SP himself as to why he had not even visited the place, he said that they have not gone there due to naxalite problem. If such is the attitude of the officers there, how will it be implemented and how will the *dalits* get justice? The Police force and the Army are supposed to sacrifice their life for the protection of the country. If this is the attitude of the Superintendent of Police who himself had not gone or not even sent ASP or DSP to the place, then how will it be implemented? After I threatened of a hunger strike, the next day, the Collector went there and announced some relief. Then the SP went there with big police protection. Nobody was arrested and no case was booked. Because of lack of prudence, the case was manipulated and it had gone with the wind. What happens when the case is not booked and the witnesses are made hostile, the case would not come to prosecution and people start thinking that the offenders are going scot-free. Others are getting encouraged and are committing more and more atrocities.

Keeping all these things in view, I say that it is the responsibility of the Central Government. Though under Schedule VII, it is the responsibility of the State Government, because you are funding them, because laws are made here, it is the responsibility of the Central Government. So, I request the Central Government to see that laws are implemented properly.

In this respect, the Government of Andhra Pradesh have taken up an innovative programme nowadays. They have constituted a single judge Commission to go into all the aspects of this issue and the Commission has given 42 recommendations which the Government of Andhra Pradesh has agreed to. It has unanimously passed a Resolution in the Assembly. It has been sent for the assent of the President now. They are going to constitute a State level Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It is not because they are not having confidence in the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Tribes. The National Commission would take care of the entire country. But by setting up a State level Commission, the process of implementation will become

fast and that is why, we have taken up this step. Then, special courts have been established in some districts. The provisions of the Civil Rights Act have been scrupulously implemented there.

Coming to the budget allocation, when we had taken over the Government, it was Rs. 305 crore. In a span of seven years, the budget allocation has gone up to Rs. 805 crore because we thought that problems arise due to illiteracy and hence, most of the money is being spent on education. Now we are getting very good results.

We have taken up a programme to create awareness among the rural population, whether it is the case of SCs or STs or BCs or OBCs. When the Acts of Parliament are there, punishment should also be there accordingly. Since it is said in the provisions that untouchability is a crime, this programme has yielded very good results. More than 90 per cent of the *dalits* are allowed to enter the temples and are mixing up with other people. I do not say that such type of instances of atrocities are not occurring in A.P. Some instances do occur. But we are trying to reduce it by the programme of awareness. Even week, all the officers go to the villages and make the villagers aware of this programme.

Under these circumstances, my request to the Government of India is to ensure that the Acts of Parliament are scrupulously implemented both in letter and spirit. Some time back, our hon. Deputy Prime Minister was saying that if all the political parties agree, the Government will not go back on even imposing death sentence in case of rape, whether it is the case of *dalit* women or other women belonging to any other caste. This should be the punishment. Only then people will realise the seriousness of it and rapes will reduce. I have to say that there have been 129 cases of rape on *dalit* women in one month. It is not a small thing.

Regarding employment and education, accountability should be fixed. Accountability should be fixed against erring officials in respect of implementation of constitutional provisions. There should be a time-bound programme and there should be a punishment given to the officer or the head of the Department for not implementing the constitutional provisions. Though time is fixed, they do not take it seriously. They take it casually. Then time will lapse resulting in a backlog. When the question of backlog comes up, the courts will intervene. Like this, we are deprived of our rights.

I would like to say that the provisions of all the recent amendments, which have been made in Parliament, are not being implemented. Whether it is the 77th Constitutional Amendment or the 82nd or 85th Constitutional Amendments, they are still on the papers but they have not been implemented. When we went to the institutions, they all said that they had not received any instructions from the DoPT. Really speaking—I should not say this-I feel that it is a shame on our part that when the entire House unanimously amended the provisions, they have not yet been implemented. For what purpose have the amendments been made? It is just for the sake of remaining on the paper that they have been made. It is just for the sake of telling the people that the Government has given so many things to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes people that these amendments have been made. So, these things are not going to serve the purpose. As our friend Shri Ram Vilas Paswan has said, if you take the statistics of the people who are on the path of extremism and who indulge in naxalite activities, you will find that it is because of the discrimination and frustration that they are doing these things. The landless people, the oppressed people take to the path of extremism and they indulge in such activities.

Finally, I think a comprehensive law has to be enacted in respect of all the constitutional provisions regarding the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Unless it is put into the Ninth Schedule of this Constitution, the problems will not be solved.

With these words, I conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramji Lal Suman to speak now.

There are so many hon. Members who want to speak on this issue. So, I remind the hon. Members to complete their speeches as early as possible.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I express my gratitude to you for giving me a chance to speak on such a sensitive issue. I would like to make my presence felt since I am aware of paucity of time. Secondly, the Hon. lady member of our party Smt. Reena Choudhary also wants to speak on this issue. I will conclude my points within the time allotted by you. Our able colleagues have said that this is such a issue as whenever we talk about weaker sections and dalits, they want that there should be a positive remark on that from the Government. Jatia ji and Swami ji, if both of you give reply to our queries, then what will be left for Advaniji

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

to reply tomorrow? The discussion could be meaningful only if the attitude of the Government is positive after the debate. I hope that the Government would make efforts for some positive outcome after this debate.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, not even a signal day passes when we do not read about some or other incident in newspapers. Be it an incident at Chatwara, Jhajjar on Talhat or an incident that occurred at Harsola village in Kaithal district of Haryana. We come across incidents of harassment and persecution of dalits taking place some where or the other being published in newspapers daily. The real thing is that it's a question of our mentality and mindset. The most important thing is that the sense of pride and dignity has awakened in the dalits. Today expecting from the young generation of dalits that they should also lead their lives in the same atmosphere, which their predecessors used to lead 100 and 150 years ago. Secondly, some people are not prepared to change their mindset and this is the bottomline. As Shri Ram Vilas Paswan raised the Jhajjar issue, we also raised the same earlier also and the Government also gave a reply to that. The temple of Ravidas was demolished in R.K. Puram. The temple of Ravidas was the only one which was demolished out of 37 temples there. What message goes out from the incident? The message which goes out from that incident is that our only fault is that we are born in dalit community and therefore only our temple was demolished and other temples were not demolished. What message goes out from the Jhajjar incident? Five dalits were killed in Jhajjar incident? Five dalits were killed in Jhajjar and some anti-social elements announced that they would honour the people who had killed those dalits. I beg your apology to say as to what message such incidents are sending among dalits. Kataria ji made a bombastic speech on conversion in Punjab. You cannot prevent conversions. Swami Vivekanand, Swami Dayanand Saraswati and Mahatma Gandhi all these three people used to say that if Hinduism fails to propagate equality better it should perish. Why such a situation has arisen? This situation has arisen because the people having faith in the caste (Varan) system are breaching the faith of dalits and weaker-sections. And if this thing goes on and things remain the same, there is no one, how big he or she may be, can prevent conversion. We will have to improve ourselves. We will have to introspect as to where we had made mistakes. This could be the right policy to bring about a change in that.

Dalits are used as a tool in today's politics, one of your allies is doing politics in the name of dalits, not even a single member of that party is present in this discussion. I do not want to go into details, I want to make only two-three submissions. One submission is, do not go too much in the jugglery of figures. Figures cannot run the nation, rather it runs by virtue of faith. What the ruling Government does, that has a direct bearing on the public. The discussion which takes place at public places or chaupals, that works as a parameter to evaluate any Government. One your ally party the leader of which has been made the Chief Minister by you, how much she has been damaging our interest, it's anybody's guess. But Swamiji, she would annihilate you. You people have became the victim of a big misunderstanding. The statement of the Chief Secretary (Home) of Uttar Pradesh has been published, wherein it is stated that there has been two per cent decrease in the incident of oppression of dalits. The SC/ST commission of Uttar Pradesh was not set up by us. The Chairman of the said commission is your man. As per the commission—4039 cases of the dalits' oppression were reported in 2000 during the Chief Ministership of Hon. Ram Prakash Gupta. During the Chief Ministership of Hon. Rajnath ji, 5320 cases were reported to the commission. In your regime when she has been entrusted with the responsibility to save dalits, 6097 cases of oppression of dalits were reported in 2002. If we criticise on the basis of merits demerits, then it is alleged that we are doing so because as she says, 'I am the daughter of dalit' what plea is this? When we become minister, we swear by the constitution and it is our responsibility to fulfil that constitutional obligation that only a dalit can deliver good to the dalits. Had it been so, why do we revere Gautam Buddha, Ghandhiji and Swamiji, the situation which is prevailing in Uttar Pradesh at present does not augur well. I would also like to tell that all sorts of incidents are coming to the light.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We want one more member from your party to speak.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: I will not take more than two minutes.

[Translation]

I do not want to go into details but I want to mention one thing. Swamiji and Jatia ji, I shall be grateful if you could listen to me carefully. How will you protect dalits? You are not even able to protect Shri Ram Iqbalji, a legislator from Ballia who belongs to your party. Hon. Chief Minister visited there on 17 July. There lives one dalits by the name of Om Prakash who owns neither

any land or any house. What was his fault? His only fault was that he switched over to the BJP from the BSP. He does not own even a bigha of land nor does own a house. Your legislator is from the adjacent area. He is from Om Prakash's village. He is a BSP legislator. He owns a lot of land of Gram Panchayat. Om Prakash has three 'decimal' land and Ghuru Ram who is a BSP legislator has 39 'decimal' land of Gram Panchayat. Ram Iqbal Singh just said that Om Prakash should not be evicted from the land. The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh get registered a case against Ram Iqbal and she forcibly inaugurated a Community Development Centre there. You have served a notice to Ram Iqbal for expelling him from the party. A party which cannot save the honour of its own legislator, the person who was pleading for a dalit and your party could not save him. How such a party could help dalits. Swamiji, this is a very important issue. I, therefore, request you to kindly ask the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh in this regard and do not push the entire State in turmoil.

Sir, a special attention is needed on this issue. I have paucity of time and I am under pressure from two sides. One is that the firebrand lady member of our party has also to speak and the other is the paucity of time. I therefore, want to make only one submission that the views which the Hon. Members are expressing in the House, should be led to logical conclusion through meaningful initiatives. The Government should also put a monitoring mechanism in place to oversee the implementation of the ongoing schemes. Landless people should be provided land. Ensure safeguards for saving the traditional industries of dalits. Hon. Minister, Sir, its no use to indulge in the jugglery of figures. Your way of functioning is appropriate and this will also incalculate a sense of confidence among weaker sections.

With these words, in conclude.

SHRI MANJAY LAL (Samstipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, even after 56 years of Independence, questions are being raised to provide protection to the Dalits because they still lack confidence and boldness and hence, atrocities are being perpetrated on them even today. I do not want to go in the figures but I would like to place the basic principles before you.

Sir, there are two types of people in our society. The first type comprise such people who are financially poor and the other type comprise the people who are poor in courage or confidence. But dalits are poor on both counts. We will have to improve the condition of the dalits and besides improving their financial condition, their social condition will also have to be improved. We can give money and help those people who are financially poor but those who are poor in confidence and self esteem, will have to be given special opportunities and action will have to be taken for their upliftment in the society. There has been a popular saying in the society since many years. People say.

"Bad Jaat Batiyo le Naan Jaat Laliyole."

Such proverbs will have to be stopped.

Dr. Lohia has said:

"Unchi jatt ki kaya pahchan.
Gitpit bole kare na kaam,
Dalit jaat ki kya pahchan.
Kaam kare aur sahe apmaan."

The words of Dr. Lohia are literally true. After so many years of independence, it is the Dalits who are suffering the rigours of menial jobs and face atrocities. They have to suffer humiliation. Shri Ramvilas Paswan has talked about the atrocities being committed against them in every part of the country. They were facing atrocities in the past also, but not to this extent. I hail from a village. Dalits also live in our village. During rainy season other people used to help them. Now the position is that atrocities are committed against them and those who perpetrate these atrocities, do not believe in brotherhood and they incite social disparities...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN KUMAR (Jahanabad): Sir, in Bihar, some Ministers encroached upon 250 acre land. Directives were issued by Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Commission but they are not being implemented...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: There is surplus land as a result of land ceiling Act but the people are not ready to surrender it and they are blaming the Government...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN KUMAR: In Bihar some Ministers encroached upon 250 acres of land which was allotted to the dalits. SC & ST Commission had issued directives that the house constructed on the above land be demolished but the State Government did not take any action. They are perpetrating atrocities on the dalits in complicity with the Congressmen....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANJAY LAL: I did not want to discuss any issue with reference to Bihar but the Members of the Party ruling, they had interrupted me and as such I want to give an example that scholarship of Dalits is released on the 25th March....*(Interruptions)* and the payments is supposed to be made by 31st March. It is not possible. Then the Government divert the money to other head and the funds stand lapsed.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: According to 'Kaul & Shakdher', the number of reserved seats for the Scheduled Castes is 79 and for the Scheduled Tribes, it is 41. The total is 120. Now, 120 Members are not present here. Only 10 Members belonging to these castes are present. So, do not blame others.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN *ALIAS* PAPPU YADAV: People providing protection to the Dalits are present here.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is why I said that out of 120 Members, only 10 Members are present here. They are not interested in their welfare. Only non-dalits are interested in their welfare.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I made this observation because non-dalits are interested in the welfare of dalits. Dalits can only pull up the dalits.

[Translation]

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI (Bijnor): Now there has been decline in the incidents of atrocities on the dalits and as such dalits are turning up in less numbers....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANJAY LAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the extent to which I have fought for the cause of the dalits, very few people have fought to that extent. When I was in High school, at that time people of Dom Caste were not allowed to fetch water from the well. I went to the harijan locality. They said that they would not allow people of Dom caste to fetch water from the well. I was hit with the Lathi but all of them got the opportunity to fetch water from the wells. I was studying in High School in those days. What was in practice in those days is that people had no hesitation in removing each other's thali, but no body would remove thalis of persons belonging to scheduled castes. I went on strike against that and my fight continued until this discrimination on the basis of caste was removed.

While citing the example of Bihar I would like to say that Bihar Government is misusing the hostel constructed for Dalit Castes by taking them into their own custody. They are running government and other offices in that building. This has also happened in Muzaffarpur and Samastipur districts. I can give figures in this regard. Why the honourable lady member is interrupting me? Jaati Sena, Ranveer Sena and Yadav Sena have been raised there. In response to these, one Ambedkar Sena has also been raised. What I want is that raising of sena based on any party particular community be banned.

You give scholarship to the students belonging to Dalit Castes but the payment thereof is not made in time. The amount of scholarship should be raised and it should be paid every month. Hostels should be constructed at block and district level. Hostels should be constructed at all levels for those who dwell in jhopris but work hard to construct big buildings. Government jobs should be provided to those who come forward to marry in the dalit family and behave with dalit woman nicely after their marriage. It should not be that people should marry dalit girl only for the sake of getting job. Now there are very few government jobs. As such arrangements should be made to provide reservation to these people in private institutions. The economic condition of the dalits should be ameliorated by providing them fundamental right to employment. Atrocities on them should be stopped. All human beings should be treated as equal and the offspring of the Almighty God because when Swami Vivekanand had seen that atrocities were being perpetrated on dalits, then he had said.

> 'Al Swamon, Samay Rehte chait jayo, nahin to jis din dalit jagega, us din uske eak phoonk se ur jayoge.'

With these words, I request the Government that law should be enacted to prevent atrocities on the Dalits but mere enacting laws in this regard will not suffice. Efforts should be made to implement them so that atrocities on the dalits could be checked.

SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN (Ghosi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on the subject of atrocities committed against dalits in different parts of the country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today we are holding a discussion on a very important subject in the House. As a matter of fact incident of atrocities against dalits is the part of the phenomenon which is borne out of the system. This problem has been continuing for thousands of years. Some incidents are quoted as example. But the reason behind all need to be examined as a matter of principle and we should also seek to find the solution. Our approach should be practical. The history of thousands of years of India bear testimony to the fact that casteism, untouchability and the discriminatory attitude have hindered the development of the country considerably. Keeping this fact in mind Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar said: "Out of several arguments given in favour of Indian approach towards life there is one that it is the uniqueness of India that she alone has been able to survive among several other ancient civilizations of the world." This is better described through a couplet:

"Kutch Baat Hai Ki Hasti Mitati Nahi Hamari"

Baba Saheb Ambedkar said in this regard: "This view is expressed by those who statements are generally not refuted." I do not want to go into the veracity of this statement but I must say that there are several ways and means to remain in existence. All that cannot be appreciated equally. Retreat may provide the poor category people an opportunity to survive. May be, the attitude of surrendering would become a condition for survival of these people. So, it cannot be held that if the civilization of a particular people is in existence for ages it means they are flourshing. Existence is not important, what is important is the quality and standard of life.

The standard of life of 85 per cent of Indians was below human level and against humanity. Baba Saheb fought strongly against that. He took up this issue upto the international fora. Despite the opposition by Gandhi, he raised this issue concerning dalits on an international forum in 1932, Before I refer to that, I would like to emphasis the fact of dalit atrocities. The hon. Member Basu Deb Acharia was just now referring to the fact that since land reform has not been undertaken and also due to the poor economic condition dalits have been dependant on others and big land lords for survival. Since they are helpless, therefore such a situation is created and they are exploited, subjected to atrocities and the womenfolk are misbehaved. You cannot quote an example of misbehaviour or exploitation with those women who come from prosperous dalits families. The problem of misbehaviour is related to economic condition. In this regard when Baba Saheb put his views from the forum of dalit federation in the Constitution Assembly, he chose to express his views not through any memorandum rather through an article of the Constitution. I would like to quote—

> "For the speedy industrialization of India it is essential to have socialism as a state policy. This is not possible in the private sector and even if it happens that will create discrimination in matters of distribution of capital."

19.37 hrs.

[SMT. MARGARET ALVA *in the Chair*]

Neither consolidation of holding nor the Act concerning farming can be helpful to 6 crores untouchables. The landless labourers who pleased for state socialism in important sectors. As a protest against this view he said that nobody can say that this provision is opposed to the proposal of fundamental rights. But those who are opposed to this would take it as violation of fundamental rights. In regard to having secularism as a state policy in important sectors, he said—

> "You ask the unemployed what is the importance of fundamental rights for him." Suppose if an unemployed person is provided with an employment for some salary but there is no working hour fixed for him and if there is a ban for him to join the trade union and he is asked to either choose that or choose the freedom of speech, association, religion etc. than it is anybody's guess what he will choose. How can he choose the other option? The fear of hunger, the fear of losing the house, savings if any, the fear that children might be out of school, the fear of being a burden on the public exchequer, the fear of burial or funeral being performed on public money, all these factors are so strong that no body can fight for his or her fundamental rights. This is how an unemployed person has to lose this fundamental rights."

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now you should conclude.

SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN: I would like to quote the private resolution moved by him in part three of the Constitution—

> "Savarn Hindus use the threat of the Damocles sword always against untouchables. Only the untouchables know how dreaded this weapon is. A committee was appointed in 1928 by the Bombay Government to examine the complaints of dalits. In the report of that committee, the form of social ostracism and its impact have been well described. A portion of the

[Shri Bal Krishna Chauhan]

report is quoted as under—

"Though we have suggested various ways and means to protect the rights concerning public utilities of dalits. We apprehend that the prolonged use of these rights may cause troubles to them."

I come to the end, because this portion is very long.

"The second problem is borne out of the economic condition of dalits. Dalits do not enjoy economic freedom in major parts of Bombay. Commonly, dalits are boycotted for using public wells. Such examples are not less. Dalits are punished and boycotted for wearing sacred thread, buying a piece of land, wearing jewelleries, use of mares by bride-grooms in marriage procession."

This was said in 1928. It is not that that phase is over. Now I am submitting the application of the untouchable of Khairi Jaisor village of Punjab which was written in 1947 and was addressed to the Deputy Commissioner of Rohtak district. I am in possession of one of its copies. The said petition is here with me but I shall not read it out. The petition which is dated 1st February, 1947 addressed to hon. Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar was given by a set of people belonging to the chamar caste of village Khairi Jaisore, Tehsil Zila Rohtak. That petition contains the same stories which has been described now by our hon. Members. I would like to cite some examples.

Paswanji was referring to reservation in judiciary. 30-35 women and children were killed in Tanjavur while farm labourers were staging a dharna, that time the judiciary gave a clear acquital to savarns under the plea that the said savarn just could not walk upto the dalit habitation. Dalits of Khumher, Rajasthan were victimized in 1990, that time the very complainants were awarded punishment by the Court. Similarly, people were stopped from celebrating Ravidas Jayanti in Kaithal district of Haryana. The similar story was repeated in Jhajjar district. In village Dhakia of Rewari district, a youth of Lohar community was beaten after being dismounted from the mare. This is a long story and I do not want to go into its detail. I would conclude after making one submission.

When this issue was raised in Durban, South Africa, our Government protested and denied that any atrocity is committed on caste basis. This matter has been raised at international fora ever since the time of Baba Saheb. This issue was raised in Durban which was included in the list after a year in Geneva by the sub-committee on Human Rights of the UNO and it was accepted that there is atrocity against humanity in the name of caste discrimination like racism.

The Dalit manifesto of Bhopal seeks economic justice. My request is that the dalit should also be made resourceful by way of providing financial assistance to them so that they may be safeguarded against social ostracism and not be compelled to work for others. That will enable them to lead good economic and social life.

SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA (Dahanu): Madam Chairman, I would like to thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak on such an important issue. I would also like to thank Shri Ram Vilas Paswanji because he had initiated this important discussion for us.

At the outset, I would like to refer to a news item published under the caption 'The unruly Modi', in the newspaper 'The Hindu' on 29th December, 2002. I would not go through the entire news item but it is mentioned about dalits that.

[English]

'Their tomorrow never comes'.

[Translation]

It has been stated therein that a comprehensive Bill needs to be introduced in the Parliament to effect a change in the condition of dalits. In fact, since independence a provision exists to abolish untouchability under article 17.

[English]

Article 17 says: "Untouchability is abolished and it's practice is any form is forbidden..."

[Translation]

Despite the existence of a number of laws, National Human Rights Commission was set up on the basis of protection of atrocities Act, 1990, Protection of Women Rights Act, 1993 to prevent incidents of atrocities against dalits but to no avail. Though bonded labour Act is in force even then we have not succeeded to stop the atrocities being committed against them. Despite the enactment of a number of laws the problems of dalits have not ended. Though the laws enacted are comprehensive yet their implementation is lackadaisical thereby increasing the incidence of atrocities against Dalits.

Madam, Chairman according to the Prevention of Atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Act, 1989, the registered offence are non-bailable and bail is not granted. In such cases despite the absence of provision of anticipatory bail regular bail is being granted. In this connection, I had asked a question on 26th November, 2002. In reply of which I was told that about one lakh cases of atrocities perpetrated against dalits had already been registered. Despite such an enormous number of cases of offences committed against them I was amazed to note that the number of persons punished, arrested or jailed is nil and all of them had been exonerated.

I found to my surprise that despite the provision of non-bailable warrant in case of atrocities against dalits, the accused are being released on bail. In Maharashtra under this law such cases are heard in the Sessions-Court, but the bail is granted by the first class magistrate Court. As per the law the bail can not be granted and the cases are to be heard in the Sessions-Court. But in Maharashtra, the bail is being granted by the first class magistrate Court. When I tried to found out the reason, I came to know that there was a certain ruling and judgement delivered by a court under which bail is being granted. Thus, I want to submit that there is no dearth of laws to check atrocities against dalits and the provisions are also very stern, still these are not being implemented properly. So, there is no use of having them. The Government should ponder over as to how the laws can be implemented in a proper manner. Proper arrangements should be made in this regard.

Madam Chairman, I was going through the figures, which have been given in response to my question. As per those figures, U.P., Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan top the crime-graph. A little while ago I was listening to the speech of Shri Basu Deb Acharia. He said in his speech that not a single case of atrocities against dalits has been registered in West Bengal during the last few years. I was quite surprised to know when he called each year as Zero-crime-year. I do not want to go into details because of the paucity of time. I would like to state that largest number of cases of atrocities against dalits have been registered in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. It shows that the laws have been implemented there properly following which such a large number of cases have been registered. Dalits mostly live in the villages, but their brethren live all over the country. Thousands of villages are there which have limited number of dalit families. When dalits approach the police station to get the cases registered they are threatened with dire consequences following which they withdraw the cases because at last they have to live with those very persons against whom they are going to register cases. The States where such cases have been registered in lesser number should mull over it themselves as to what could be the reasons thereof.

We often, hear in the House that the daughter of a dalit became Chief Minister in Uttar Pradesh. Maharashtra has also Chief Minister from dalit community. But despite being from the dalit community he had to declare that if the atrocities against dalits would continue like this, he would have to resign from the Chief Ministership and leave for Delhi. Why he is forced to say like that? Why such a situation arises that a good Chief Minister has to speak in such language? We will think about it as to why all this is happening so that the atrocities are not committed only against weak and poor dalits and not against the rich, we should find out the reason. Undoubtedly, atrocities are being committed against those who are poor, weak and hapless. It is often mentioned that there are 120 MPs belonging to dalits, SC and ST sections. Out of these in BJP these are 20 MPs of SC category and 25 MPs from ST category. I was wondering as to why MPs in such a large number come winning from BJP against seats reserved for dalits and adivasis. I am also a adivasi and have faced victimization too. I have got my entire education in a social-welfare centre. There is a large number of MPs here in BJP who belong to SC and ST category...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I can allot only ten minutes time to each of the Members. There are 25 MPs in the list and if a member takes 20-30 minutes, how it can be completed. Please wind up early.

SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Madam, I am concluding. BJP has in right earnest tried to make the adivasis and dalits self-reliant and undoubtedly, the party has gained from it. These laws are meant for dalits, but are being misused. The organizations which are being run in my constituency for the welfare of dalits and adivasis are not being run by them but by somebody else...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now you have to conclude within a minute.

SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Madam, I am concluding within a minute. There is a provision that if case is registered for atrocities being committed then perpetrators are put in jail. Funds are provided to the

[Shri Chintaman Wanaga]

NGOs, but all NGOs are not working for the upliftment of dalits and adivasis and their funds are being misused. The funds released by the Government should reach to the adivasis only then their development can take place properly.

In Maharashtra there is a dalit upliftment scheme. The schemes which have been formulated for dalits under this scheme must be implemented. However, what I see in Maharashtra is that the money has been used only for making roads. I, therefore, appeal that the money released by the Government should actually reach dalits and adivasis, but nothing happens in this regard and should be monitored in a better way.

I thank you again for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT (Nandurbar): Madam Chairman, I would like to thank Shri Ram Vilas Paswanji for raising discussion here under the rule 193. This is a matter of concern for us that we still talk about the atrocities committed against dalits and adivasis in the country even after 56 years of independence.

I would like to present some figures, relevant to the issue. As per the reply given to the USQ No. 1245 on 29.7.2003, U.P. stand first Rajasthan second and Andhra Pradesh third in the crime graph of 1998. In all 25617 crimes took place in the country. In 1999 also U.P. was on top with 6122 incidents of crime while Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh were second and third with incidents of crime of 5623 and 4667 respectively. I avoided giving figures of all States because the number is not so high and it will take much time too, I am therefore, giving figures regarding only these States. In all 25062 incidents of crime took place. The graph is showing an upward trend in the year 2000 too. There have been 7110 incidents of crime in U.P., 5190 incidents in Rajasthan and 4611 incidents took place in Andhra Pradesh. In all 25419 incidents of crime were reported. It is an irony that even after 56 years of independence, every Government has failed to check the atrocities against adivasis, who are along with dalits aborigines of this country. Our adivasi and dalit brothers are very much hurt over it. It is pity that non-adivasis and non-dalits friends think that scheduled tribe people in the country are getting much more through the reservation policy. I am a Member of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Welfare Committee. I have found that nationalised banks and several departments of the Government of India still do not fill the reservation quota. As per the census of 1991, our population has risen to abort 28%. But reservation benefits which we are getting at present is for 22.5% and that too is not being filled. We should get 28% reservation.

20.00 hrs.

Though separate commission have been constituted for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes but not much powers have been delegated to them. Their Reports gather dust and the Government is not worried.

It has been my experience so far that the reports of commissions remain confined to the files of the ministry. It is very sad that those reports are not considered at all.

The funds earmarked for every scheme of the government is not spent. Whatever is done for adivasis and dalits...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Madam want to announce something.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): I want to tell that I just had talks with the Deputy Prime Minister. The discussion on this topic should be completed today itself as the Deputy Prime Minister himself would like to reply to this debate immediately after Question Hour tomorrow.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: All right. Still there are 20 Members to speak on this topic. It will be too late.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Shri Swamiji, today you are intervening...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: Shri Tyagiji will intervene.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Shri Jatiyaji will touch the matter relating to social justice and the hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister will reply to the debate immediately after the Question Hour tomorrow.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Please allot me time to speak tomorrow...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: He is also to make his speech tomorrow.

* ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: My fourth point is that the funds earmarked by the Government for every scheme is not spent. State Governments also do not spend. The schemes formulated by the Union Government and by the State Governments for adivasis and dalits for which loan should be sanctioned by the nationalised banks, the loans are not sanctioned properly. It is very sad. It is the police of the Government to implement the schemes like providing of potable water, electricity and construction of roads first in the dalit and adivasis colonies be they in rural areas or in urban areas but is not done. The factual position is that such schemes if implemented at all are implemented in the adivasis and dalit habitants after they are implemented in other areas. This aspect should also be looked into. The State Governments are also equally accountable for this. This is my suggestion.

Secondly lease for land are not being issued to the adivasis and dalits. In construction of Sardar Sarovar Projects land of adivasis came in the submerge areas and they were assured of allotment of irrigated land for which provision is also there but actually irrigation facility from bardies or borewells has been provided to only four-five families. The Union Government is also accountable for this. When two real brothers cannot cooperate in drawing water from the same well how it can be that four families in different villages share water from one source. This is gross injustice. It is also heard in the electronic media that rehabilitation of the outstees of the Sardar Sarovar Project is going on and agitation in this regard is also going on. Being an adivasi I support that. This should also be heeded to. Water should be provided for irrigation. Dalits and adivasis in the country are also human beings. They too have a right to live with some dignity and it is the responsibility of the Union Government as well as State Governments to ensure them this dignity. But it is not ensured. they are not being allowed to lead life like a human. Atrocities are committed against them and they are discriminated against.

Atrocities against them have not been stopped at all even 56 years after independence...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. We have no time.

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: I have not spoken even for ten minutes as yet. My friend was saying that we do not want to indulge in politics on dalits. Dalits, be they on that side or this side all are one. I think atrocities committed on dalits are atrocities on the entire dalit community. One of the points about reservation is left inadvertently and that point is that some vacancies of judges were to be filled up in Madhya Pradesh and backlog of adivasis was to be filled up in the State. But non-availability of suitable candidates has been cited as the reason of not filling up of the vacancies reserved for adivasis. Such posts are left vacant on this plea and the advocates belonging to upper castes are appointed against the reserved posts. I have heard a number of times here in the House that backlog of dalits in the courts at large scale is not filled up. It is not so that dalit candidates are not available rather they are not appointed. In the nationalised banks and various departments of the Government of India only four five or seven per cent dalits are appointed. Therefore we are in great distress and it is gross economic and social injustice against us. We are also being subjected to injustice from the educational point of view. Just now my friend was saying that NGOs do want to carry out reforms as per our liking and other people who want to improve our lot they get commission from the Government. I would also like to request the Government to ensure economic and social justice to us in this regard. I request the Government to take steps to mitigate atrocities against dalits and adivasis.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN *ALIAS* PAPPU YADAV (Purnea): Madam Chairperson, thank you very much. I would like to thank Shri Ram Vilas Paswan specially for bringing the issue relating to dalits for discussion here in the House. Despite the sacrifices made by Mahatma Buddha, Mahatma Phoole, Swami Viveka Nandji, Ravidasji and Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar since ages and celebrating 50th anniversary of our independence we are standing here in the House to discuss this issue. It is a serious issue and it is certainly a matter of concern for hundred crore people of this country. Hon'ble Shri Ram Vilas Paswanji has said a lot in this regard and I don't want to give figures in this regard. I am sorry to say that discussion do take place here in the House on various issues which we forget with the passage of time say two-four years and virtually we do not take any issue seriously. Discussions do take place but those discussions are not followed up. Even after 56 years of independence the people for whose cause we are standing here to speak have not been able to get food, employment and justice. Not only they have been deprived of food, employment and justice but they have also been deprived of constitutional rights in the country of Gandhiji. Baba Saheb Ambedkar has provided for constitutional rights not only for dalits but also to all irrespective of their languages, cultures and religions. Despite providing for justice for all in the country by such a great personality and despite their population being twenty per cent, they have been deprived of their constitutional rights. It is not

[Shri Rajesh Ranjan *Alias* Pappu Yadav]

the issue of discussion only but certainly we should do something concrete.

Madam, after independence we have entered into the scientific age but we are having a discussion on atrocities here in the House. I belong to Bihar. Bihar is not only the land of Budha but it is also the land of Gautam Budha, Chanakya, Chandra Gupta and it is this very land from where the thought of freedom struggle came to the fore. Despite all this the first massacre took place in the State in which as many as 17 adivasis were burnt alive. That was the very region which I am representing now. You might be remembering that Shrimati Indira Gandhi visited Belchhi in 1977. It is not the only incident to be mentioned. There are a number of such incidents to be referred. Before talking about those incidents I would like to ask one thing whether we will keep on having discussion on such incidents or will we also reach on some concrete conclusion. This question is arising in my mind. I want to know whether the right of living with some dignity will not be given by a handful people to those who made supreme sacrifices by being fore runners in the freedom struggle.

I would like to draw your attention towards the land dispute law in vogue in the country since long. I do not want to go into details of as to what is happening in various parts of the country. Though lease is given to them but they are not given ownership rights. A handful people do not want to give them ownership rights. This question is not related only to dalits and adivasis but it is related to all the weaker sections of the entire country, which certainly feel themselves neglected in this country. Why such situation arises? Till now no government have deemed it proper to take decisions to maintain dignity of dalits and to give them protection. No government till now deemed it proper to maintain social harmony amongst them. The governments till now think it proper to provide them the facility of education, potable water, roads and medical treatment. Advancement of these people cannot be ensured without these basic necessities.

21.15 hrs.

[SHRI P.H. PANDIAN *in the Chair*]

I don't know as to why the previous governments don't think over this basic issue? We are having a debate on this issue but no action is being taken to check it. A great personality like Babu Jagjivan Ram was prevented from entering into the Vishwanath temple in Kashi. Somehow he was able to enter into the temple after which a handful of powerful persons washed the idols in the temple. Why god's humble creatures i.e. weaker people like us have no right to enter into the temples? I am surprised to note that this is going on even after 56 years of independence. I am unable to understand as to why a bridegroom belonging to dalit and adivasi community is beaten up to death by a handful of rich and powerful people of any village for going that village on a horse to solemnize his marriage. The incident of Jhajjar in Haryana and similar incidents which took place in Uttar Pradesh were raised here in the House. A number of such incidents have been cited here figures in respect of which are with Shri Ram Vilas Paswan and which has cited too. I too have figures in respect of such incidents. I want to know from the Government as to how long this will continue? Shri Ramji Lal Suman has said that five to six thousand dalits are murdered in Uttar Pradesh in a year. I would like to inform him that in our State four thousand dalits are murdered in a district in a year...*(Interruptions)* These are the official figures. Sir, I want your protection in this regard.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH (Bikramganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, he is furnishing wrong information....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: When you get your turn, you can reply.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN *ALIAS* PAPPU YADAV: 15 thousand daughters of the dalits were raped there. Such incidents take place in Bihar the government of this State claims itself to be the government of the poors and the dalits. I would like to inform that three year old gird child was snatched from a mother's lap and was stabbed and shot dead...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: I have also got the figures.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: When you get your turn, one member from your side can speak and he can reply to him.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN *ALIAS* PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are a scholar. I want to tell you that their figures are not correct. Ninety percent cases of

atrocities on dalits are not registered in the police stations. 90 percent daughters are raped there. When they go to the police station to lodge their report, they are rebuked and sent back by the Station House Officer without recording their complaint. When the cases are registered...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have taken more time. You have taken 15 minutes so far.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: I have got many things to say but I will conclude very soon. I want to read out within two minutes regarding the nature of situation prevailing there. Incidents of massacre of the dalits have occurred in Roopsapur, Bailchhi, Parasbigha, Pipra, Kaithibigha, Baji, Arwal, Kansara, Gaini, Noonhi-Nagwan, Doomohnha Kharari, Danwar-Bihta, Kesari, Malwariya, Tiskhora, Devsanhiyara, Wathani Tola, Haibspur, Lakshmanpur Bathe, Shankarbigha, Dharampur, Brahampur, Samhata, Gaganbigha, Kodariya, Nikhrail, Nagri Bojpur, Roohmeen, Shahar Chaksara, Nai Basti, Bhabhoa, Binsa, Fatuha Panth Pokhri, Panchrukhiya, Miuanpur, Mataura Datmai, Rosra, Mushari (Siwan), Narayanpur, Ankuri, Nadi, Godrama (Saharsa) Jiradai, Belaganj, Harlakhi, Vishnupur, Sangrampur (Saran) Benipatti (Madhubani) and Turi (Gaya).

I would like to state that I do not want to quote Haryana and Maharashtra but it is true that law was enacted to prevent untouchability and decision was taken to implement this law but now there are thousands of cases involving untouchability in this country. Now if you visit the country from Andhra to Maharashtra, Haryana-Punjab to Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh-Bihar to Gujarat, you will find that the disease of untouchability has spread its wings throughout the country. In a country of Gandhi and Ambedkar this is not an issue to be argued rather it requires serious concern. I do not want to level any charge against any government but my context is enough to touch the inner core of any individual. I am going to Bikramganj area for election campaigning tomorrow and Shrimati Kanti Singh ji is aware of it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, during the previous years, the number of dalit women raped in Bihar is 745 in the year 1990, 639 in 1991, 819 in 1992, 775 in 1993, 830 in 1994, 1034 in 1995, 1209 in 1996, 1318 in 1997, 1305 in 1998, 1395 in 1999. I do not want to speak about Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat. I only want to draw your attention towards the basic things. I would like to tell about the cases disposed of by the courts during the previous years. The number of the cases registered is 1,47,340. Out of them 30011 cases were disposed of, there are 1677 cases wherein the accused were convicted and 23334 cases wherein the accused were acquitted of the charge and 1,16,239 cases are lying pending. Is it the country which we dreamt of? Is it the country for which we achieved freedom devoid of our rights. What is the reason that MCC, PWG are gaining their ground and spreading their influence? People of weaker sections are joining such organisations. We will have to understand everyone with true spirit. What happens with the daughter, mother and sister of a poor man. His family members go to sleep empty bellied and they do not get even a piece of loaf to eat.

Mr. Chairman, it is in the year 1929 when Baba Saheb Ambedkar had visited Ratnagiri. Then he had clearly told not to accept slavery. In India, there are 85 per cent poor, weak and dalit people who have never been paid any attention. You might remember that ten days back, I had raised the issue of harassment of Adivasis in Purnia district.

In that district, daughters of Adivasis were raped. Adivasis were burnt alive. If we want to stop all these things, then we will have to come forward with self-respect and the entire House will have to fight together and it is only then that a solution could be found out to do away with this menace...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Pappu Yadav, kindly resume your seat. Your speech is concluded now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Dalit Ezhilmalai.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Dalit Ezhilmalai.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Dalit Ezhilmalai, please start your speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

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*Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Pappu Yadav, please take your seat. Whatever you are speaking now, is not going on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Pappu Yadav, though you are an Independent MP, I have given you enough time. Now, please take your seat.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN *ALIAS* PAPPU YADAV: Sir, I am not an Independent. I am from a 5-Member group.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Even 5-Member group would not have got more than five minutes. Even a Member from 11-Member group would get only six minutes.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, please take your seat.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI (Tiruchirapalli): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank, you very much for giving me an opportunity to participate in this important discussion. Our hon. brother Shri Ram Vilas Paswan has very nicely initiated the discussion...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, it is already 8.30 p.m. now. This is one of the important issues being taken up for discussion today after several postponements.

Sir, this is again an interesting subject which concerns every conscientious person of this country, those who are conscientious about the happenings, the political developments and the developments in the social events. It is something that the entire world is now looking at the Indian Parliament. About 25 per cent of *dalits* and ten per cent of tribals put together that comes to 35 per cent of the total population of this country, day in and day out, are facing many problems in their lives. Our esteemed brothers Shri Ram Vilas Pawan and Shri Basu Deb Acharia have rightly given notices on this very important subject. The issue concerns *dalits*, and tribal brothers and sisters.

Sir, I do not have any statistics, figures, incidents and the instances involving the atrocities on *dalits* throughout the country. 'Atrocity' is itself a word that is very atrocious in its meaning. But atrocities on *dalits* are an occurrence, which are going on day in and day out in this country. As very rightly elucidated by our esteemed brother Shri Pravin Rashtrapal, it is going on for centuries, if not thousands of years. What is the reason for this? He has very clearly narrated the reason. The reason is not the political parties—neither the Ruling Party nor the Principal Opposition Party or any political group—it is certainly and very surely the system that governs a society. The value system of this country is based on ascending order of reverence and descending order of contempt. There is nowhere in the world, in the human life of any society, such a heinous system is being practised. But out of 110 crore of people of this country, at least, 35 per cent are facing these atrocities every day in their lives.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, some surveys say that in every second, in this country, at least 100 women are being raped. In every minute, in this country, 100 men, whether in their fields, in the police lock-up, on the road, or anywhere, are being killed...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think Dr. Sushil Kumar Indora wants to say something.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can continue your speech.

...(Interruptions)

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to say something. There is a lady Member from our party. I would request you that she may be given priority to speak...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: She will speak whenever she gets a chance. She may have to wait.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, I was telling you that in a minute at least 100 men are being killed in India. Today, on an average, in our country, at least, 1000 huts, *jhuggies* and *jhopad paties* are wiped out, evicted and absolutely burnt down. These are the nature of things that are happening around us. What is the reason for this? Why is it happening? As my friend was telling you, articles 14, 15, 16, 16(4), 330, 332, 335, 338 and 342, are very much in the Constitution even today. Somebody has said that our Constitution is a sacred book on which the country is being ruled.

The four pillars of this democracy rest on this very Constitution. But the Constitution is very much violated in every incident, in every occurrence, in every happening, in our lives every day. Why is it happening? Who is violating it? Who is trespassing it? Who is not recognising

*Not recorded.

the Constitution? It is the very people who have the value systems, who think that they are upper castes and others are lower castes. The society is based on the caste system; it is like the ladder system. It is the *verna* system on which the society is based and the value system is being recognised.

So, our friend was suggesting that no single party is responsible, not a single party, leave along any ideological group. So, it is the common responsibility of the community as a whole. I would only appeal through you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, to see that the maker of the Constitution or the Father of the Constitution, Dr. Ambedkar himself said that if the legislation or the parliamentary enactments are not recognised by the majority of the people, then what is the use of that. He said that it would be a wastepaper. This is what he said. He laboured for several days and months to produce the Constitution. He himself said that we had built a temple, a beautiful temple, and a democratic temple. But unfortunately in a democratic temple, devils have taken possession and devils have entered; it is now for us to drive out the devils and protect the temple. That is the question.

In the caste based value system, there are bound to be atrocities, there are bound to be killings and there are bound to be rapes because these people are indigenous people. These people are the original inhabitants of this land. The indigenous people, being indigenous, are at the receiving end. It is not an exception to this country; it is happening everywhere in the world. We also see simultaneously that the indigenous people are getting up, the level of their consciousness is coming up and they are getting together. They are also collecting together, they are organising themselves, and they are facing a crisis with whatever power they have.

Our friend Shri Pravin Rashtrapal was referring to 'great men', 'very great men', etc. That is *paramathma*, *mahathma*, *dharmathma*, etc. So, several *athmas* have come. Dr. Ambedkar himself says that *mahatmas* have come and *mahatmas* have gone, but no one is immortal. But the level of untouchables, the level of *dalits*, the level of Tribals remained the same. The *mahathmas* could raise the dust, but not the level of people. That is the judgement of Dr. Ambedkar. Therefore, there was one party and one person in his country to identify and blame. The conscious people, the people who know the history, they are very well aware who are those persons; I do not want to refer to them because again people will take exception to that. But I am not opposed to anybody; I am not blaming anybody.

That is why, in my very opening sentence, I said that it is a common issue concerning the whole country, concerning about 35-40 per cent of the population.

Someone was telling about atrocities on women. The incidents are from Belchi, Paras Bigha, Madhavpur, Sajan, Jhajjar; incidents are being reported from these places. How many incidents are reported? It is very few only; they are being collected and the statistics are prepared by the Government.

Why were those violations taking place? Those violations are part of the value-based system. The caste system is a chamber of horror. Untouchables and the *dalits* are bound to offer their labour without any wages, without asking for anything. They are being told that it is their *karma*; it is their fate. If it is the fate of the untouchables to offer their labour without any charge, then what is the fate of the other people?

What is written in their *karma*? What is written on their forehead? It is to be tested. A day will come and on the day of judgement, all these things will be settled. What, actually, these people want? Why are there these atrocities? Why are there these killings? Why the *dalit* women are not allowed to live an honurable life? It is a question that has to be considered by the conscious people. I am appealing to the conscious people and not the unconscious men and women of this country. The conscious people will at least realise that a woman is a woman.

You have so much of love for the animals. There are animals' clubs. There are tree-lovers' and river-lovers' clubs. There are organisation and associations in these regards but there is no organisations or association to stand for the welfare or protection of *dalits*. Why is this happening? These are all bound to happen because these people are determined to demand, determined to reclamation of human personality and nothing else. Shri Chauhan was referring that while we are putting on new clean clothes and shining shoes, that itself gives a heart burning.

Why is there this heart burning? It is continuing for several centuries and it is bound to continue because these people are determined to reclaim the lost human rights, nothing less and nothing more. The *dalits* and the tribals in this country demand to live a decent dignified life. If the free Indian Constitution assures that everybody is equal, then this quality is to be extended to these indigenous people. This is their demand. There comes the friction and, therefore, there is atrocity, violence,

[Shri Dalit Ezhilmalai]

beating and burning. It is very simple. It will not end on its own.

Chairman, Sir, we have faced enough caste wars. There have been caste wars in a very progressive State like Maharashtra. Maharashtra was such a blessed land where a number of prophets and social reformers had come up. For example, Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, Prabodhkar Kakade, Baba Saheb Ambedkar, Chhatrapati Sahuji Maharaj and a number of other great reformers have come up from Maharashtra. But in the same Maharashtra, it took 14 years just to rename a university. And, in doing so, many people lost their lives and many jhuggi-jhonparpattis were wiped out overnight in the Marathwada University affair. It was simply a case of renaming the university. Do you know, Chairman, Sir, that dogs are named after universities? Pet animals are being named after certain Government Institutions. It is happening everywhere because the animals happen to be the pets of somebody and that is why they have been recognised and the name is extended to them. But, not Baba Saheb Ambedkar.

As you know very well, Baba Saheb Ambedkar was not just a scholar. He was not simply an eminent scholar, a legal luminary or something else but he was an anthropologist, a historian, a Constitutionalist and he has many more decorations. Therefore, the caste war that began in 1977 in Maharashtra went on for 14 years. the next caste war was fought on the Gandhi's land, Gujarat. That caste war was fought on reservation. Who gave reservation? Who wanted reservation?

Dalits never wanted reservation. Dr. Ambedkar never asked for reservation. Shri Shivraj Patil is sitting here. He is very much aware of the history of reservation. What Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar wanted in 1932 was something else. In the Round Table Conference, his very demand was different. That was called communal award and the British Government conceded it. Again, someone opposed it. If the untouchables are given this much recognition, then everything, every onslaught, every atrocity and the slavery itself will be closed overnight. Slavery, once for all, will be over. With that intention it was opposed. Baba Saheb had to single-handedly face the crisis at that time and a compromise formula was brought in. That was the reservation formula. It was Shri Madan Mohan Malavia, Shri Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, and Shri Rajagopalachari who advanced this compromising formula of reservation. Dalits never wanted reservation. It was a kind of mercy. Therefore, after 50 years of Independence, several Governments and several Prime Ministers have seen to it that reservation is completely diluted. There is no longer reservation. Now, the principal Opposition Party says that they have started a dialogue to bring in reservation in the private sector. Why is it happening? It is because there is virtually no reservation anywhere in the Government sector. There is no employment in the Government sector. This is the order of the day. Therefore, second caste war was fought on the issue of reservation which the *dalits* never wanted. Even today no reservation in any sector was implemented hundred per cent. It is not done in any Department of Government of India or the State Governments. There were Prime Ministers who vowed and promised to do it. One of them said that by 31st March, a Special Drive would be started to recruit the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to ensure that the backlog is cleared. Right from Murarji Government to the Congress Governments, it is being promised. Of course, the Congress Governments were not sincere in their efforts. It is known to the whole world. But it includes non-Congress Prime Ministers also including the present Prime Minister. When we met Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee last time—Dr. Saroja was also there—we asked him whether he is just promising like other Prime Ministers. He kept quiet. He did not say anything. The Prime Ministers in the past, at least, promised and forgot. If he had promised, we would have included his name also in the type of Prime Ministers who promised and forgot. Here 'we' means 35 per cent population of this country. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee kept quiet and he was not even prepared to make a promise, forget about implementation or doing something. That is the position of the day. Therefore, the second caste war started in Gujarat which ended with completely diluting the reservation system in the whole country. There is no reservation actually. Dr. Bikram Sarkar was an IAS Officer. He worked with the Ministry of Home Affairs. He knows all these things. I do not want to go into details. Today the reservation is a farce as far as dalits are concerned. It exists nowhere.

Now, a trend has developed. Some Acts and the rules are there as per the provisions of the Constitution. There is an Act called—Prevention of Atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Act. The manner in which it had been drafted and enacted, it is a very wonderful and nice legislation. But it is seldom implemented anywhere. But some people are demanding withdrawal of this very legislation. It has not come to the level of implementation. It has not come into full force but simply available on paper and they are asking for its withdrawal.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are thousands of cases filed all over India.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Sir, I am talking about the country as a whole. There are parties in Parliament today which are determined to demand the withdrawal of this Act. It is surprising.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, therefore, atrocities on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are bound to increase. They will not stop because the issue has been raised at Geneva; it is not because of the reason that the problems faced by the untouchables have been raised at a forum like the United Nations; it is not because of the reason that an international conference under the aegies of the UN is being organised at Durban and neither it is for the reason that a conference was recently held at Vancouver, Canada. The hon. Chief Minister of Bhopal made a Bhopal Declaration. He was kind enough to make a declaration about bringing in a parity in awarding contracts, giving a share in land and giving a share in certain things. He was kind enough to at least declare this on paper. This is being discussed in various seminars and conferences.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the matter does not end there. In the State of Tamil Nadu there has been empowerment of the dalits and empowerment of women, particularly, the twice discriminated *dalit* women. High school-going young dalit girls are being provided bicycles. A dalit in his village cannot put on a chappal and walk on the road. Is it any news for anybody today? It is the order of the day. A dalit cannot draw water from a common well in a village. A dalit cannot carry a dead body on the main road of the village. All these things are happening.

Sir, in the State of Tamil Nadu, Periyar, the great reformer of the 20th century, throughout his life, fought for the eradication of the social evils.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already taken 25 minutes. You should have started first with Tamil Nadu and then should have talked about the rest of the country.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Sir, had I started with Tamil Nadu, you would have stopped me. Anyway, I will stop at that. I will not trespass and bypass your orders.

Sir, the actions of Periyar were more radical and violent. There was none equal to Periyar in the Southern part. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar became his very close friend. Periyar was from a very conservative and superstitious land. But as soon as the Periyar movement emerged on the scene, the entire Southern India looked up to him for leadership. He said 'light a candle instead of cursing darkness.' He said, 'light a candle and drive out darkness.' He stood by his promise and worked on that till his last breath.

Then we found Anna, his disciple. After Anna we found the mass leader, Dr. MGR. Dr. MGR was able to mobilize the common people the rural people, the uneducated common masses. He became the darling of the masses. As long as he was there in power, for a period of 11 years, there was not one single incident of atrocities, bickering and clashes in Tamil Nadu. The period when Dr. MGR was ruling was the glorious time for Tamil Nadu. After him, we found the *Puratchi Thalaivi* Amma. She started looking down the line and identified the people who were never spoken about. She picked up and identified those people. The only crisis for the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu is financial. She has started this scheme of giving bicycles to school-going *dalit* young girls. She has started helping the poor people at the grassroot level.

Therefore, the reforming work begun by the great Periyar is now coming to the stage of implementation at all levels; in every sphere and in every sector.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have taken half-an-hour.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Mr. Chairman Sir, it is now time for me to conclude.

Coming back to the issue of atrocities on *dalits*, to wind up my speech, Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar cautioned us that these people are not listening to our warning and are not seeing the writing on the wall. We are 35 per cent of the population. We find that numerically the largest number of *dalits*, the concentration of *dalits* are in Punjab. Punjab is an egalitarian and a highly developed State. But unfortunately, from there we found in recent times differences, clashes, atrocities, fighting over God and temple had been reported.

Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar said that if the temple is closed, it is okay, where is the need for me to agitate for that. Gurudwaras, Masjids and Churches are open. These are meant for the people to worship. People can go there and offer their worship. If the temples are closed, it is okay; it is not meant for human beings, there is no need to agitate for that. That was the statement of Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar. The lost rights are never regained by begging. The lost rights of the indigenous people, the

[Shri Dalit Ezhilmalai]

lost rights of our ancestors, the lost rights of the natives of this country are never regained by begging, but by constant struggle. The struggle is going on. Of course, there are several organisations, several leaders, several political parties, several formations and several governments. Even with all of them, nothing is happening.

If something happens, that will be very good. If nothing happens, then that is not in the interest of the country and the unity of the nation.

DR. BIKRAM SARKAR (Panskura): Mr. Chairman Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to take part in the discussion on atrocities on dalits in different parts of India.

We have been discussing this subject for the last five hours. It would have been much better if we had a larger number of hon. Members present in the House. Be that as it may, this being a very important subject, which has been brought by my hon. senior colleague Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, nearly fifteen people have participated so far in it.

While talking about atrocities on dalits, I should start by saying that if we have to find the cause of these atrocities, we would see that wherever and whenever *dalits*, and people belonging to SCs and STs try to assert their rights, which are given to them not as a charity, but as Constitutional right and by different Acts of Parliament, atrocities are committed on them. It is because the non-*dalits* think that they have a right to exploit the *dalits*, which they have been doing for millennium. The result is that when these rights are given to the *dalits*, and people belonging to SCs and STs by the Constitution itself, they get angry and annoyed.

I have had the occasion of working as a Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs for five years in the early 1980s. I had the opportunity of dealing with this particular subject. It was a good opportunity to see what was happening all over India.

21.00 hrs.

We are reminded by Shri Ram Vilas Paswan about what Dr. B.R. Ambedkar said on 26th November, 1949. Political independence is not enough. It has to be added with social independence and economic independence. These three are interrelated and interlinked, and unless you have all the three clubbed together, it would be meaningless. How true and relevant it is today is understood by certain facts!

I would not go into statistics. Let me look at who are these dalits and what is their position. If you look at the landless agricultural labourers, bonded labourers and generally the people below the poverty line in India, you would find that the largest number of them are *dalits*. This is as far as rural areas are concerned. In urban areas, you will find them as slum dwellers and people who are engaging themselves in unclean occupations. If you look at the instances of poverty among them and compare it with the instances of poverty among the non-*dalits*, you will find that it is just double in the case of *dalits*. If it is 20 per cent in general, it is about 50 per cent in the case of SCs and STs. This difference has been continuing in spite of the fact that so many schemes and projects, plans after plans, are being brought for ameliorating the conditions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

21.01 hrs.

[DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

In the late 1970s we started with the Special Component Plan for the Scheduled Castes and Tribal Sub-Plan for the Scheduled Tribes and later on, the special Central assistance was added to them. The States were directed by the Central Government to earmark a portion of the funds every year from the Annual Plan for the development of Scheduled Castes. I have seen that, in the period of five years between 1982-87, the State Governments or even the Central Ministries have shown their mindset of not allotting much of money and it was always the same amount of "cheating" the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Even if they have allotted a certain amount under the Special Component Plan or Tribal Sub-Plan, a larger part of it was either diverted or not spent. If you look at the Plan documents and the evaluation of the First Five Year Plan right up to the Ninth Five Year Plan, you will find a mention of the same thing repeated over years in every Plan saying that the money which was supposed to bring in development of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes had been diverted by the States or it had not been utilised. Why is it so? It was because there was no monitoring or there was poor monitoring. It may be that there was something seriously wrong in the system of monitoring itself.

Much has been said about land reforms in the country. It is a State subject. I had the opportunity of dealing with it almost to the extent of specialising it—which people say, I do not know. I have seen that, in certain States, it made a very good progress. For

example, in West Bengal, it made a good progress. But what has happened? The land which was distributed to the landless agricultural labourers, among whom most of them were SCs and STs, was taken back. In the last ten years, they have been taken back. The sharecroppers have been recorded and registered. But those registers are now becoming useless. The reverse process has started in West Bengal. Regarding the atrocities committed on them, without going into much of the statistics—I know quite a lot of it—I can say that my good friend, Shri Acharia was saying that for certain years, like 1998, 1999 and 2000, the number of atrocities reported by the State Government was zero, zero and zero.

I can say that this is a great suspect in the sense that in the year 2000 or 2001, the number is four whereas the States have been doing it for a long time. In other States, they have been reporting it. There is an incident of under-reporting. There is no doubt about it. But so far as West Bengal is concerned, it has crossed all the limits. If you take the incident of Nannur killings, the Scheduled Caste people and the minorities had been butchered. That was not recorded. Like that, in Keshpur, in Goghat and in other places in West Bengal, those things are not recorded. It is such a condition that even if you go to record, it is not recorded. It was reported a few days back that a Sub-Inspector of Kolkata Police had gone to register a case. He has some land in a district. He went to the officer in charge of that district and wanted to register the FIR. He was kicked out. It is so because the entire thing has been taken care of and controlled by the local committee of the Communist Party. This is the situation. I wish I had my friends present here to hear this.

I was looking at the documents. Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu are the different States which are at the top of the list. These are the top five States where the number of atrocities has been registered in large numbers. As I said, whenever there is an assertion on the part of the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe people to get their due share which has been promised and assured in the Constitution itself, there are atrocities committed on them. It is so in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and everywhere.

Coming to the next question of reservation of Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe people in recruitment, I would like to say that apart from IAS, IPS and All-India Services, in all cadres except scavengers and the Class-IV employees, the number of vacancies is continuing for years. This is the position. Even in the State Civil Services also, the number of vacancies continues. There is an attempt every time to de-reserve the whole thing. If you look at the public sector undertakings, it is still worse. In banks, it is the same condition. It is said that after disinvestment, the Government undertakings would go to the private sector people. The Government would throw up their hands in despair and say: "Sorry, we cannot do anything about it."

I have got one more observation to make. All the private sector undertakings, without any exception, get money from the public sector banks. Even if you look at the best of the companies, it is funded by the public sector banks. If that be so, then it is the public money that is going to be invested there. So, it is absolutely necessary to find a way of reservation in the private sector undertakings as well.

I have come across cases where the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe employees are subjected to maltreatment by the general caste seniors. When you talk of promotion, there is no reservation. Or, wherever reservation is there, it is not being implemented because there is a tendency on the part of the non-dalit senior officers to spoil the ACRs of the *dalit* people so that they do not get promotion. I am saying this from my personal experience. Even on the last Independence Day, a Scheduled Caste sarpanch was punished or hit with shoes by the higher caste people. Do you know what was his fault? His fault was that he had shown the temerity and courage to hoist the National Flag on the Independence Day.

If this is the situation in the country today, even after 56 years of Independence, I do not know how things are going to change.

Then, we give very scant respect to the Reports of the National Commission on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Shri Rashtrapal has mentioned about it. We have been mentioned it in a religious fashion almost in every Session but those things were not discussed. I would request the Government to give due care to bring all these things for discussion so that the recommendations made by those National Commissions are implemented.

Sir, lastly, I will conclude by saying that the Home Ministry is scared or they are busy with the Naxalite movements and different groups of extremists in the country. We find the most of these groups in Bihar, Tamil Nadu and part of West Bengal are populated by the

[Shri Bikram Sarkar]

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who have been driven out of the society. They are being tortured. Their women, their sisters and daughters are also tortured. Therefore, I have got one suggestion to make at this stage that when you look at the atrocities on the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, it is necessary to find the root cause as to why it is so and the root cause is discrimination. Howsoever, we may say that discrimination is not being done, it is reflected in all these things.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (Arrah): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this issue. Dalits are not able to enjoy the rights in reality given by the Constitution. It's a big blot. The great thinkers of India, Baba Saheb Ambedkar and others, great social reformers and politicians had expressed their views in this regard. Gandhiji used to talk about the upliftment of dalits. This issue used to came up for discussion even after independence and today also we discuss this issue. Shri Paswan tried hard to bring this issue to the House for discussion. I feel that dalits are backward socially, economically, politically and educationally. And for these reasons, these poor people have been harassed for centuries. They are mentally weak too and their morale is sagging. I would humbly like to call upon the dalits to rise to the occasion and strengthen themselves and take a resolve to fight injustice and crimes against them. And they will have to became mentally strong, only then they could get their rights. This is said that 'Vir Bhogyo Vasundhara' i.e. only the brave enjoy on this earth. Since dalits are economically, socially and mentally backward, hence crimes are perpetrated on them. Ram Vilas Paswan ji has just said although they have been given rights and reservation but they are not getting their due. The matter of Group 'D' employees came up for discussion and it was said that they were not getting their rights. I would also remind, Ram Vilas Bhai is also sitting here, I remember we staged a dharna once for making provision of reservation in the judiciary. But reservation has not been provided in the judiciary so far. We discuss this issue in the House and outside also. We hold demonstrations also. But dalits have not been provided reservation in the judiciary as yet. This is the reason why I say that who will dispense them justice in the judiciary. On the other hand, it is the judiciary which paves the way for their rights in every matter. As long as they do not get reservation in the judiciary, I believe that they are not going to get justice from the judiciary.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Jhajjar issue came up here for discussion. As for giving punishment to the people found guilty, they did not get justice from the judiciary. The penal procedure through which we could safeguard their interests, they have not been provided reservation in that. So, we cannot give punishment to the criminals. Therefore, I would like to urge upon this House and the Ministers to persuade the Government to give them reservation in the judiciary also. Otherwise they are not going to get justice.

Some hon. Members were referring to the figures related to crimes against dalits. Some friends highlighted crime in Bihar. Just now an hon. Member furnished the figures. I also quote the figures for the year 1999 in which Bihar ranks at the eight place. Even then they name Bihar time and again. Whereas Rajasthan ranks first, Uttar Pradesh is at second place and Madhya Pradesh where you hail from is at third place. Bihar ranks at the eighth place, even then they refer to our State "Yah Katl Bhi Karte Hein to Charcha Nahin hoti, hum aah bhi bharte hein to hum badnam ho jate hein". We founded a law university for dalits in Bihar. They are backward educationally, hence we also founded the Birsa Munda college. We gave due representation to dalits in the cabinet. We gave the representation to a woman of Falautia caste in the Government whose vocation is reaping harvest. Dome, is the last unit of dalits, we also gave them representation. Even then they take the name of our State. Bihar has had a glorious past because a great history. Bihar has been more active in the process of social justice. The name of Bihar State which the hon. Members are referring to, was this very State which Gandhiji, Jai Prakashji, Mahatma Buddha and Jain followers chose. After all, what Bihar stands for? Why all of them chose it? And you people look down upon Bihar. Be it Bhojpuri culture or be it Darbhangia culture, all people live there in harmony. If you go through the figures of the year 2000, Bihar ranks tenth followed by Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa. Tribals live in Orissa. Our friend Pappu Yadav was furnished wrong figures. the figures which I have, are not mine, these bear the Parliament's reference. Therefore, I want to make this clear.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, actually we do not want it from the bottom of our heart. Then we can make an Act and this is our will-power. We legislate laws just for the sake of it. But we do not have any real feelings for dalits in our hearts. The day we start feeling for dalits in our hearts and in this House, there will be no crimes against them from that very day onwards. If we start feeling for

a half-clad dalit, a child living in a jhopri, a dalit sleeping under the open sky, only then we can realize their condition. They are very weak economically. It is a dalit who is working in fields and factories and workshops despite so much of economic prosperity. Who carries the night soil? It is a dalit. Even today, most of the agricultural labourers are dalits. In terms of population democracy is a system of independence where heads are only counted and not evaluated, they constitute quite the largest number. There are only 8 or 4 percent people who are socially, economically and educationally strong. But they could not make it to Parliament. We misbehave with them even today and do not give them their due place. Their emotion would have been different, had his democracy not been there.

Baba Saheb Ambedkar had said—'The exploitation of dalit has its origin in the Hindu scriptures which are as a milestone in manifestation of society's miserable condition'. In his book titled 'Jati Anuched', Dr. Ambedkar has held those poor Hindus responsible who believe in caste-discrimination. They do not believe in caste-discrimination because they are suffering from some mental disorders but because of their religion which is so dear to them which compels them to believe in caste-discrimination. So, these scriptures are solely responsible for this which have moulded their mindset in such a mould.

These were the views of B.R. Ambedkar whom we adore and whose statue we have installed in the Parliament premises. It was he who had said all these things. That is why we hold him in high esteem. He had held Hindu scriptures mainly responsible for the crimes against dalits. What I want to say is that everything has its limits. Say, a sea has its limits, the sky has its limits, a jail has its boundary-walls. But the crimes perpetrated on dalits seems to have no limits. It is endless. The entire system needs overhauling. We will have to imbibe to sense of respect and honour for them. If we will give them their due place, only then we can remove this discrimination. A law alone cannot bring about this change. We do have laws, but where is the power of executing them? Where are they given rights? It's matter of change in mindset. We should strive for achieving this thing. We should follow the path of humanity. We should respect dalits and take care of their interests. There was a time when we were struggling against Englishmen. Muslims were demanding Pakistan. It was the rumour then that B.R. Ambedkar might also demand a separate Harijan Sthan. But he should faith and honour for the country and sacrificed his demand. Baba Saheb whom we adore so much. You people look down upon him. That is not good for the harmony of the society and that is also not going to stop atrocities on dalits.

I want to remind dalits that in this democratic set up constitute largest in number out of total population. If you want to break the barriers, then do not tolerate injustice and atrocities against you. Be prepared to give a fight and this is the process of democracy that one who fights against crimes, misconduct, gets one's rights and in turn gets strengthened socially and educationally also. And such a person succeeded in achieving his or her rights. I, therefore, want to remind this House that if you do not want to give them rights, a war might break out and that has already broken out. I remember that Jagjivan Babu had once said that if after drinking water, a thought comes to your mind as to in whose House you drank the water and after eating food, a thought comes to your mind as to in whose House you ate the food, them its not a good thing. Jagjivan ji had said in a meeting at Sasaram that he was removed from the Congress in the Kamraj Plan. He also said that there was a time when dalits were used to be killed after barging into their homes.

Sir, their rights used to be usurped and they were not given their dues but now the time has changed. Today, at least nobody dares to barge into a dalit's house to kill him. Although crimes are committed against dalits and they are also killed even today but a sense of resistance against crimes has been created in them. This sense of resistance shows that they are getting strength. Therefore, I would like this House to seriously consider on this issue and they should be allowed to enjoy the rights provided by our Constitution.

Sir, finally I want to say that although they have been provided reservation in the Government jobs but they have not been provided reservation in private companies. The Government is on a disinvestment spree but no new industries are being set up in the public sector. This is the reason that employment opportunities for them are shrinking. Therefore, it is my submission that there should be provision of reservation for them in private companies also. There should be good arrangements in place to improve the education of dalits also. There should be arrangements for providing food to the children of the poor dalits. When they will become physically and mentally strong, only then we can put an end to crimes being committed against them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot.

[English]

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: Sir, the major parties have already spoken and given their views. Please give chance to us also...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, our women colleagues have been waiting for long. I request you to give them opportunity first...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, please give me also a chance to speak...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I too have been waiting for long. Please give me also a chance. What goes against me is that I am a disciplined person and always speak from my seat itself. Are you punishing me for that?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, atrocities have been committed against dalits in this country for thousands of years...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is no arrangement for food. We and the entire staff is sitting hungry. Discussions on the atrocities on dalit does not mean that we and the staff should work with empty stomach....*(Interruptions)*

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. Chairman, Sir, earlier it was decided that the House will sit upto 0630 PM but the time was extended later on. It takes some time to prepare food. An early information is required to be given for arrangement of food. Since the time has been extended without prior notice, no order could be placed for arrangement of food...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this country had been witnessed atrocities on dalits for centuries...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI (Kurukshetra): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have been waiting for my turn for long. Please give me also a chance to speak....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I could have given a chance had there been only one woman member, but there are a number of women members sitting here. Hence they can be allowed to speak only when their turn comes. Please take your seat.

SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is for the first time the men have spoken in favour of women. I, therefore, request that all the women willing to speak should be allowed...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Hon. Chairman, Sir, this country had been witnessing atrocities against SCs, STs and dalits for thousand of years. They have been subjected to exploitation and untouchability. But at the same time it is also a fact that there were some classes in the society during the same period who have worked for the upliftment of these classes of people. Such efforts have been made in pre-independence period and post independence period as well and this is still going on. A number of distinguished persons in the country have tried their best for upliftment of dalits. They include Lokmanya Gangadhar Tilak, Dayanand Saraswati, Mahatma Gandhi. After independence many great persons like Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar, the architect of the modern constitution, Deen Dayal Upadhyay and Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia etc. have made laws to mete out justice towards dalits. They have not only made direct efforts for giving justice to dalits by making laws but also have made several laws for protecting the interests of dalits, which, however, could not be implemented properly.

There is utmost need for compliance of this law. Before my speech, many of the honourable members have cited extracts and examples from the answers to the questions asked in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and stated as to which of the States had witnessed the most of the incidents of atrocities against these classes of people. They have also cited statistics of these incidents but I don't want to go into the details, however, I would still like to mention that there are ten to eleven such States which have witnessed most of the criminal incidents against dalits which mainly include Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh. If I have to mention the names of the States—registering more than one thousand incidents these States include the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and even smaller States like Kerala. Even smaller States are seeing a lot of such incidents and this is the most literate State. This is quite unfortunate that no statistics is provided in response to questions asked either in Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha in regard to West Bengal. The reply comes as 'Zero-Zero' and ultimately it would be mentioned as 'Not Available'. These kind of information is available here. I

have visited West Bengal not once but several times and in my opinion such incidents are a common thing in that State too. I am not asking as to which State had seen how many incidents? What I am asking is that what is the State of compliance of the existing laws which is the key factor to determine whether criminal incidents are increasing or decreasing.

Sir, I would like to cite an example of Madhya Pradesh. Just now some of the members have stated that dalit agenda had been issued, but whatever incidents have occurred there, the Government must take action thereon. Occurrence of crimes is immaterial, it is not possible that it could be controlled one Government or the other. What is material is that if laws governing conviction of the criminals after commission of the crime are implemented honestly, this would certainly satisfy the society, be it a person from dalit community or anyone else, otherwise it would send a signal that atrocities and injustice are on the consistent increase. There is a Rajgarh district in Madhya Pradesh which is the constituency of Chief Minister's brother. There is a village named Chuvalia in that district. The villagers of this village stripped a dalit woman belonging to S.C. community and paraded her naked through the lanes of the village before tying her to a electric pole with ropes. A large number of people gathered at the scene, and she became a subject of entertainment. The persons who were actively involved in the inhuman conduct with her asked her husband to insert his penis into her mouth and pass urine. On her husband's refusal to do so he was forcibly made to insert his penis into her mouth and pass urine. During that period I was a Member of Legislative Assembly of M.P. and when the issue was raised in the Assembly, the reply of the then Government was negative saying that no such incident had occurred there. On facing stiff opposition the Government had appointed an inquiry commission under the Chairmanship of Shri Bhagirath Prasad a senior IAS officer to look into this incident and the commission submitted it's report. The issue that was raised in the Assembly was found to be true in letter and spirit. The report confirmed the incident and gave details of the accused persons alongwith recommendations for action against these persons.

Sir, I want to tell the House with a heavy heart that no action was taken by the Government against the accused. The present Government of Madhya Pradesh had been in power for the last ten years. Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan had registered most criminal incidents after Uttar Pradesh. If we see this with an angle of population, Rajasthan is ahead of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. A dalit agenda had been issued there. I am reading out what has been written on page No. 38-39 of the agenda, I am also reading it out because this will reveal the mental framework of the Government there. It runs—'O dalits! If you are interested in your goodness and upliftment, quit Hindu religion once for all'. Now you tell me whether this could be a duty of the Government? I think that you all will agree with me that no Government need to give this type of statement or opinion. Duties of the Government do not include compliance of such duties but to do their best to find solution to social, economic, political and other types of problems. To preach someone that you can never prosper until you quit Hindu religion, is not proper. I am of the view that expression of such views...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Sir, I am on a point of order...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, is this the correct way of dealing with it?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: If you direct, I am ready to place that book duly attested under my own signatures on the table of the House...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: You are creating nuisance outside the House as well as inside.

[English]

It is because of these speeches, society is divided...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: I have not brought that book today. Sir, if you direct I would lay it on the table of the House right tomorrow duly certified by me. I am referring to the page numbers. This dalit agenda has been issued by the Government...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I promise you that we will be moving a breach of privilege against you and give you an opportunity to prove it....*(Interruptions)*

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

[Translation]

Your views are coming on the table, you are laying your views on the table; what do you have in your mind?...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, he had uttered an unparliamentary term in his speech, the same therefore be expunged from the proceedings...(Interruptions)

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: If the Chair permits, I am ready to lay the Dalit Agenda on the table of the House and if it is found to be untrue, I am ready to undergo the punishment awarded by the Chair, whatsoever. I am ready to lay it on the table of the House...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Which Government had stated this...(Interruptions)

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: The Government of Madhya Pradesh had stated. Dalit agenda had been issued on behalf of M.P. Government and I will lay a copy of the same duly certified under my signatures, on the table of the House and will also send a copy to you sir...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: You please lay those papers here, we too shall move breach of privilege.

[English]

I am challenging you...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: If I am proved wrong, you can certainly move a breach of privilege motion. I am saying that it is written on page nos. 38-39 of the dalit agenda...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: The Government cannot write so in the dalit agenda...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: This is the psyche which is vitiating the entire nation and leads to disintegration of the country...(Interruptions)

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: What I am saying, I am saying that with responsibility...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: You just tell.

[English]

I promise that I will move a breach of privilege against you and give you an opportunity to prove it.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: The Government of Madhya Pradesh has published the dalit agenda on its own expenditure. If you allow me an hour's time, it is there at my house, I shall go and bring it...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Not today, you bring it tomorrow. We shall move breach of privilege against you...(Interruptions)

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: You help me in getting permission from the Chair, you are a senior member...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Where lies your consideration for a senior member, you are dividing the House, and the society as well...(Interruptions)

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: I want to say that such talks will yield no result. I accept what you say. I am ready to lay that here on the table of the House. I shall lay that book here on the table of the House. What is the use of repeating the same thing time and again. I shall lay the book here in this House. I shall bring the book here and lay it...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: You bring that book here tomorrow...(Interruptions)

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: I am not here tomorrow, I shall bring and lay it today otherwise get it laid through somebody else...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Yes, bring it and lay it right now.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: I shall lay it, let the Chair permit me to do so. There is no use getting angry.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Why from the Chair?

[English]

I will move a breach of privilege against you and give you an opportunity to prove it.

[Translation]

What is this, what is this manner...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, you please conclude.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: How shall I conclude? I have spoken hardly for two minutes and hon. Shivrajji is intervening...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: He is speaking out his mind...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: We had started the speech and every body was maintaining a high standard of the speech. Every State has its own problems. It is said that this is not a problem of the Government, this problem is a result of social evil, how it should be tackled. Such trend was prevailing till recently but now the hon. member is unnecessarily referring to the things which the Government has done. We should have more discussion to find solutions to the problem, and try to see as to what the Government and the Parliament should do...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: What for are you getting up?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Nobody has spoken about Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Are you the only leader of dalits, believe me, I too belong to a dalit and poor family...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: If this is the way, you want to conduct the business of the House then you do it yourself. Do not allow the Government to reply. You are in the habit of speaking every now and then. You have been dead against Mayavati, it was Mayavati who had defeated you also...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now you take your seat.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Please improve the standard at least if he is the biggest enemy of Mayawati or she is of him...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: I stated this because Uttar Pradesh witnesses maximum number of criminal incidents. I mentioned about Uttar Pradesh also. I am not mentioning it because of any difference but because it is the responsibility of the Government to dispense justice and if any Government say so then all of us should consider it to make such provision as the Government may not evade their responsibility. For this reason I have quoted this example. I want to give another example. Hon. Shri Kailash Meghwal who is a minister of state these days, had asked an untarred question no. 3915 which was replied to on 9.8.2002. In the question it was asked as to what was the number of incidents of oppression committed against the persons belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in the country and the number of representations received from various organisations in Rajasthan. They have given the details of the number of representations submitted in this regard. In the question the details of cases filed, persons chargesheeted, punished and discharged have been asked.

I am quoting this because in our country legislations are already there but these are not implemented. Therefore, all of us have to take some measures or other. In 1998, 6858 cases were filed in which 2915 persons were chargesheeted. That means, half of them went scot free and not even chargesheeted. Only 240 were punished and 1600 were discharged. Like this, if you see the data of 1999, 6838 cases were filed and 3921 were chargesheeted, 236 were punished and rest of them were discharged...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: This will create the same controversy. Now you please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: You let him speak. We are saying nothing against data. You let him speak...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: This average comes to around seven thousand of which half were chargesheeted. 240, 236 and 293 were punished and rest of them were acquitted. Now, there comes one conclusion that either the dalits lodge bogus reports or they do not get justice. There may be two or three reasons—either their illiteracy or their economic weaknesses or their failure to get legal advice. In States, there is provision for making available advocates from the Government for giving legal advice but the advocate provided by the Government does not plead their case in a proper manner.

I would like to suggest that they should be given choice of advocate on Government costs. For this reason, I want to tell all these things. I have a number of data with me. I do not know, today Patil Saheb...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: A far as data are concerned, we have no objection...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: If you go through these data, then you will say that I am correct. But you are not ready to agree with me...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now you please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: I am going to conclude within five minutes...*(Interruptions)* I want to say that the Governments have already made laws. This Government has also brought in legislations. In 1997, a supreme court order had banned reservation in promotion and backlog etc. I want to congratulate this Government for bringing an amendment in the Constitution and issuing three office orders to fill up the vacancies. The ban on reservation in promotion which came into effect from 1995, resulted in gross injustice to the people of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. It should be reviewed from retrospective effect i.e. from 1995 and those who have been affected on account of that should be compensated for. But this is not being implemented. I want to say that it should be implemented.

This Government has made separate ministries for S.C./S.T. There are 11 ministers in this Government from scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. For the first time after independence, SC/ST MPs have been inducted as ministers in such a large number. Earlier, there used to be a maximum of five or seven ministers from scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. There is a SC/ST commission also. These commissions have been constituted keeping in view the size of the country. These classes have varied problems while a single SC/ST commission can not look after them properly. They fail in solving their problems properly. Therefore the Government have made separate commission.

I want to say that this Government have formulated many schemes yet they are not being implemented. The Central Government provides wheat at the rate of rupees two per kg. rice at the rate of rupees three per kg. but the State Governments are not ready to lift the same and if at all, they lift then, they are not ready to distribute. Some more schemes like this one are there. I urge upon the Government to fix responsibility, to fix liability of some official or the other for the laws in existence are not being implemented. If there is some irregularity found in it even after fixing liability and the law is not being implemented then action should be taken against the erring official. Since no action is taken, such irregularities take place. I would even suggest that there should be provision to penalise the officials who fail in implementing the legal provisions.

The issue of reservation is always at stake. It should be included in the ninth schedule so that in case a High Court, or the Supreme Court or any other Court gives its decision in this regard then the Government should act accordingly...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You give the remaining speech in writing.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: I shall conclude in two minutes.

The SC/ST Commission should be made powerful. The issue of providing reservation in private sector should be considered. The issue of providing reservation in army, the High Courts and the Supreme Court needs serious consideration. The process of land allotment should be accelerated. There should be some arrangement in place to put check on crimes of atrocities in the country, this is my suggestion.

SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI: Mr. Chairman, Sir you have not called even a single woman...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: It amounts to atrocity on women...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are a woman but members of bigger parties are sitting.

...*(Interruptions)*

21.47 hrs.

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I welcome this most important discussion on atrocities on *dalits*. I congratulate Shri Ram Vilas Paswan who has initiated this discussion.

It is shocking that atrocities on *dalits* increase day by day. We are receiving reports on attacks on *dalits* in different parts of the country. Atrocities on dalits are of various kinds such as rape, murder, beating up, etc. Even though a large number of such inhuman incidents are taking place daily, only a few are reported.

If we make a list of such atrocities all over India, you would see that the majority of such incidents are taking place in north India. Untouchability and casteism are still prevailing in various States of North India. It is a reality. Even after 50 years of Independence, the *dalit* communities are being treated as slaves by the upper caste communities. In most northern States, all the laws enacted so far to safeguard and protect the rights of the *dalits* are still lying in the form of paper while *dalits* are suffering. The bureaucrats concerned are not taking proper action against the culprits who commit atrocities. Thus the atrocities are continuing without any check. If proper action is taken as laid down in the law, by the bureaucrats, atrocities against *dalits* would come down. It would act as a deterrent to others.

In my State, Kerala, we are ahead in preventing atrocities on *dalits*. Their privileges and rights are protected.

As soon as any incidents is reported, action is taken against the culprit without any prejudice.

As the dalits in Kerala are literate, they are aware about their rights and they know where to report an incident of atrocity and how to get justice. The level of atrocity is far below in Kerala while comparing other Indian States.

Since the *dalits* are organised, both caste-wise and community-wise, they are staying mingled along with the upper caste. Hence, they are inter-dependent and get protection from the upper caste community.

The dalits in Kerala have their own temples and they are allowed in any other temple along with the upper caste people.

The Government of India is constantly expanding the categories of castes and tribes in the reservation list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. While the reservation percentage is not on the increase, the list will reduce the employment opportunity for the *dalits*. Therefore, more employment opportunities should be provided as well as there should be an increase in the percentage of job reservation for dalits in Government employment.

In the recent Shimla Conclave of the Indian National Congress, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi put forward a revolutionary suggestion that job reservation should be made for the dalits in the private sector. This step is welcomed by all the *dalits* in India as the job opportunity in the Government sector is coming down. There is a ray of hope for them in the private sector if the great suggestion of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi is implemented by the Government.

There is a long pending demand of all *dalits* in India that the private institutions, which get loan, land, power, etc. free of cost, should provide job reservation for *dalits*.

Therefore, I strongly demand that the Government should bring necessary legislation, directing the private institutions financed by the Government to provide job reservation for *dalits*.

The liberalisation and recruitment ban in Government jobs has reduced employment opportunities in the Government sector. This has very seriously affected the *dalits*.

Therefore, I strongly urge upon the Government that freezing of jobs should be taken away and an employment drive should be started to enable the *dalits* to get employment. The Central Government should also direct the State Governments to give employment for *dalits* in the posts which are lying freezed at present.

In the Government sectors, as pointed out by Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, such as Defence, Judiciary, External Affairs and Banking, postings to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates are denied and as such, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people are not getting jobs.

The fund meant for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, allotted by the Central Government, is not properly utilised for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The fund is diverted to other areas by the State Governments. Therefore, the Central Government must monitor that the fund allocated for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is utilised properly by the State Governments.

[Shri Koddikunnil Suresh]

The NDA Government is a total failure in providing employment opportunities, social justice and financial improvements to *dalits*.

There are lakhs of *dalits* who do not own a house or a piece of land. The NDA Government has not brought forward any land reform or any comprehensive scheme is housing to mitigate the grievances of the suffering *dalits*.

Sir, the Government of India have a number of Centrally-sponsored schemes such as JRY, PMRY, *Indira Awas Yojana*, etc. However, the dalits are not getting any benefit from these schemes. The prevailing Forest Protection Act is a stumbling bloc in providing land to *adivasis* in the country. There are many State Governments, including Kerala Government, which have requested the Central Government to amend the Forest Protection Act for distribution of land to *adivasis*. The growing restlessness among the *adivasi* communities due to denial of justice is exploited. The best example of this is the Muthanga incident in Kerala.

The Government of India should bring forward schemes to provide quality education to *dalit* children in all districts of the country. The Government of India and the State Governments should collectively act to provide English education to all the *dalit* children.

[Translation]

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, only 10-12 members are sitting in the House, you should take note of it also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: O.K Please sit down.

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: In all the 14 districts of Kerala, model residential schools for the *dalits* are running successfully. The Government of India may study this example of Kerala and introduce such English medium model schools for the *dalits* all over the country.

My last point is concerning the health sector. The *dalits* are not getting better treatment where more money is required for treatment. The Government of India must allot enough funds through the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to improve the health facilities and give treatment to the *dalits*.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me a chance to participate in the discussion under Rule 193. I would like to thank hon. Ram Vilas Paswanji who has raised the discussion under Rule 193 which also gave me an opportunity to speak on this issue. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the discussion started at 4 O'clock and since then I have been listening to Hon. Members. Discussions have also taken place earlier in each session and there is a consensus on Dalit agenda and also for making laws for them. We keep on expressing concern as well on the provisions of the constitution for their rights. When we talk about atrocities on Dalits, all Members express the opinion that Dalits must get their rights yet these rights are usually not given to them. All parties are in the power, in one State or the other. My opinion is that somehow there is lack of consistency between policies and their intentions. The laws are made but while implementing them, the persons responsible for their implementation, interpret them in their own way. Even after 56 years of independence, the backlog on jobs for Dalits is continuing. Other hon. Members have also expressed their opinion on it and I also want that the provisions relating to reservation enshrined in the Constitution may be included in the 9th Schedule of the Constitution to ensure their implementation.

22.00 hrs.

Sir we are moving towards the private sector. In the era of privatisation, political parties are preparing their own proposals with respect to new economic policies. My suggestion is that the Government must bring the Constitution Amendment Bill in this regard. Decision must be taken for providing reservation in the private sector for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the basis of their population. Likewise, discussions have been going on for the last 56 years for providing reservation in judiciary and the struggle have been going on at different levels but proper steps have not been taken in this regard so far. Now an opportunity has come up before us through this discussion today. The Government must take steps for reservation in judiciary after consulting all parties.

Likewise after independence during the last 56 years, the Government started different schemes for the Welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. But they could not be implemented properly whether these are related with social justice, school education for providing

scholarship. Proper arrangements must be made for their proper implementation. Through you, I would like to put forth in the House that steps also be taken for proper administrative reforms and the accountability must be fixed so that the person at whatever post he holds, be an officer or an employee engage its implementation. Proper mechanism must be devised for keeping close monitoring over the implementation process and if any shortcoming in the process be detected provision for the award of sentence must be made and those person concerned must be held responsible. If responsibility is not fixed, administrative reforms would not be made at the wider level. If no way out is found keeping in view the experience of 56 years, we would continue to discuss it and make one after another laws without being making them effective. Right now we passed the Constitution Amendment Bill pertaining to the setting up of a separate commission for Scheduled Tribes. If we could continue the work in this way it will not be effective and no benefit would accrue by making such laws. Therefore, I want to suggest the House to implement administrative reforms and make certain provision in the law for fixing responsibility.

Likewise the poor and land Ceiling act has been passed to provide land to landless people continuously for the last 56 years, claims have been made regarding implementation of land reforms but that could not be effectively implemented. In some States it was implemented up to certain extent but in making it could not be implemented due to same reason. The number of naxalities have increased due to this. Therefore, by making constitutional provisions and fixing responsibility we should take steps in this direction. Sant Vinoba Bhaveji constituted Bhoodan Committee for this purpose and started Bhoodan Movement all over the country. Bhoodan Samiti got lakhs of acres of land from each States. I do not want to single out any State but would certainly like to submit that lands were allotted at many places during the last 56 years after taking them from this Samiti but the allottees could not get its occupation.

Conflicts and controversies have taken place at many places. Therefore, proper steps must be taken in this regard after fixing responsibility.

Sir, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan and other hon. Members have said that the law regarding prevention of atrocities against dalits was enacted. Which is called as prevention of atrocities on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Act. The provisions for not granting anticipatory bail have been made in it to give justice. Some hon. Members have submitted data in this regard, but I would not like to go into them. An hon'ble Member of the BJP said that though there is no provision for anticipatory bail, yet it is somehow being granted. I would like to say that we must think over it while keeping our hands on our heart. We should deliberate over its implementation at the Centre and also at States level. I hail from Bihar and Mr. Chairman, Sir, you also hail from there. I worked under your leadership and path captured in agitations and today I am in the Parliament. The Naya Tol village is in the Nanpur Thana of Sitamarhi district of Bihar. 237 acres of land was declared surplus after ceiling and the same was distributed among the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes. Out of this, 100 acres of land is under the possession of a Minister of the State Government of Bihar, who is an MLA from my constituency. He has got a house constructed in an acre of one acre and six biswe land. This land was transferred in the name of one Ramnandan Ram.

Electronic media gave a wide coverage to the incident of loot of crops standing in 137 acres of land and cases were also filed. Five cases are registered against a minister under Prevention of Atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Act. They held meetings with DGP but no action is being taken against him. People of Scheduled Caste Community launched movement there but no political party is supporting them. The matter was referred to National Commission on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes also. The Secretary (Revenue), Secretary (Home), of Government of Bihar, Commissioner and District Magistrate were summoned and the matter was discussed. Then a decision was given and it was directed that a case should be instituted under Prevention of Atrocities against Scheduled Caste and Schedule Tribe Act against the officers and possession of the said land should be taken from them within 15 days and it should be reported, but the Government of Bihar has not yet complied with the decision. Cases were registered against former Chief Minister, former Education Minister, former Health Minister, former State Minister of Excise of Bihar State. They immediately either resigned from their respective offices or were removed as per the prevalent practices but the Information Minister of Bihar has constructed a pucca building on the land of scheduled castes. National Commission on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes had given its verdict on 31st of January. The case is also registered in the court of law but he has not yet resigned.

22.07 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

The Government of Bihar has not gone through this case. The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs is sitting here. When Deputy Prime Minister replies tomorrow, please convey our feelings to him. He should tell us about the rules and policies in this regard as to whether Government of Bihar would implement the verdict of National Commission on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes? Whether the poor would get the houses which the Minister has constructed on their lands? Whether prosecution was initiated against them under Atrocity Act have been decided or not? Are the rule to be followed only by the poor and the mighty people will grab the 250 acre land? Are they not bound by any rules?

Six months back in my constituency Sitamarhi, Sitaram Ram died of hunger in village, Rajkhand, district Muzaffarpur. It was reported that the death was not due to starvation. And the family was not given any amount as compensation, nor they were provided accommodation under Indira Awas Yojana. I will conclude with following two lines. "Unke bachche maut se nahin sirf bhookh se marte hain, achraj mahan itne par bhi we dheeraj kaise rakhte hain"

SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA (Bhatinda): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the discussion Paswanji has started was very important. He was trying for last so many days to discuss the issue. Today, we are discussing the incidents of atrocities inflicted on the people of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Many Members took part in the discussion. Atrocities against dalits are increasing day-by-day instead of decreasing. Poors, Harijans and dalits have no lands to build houses. They can not afford to buy land for building houses. They think that it is of no use building houses. For this reason many people live by roadside. They live like poor. Some provision should be made for them. The Government have constituted Vigilance Committee, Chairman of which is a Member of Parliament. We have seen that when Rs. 20,000/- would be given for house building to someone, it does not reach the genuine person. And when we asked for the list of the persons who were given money for house building, it was not provided.

The reason why they have not given the list is that atrocities against dalits have increased in the last 56 years. Untouchability Act was enacted in 1975. A Committee was set up to re-introduce it, of which, I was also a Member. The Committee recommended and changed the name of the Act to 'Protection of Civil Rights'. It was stated in the Act that a list would be prepared in respect of those who commit cruelty towards dalits and this would also be sent to the Parliament and the State Assemblies and the person found guilty of such things would not be allowed to contest elections. But no such list has been sent to the Parliament and to the State Assemblies, so far. The culprits have not been punished till date. Until and unless the culprits are punished atrocities against dalits would keep on increasing. We are struggling for this cause in India and I think that we must work towards this goal rising above party interests and in the interest of dalits also. I such an Act is enacted, then there is no reason for such cases to occur, at all.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 90% of the labourers are poor and harijans. We have been demanding a comprehensive legislation for the protection of these people. In Kerala, such a legislation is in force, but this type of legislation is not existing in any other State. When this Act is enacted, they would also get the rights for taking part in trade unions and people of 60 years should be given pension facility.

The expecting mothers, who work till the last moment do not deliver healthy babies. The Government say that the children are the future of our country. They are to fight for protection of our borders in future. But some are lame, some without one hand and some are not even healthy. It should be mentioned in this Act that the expecting mothers would be given State help six months before and after delivery so that the babies are born healthy. The Government should enact the law keeping this aspect in mind.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when Shri Deve Gowda was Prime Minister, he had prepared a Bill. I do not know what happened to it. Our Minister of Social Empowerment is called the messiah of the dalits. But I feel that he has no time. I wrote to him. But I am yet to receive a reply after six months. I believe that he has no time for the poor. How can he help the Dalits when he has no time for them? I think most of the time he is busy with the NGOs. Therefore, he does not care about the poor. The Minister should look after the poor.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: In his reply he will tell us about the action taken so far.

SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: I congratulate Shri Ram Vilas Paswan for raising this issue. We should unite to fight for the cause of dalits and to enact legislation for

them. He is right in saying that they should be given reservation in the judiciary as well. With this I conclude.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Eighth-Nine speakers are still left so each member must conclude in five minutes and raise only new issues or points.

SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI (Kurukshetra): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on such an important issue. India is the largest democracy in the world. More than one billion people belonging to various religion, caste, creed and multilingual set up live here. Our great leaders suffered immense hardships and even sacrificed their lives to remove economic, social and political disparity. It is because of Mahatma Gandhi, Mahatma Jyotirao Phule, Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar and other stalwarts that we call ourselves the largest democracy in the world. They made immense sacrifices to attain freedom for us. On this occasion I am reminded of the last lines of the last letter written by Shaheed-e-Azam, Bhagat Singh from jail, addressed to the British "We want freedom to do away with this disparity and to save the innocent people of India from the injustice, oppression and exploitation perpetrated by the British". Similar was the objective mentioned in the taped speech of Netaji Subash Chandra Bose which was played for the first time in the country's Parliament—the sacrifices made by the martyrs borne fruit at last and the country became independent and attained democracy. But, after independence, this objective—for which immense sacrifices were made and the nation also witnessed large scale massacres—could not be achieved since those at the helm of affairs were even worse than the British rulers. People who came to power exploited the Dalits and the downtrodden more than the British Rulers. Those who were unenlightened economically, socially and politically faced more oppression now than under the British. Stalwarts like Loknayak Jai Prakash Narayan, Shri Moraji Desai, Chaudhary Charan Singh, Sardar Ballabhbhai Patel and Choudhary Devi Lal realised that the fruits of independence and economic benefits were not reaching to the dalits the downtrodden and the poor. Power, independence and money remained confined to a handful of people an they monopolised it. When they realised this they were agitated and they fought for justice. They fought for the cause of the dalits, the exploited and the downtrodden. Chaudhary Devi Lal campaigned several times to seek justice for them. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan was also with him. Choudhary Devi Lal when fought against inequality in 1967, numerous efforts were made by them to safeguard the dalits, the oppressed and the down-trodden from exploitation. But inequality, injustice, cruelty and exploitation is continuing as before.

The Members who have spoken prior to me, have provided the detailed State-wise figures. I wouldn't like to go into details of those figures, as it will take a long time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan deserves Kudos for raising in House the issue of atrocities on dalits under the rule 193. We also want that atrocities not be committed against dalits who are the integral and indispensable part of the society and without whom our society and the country will not assume its holistic character. No aspersion should be cast on their honour and dignity.

However Ram Vilas Paswanji has said that five dalits were killed in Jhajjar in Haryana and no action was taken against the guilty persons. It has deeply pained me and I am very sorry to say that it seems that Shri Ram Vilas Paswan has tried to derive political mileage on dalit issue. It should not be so. Politics shouldn't be played in the name of dalits. How better it would have been had Shri Ram Vilas Paswanji talked of employment, social justice and empowerment of section of society i.e. dalit.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Of those who were killed?

SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI: Even then they would have sympathised more with you. Today atrocities are being committed against the dalits at various places including Haryana and no action in that regard is being taken. The people of the country should not be misled by raising such issue. The truth is that the steps taken by the Haryana Government for the upkeep of dignity of dalits are both unprecedented and historical and it would take a lot of time if I try to mention each and every such measure and the time constraint also won't allow me to dwell on these steps. Choudhary Om Prakash Chautala ji is committed and devoted to the cause of helping dalits. He has taken a vow that till the blood of his father Chaudhary Devilalji is flowing with life in his veins he won't allow the dignity and respect of dalits to suffer. he has enacted several laws for the welfare of dalits. I am sad to say that even Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, the leader of the opposition, raised the issue of the killings of dalits in Jhajjar in Haryana even though she hadn't any it inkling as to what the reality is? Shrimati Indira Gandhi had also once said to Menakaji while she was contesting elections that the issue of maintaining the dignity and respect and empowerment of dalits are only to be used as an election gimmic and electoral rhetoric and it is not to be followed in its spirit. If we are able to make dalits prosperous and

[Shrimati Kailash Devi]

rich, we will lose their support. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is the truth which I am stating. What welfare and upliftment of dalits can be expected from such people?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir the truth behind Jhajjar incident is that some of the dalits dealing in skin of the animals brought a dead cow on dussehra and started to skin it so that they could carry it easily to their homes. The issue was that they were finding themselves unable to carry the animal home. A rumour was spread by a few persons that a cow is being killed by some persons. It being a festive dussehra day, the news caused instant reaction among the people. In no time the matter turned into a grave one and assumed tragic proportions. The Chief Minister lost no time in constituting an inquiry committee under the chairmanship of a divisional commissioner to find out the truth and to give most stringent punishment to the guilty. The divisional commissioner himself belongs to dalit community and for the first time the report of an inquiry committee has been accepted by the Government in toto. The family of the deceased dalits were given Rs. 5 lakh compensation and one of the family Members was given job. The policemen guilty of causing delay in the inquiry of the matter were suspended and the antisocial elements guilty for the episode were put behind bars. Generating the passion of the persons like Chaudhary Om Prakash Chautalaji and Chaudhary Devilal ji and of the great mean and martyrs of the country in our minds alone and fighting for the cause of the dalits comprising 20 percent of our population and without whom the country cannot dream of becoming a developed country in 21st century, would be the true homage to the martyrs of our country to whom we had paid homage on 15th of August while celebrating 57th anniversary of our independence. If we keep on playing politics and keep on deriving political mileage in the name of dalits, our country would be divided for which the foreign countries are eagerly awaiting. There are some countries which derive satisfaction from being designated as the developed country while don't let an opportunity go to challenge the largest democracy in the world. Haven't we had enough of the one thousand years of slavery that we want to push the country into the yoke of slavery by indulging in such petty politics.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, by indulging in such despicable politics we are doing injustice against those who have elected and trusted us to send as their representatives here. We should fight a real battle for the welfare of and empowering those who have elected us and for this we will have to change our mental attitude. If we don't do so, then it's the outcome reminds me of a couplet by Iqbal—

Na Badloge, ai Hindostan Walon To
Tumhari Dastan Bhi Na Hogi Dastanon Mein.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit to the Government through this House that hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister Shri Lal Krishna Advani would make a statement in this regard tomorrow. He should tell as to what efforts are being made for upliftment of Dalits and what schemes have been formulated for their development and prevention of atrocities against them. Injustice has been meted out to them and atrocities have been committed against them. I would like to submit to the Government that such atrocities against Dalits should be checked and severe punishment should be awarded to the persons found guilty. He should tell as to what action is being taken by the Government in this regard.

SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY (Mohanlalganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir,...*(Interruptions)* thank you.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir they are chapping. The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Mayawati ji had sought resignation of the Chief Minister of Haryana Shri Om Prakash Chautala ji...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, whatever Hon'ble Paswan ji is saying is untrue. It is not so. If it had happened, it might have been a case of emotional outburst. But when proper action had been taken against the guilty then they also admitted that the Haryana Government had taken a good step....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to request all of you to be patient. Everybody is in a hurry.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Haryana State has been mentioned and Shri Paswan ji said that Mayavati ji had sought the resignation of Shri Om Prakash Chautala. I would like to state that this is a political game. But here in the House we are not playing the politics. Here, a serious discussion is being held on the atrocities being committed on dalits throughout the country...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: We play the politics but it is a well-known fact that Mayawati ji had sought the resignation of Shri Om Prakash Chautala on that incident.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Paswanji, why have you initiated discussion on a new issue. Indora ji please sit down.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan ji is our senior friend. Saying something like this does not behove him....*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY: Dr. Indora, please sit down. It is already 10.30 p.m. it is late in the night.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We are sitting late in the night.

SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, after a long wait you have given me an opportunity to speak. First of all I would like to thank hon'ble Shri Ram Vilas Paswan ji who has brought such an important subject for discussion in the House today. And many times...*(Interruptions)* when you speak, we listen peacefully. So I request you not to disturb me...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Sishram Singh Ravi, please keep quiet. You always keep on speaking. You should also be quiet sometimes.

SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are holding discussion an a very important subject. First of all, I would like to submit that atrocities are committed against the people belonging to scheduled caste and scheduled tribes. The main problem is related to land.

Most of the atrocities against them are related to the occupation of their lands. Their lands are forcibly occupied.

Sir we come across reports that if a person belonging to the Dalit community rides the mare in his own marriage, social conflict takes place in the villages. Alongwith the concerned dalit the whole village is punished for this upgrade act. If he has got the pond and is engaged in pisciculture in that pond, poison is mixed in his pond and resultantly all the fish perish. In this way, an attempt is made to harm him economically too.

Sir, the ire of such people finds vent into the acts of rape of dalit women or kidnapping of their minor girls for rape. I do not know why the people belonging to the upper castes victimise the girls and women of dalit community to give vent to their ire. They do not get justice today despite the fact that law and order set up is in place. There are many laws for Dalit society and they are sound, but their implementation is lax.

Sir, there is the provision of grant for the marriage of dalit girls. Indira Awas Yojana is aimed at providing economic assistance for building house for them, but the point is that how much benefit do they get by these schemes. If a dalit intends to take the economic assistance under the scheme for the marriage of his daughter, he finds that he has spent Rs. 5000 in moving files and in graft and gets only Rs. 5000 out of the Rs. 10,000 or sometimes gets only rupees three to four thousands.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, one gets money for Indira Awas but when the file reaches the table, he comes to know that the money he got is too meagre to get even the ceiling of the house constructed.

Sir, even after 56 years of independence, a dalit cannot enter a temple, what can be more unfortunate or shameful for us. If he enters the temple, he is punished. Again it happens that they make the women of dalit society the target of all their angers and frustrations. The women are snipped nacked publicly and then are gang raped. Certain significant things are inherent in the atrocities over dalit community which have led bare our pains. Since hon. Paswanji has dwelt on this in detail. I would not like to take time over it. The incident of Jhajjar, the murder of dalits and the Kumhar dalit episode of Rajasthan of 1990s, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you will be surprised to know that the persons mentioned in the FIR have not been chargesheeted as yet. The report of Lodha committee was received three years back but the same could not be placed before the House till today. We are talking about providing justice, are talking about atrocities over dalit community. But have we seriously considered the position of those dalits who have been the victims of atrocities and later of they were implicated in false cases and punishment was awarded to them by the courts. Paswanji mentioned about the incident of Talhan in Punjab. The members from Dalit community have not been inducted into the management committee of the Gurudwara there, as per the information available to me. They have been inducted into Seva Committee but not in the management committee.

Sir, we constituted the National Human Rights Commission to deal with the atrocities being committed against dalits. We constituted the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission, some good results were also noticed but at the same time, it exposed their

[Shrimati Reena Choudhary]

ineffectiveness. They can submit their report against the culprit but cannot award them punishment. I fail to understand that despite having effective laws in the country, we need POTA to deal with terrorism. On the other hand, the atrocities on dalit Community is a grave social problem. Why then the legislatures do not come forward with an initiative. We would like to say that so long as those committing crimes against dalit society are not dealt with sternly, no solution to the problem can be found out. We demand that POTA should be invoked against the people committing such atrocities against dalits.

Sir, one more aspect of the problem is that merely framing laws will not help because executive and legislature have a limit. Alongwith it social awareness may also play a crucial role in their upliftment. We have curbed the social practices like sati with the instrument of social awareness. If we kindle the social awareness, we can even find the solution to this problem. I know that media can play an important role in spreading the social awareness. I want that dalits must be given more facilities of reservation, they should get justice everywhere. The higher posts in government reserved for them lying vacant must be filled at the earliest. As things stand now the information about one case of atrocity is hardly glossed over while the information about the second case seems to be in the offing.

Sir, through you, I would like to tell the Minister that we will have to deal with it strongly. The hindrance in the path of the progress of children belonging to the community of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes is the lack of education, large families, ineffective and lax implementation of laws made for their welfare and their poor state of health etc. The number of the dalits children working on daily wages has increased now.

First of all they should be prevented from working on daily wages and this calls for their education so that they can fight their battles themselves. If we don't take it seriously and the atrocities on them continue as usual and such incidents become the order of the day and we continue to play politics with the issues involved then, the time is not far away when a more serious situation will arise when dalits will rise to fight their battle at their own. Such a grave situation will arise that it will be even more difficult for both we and you to tackle those problems. Therefore, we should make efforts to avoid that situation from right now. The discussion mere debating an issue by you and then our protests to that is not going to solve problems. We should never play politics on dalits because this class is still so backward and lacks education that they have no proper knowledge about the schemes launched for them and therefrom arise the greatest responsibility that the schemes made for them should be implemented honestly and the administrative authorities may be made responsible for that. The money you are sending from here for them should actually reach to them in full, we don't want that they should get only one fourth of what is intended for them, we want that they get in full.

You have given me hint or four times. Many thanks to you for allowing me to speak. With these words I conclude.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now Dr. Saroja to speak. Shri Dalit Ezhilmalai took more than half an hour. So, you have only five minutes now.

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to place my views. I will try to conclude within the time-limit that you have allotted.

I congratulate hon. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan for raising this very important and sensitive issue for discussion under Rule 193 for the benefit of the *dalits* at large in this great democracy. Though the discussion under Rule 193 is on atrocities on *dalits* yet there are underlying and hidden problems for the atrocities against *dalits*.

We just celebrated 56th year of Independence. But it is unfortunate that even after 55 years of Independence, we are discussing this issue without any solid and permanent relief to this depressed and unfortunate community. As our earlier speaker, Shri Dalit Ezhilmalai has rightly pointed out, there is no paucity of funds and there is no paucity of proposal but there is paucity of system. Time and again, we are pressing for any alternative system that could deliver the fruits of the budget allocation, constitutional safeguards, Commissions, and laws that are enacted for the betterment and upliftment of this depressed class.

Sir, the Tenth Five Year Plan aims at resolving the unresolved issues. It aims at solving the persistent problems of the community. The Tenth Five Year Plan focuses its attention on these problems with a three-pronged strategy. First, social empowerment by removing all the inequalities; second, by economic empowerment through promotion of empowerment-cum-generation of

income activity; and third, by ensuring social justice by eliminating all types of discrimination with the strength of a legislative support, affirmation support, awareness generation and above all, by changing the mindset of the people, which is most important than anything else.

The Budget allocation for the Tenth Five Year Plan is to the tune of Rs. 8,530 crore. In addition to this—we are in the second year of the Tenth Five Year Plan—the Plan Budget allocation for the year 2001-02 is Rs. 1,330.70 crore and for the year 2002-03 it is Rs. 1,410.00 crore. In addition to this, a sum of Rs. 271.62 crore is available for the Special Central Assistance for the Special Component Plan. The Plan expenditure for the Scheduled Tribes for the year 2001-02 is Rs. 995.53 crore and for the year 2002-03 it is Rs. 1,090 crore, in addition to Rs. 500 crore for the Tribal Sub-Plan. In addition to this, under article 275(I) of the Constitution, an exclusive grant-in-aid is being provided for the development of need-based infrastructure for the tribal people.

Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister: Is this Budget allocation reaching the needy people at the proper time without any dilution, in a cost-effective manner, without any delay? I would like to ask the Minister: Would this House take up a discussion on the achievements made so far under the Tenth Five Year Plan?

Sir, there are a few constitutional safeguards. The aim of these constitutional safeguards are: (a) to abolish the practice of untouchability and (b) to curb the higher incidence of crimes and atrocities against the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. But there is no effective implementation of these constitutional safeguards. Would the hon. Minister realise our feelings and apprehensions that the Government should evolve a totally different and alternative system?

Sir, in addition to these safeguards, we have the Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the Human Rights Commission, 22 Special Courts under the PCR Act of 1995 and also 113 Special Courts under the Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989. Would you just for a moment calculate the expenditure that the Government incurs on maintaining these organisations? What is the proportion of the benefits that are reaching to the poor and down-trodden people by incurring this much of expenditure? Would the Government come out with a cost benefit ratio and the expenditure incurred on maintaining of these Commissions and Courts? All these things have not yielded any fruit for the poor people.

Sir, I would like to remind the hon. Prime Minister and I do hope and expect that he would come to this House and tell us as to what he did about the promise he made in 1999 while speaking on the three-day convention of the Members of Parliament belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. He had promised that he would withdraw all the O.Ms issued by the DoPT and would give reservation benefits.

The hon. Prime Minister had assured that the backlog would be cleared within a stipulated time. Where is it? I appeal through you to the hon. Prime Minister on behalf of all the MPs belonging to SCs and STs and on behalf of all the hon. leaders of this august House to come to this House tomorrow and give reply. We would like to have the answer only from the Prime Minister and none else because our rights have been denied for all these years. Since the assurance has been given by the hon. Prime Minister, we would like to have the answer only from the hon. Prime Minister. This is my request to the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister that she may kindly take this message to the hon. Prime Minister that he should come to this House and give reply.

As for the empowerment and upliftment of the *dalit* youths, under the leadership of Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, we have formed self-help groups of educated unemployed male *dalits*. We are empowering them through the National Commission for SCs and STs. This is not a joke. We are not treating the younger generation in a proper way. Unless we empower the younger generation, we would not be taking the country forward in a proper manner. We have to form self-help groups. Money from the Commission has to be routed through the State Government to the male self-help groups. I am proud to say that from my district 885 male self-help groups have been formed, out of which 50 per cent belong to SC and ST educated unemployed youth. We are paying more attention for their economic empowerment. I think that can be followed by all other States.

Dr. Purathi Thalaivi Amma during her previous regime in 1993 brought a novel scheme of Ten Point Programme for the upliftment of the SCs and STs. It was exclusively meant for the SCs and STs and for the social and educational empowerment of dalits. I appeal to all other State Governments to follow suit.

Last but not least, as far as reservations are concerned, the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has implemented 69 per cent reservation policy in which reservation for SCs and STs has been

[Dr. V. Saroja]

confirmed and it has been brought under the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution. I hope all other Chief Ministers would take a cue from this and implement this for the protection of *dalits*.

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI (Bijnor): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the subject of atrocities on dalits. Hon. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan ji is worthy of thanks for his continuous efforts since the last Session to ensure that the debate on this subject should certainly be held. The speakers who have spoken prior to me also presented various figures and raise several issues but this can easily be realised that atrocities against the dalits are being committed not since independence but for more than the last one thousand years. The atrocities against the dalits are being committed since the reign of Mughals and Britishers. Had the Mughals been sympathetic towards dalits they certainly would have granted lands to them. Britishers also had not done favour to them. This was the reason that Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar dreamt for the welfare of dalits since attaining independence. At the time of Independence the division of the money, property, land and assets of the country could have easily taken place within ten years of attainment of independence. However, the then Government distributed the one third land of the country to the big industrialists and Congress leaders in the name of forming societies and trusts instead of distributing it among the dalits, backwards and the workers. In fact, the exploitation of the dalits took place at that day when the entire property and land of the country was taken in their possession by a few industrialists like Tata, Birlas and big leaders of Congress. I am of the opinion that if the distribution of the land would have been done at that time and forming trust would not have been formed and a huge amount of property would not have accumulated in their name, the poverty would have been alleviated at that time only.

Poverty is the biggest affliction in the world. Today, we talk about fighting against the atrocities being committed against the dalits. I am of the opinion that the Pandits, Thakurs i.e. influential persons of the society do not raise any objection against a prosperous and rich dalits but a poor dalit is always subjected to humiliation. Hence the need of the hour is to check the poverty among the dalits if we want to stop the atrocities being committed against dalits. Today we must realise that the greatest responsibility in this regard is on the State Government. Central Government formulates several schemes for the welfare of *dalits*. Today there are several schemes like Indira Awas Yojana, SRY, JRY, integrated employment programme and Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana etc. but the State Governments are not implementing them properly. Each district is being provided crores of rupees for generating employment under JRY. However, it has been observed that the contract system is still in practice. The State Governments are showing negligence in this regard. The exploitation of dalits could be seen if one visits the villages and districts to look below the State level. We need real socialism to remove this disparity but this capitalism is in vogue. On one hand a person does not have two square meals to eat and cloths to wear while on the other hand another person owns several vehicles and houses. It means that our country does not lack in resources but only in their distribution. Congress Governments in the past prevented equal distribution of wealth. Before 1977, only Rs. 500 was provided for constructing a house and Rs. 300 for a sewing machine. Today, a minimum of Rs. 20000 is given under Indira Awas Yojana. In cities, Rs. 40,000 is given for constructing a house. It is proposed to provide a certain minimum amount for various types of employment. I agree that we are seriously discussing atrocities against dalits but we must deliberate on framing a legislation in this regard. It should be decided to provide unemployment allowance to all the unemployed dalit youths compulsory. The Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment is sitting here. I request him to bring a legislation for providing unemployment allowance to those dalits who have done graduation, Intermediate or High School. A policy should also be framed for providing a monthly old age pension of Rs. 500 to all the dalits above 50 years. Rs. 500 as monthly pension should be provided on the basis of their population, without any recommendation or need to fill any form. When they become self-sufficient, the incidents of atrocity would cease automatically.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, earlier the Mughals and the English had ruled the country. But now it is bureaucrats who are the rulers today. Five laws regarding the dalits were passed but the Supreme Court stayed their implementation. At that time, the Government was headed by Shri Deve Gowda but the bureaucrats were responsible for it. A Chief Minister is elected for five years but the bureaucrats hold the office till the age of 60 years. Their tenure should also be restricted to four years. This will help in checking corruption. In case of any riot, the Minister of Home Affairs would be responsible. A tenure should be fixed for the bureaucrats so as to put an end to corruption. This is essential in order to instill a sense of responsibility towards the nation. For the upliftment of the dalits a provision for reservation should be made in

the private sector mills and in trade sector. Twenty five per cent reservation should be made for the employment of dalits in tractor agencies, scooter agencies and in motor vehicles agencies. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should be strengthened so as to put an end to the incidents of atrocity and also to put a check on the State Governments.

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a discussion regarding atrocities on the dalits Under Rule 193 was initiated by Shri Ram Vilas Paswan. We are all familiar with the condition of the dalits even after 56 years of independence. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan started this discussion with the atrocities inflicted on the dalits of Jhajjar in Haryana. He also told us about the atrocities inflicted on them in other States. We are indebted to Baba Saheb Ambedkar who framed such a constitution which provided for reservation in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. It is because of this we have been elected to the Lok Sabha.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is no State in India be in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal or any State of South India, where atrocities are not committed against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The issue of reservation has been raised time and again in Lok Sabha. Today, be it a question of reservation in the Judiciary or providing education to the children of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in rural areas, we are unable to give them their dues. I request the Government should provide the facility of compulsory education of the children of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

23.00 hrs.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a backlog of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes vacancy in Government services, be it the Railways, the Judiciary or any other Department. In the Lok Sabha we always make a demand to clear the backlog, but this is yet to be done. There should be reservation for Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assemblies and Legislative Councils. We do not take the discussion seriously. It is for this reason we have not been able to fulfil this objective.

Sir, the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes are given Rs. 20,000 for the construction of houses under the Indira Awas Yojana. This amount is same as was given 15 years ago. Today, the prices of cement, sand, iron rods and labour wages are rising rapidly. The issue of raising the amount from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 40,000 under the Indira Awas Yojana had been raised several times in the House but no step is taken in this direction. Today, even for constructing a toilet, Rs. 20,000-25,000 are needed then how can a house be constructed in Rs. 20,000?

In this way the welfare schemes for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are not fully implemented. The officers concerned are not aware of the problems of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. They do not have time to think about the upliftment of these people. Therefore, I would like to demand that there should be proper arrangement for these people.

It is unfortunate that even after 56 years of independence, the bridegroom of the Scheduled Caste or the Scheduled Tribe can not ride a mare on his wedding. If anyone dares to do so, he is beaten, put behind the bars and is gunned down. As a matter of fact the people of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes have not been able to get their due rights even after 56 years of independence. I would like to tell Jatiyaji that the person guilty of committing atrocities or rape against the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes should be booked under POTA so that they may be well aware of the consequences of the acts they were committing. I would like to add that there was a time when people of South India avoided even the shadow of a North Indian belonging to the category of Scheduled Caste or the Scheduled Tribe in the event of the latter arriving in South India. Even today the people of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are prohibited from entering temples. Their entry into temples is banned. People belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of Darbhanga, Madhubani etc. districts of Bihar are subjected to atrocities. Irrespective of the parties in power at the Centre and States, unless the Government has a strong will power, there can be no welfare of these people. My submission is that there should be compulsory education for the people of Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

Without proper education, no country can make progress. People in towns have millions of rupees with them, but in rural areas people do not have houses to live in or drinking water. Therefore, my demand to the Central as well as State Governments is that there should be a ceiling on assets. If someone has hundred yards of land in town and someone else has hundred acres of land in Bihar then there can be no comparison between

[Shri Sukdeo Paswan]

the two. There should be ceiling on assets so that there can be equal distribution and India could prosper.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE ((Malegaon): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for allowing me to speak on this subject. I remember that several leaders including Shri V.P. Singh had assured to provide financial assistance to the people of the Backward Castes. At that time Shri Ram Bhau ji who is sitting in front of me was a Member of Lok Sabha. The Minister of Social Welfare Shri Ram Vilas Paswanji was there. Eight days after dissolution of Lok Sabha at that time none of the two went out to verify whether the Government Babus have done that job or not. Today he raised the issue of atrocities against backward castes. I would like to clarify my views before the Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir atrocities are committed against weaker sections but the Government Babus are busy in making money. The backward class people have to tolerate much injustice. There is injustice against them from political, social and education points of view. There has been injustice against them for the last 56 years. Be it Maharashtra or other parts of the country there is inadequate number of schools, without providing grants, schools cannot be opened in tribal areas. In such a situation how can tribals get education?

The Government formulated forest laws, but tribals always live in hills. Due to the Forest Law they do not get electricity, dams are not constructed and facility of telephones is also not made available to them. There are the kind of injustice being meted out to them. I would like to request from the hon. Minister to do away with such injustice. Land reforms should be implemented soon. If some commission is set up by the present Government for the education of the children of tribals and Scheduled Castes, then their recommendations should be implemented. You should not call it a commission, since you all have vested interest in it. The Government neither considers on the reports of the commission, nor takes any action on them. There should be action on the report of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes Commission. The injustice being committed should be stopped.

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I requested you to give chance to the two lady Members to speak first so that they could leave for home early. They have other works to do at home also.

[English]

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY (Cuddapah): Mr. Speaker Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity at this late hour.

I congratulate the hon. Members, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, and Shri Basu Deb Acharia, for initiating this discussion regarding the atrocities on *dalits*.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the Senior minister are absent and the Junior Ministers are present. We are sitting here since our senior leaders are absent.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, please let us hear Shri Reddy so that we all can leave early.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, now junior will rule.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall listen to your speech. Please take your seat.

[English]

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: But for some hon. Members who have tried to take the situation or the discussion to their political advantage, I personally endorse, in general, the views of all the Members cutting across party lines for betterment of dalits and all the suggestions that have been cropped up to stop the atrocities on *dalits*.

When we talk about the atrocities on *dalits*, any Indian *dalit* will certainly remember our late Shrimati Indira Gandhi. Indira *Amma* has been an instrumental and an exemplary figure or personality. After Independence, after our Constitution came into being, no other leader in this country than Indira *Amma* ever tried to enact strict Acts to protect the *dalits* and to prevent the atrocities against them. She made life easier for them. She wanted social protection and economic upliftment for *dalits*. For that sake, she nationalized the banks and provided the money for their economic growth. She started many welfare measures for their betterment and he people of this country remember and the subsequent Governments also have to continue the tradition.

Unfortunately, nowadays, as many Members have cited, still atrocities on *dalits* are going on, after so many years of Independence. Take for example *dalit Sarpanch*. He was put to a lot of hardships after hoisting a flag on Independence Day. He faced that heinous problem.

Sir, I sincerely endorse in general all the views of the hon. Members. I appeal, through you, Sir, to the Government and to all the State Governments to be very strict and stringent in protecting *dalits* and their issues.

All the enactments for their social and economic continuance are to be strictly implemented. In this connection, I would like to draw the attention of the House, through you, Sir, that a provision in our Constitution should be there to allow the *dalits* to follow their religion, their faith. I feel, religion or faith is one's personal affairs. And if a *dalit* prefers to follow Christianity, he is losing the social status of SC. Sir, I appeal to this House and all the Members of Parliament to pass a constitutional amendment to this effect. Till such time, may I appeal for those *dalits* who want their social status, that they should be given the SC certification for their education?

Sir, to join a college or a school, one needs to produce the caste certificate and the state certificate issuing authorities like Mandal Revenue Officer or Taluk RDO have to be instructed in this country to give the SC certificate to them. Suppose a particular *dalit* family gives an affidavit also, it should be accepted and they be given the caste certificate.

I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI (Gaya): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for allowing me to speak on such an important matter. I am also thankful to Ram Vilas Paswanji who has raised in the House the issue of atrocities against dalits. Different Members have given different opinion. I would like to say that there are atrocities against Harijans in this House itself because no big leader of any party is present in the House, only the Ministers of the ruling party are present here. The Leader of Opposition and Leaders of other parties are also not present here. When the No-Confidence Motion was being discussed here, the visitor gallery was full to the capacity and the press gallery was also full to capacity and so was the case of officials gallery. But today the press gallery is empty...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Two journalists are sitting there.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is all right.

SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: It is matter of sorrow that people are not available here when we wanted to make our point.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now please come to the point.

SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: This is also an issue that no senior leader is present here.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ministers are sitting here.

SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: That I have already said that Ministers are sitting there. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, from where should I start my submission? There is a saying 'the bearer knows where the shoe pinches.' One who is born in the family of Scheduled Caste knows fully well about the problems faced by them. I come of a community which is most backward among dalits in Bihar. It is called Musahar Bhuiyan. That caste constitutes nearly one crore of total population of Bihar. There is not even one IAS, IPS officer or BPSC officer of that community. That caste does not know what is meant by freedom. I belong to that community.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: As he is saying 90 percent people of this caste live without clothes and houses in Bihar.

SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: The people of this caste have no houses to live in the entire Bihar State and also do not own even a single yard of land. They move from one village to another village on being harassed by the Zamidar or anti social elements of villages. Such is their condition. The position of our caste has turned worse from bad. This caste is counted among the Dalits and as such I want to say our caste should be given special opportunities and facilities. What I mean to say is that this caste should be included in the list of Scheduled Tribes. If the people of this caste do not have roof over their head, they should be given the houses and if they do not have any employment, they should be provided jobs. The Government should make all out efforts for upliftment of this caste and they should not be caught napping in making such efforts.

Sir, I want to mention one more thing that I am the only Member of Parliament from this caste. The Bhartiya

[Shri Ramjee Manjhi]

Janata Party has given me the ticket and made their best efforts to ensure my victory from the Bihar State. There is no other Member of Parliament from this caste.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: You have not been made a Minister?

SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Before me Bhagwati Devi had won the election about whom it is said that she was a woman who use to break stones. A few days back she died.

Sir, I want to say the principle of special opportunities be made applicable to all things. The practice in the Harijan residential school, wherefrom I have got education, was that earlier students of mushar caste were admitted in that school on priority basis and then students of any other caste were admitted. But now students of all castes are being admitted due to which studies of the students of Bhuiyan and Mushar caste have also been affected. In this way we are facing difficulty in getting education. Through you, I want to submit to the Government that people of our caste should be admitted in these schools on priority basis.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government should emphasize on setting up more residential schools for them.

SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, In Bihar State, hostels for us have been constructed but in some hostel, jawans of CRPF are living and in some other, some other office is functioning. As such all such hostels have been fully occupied. Some or the other authority is occupying such buildings. Through you, I would like to demand that all the school buildings meant for the dalits be got vacated and classes started there so that children of the dalits could get education.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Shri Ramji Manjhi, I want to bring to your notice that Bhuiyan and Mushar dalit castes have been included in the list of backward castes in Jharkhand State whereas these should have been included in the list of scheduled tribes. In this State, BJP Government is in power. We are demanding that these Castes should be included in the list of scheduled castes in Jharkhand.

SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Sir, through you, I would like to demand from the Government, that wherever people of these castes are living, be it Goa, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa or Jharkhand, these castes should included in the list of scheduled castes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ramji Manjhi, now I request you to conclude your speech. If you have got a written speech, then I would request you that the remaining part of your written speech be laid on the table of the House. I allow that even your written speech be brought on the record.

*SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Residential schools meant for Mushar (Bhuiyan) caste be set up in Bihar State. This caste should be included in the list of scheduled tribes throughout India. Government residential colony should be set up for the people of this caste. The people belonging to this caste should be appointed in Government departments as per their qualification. Land allotment campaign should be launched to allot agriculture land to the people of this caste by listing Mushar (Bhuiyan) caste in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak on this subject.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Shri Ramji Manjhi, I would like to bring to your notice that the demand made just now by you for inclusion of Bhuiyan and Mushar castes in the list of Scheduled Tribes will be of no use till Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya does not recommend or announce the inclusion of these castes in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

[English]

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN (Sangrur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me the time to speak on this very very important issue and discussion raised by Shri Ram Vilas Paswan and Shri Basu Deb Acharia about the atrocities on the *dalits*.

Our party is very pained to hear about the atrocities in the Punjab and in Tallan village. A mention has been made about the Sikh religion and the Gurudwara where trouble took place in the Punjab. We are carefully monitoring the situation. We were monitoring the situation three months before the incident at Tallan occurred. Our party sent a report to the Akal Takht Jatedhar, which is the highest Temporal body of the Sikhs and we sent a report to Sardar Kirpal Singh Badungar who was the Chief of the SGPC, the statutory body that governs all Gurudwaras. We feel that if these atrocities—economic, social, political and religious—continue against the dalits there would be great bloody convulsions in this country which nobody would be able to stop.

*Laid on the Table of the House.

It is because the *dalits* are spread out in every nook and corner of India. So, I would advise the Government to take very serious steps and see that the economic cake is distributed equally and that it permeates to the lowest and to the poorest and the *dalits* who need it most. If this is not done, then I am afraid that this Government will not be serving its purpose.

Sir, much has been said about the hon. Prime Minister's plans for alleviating the difficulties and the miseries of the *dalits* and the poverty-stricken population. But I can tell you that the funds are not reaching us. It may be that we are from the Opposition but it is almost a year that we have sent all the cases of the needy people who have to get money from the Prime Minister's plan for *kutcha* houses and the windows. So, these are the things that are happening all over the country.

But in Taltan, it is a very sad commentary on the *Sikh* religion because the Sikh religion was a revolt against the caste system and the Brahmanical order that prevailed during the Middle Age. To put an end to the caste system and the inequality in the society, Guru Nanak Dev advocated the casteless society. To bridge the huge gap between the Islam and the Hindus, Sikhism was founded as an egalitarian religion. Its ranks were flooded with people from the lower castes and the people who were poverty-stricken in all the religions. It was also an answer to the ills that had cropped up into *Jainism* and *Buddhism*.

So, this is, I think, just the tip of iceberg of what Shri Ram Vilas Paswan has told us about Talhan. A religion, which was started to end casteism, has again gone back into *Brahamanical* ideology and thought. Talhan is just a beginning. But I may tell you that in Sikhism today we have now separate *gurudwaras*, *dharamsalas* and cremation grounds for *dalits* in every village. This is a disgraceful thing and a blot on *Sikhism*. In *Sikhism*, today we practice female foeticide and female infanticide, which are the biggest and unforgivable sins as per the tenents of our religion.

Then, some ills are cropping up in our religion like ostentatious ceremonies and ancestral worship which was given up.

Sir, yesterday the hon. Deputy Prime Minister visited Longowal where this ancestor worship is being practiced. Ritualism, worshipping images, worshipping our ancestors in cremation grounds, hanging the pictures and worshipping our *gurus*, raising objections if anyone puts his back towards the Golden Temple, superstitions, prenicious caste system, going on pilgrimage, not giving equality to women in worship and all walks of life, all these practices which were a taboo to *Sikhism* have cropped up in this religion. Now, where is the fault? The fault lies in this great ideology which was founded in and around the 1880s, which is called *Hindutva*. Sikhism has always been a victim of this *Hindutva*. It is a sad commentary on this country that the BJP and their allies practise hard-*Hindutava* and the Congress practices soft-*Hindutva*.

Our leaders are enticed by these hard and soft *Hindutva* leaders. For the love of money, for the love of office for the love of power and the greed of self-aggrandizement, they fall prey to their entreaties. That is what has cropped up in our religion. We want that the Indian State should not interfere in the process of the Sikh religion. We are a Frontier people. We know how to take care of ourselves. But when the Indian State, whether it is the BJP or the Congress, interferes into our religious affairs, then things go awry.

What worst can happen? Shri Ram Vilas Paswan has said that Sikhs burnt pictures of Sant Ravi Das. Sant Ravi Das is one of the most important saints in Sikhism and his verses are included and given the best of place in the *Guru Granth Sahib*. What else can go wrong when these people of hard *Hindutva* and soft *Hindutva* induce our leaders and they are made to send *jathas* from Delhi to demolish the Babri Masjid as in 1992? Nothing can be worse than what is happening to Sikhism. The SGPC is responsible for looking after all these religious matters. The present Government is not holding elections to our SGPC which have been due for the last two years. If elections are held, we can settle all these things, all these evil influences which have crept up into Sikhism and we can give justice to everybody. I would like to know from the hon. Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Home Affairs—the Ministry which is meant to conduct these elections—as to why the elections are not being conducted to the SGPC?

Then, there has been a long-standing demand of the Sikhs that we should not be included as a part of Hindu religion. Article 25 of the Constitution includes Sikhs within the fold of the Hindu religion. The Hindu religion is a great religion. But we are a separate people; we have a separate history, we have a separate diction and we have a separate culture. I do not see how we have been affixed by the fathers of the Constitution and bracketed with the Hindu religion under article 25.

[Sardar Simranjit Singh Mann]

The NDA Government has set up a Commission which they have called the Constitution Review Committee. It has suggested that article 25 should be amended forthwith and the Sikhs should be excluded from the fold of Hinduism. I do not know what happened to this proposal? I have written to the hon. Deputy Prime Minister, hon. Minister of Law and Justice and to various Ministers as to why do they not introduce an amending Bill to the Constitution to separate us once and for all.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: Yes, Sir. I am concluding in two minutes.

We pray to the dalit leaders who are interested in an egalitarian society, a casteless society to back us because whenever things go wrong in Sikhism, there is a reformist movement which takes place. In the 19th century and the 20th century the *Singh Sabha* movement grew up. I want that this movement should grow up again and the dalit leaders should give us support and the forces of *Hindutva* should not interfere in the internal matters of the Sikh religion.

Sir, with regard to what happened at Tallan, I would like to say that we have remedied the things and I think that the Gurudwara has got Dalits into its Management Committee. But for whatever wrongs had been done to the Dalits amongst the Sikhs, as a representative of the Sikhs and as a member of the SGPC, I make an unconditional apology to the Dalit people.

Lastly, the strength of the Sikh religion is so great that though a Dalit was shot dead by the bullets of the brutal police at Tallan, nobody changed his religion; nobody went out of the fold. The strength of the Sikh religion is that those Sikh Dalits, those martyrs wanted to be a part of the Sikh religion and they fought unto death and martyrdrom for this cause, whereas at Jhajjar, when five innocent Dalits were killed, they held meetings and some joined the ranks of Islam; some converted to Christianity; and some went to the fold of Buddhism, but today, despite the ills that have crept into it, Sikhism is still a strong religion for a casteless society.

I wish that like the Congress which had helped the Nirankaris' schismatic growth, the present Government will not allow people of its own liking and will hold elections to the SGPC—and not wait till Shri Badal and Shri Tohra can get elected, and till their stooges can win the confidence of the Sikh electorate—to the SGPC.

[Translation]

SHRI SALKHAN MURMU (Mayurbhanj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I with your permission would like to highlights some of the points in brief related to the discussion on the atrocities being committed against dalits in various parts of the country. First of all, I would like to thank Shri Ram Vilas Paswan from the core of the heart for initiating this discussion. The way he raised this subject here is indeed praise worthy.

I would like to place my point in two parts. First and foremost the atrocities being committed against the SC/ ST in Jharkhand are not like the ones committed against them in Jhajjar where some people were killed. It is possible that there atrocities may cause irreparable damage loss to them in long run. In this regard I would like to cite an example related to in reservation policy. Jharkhand is a newly created State and for that reason, the issue of reservation was raised in a different way. But the matter is yet to be resolved in a prudent manner. Jharkhand is a State where 90 per cent of its population belong to SCs, STs and OBC. The countrywide population of SCs, STs and OBCs is 7 per cent, 14 per cent and 27 per cent respectively. The sum of it is less than 50 per cent. Based on this presumption, it could well be understand the reasons for not providing reservation above 50 per cent. But the population of adivasis is 30 per cent instead of 7 per cent in Jharkhand. So they will have to raise the percentage above 50 per cent in Jharkhand.

Today, we are contemplating here to provide reservation to the forward classes in Rajasthan. But the situation in Jharkhand is such that if you provide 50 per cent reservation instead of 90 per cent, they won't get justice. The purpose of reservation is to uplift the socially and educationally backward people. How you can think of decreasing the percentage of reservation in a State where they are in such larger number? in a State like Tamil Nadu of our country, there is a provision of 69 per cent reservation. Keeping these reasons in mind, the Government of Jharkhand made an announcement to provide 73 per cent reservation which is now reduced to 50 per cent. This is the cause of large scale resentment there. Unfortunately, the party who is at the helm of affairs in the State lack political will to do justice to the SC, ST and OBC people through the reservation. Unfortunately, this mindset is not only continue to the party who is at the helm of the affairs but major opposition parties be it Congress or Mukti Morcha, they are also not in its favour. No political parties made any hue and

cry anywhere inspite of reducing the percentage of reservation from 73 per cent to 50 per cent. It is going to affect SC, ST and OBC adversely. This has given rise to large scale discontentment among the masses and the Government is using all means to suppress their agitation and killing them in the name of naxalites. Such move has to be stopped: It appears to me that Central Government and the Parliament will have to intervene in this matter since the new State was created by the Parliament on the recommendations of the Central Government. If the hopes and aspirations of the people are not met, then the existing potential be it minerals, forests, water or the work force of the State, is bound to go haywire. Then there is a need for the Parliament, Central Government and the tenders of major political parties to take note of it.

Even after 50 years of independence, we continue to blame Bihar for exploiting these areas but the two prominent laws namely Chhota Nagpur Tenancy Act and the Santhal Pargana Tenancy Act are in existence since the inception of British rule...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Salkhan Murmu, if your speech is lengthy, then I would request you to place it on the Table of the House.

SHRI SALKHAN MURMU: I am not making it lengthy. I am only speaking the facts.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am only telling you that if you want more time like Shri Manjhi, you can place your speech on the Table, and the entire speech will be on the record.

SHRI SALKHAN MURMU: Sir, these are issues that should be given more time. I agree, and I know that we are having time constraints. But, I think, these are issues, which this House should know.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, please, you can go ahead.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let him speak. He is making a good point...*(Interruptions)* A larger number of Members belonging to SC have spoken, whereas only a handful of Members belong to ST Members have spoken, so let them speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am more interested.

SHRI SALKHAN MURMU: I am not taking much time and whatever I am saying is neither fictitious nor allegation against any party, rather it is facts...*(Interruptions)*

A massive Santhal Movement was launched against Britishers under the leadership of Sido Murmu in 1855-56 in Jharkhand areas through which the Britishers realised as to why adivasis confronted with them. They realised that adivasis love their land and forests very much and can never digest outside interferences. Similarly, a mass agitation took place in the leadership of Birsa Munda from 1895-1900. The Britishers enacted two major laws after the two major rebellions that took place against them to ensure that the tribals are not ousted from their land. But the present Government set up a Committee to scrap the erstwhile two laws. If those laws are scrapped, adivasis would not be found there. Their lands will be usurped by the other or will be purchased. Both of these laws are there, despite that lakhs of hectares of their land have been snatched. Government officials have transferred their land by resorting to scrupulous means. These areas of land should be retrieved and handed over to the adivasis but the Government are not taking any action in this regard. Instead the Government have launched a fresh move to scrap these two laws. If it materialises, the very existence of adivasis will be at stake in Jharkhand. Another misfortune awaits them in the form of the Supreme Court Order according to which the Central Government has now issued notices to the adivasis to evacuate them from the forests. The process of removing adivasis from Kolhan and Podahat areas of Saranda forest area, which is a famous forest area in Asia in Jharkhand has now begun. What could be more torturous for adivasis than that of evicting them from their land instead of retaining their land? They have been routinely displaced in the last fifty years. It seems to me that these adivasis will not be eliminated in a day but they will be decimated gradually. From the figures available, we arrive on this conclusion that the population of adivasis has declined in Jharkhand in the last ten years whereas it has been rising in the entire country. It is not so that adivasis are not producing babies. Since they are being compelled to move out/migrate and outsiders are flooding the state, the percentage of population is coming down proportionately. Therefore, the Government, major parties and this Parliament now delve on these things. Secondly, Jharkhand recruited 5000 clerks and peons in 2002 and posted them at all the district courts but reservation rules of the Government for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was not followed.

[Shri Salkhan Murmu]

Thus, these appointments have been made by setting aside the relevant rules. We people, particularly I have opposed this. I have also tried to meet the District Judge of Singhbhoom to tell him as to why rules have not been followed in this regard but I was arrested alongwith the people accompanying me. Later on, I fasted unto death and somebody has to explain all this. I have also written to the hon'ble President, hon'ble Governor and National Commission for SC/ST in this regard but neither any reply has been given nor any inquiry has been made in this regard till now.

This is the second incident. There cannot be any gross injustice more serious than this that candidates are available for recruitment on the posts of clerks and peons but recruitment has been made by flouting the rules in regard to reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It shows that even the State High Court has done gross injustice. I have related these two incidents pertaining to Jharkhand before you. Now I would like to say some thing about four-five States which have considerable population of adivasis particularly Bhagalpur, Purnea and Katihar regions of Bihar having quite a high population of adivasis. I have given memorandum to the hon'ble President on 19th in respect of other dalits and backward castes. I would like to put three points addressed to the President before you in brief. This is gross injustice. There is a provision in the Constitution to recognize and include languages in the eighth scheduled of the Constitution. Not a single language of adivasis has been included in the eighth schedule of the Constitution till now. Although out of the eighteen languages which have been included in the eighth schedule of the Constitution there are six languages which are spoken by very few people. Criteria has not been followed in recognizing and inclusion of Nepali, Manipuri, Konkani, Sindhi, Sanskrit and Kashmiri in the eighth schedule of the Constitution. The population of Santhals amongst the tribes is the largest in the country. Thus population of Santhali speaking people is largest amongst tribes. When I was elected to the 12th Lok Sabha I repeatedly raised the issue of inclusion of Santhali language in the eighth schedule of the Constitution. Thereafter, in the 13th Lok Sabha also I have raised this several times but every time a stereotyped reply is given by the Home Ministry in the House that a high power committee will be constituted and a criteria will be evolved in this regard and all such demands would be discussed. But recently a Bill was introduced in the House to include Bodo language in the eighth schedule of the Constitution. The population of Bodo speaking people is hardly ten to twelve lakh whereas the population of Santhali people is more than one crore. Santhali speaking people live in Assam, Bengal, Orissa, Bihar, Jharkhand and even in Tripura. The result of non-recognition to Santhali language is that those people cannot make progress in the field of education. Bangla, Oriya and Hindi are like foreign languages for us. This is the reason of high drop out rate of our children. They cannot follow what they are taught in schools. This is because they used and interact in different languages in schools and at homes. Therefore, inferiority complex is developing in their minds due to which they are unable to progress in the field of education. If education to them is imparted through their own language from 1st standard to metric certainly they will show a better progress in the field of education. The children whose mother tongue is Bangla and Oriya they are imparted education through their mother tongue. If it is done they will be able to get education up to metric level. If it is done there will be a radical change in their life. If we are not educated how we can tread on the path of development? You have offered opportunity to other people. It is not so that education is being imparted through Hindi medium all over the country. You have provided for imparting education through Oriya, Bangla, Tamil and Telugu languages.

[English]

You have given recognition to all the regional languages. Then what wrong we have done?

[Translation]

Even a single language of our country has not been recognized during the last half century. I demand from the Government and this House that Santhali be included in the eighth schedule of the Constitution. Besides other tribal languages like Ho, Munda and Kudukh should also be considered for inclusion in the eighth schedule of the Constitution.

Second point is related to our religion. As Shri Maan Saheb has said about the Sikhism. We the tribals worship the nature. During the course of census in 2001 I have met the Registrar General and written to the Chief Minister of Jharkhand besides raising this point here in the House that when Jains and Bodhs whose population is very less have been recognized then why we are being deprived of this right. We people are neither Hindu nor Christians. We are worshippers of nature. We the adivasis have got a specific way of worship, samskaras and a system of worship. Article 25(1) of the Constitution provides the right to preserve and propagate his or her

faith and belief to all the citizens. But we have been deprived of this right. We should get this right too.

The third point is about scheduling. Britishers took Santhals, Mundas and Ho from Jharkhand region to Assam to work in the Tea estates two hundred years ago. These people have fought with Britishers in Jharkhand region. Therefore, Britishers took them to Assam under a strategic plan. We shall engage them in tea plantations and thus reduce their warring capacity. This was their intention. And in this way the Indians were taken to Mauritius, Fiji and Trinidad, but quite unfortunately even after 200 years these tribals whose population is now about 50 lakhs have been given a status neither of tribals nor of Assamese.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, please note. The hon. Member is making a very important point.

24.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI SALKHAN MURMU: These are the people who went to Fiji and Mauritius and acquired the citizenship of those countries and they are even becoming Presidents and Prime Ministers there. But in our country the people who have been helping our economy grow for 200 years, have not yet been given tribal status. Through this House, I would like to urge the Government to include these people in the list of tribals immediately.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is midnight and discussion on atrocities on dalits in various parts of the country under Rule 193 mooted by Shri Ram Vilas Paswanji is going on. I feel that the Government is not serious on this matter as well as the opposition. We have 118 members in the House belonging to Dalit community and 6 or 7 from the General category. A total of 123-124 Members are present in the House. This concern was expressed two-three times in the House that this matter should be discussed. But discussion alone is not going to serve the purpose. Hon. Prime Minister should give his reply to the debate. Shri Satyanarayan Jatiya ji is present in the House. Until he is authorised by the P.M. to give a reply, the P.M. should himself give a reply.

Sir, political parties express their concern for the Welfare of dalits propagating the abolition of untouchability and securing justice to these people but unless this justice is not secured to them by the people responsible for dispensing justice, these people will not get justice. I feel there is a need to rise above party lines to discuss this matter. There are many people in the Bhartiya Janata Party, Congress, CPI, Samata and even my party who can fight for their cause. I would like to submit that how many people have changed for abolition of untouchability. Supposing amongst a population of 10,000 living in a village 100 have changed then there are remaining 9900 who still believe in casteism and commit atrocities in a village, if a girl and a boy belonging to different castes say a dalit girl and an (upper caste) boy fall in love, then the villagers should come ahead to marry them away, if casteism is to be abolished. Two loving hearts should be united but in reality people belonging to sawarna caste are boycotted while dalit houses are burnt. Several times is has happened that the girl is killed.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: They are hanged.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: During my time, I married a Brahmin girl but none could raise his voice against me because they know I am a dangerous man. Therefore, I would like to submit that if we want to integrate the society, reform the Hindu religion, then we must put an end to element of casteism in Hindu religion. Baba Saheb Ambedkar ji said we are lovers of Hindu religion, but until we get equal status and rights, we shall not be able to go by this religion.

Thus, he lost faith in Hindu religion. If you want to save Hindu religion and impart justice to dalits then...*(Interruptions)* There is Sisram Ravi and here we have a 'Kavi'. It is not a party issue. If your party would be doing a good job in this direction then it shall talk about it. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee may state what proposals he has to put an end to the atrocities on dalits? He may convene an all party meeting in this regard and may deliberate upon it with all party leaders. If all the parties would be willing to cooperate then nobody would be able to commit atrocities. Whosoever will do so, should be thrown out of the party. If he will do so everything would be streamlined in a year. It is my appeal to you and to the hon. Prime Minister to convene a meeting of all the parties. If justice is to be imparted to the dalit adivasis then after 5-10 or 15 years a Dalit should be elected as Prime Minister and after 10 years Chief Minister should be elected from amongst dalits. If dalit adivasis unite then it would be

[Shri Ramdas Athawale]

possible. At present our population is 30 per cent. If the remaining few join hands with us then we can have a Prime Minister but unfortunately, we are not united. Jatiya ji, it is our demand that you pay some attention here. The reasons for atrocities are financial. In a village, if someone buys a motor cycle or a maruti car or if someone becomes an IAS or an IPS atrocities are committed in their houses all the same. Nobody likes castiest mentality. Economic reforms do not put an end to either atrocities or casteism. There is a need to put ceiling on property. There is a need to end our backlog. We do not have sufficient representation in either Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha. We do frame laws but effective implementation is required. It is midnight and it would not be proper to make more submissions...*(Interruptions)*. Dalits have always been harassed...*(Interruptions)* There is no point simply harping upon it. There is a need to unite on this issue. Ram Naik ji is also with us. You are awake. At the moment we need a Minister who is wide awake. You are wide awake for us. Patilji has dalit friends. You are very nice people but why all of you are on that side?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK: Please join us.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: There is no question of coming over to that side. I will come to that side only when he comes to this side. They have got 312 votes. They ought to have got one vote less, that is 311 votes. I demand for a special five year plan for dalit and tribal society. There is a need to formulate annual plan for them having an outlay of Rs. 1,00,000 crore. They should do it. I also have lots of data but they won't do. Every year atrocities are committed against at least 30,000 tribals and dalits. Since the day, they have taken over reigns of the government, atrocities against 1,50,000 such people have been committed. There has been further increase in this regard during last one year. We need to discuss the increasing atrocities on dalits at length. POTA should be imposed against those found involved in committing atrocities against dalits. Shri Vaiko has been behind the bars for the last one and a half year. He is not being released and this is how it should be. In my opinion, if the Government declares its intention of imposing POTA on those found committing atrocities against dalits, then such atrocities would cease automatically.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my suggestion is that the money under special component plan should be spent on the basis of population of SCs and STs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, you please conclude in vese. Hon'ble Minister is waiting to reply.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: We just deliver our speeches even as atrocities are continuing against dalits. It would be better if atrocities decrease.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your Minister is to intervene, he is also a poet.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I would recite my poem:—

"Daliton ko agar aap satayenge

Daliton par atyachar ki kahanai ham sare desh ko batayenge

Apka Jawab hone do, tab ham sab apne vicharon ko jatayenge

Aur atyachar karna walon ko satayenge

Aisa waqt aa sakta hai main suna raha hoon

Saare desh ko dalit atyacharon ka kissa

Hamen kabhi nahin mila hai barabari ka hissa

Daliton ko agar aa jayega gussa

Tab ham chhin kar lenge apna hissa".

Hon'ble Minister is a poet, some other may be a literateur, therefore we all have to unite and fight against the tendencies of atrocities. To strengthen the country, casteism has to go. This issue needs to be discussed seriously, rising above the party politics. I seek assurance on the issue from the Government. If Shri Vajpayee replies to it, then it is Okay and there is also a need to call an all party meeting. We need to ponder over it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I fully support the issue of dalits raised by Shri Paswan Ji, but I would not support the Government. Government needs to formulate special plan to give justice to dalit community. They need to be provided land under land reform programme.

With there words, I support the resolution of Shri Paswan ji.

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the discussion is being held under rule 193 to arrive at a definite decision. The issues raised by Shri Ram Vilas Paswan are of relevance for everybody as ours is a democracy and it is our conviction that freedom should reach everybody. It defies understanding why the convention of differentiation among human beings has taken roots. I do not have much opportunities to speak, burdened, as I am, with the responsibility of a

Minister. I have an experience of 40 years in public life and have had varied experiences and even then I fail to understand how the difference between one human being and the other has been created. What is existing today, appears to me as an inhuman anomaly, even then it has gained acceptance among people. Even this discussion is an old one and I have heard such discussion on a number of occasions. I was elected to Lok Sabha in 1980 and before that I was a Member of Legislative Assembly and so my experience of these things can be termed as long. But what are the reasons due to which we have failed in resolving the issue even after so many discussions and so many efforts including enacting rules and laws. It is my duty as a Minister to list our accomplishments. The preamble of the Constitution of India starts with the words 'We, the people of India'. The current population of the country is 107 crore and not one of these 107 crore should be viewed with less respect than others. But definitely social differences exist due to differential levels of social standing and education among them. Why this social difference, occurred and now this has become such a part of our society that the responsibility for this has to be shared by all. We may look for good things and we may look for evil also. But as we are concerned about the country as a whole we should not compromise on an issue which may weaken it. But we are a democratic country and we have right to present our arguments in a fearless manner and the emphasis is to highlight positive points. The basis of the discussion held so far has been social justice. Since the discussion is being held on atrocities and the Parliament has passed a number of laws against it. Laws are made to protect people. Anybody who does anything against law and against social norms should be punished and subjected to corrective measures. But those who have been made responsible for the enforcement of rules, are also accountable. Our responsibility is collective and if everybody fulfils his responsibility in an honest manner then positive results are bound to come.

It is very difficult to say in today's perspective that one is honest while the other is not so in his work. On the contrary, we have to focus on circumstances which are obstructing the enforcement of this law. The discrimination taking place between human beings is a reflection of our mindset. As long as we do not overcome this mentality, we would not be able to construct a strong and vibrant India. We all want to build strong India and the Preamble further says, "We the people of India, having resolved to constitute a Sovereign, Secular, Socialist, Democratic, Republic and to secure to all its citizens Justice—Social, Economic and political, Liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship, freedom, equality fraternity—all these are fundamental to our democratic republic and none should be diluted. Whenever there is a dilution, it means that there is some laxity on the part of those responsible for its implementation. Today's discussion is aimed at the elimination of this laxity. It is aimed at elimination of this laxity so that our resolve to make India a Sovereign republic, comes true.

There was the incident at Jhajjar. Inquiry into its causes, the persons responsible has been concluded and the conclusions are awaited. But it will take a long time to clear the environment polluted by this incident. Therefore, whenever any such incident occurs, its consequences continue to affect the society for a long time. And the consequences of incidents of atrocities become evident as and when they occur.

As has been stated that at some place they can not ride mare and band party hired by them can not be passed moreover they can not express their happiness, then what kind of freedom it is? The provision has been made in laws to abolish this system. If those who have been entrusted to implement the laws discharge their responsibilities honestly, the laws will be effective and the purpose for which it has been formulated would be served and we will feel secured. I have figures with me regarding the places alongwith the number where such crimes have been committed, and the States where more such crimes are committed, the number of cases registered in this connection and the action taken thereon, the number of persons acquitted and convicted and the outcome of the conviction. All these figures are available with every governments. Everyone has such figures but what should we do with that? The fact is that we will have to educate the society that we are all fellow countrymen. The society will have to be educated that there is no difference among us. Who are going to come forward for this. Being the Members of Parliament certainly it is our responsibility.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: All these things that the hon'ble Minister is telling has been preached by all that speak truth—do not tell lie, do not steal, obey elders. No one has objection to all these things. The most important thing is that the duty of the Government is not only to preach the people. The Government have power to punish also. Why there is provision of death sentence and imprisonment. Some cases were presented and the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs had replied that day. Regarding that, we would like to submit that the incident should be taken up one-by-one. For example, take the

[Shri Ram Vilas Paswan]

incident of Talhan, Congress Government is there. What was done there? Five people were killed in Jhajjar. Has even the single one convicted in this connection?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, House proceeding is interrupted over the demolition of one temple. The temple of Guru Ravidas was demolished. I feel that if such incidents are taken up one by one, then it will be feasible to take some concrete steps. Otherwise it will be useless to preach the country and say that there is secularism, social justice and brotherhood in the country. Today where is brotherhood and socialism? Unfortunately neither there is brotherhood nor social justice and equality. There are only inequality, and hatred and similar other things in the country. Dalits and tribal people are becoming victim to this evil. If the hon'ble Minister want to make any concrete statement then it is all right, otherwise if he does not want to submit any thing, we will listen to the hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister tomorrow. Since the Minister belongs to the Welfare Department, we wanted that he should tell something about welfare. I know that it is not your responsibility to punish the people. It is duty of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Tomorrow the Minister of Home Affairs and the Deputy Prime Minister will make reply. We will ask them to take strong action in this matter. Since the Ministry of Welfare is under him and it is nodal Ministry so it would be better if she would say something about it. He should give information regarding the funds provided for their welfare and the amount actually spent in this regard.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir I would like to tell you about its reason. Ram Vilas Paswanji was also a Minister and he must be knowing as to what is discussion. Similar things are discussed. Every one has knowledge about the discussion that the some things are discussed. When we speak, we should also listen to others. Whatever I am speaking, I am speaking about welfare measures being taken by the Government for their upliftment.

Sir I may provide information if he asks about the schemes meant for the Scheduled Castes. The Government provide the scholarship to post-matriculation students. There are several schemes for them. The residential accommodations have also been provided to Scheduled Caste students. We are providing financial assistance to the Non-Governmental Organisations for providing education to the children of this castes who are engaged in scavenging. A scholarship scheme has been prepared under the Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar scheme. Under this scheme Rs. 60, Rs. 50 and Rs. 40 thousand rupees are paid to the students coming first, second and third in matriculation examination respectively. The Government provide scholarship of Rs. 10 thousand to the students of the hamlets in proportion to the population of the State. The Government are also instrumental in implementing new scholarship scheme.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government have decided to bear the expenditure incurred on Scheduled Castes children for preparation of entrance test in public schools. The Central Government will bear the expenditure whatever will be incurred on it. We have prepared such schemes. We have chalked out schemes for providing all types of assistance to them for the entrance test in Model Schools and public Schools in the district. We have also formulated schemes for the construction of hostels and residential schools. The Government are working for the implementation of Dr. Ambedkar scholarship scheme.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have devised scheme to provide micro loans to Scheduled Caste people under which we will provide loan upto Rs. 25 thousand at the rate of 5% interest. I know that they do not need heavy amount of loan. They require small amount of loans to meet their needs. So it has been decided that Rs. 10, 20 and 25 thousands should be given to them at minimum interest rate...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with your permission I would like to draw the attention of hon'ble Minister to Indira Awas Yojana and want to submit that under this scheme Rs. 20 thousand are being given by Government to Scheduled Caste people for the construction of the houses. You know that presently houses can not be constructed in Rs. 20 thousand. Thus the Government are giving them grave yard instead of houses. I would like to know as to what type of house will be constructed in present time with the amount of Rs. 20 thousand?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Akhilesh Singh ji this subject is not related to this.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir you have rightly said that this subject does not come under my Ministry. It may be correct that why low quality houses are being constructed for weaker section people, however I would like to submit that I alone cannot increase the amount which is being given under this scheme. You can increase, the House can increase, we together can do it. I do not have objection to it. If you people want to increase the fund to be distributed under the scheme, you can do it...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the amount which is given to Dalits under the Indira Awas Yojana for the construction of houses should be increased from Rs. 20 thousand to at least Rs. 50 thousand.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will be glad if the amount under this scheme is increased. However as I told you that I can not increase it. It can be increased only by the House. Such proposal can be moved by the Members.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I told that if education is provided to the people right from the beginning, then certainly it can broaden their mentality. If the proper education is provided to the people, they can understand that they are the citizens of India and what are their rights and duties as a citizen of the country. In order to make the people aware of all these things several types of schemes have been implemented by the Government. As I have told that the Government are assisting such people by way of providing small amount of loan so that they may enhance their status.

Similarly all expressed their concern about safai karamcharis. We also are concerned for their upliftment. We are looking forward for their upliftment and we have formulated various schemes for their welfare and development so that their lives could be changed. We are seriously considering as to how these changes can be brought.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as you are aware that we passed the constitution amendment regarding the three OM's and the efforts are going on regarding fourth OM. It is related to the vacancy based roster which provides reservation to them in vacancies. With all these things it can be clearly seen that we are continuously starving for their welfare and upliftment. The fifth OM deals with extending the time period. The discussion in this regard is lying pending as the petition in this regard is pending with Supreme Court.

In view of all these things, we are trying our possible best in this regard.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards a very important point. Hon. Minister is sitting here.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, though I should not say anything in this regard as it is very important. There was a rule in regard to the people belonging to ST community of Lakshadweep that the offspring, be it boy or girl, born of a ST officer of Lakshadweep whether he is posted anywhere, would be considered ST but now the rule has been altered and now an offspring of a ST born only in Lakshadweep will be considered a ST. All these things come under the purview of your Ministry. If there is an anomaly, it can be removed. If you do not have the information in this regard, I can give it to you...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: I have the complete information in this regard. Earlier there was no such rule in regard to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. We made some 95 amendments after 1998 to include new castes in these categories. Now it is the responsibility of the State Government to identify on the basis of the study conducted in view of heredity as to which of the community comes under the Scheduled Caste and which under the Scheduled Tribe, then the Registrar General, Census considers over the proposal in this regard submitted by the State Government...*(Interruptions)*

The entire procedure will have to be complied with for drawing, any conclusion a specific rules have been framed and it is only after exhausting the entire procedure as mentioned under the rule conclusion can be derived. Some procedure has to be devised for reaching a conclusion, hence no body has the liberty to act on his own. What the hon. Member is saying that why a person belonging to SC and ST community hailing from other States, like Haryana or Rajasthan and regarding in Delhi is not being given the benefit of the category even in Delhi?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, I would like to say that the child of a person belonging to SC/ST community and residing in Delhi may not be given the benefit of ST community in the State Government of Delhi but they will certainly be given the benefit of SC/ST community in the State to which he belongs and also in Central Government...*(Interruptions)* This is not happening in Lakshadweep, a new law has been enacted there. The children born of a government employee belonging to Lakshadweep and serving in Delhi will neither be considered ST nor SC if they are born in Delhi. Earlier it was not so, it has started only recently, this is what I want to say...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to tell you that a person belonging to SC/ST community is considered SC/ST in the State or Union Territory to which he belongs irrespective of where he is born. The same

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

thing was also applicable in Lakshadweep till 1996, such is the official interpretation therein. Now blame it on the myopic vision of the policy makers that a child born of person belonging to Lakshadweep is not considered ST if he is born outside the Lakshadweep. It is the only exception.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: I have got your point that a child born of SC/ST parent outside their State to which they belong to is considered the Scheduled Caste of his State...*(Interruptions)* I am observing that some anomalies are being noticed at some places due to administrative point of view. Now as has been pointed out that they came under ST category, ST Commission is there to look into these anomalies...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: ST Commission and Lakshadweep administration and the persons belonging to all parties come under the Home Ministry i.e. concerned Ministry.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Yes, Sir, you are right, certainly we consider it as very important to think over it and we have held discussion as to how to remove this anomalies. As you told, we had a discussion on it and I remember that the subject was discussed at that time. How Deputy Prime Minister will reply tomorrow in regard to your concern about the anomaly regarding the inclusion of the persons in the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe category and also as what remedial measures should be taken in regard thereto.

I rise to apprise the House about the steps being taken by the Government for the socio-economic welfare, upliftment and promotion of the education among them. The State Government also share the responsibility of implementing the laws formulated by us meant for the welfare of those sections and if the State Governments work diligently to implement the laws formulated in this regard. it will go a long way in removing all the anomalies and lacunae in this regard.

I have been listening to the question raised here. Some of the things mentioned here have been personally observed and experienced by me and they have added to my knowledge and I would certainly try my level best to bring equality in society by implementing what I have gained through my own experience and the suggestions made by my hon. colleagues.

It is my conviction that we should take all those steps which do away with discrimination and inequality. There is no difference among the persons and all are equal and the 'Karma' is the true and great religion. Social equality is the fundamental right of a person. Nobody should be given an opportunity and liberty to encroach upon this fundamental right. It is the sentiment of the House and I also share the same sentiment.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is a clarification in the end.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: A student belonging to SC/ST or OBC section of society has to produce a certificate in which the caste antecedents of family of the past 50 years are required which is quite unwanted. If there is any objection in a case then the caste antecedents of the father could be verified. However those students who clearly belong to SC/ST are also required to produce such certificates, hence there is a need to change it. There are several complaints in this regard. He cannot get caste certificate if he fails to bring the certificate issued to him 50 years ago. Therefore, if there is a need to make amendment in it you should do it.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Paswanji just now Shri Ramdas has mentioned the same thing which I was stating. It was being observed that the objective or the aim, with which we are providing reservation and other facilities to the scheduled caste people in the States, would not be achieved till we remove this discrepancy. We will have to contact the State Governments in this regard and if necessary, the point mentioned by him...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: A law should be enacted that a person who is recognised as SC/ST in a particular State should be recognised as SC/ST in all the parts of the country. If it is done, it would solve the entire problem.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think it is a very relevant suggestion.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, will the hon. Minister consider it?

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: The Government would definitely consider the proposal given by him to make amendments in the existing law in this regard.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Lastly, I would like to mention one thing more though I should not say that. I would like to submit that in future if such a decision is taken at random, like today, when we all were aware that the House will function till 6.30 PM only and not beyond that. The staff of Watch and Ward as well as the women employees of the Secretariat are on duty since 9.00 a.m. as today the proceedings of the House started at 10 o'clock in the morning and well carry on till 1.00 AM. Nobody had any prior information regarding late sitting of the House, if such a decision is taken at random, then the Secretariat should make some arrangements well in the time to avoid any inconvenience.

Actually, the motion was moved by me itself, I was giving my speech but somewhere I was feeling that we are culprits because it is only due to us that staff of watch and ward wing, other employees including women employees have to face problem. They would, especially the women employees, would face difficulty in getting transport to go back to their homes and also they are on empty stomach. Therefore, my submission is that some arrangements should be made in future in such circumstances.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I may remind you that when I was ordinary member of the Panel of the Chairmen, I had given a ruling from here that if the House continues after 9 PM, transport and dinner should definitely be arranged for all. I had given this ruling and also followed it. But I do not know what happened today, otherwise Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs looks after all these arrangements.

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: It was decided earlier that the discussion would take place for two hours but later on the time was extended. Earlier it was upto 6.30 PM, it was extended later on. Thereafter, there was an objection to make all arrangements in this regard.

SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY: Will it be ensured that it does not occur in future?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: 30 hon'ble Members have participated in this discussion. I had to attend 2-3 meetings of security committee and 2-3 other meetings also. That's why I could not come. You should have considered it that if large number of Members will participate in it, the House would definitely continue till 9 o'clock.

[English]

In future, let us have it.

[Translation]

Especially all are hungry. Women employees are also sitting here. They would face problem in going back to their homes. I had given the ruling in this regard when I was a member of Panel. A provision should be made in this regard in future.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: That's why I have brought it to your notice. And with the same intention I had told you to hold the rest of the discussion tomorrow. However, it is good that the discussion has been concluded today itself.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is good that the discussion has been concluded today. 30 Members including hon'ble Minister participated in it. This issue was debated well. Today's subject was "atrocities on Dalits"

[English]

All the matters relating to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes have been dispersed in detail. There has also been a live telecast. The list of members who wanted to participate in the debate has already been exhausted.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the debate has taken place but the important feature of this discussion is that it is for the first time in this session that a discussion has concluded today and the House will also start functioning at 11 o'clock in the morning today itself.

[English]

It will not be adjourned for tomorrow. It will be adjourned for today.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I congratulate you for it. This subject time and again had been postponed in the Business Advisory Committee, but ultimately, we got the opportunity. "Better late than never". This discussion has been concluded well.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it should be reported in media that this discussion continued till 2.30 a.m. As late sittings of the House are never reported in the paper. You please order media also in this regard.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): It will be replied today...*(Interruptions)* The House will meet today.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Deputy Prime Minister will give his reply in this regard for proceedings of the Lok Sabha are now adjourned till Eleven of the Clock.

00.42 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, August 22, 2003/Sravana 31, 1925 (Saka)

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